



Pentecost

Birth of the Catholic Church

Founded by Jesus Christ



Sunday, we celebrate a monumental event that happened 50 days after the Resurrection about 2,000 years ago – Pentecost.

Devout Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem for the Jewish feast of Pentecost (Shavuot in Hebrew), which was celebrated at that time as a harvest feast as well as a commemoration of Moses' having received the Jewish law on Mount Sinai.

It had been a week since the apostles watched Jesus ascend into the clouds to Heaven.

On Pentecost they had gathered with

Mary to pray. They were abruptly interrupted, when a strong wind blew through the house and the Holy Spirit appearing as tongues of fire settled upon each of them.

Jesus had told them at the last supper that an advocate would be sent by God.

He said, “the Holy Spirit, that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you. So, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives, do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” – John 14:26-27.

...continue

THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS YOU TOO!

Just as Christ called upon the Apostles to be missionaries and evangelizers, God calls us too to share Christ to everyone with gentleness and the power of the Holy Spirit.

You may not think you are ready, but you were born ready – you were made in the image and likeness of God to do good works.

Before we tackle to be more like the apostles in our everyday life, take a moment to thank God for those who strengthened your faith by their words or actions. Think about how they did it. The grace of faith isn't forced. It isn't arrogant or calculating. It is something – words, actions, feelings – that teaches our hearts and minds about God.

Can you share that precious gift? Let Pentecost 2025 empower you!

Bishop Mark Brennan, our parish priests, and our religious educators have asked us to take seriously the challenge to lead others to Christ and the Church. For more than three years we have been actively participated in the

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To add to the astounding amazement of this day, the apostles began speaking languages of all the nations. Languages they previously didn't know and now they understood. These once timid disciples were now enthusiastic apostles able and empowered to speak Christ's word.

The apostles went out immediately evangelizing.

About 3000 people were baptized that day after hearing St. Peter's passionate message calling for repentance and conversion (Acts 2:14-41).

St. Paul reminds us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit dwell in each of us.

He explains how the sharing of the various spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit enriches the Church.

Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit in his Letter to the Galatians 5:22-25:

"What the Spirit brings is ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

"Since the Spirit is our life, let us be directed by the Spirit"

So, let us all listen to St. Paul and recognize these gifts, using each one for the benefit of others, our world, and the Church.

Holy Spirit Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Pentecost mural in the sanctuary of St. Jude Catholic Church, Peoria, IL, is by the city's local artist Andrew Hattermann of Murals by Jericho. The artwork features St. Clement; St. Rose of Lima, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Maria Boretti, St. Augustine, St. John Vianney, the four Apostles, St. Peter, St. Jude, Mary, St. John, five Apostles, St. Therese of Lisseux, St. Bernadette, St. Philip Neri, St. Louis Martin, St. Zelig Martin, St. Dominic, and St. Francis.

National Eucharistic Revival – fully embracing Christ's True Presence in the Eucharist. Hundreds of WV Catholics attended last summer's National Eucharistic Congress, with a missionary heart on fire to bring others to Christ. Further, during Advent, Bishop Mark called upon all the faithful in the diocese to take seriously the challenge to share Christ, "If your faith matters to you, do your part. Join with other Catholics around the state to reach out to those we have lost and those we never had. It is for their good and for ours as well. It may take years to see the full fruit of our efforts, but we must begin. This is the challenge the Lord gives us here and now.... Be the good, faithful servant Jesus calls you to be, and you will be rewarded beyond measure by the Lord with a joy that will never end."

He wrote, "Your Baptism made you a missionary disciple. The grace of that sacrament, renewed by the Eucharist, intensified by Confirmation, restored by Penance, strengthens you to love God above all things and your neighbor as yourself. there is no greater form of love than to introduce another human being to his or her Savior. That love can make the difference between a person achieving the final destiny of eternal life in heaven or missing out on it.

"The Lord is not content with us caring only for our own salvation; he wants us to be concerned about others' salvation, too.

"Be willing to step out in faith, trusting in the Lord's words: Do not worry beforehand about what you are to say but say whatever will be given to you at that hour, for it will not be you who are speaking but the Holy Spirit [Mark 13:11]. Speak simply and personally. You can do it," Bishop Mark wrote.

Let the Holy Spirit move you – forward to evangelize.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** 1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

- **Reverent Prayer** (at site): Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

The World Needs His Love

Strengthen your relationship with Christ. Focus on his love and sacrifice for us.

The Feast of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated on Friday, June 27th (always the Friday after Corpus Christi Sunday and the second Sunday after Pentecost). The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began centuries ago, the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began to soar in the 1670s after Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of France, revealing the depth of his love. (Read your June 22nd FaithInWV for more about the feast day and reflections to help your devotion.)



In October, Pope Francis released his fourth and what became his last encyclical “Dilexit Nos” (He Loved Us), which focused on the Sacred Heart of Jesus for a world “which seems to have lost its heart.”

He wrote about how our world today is scarred by war, social unrest, consumerism, and division. He urged humanity to pause, refresh, and rediscover the essential heart – the Heart of Jesus Christ.

During his pontificate, Pope Francis had a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart relating it to the priestly mission and the

mission of the Church – each one of us.

He wrote, “For Francis de Sales, true devotion had nothing to do with superstition or perfunctory piety, since it entails a personal relationship in which each of us feels uniquely and individually known and loved by Christ. ‘This most adorable and lovable heart of our Master, burning with the love which he professes to us, [is] a heart on which all our names are written... Surely it is a source of profound consolation to know that we are loved so deeply by our Lord, who constantly carries us in his heart’. With the image of our names written on the heart of Christ, Saint Francis sought to express the extent to which Christ’s love for each of us is not something abstract and generic, but utterly personal, enabling each believer to feel known and respected for who he or she is. (Dilexit Nos 115).

“Christ’s love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost. (Dilexit Nos 218).

“The Church also needs that love, lest the love of Christ be replaced with outdated structures and concerns, excessive attachment to our own ideas and opinions, and fanaticism in any number of forms, which end up taking the place of the gratuitous love of God that liberates, enlivens, brings joy to the heart and builds communities. The wounded side of Christ continues to pour forth that stream, which is never exhausted, never passes away, but offers itself time and time again to all those who wish to love as he did. For his love alone can bring about a new humanity.” (Dilexit Nos 219)

Prayer to the Sacred Heart

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing,
I adore you, I love you and with a lively sorrow for my sins.

I offer you this poor heart of mine.

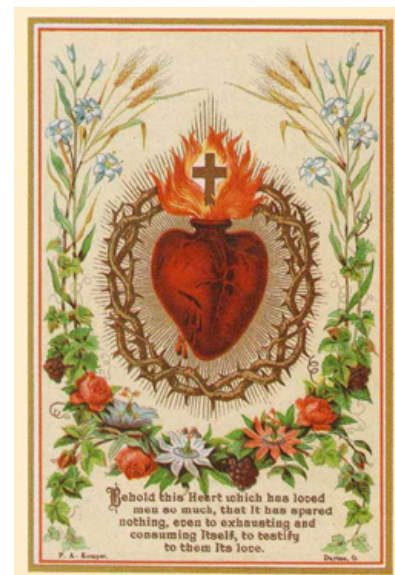
Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to your will.

Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you.

Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions;
give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs,
your blessings on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death.

Within your heart I place my every care.

In every need let me come to you with humble trust saying,
Heart of Jesus, help me. Amen.



MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

LEAD US TO HEAVEN

Monday after Pentecost is the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church.

Pope Francis instituted this feast in 2018 acknowledging, “This celebration will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet, and to the Mother of the Redeemer, the Virgin who makes her offering to God.”

In his formal decree, Pope Francis wrote Mary “standing beneath the cross (cf. Jn 19:25), accepted her Son’s testament of love and welcomed all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters to be reborn unto life eternal. She thus became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross handing on the Spirit. Christ, in turn, in the beloved disciple, chose all disciples as ministers of his love towards his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they might welcome her with filial affection.”

The title – Mary Mother of the Church – is not a new one. It dates back to the 4th century and St. Ambrose who referred to Mary as such. In 1980, Saint John Paul II, invited the faithful to venerate Mary as Mother of the Church. Significantly, Pope Saint Paul VI, on the conclusion of the third Session of the Second Vatican Council (Nov. 21, 1964) declared Mary as the “Mother of the Church” to affirm the ancient title.

“It is therefore with a soul full of trust and filial love that we raise our glance to her, despite our unworthiness and weakness. She, who has given us in Jesus the fountainhead of grace, will not fail to succour the Church, now flourishing through the abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and setting

herself with new zeal to the fulfillment of its mission of salvation.”
– Pope St. Paul VI wrote.

Fresco: Mary Mother of the Church mural in the Church of the Visitation in Ein Keren, Jerusalem, Israel, artist unknown by Cesare Vagarini (The church’s location is believed to be built at the home of Zechariah and Elizabeth where Mary visited, and was also where Elizabeth and infant John the Baptist hid, when Herod ordered the killing of the innocents under two.

Golden framed image of Mary Mother of the Church is by an unknown artist.



Mother, help our faith!

Open our ears to hear God’s word
and to recognize his voice and call.
Awaken in us a desire to follow
in his footsteps, to go forth
from our own land
and to receive his promise.

Help us to be touched by his love,
that we may touch him in faith.
Help us to entrust ourselves fully
to him and to believe in his love,
especially at times of trial,

beneath the shadow of the cross,
when our faith is called to mature.
Sow in our faith the joy
of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe
are never alone.

Teach us to see all things
with the eyes of Jesus,
that he may be light for our path.
And may this light of faith
always increase in us,
until the dawn of that undying day
which is Christ himself,
your Son, our Lord! AMEN!



“Let your words teach and actions speak.”

~ Feast Day of St. Anthony of Padua, June 13 ~

Saint Anthony’s life, like ours, had its ups and downs – joys and pains. He worked hard at doing “the right thing” only to get knocked down. He responded with confident in God.

He was born in 1195 in Portugal to Martin and Mary Bulhom, who named him Fernando. at 15 he entered the St. Augustine Monastery. He wanted to dedicate his life to Christ with “proper formation” and master theology as an Augustinian. He remains in the order for 11 years.

One day while at the monastery the bodies of five Franciscans who had been tortured and beheaded in Morocco for preaching Christianity were carried back to Portugal for proper prayer and burial. That horrific sight motivated young Fernando to defend the faith and not just be a scholar of it.

He realized his longing – his hunger – was to bring souls to God even if it meant risking his life. He convinced the Augustinians to let him leave and the Franciscans to allow him to join their order and evangelize in Morocco for them. It was the Franciscans who gave him the name Anthony. He was engaging, inspiring, and ready to go far out into the world!

However, as most all of us can relate, Anthony’s plan was not God’s.

He left to be a missionary, but became very ill, and storms forced the ship he was on to go off course, landing in Sicily. They nursed him as best they could, but he remained too frail and lethargic to earn any meaningful assignment. He went into a life of seclusion and prayer.

No one knew his thoughtful intellect and ability to eloquently evangelize until he was the only one at an ordination celebration of Dominicans and Franciscans who was willing to give a short sermon.

Those in attendance were surprised and impressed by his fire, knowledge, and holiness.

Almost immediately he was assigned to preach in northern Italy. Once there he learned that in order to be heard it wasn’t how loud or intelligent he spoke, but how relatable he was. Even more so, how much he was willing to humble himself and not be arrogant and untouchable.

St. Anthony is quoted as saying, “The creator of the heavens obeys a carpenter, the God of eternal glory listens

to a poor virgin. Has anyone ever witnessed anything comparable to this? Let the philosopher no longer disdain from listening to the common laborer; the wise, to the simple; the educated, to the illiterate; a child of a prince, to a peasant.”

He had to prove himself genuine, willing to live the gospel not just preach about it.

He didn’t set out to prove people wrong, but use his actions and words to share love and positivity.

In his early 30s he was sent to serve in Padua, where he preached to crowds large that he’d have to take his sermons outside the walls of the church or in an open field. People would camp out to hear him.

At 36 exhausted and not fully recovered from his earlier ailments, St. Anthony knew he was dying. Preaching in a town just outside Padua, he received his last anointing. It was during prayer with many friars gathered with him that he said, “I see my Lord!” He died peacefully soon after.

So many miracles were attributed to him during and after his life that he was declared a saint one year after his death by Pope Gregory IX.



FIAT DISCERNMENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY

By Sr. Jessica Bernal, H.M.S.P.

of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word, serving in our Eastern Panhandle



“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop”
-St. Teresa of Calcutta

Every vocation is a gift that GOD gives to who he wishes, and so, the very best vocation is the one GOD has especially designed for you. That is why experiences that help us discern this path for our lives are indispensable. It is for this reason that we are extremely grateful to GOD author of our vocations and giver of all good things to be able to embark on this Experience with 11 young girls from the Martinsburg Vicariate.



On May 18th 11 young girls, Deacon Dave, and I loaded our things on the newest member of transportation vehicles at St. James the Greater, a generous donation to the parish, to begin a six-hour journey to Jenkins, Kentucky, where we would be spending the next few days. The Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa of Calcutta, welcomed us into their convent and shared the rich Charism given to them by the Holy Spirit of caring for the poorest of the poor. Many of the young

girls accompanying us did not have prior experience with a missionary order, so it is needless to say that this experience broadened many horizons.



We share the testimony of Mary, one of the young ladies who accompanied us:

This spring, I had the privilege of going on a discernment retreat with a group of ladies from my parish, St James the Greater, down to Jenkins, Kentucky to visit the Missionaries of Charity. For four days our group lived in community together in the sisters' guesthouse. Each day we prayed morning prayer, did our chores, prayed an hour of adoration, and headed over to Mass. We, then, would go out with the sisters to visit people's homes—serving them through manual labor, prayer, fellowship and sharing the gospel. Midday we would return to the sisters' convent house to pray. Afterwards, we would head out again to serve the needs of the community.

One of the most impressive realities I experienced was the power of prayer. Mother Teresa's order aims to quench the thirst of Jesus upon the cross by serving him in the disguise of the poorest of the poor - whether the poverty is financial, physical, mental, or spiritual. The sisters taught us how it is our love for Jesus and His love for us that sustains us and allows us the grace to love our brothers and sisters. Each sister (and they relayed how even Mother Teresa herself) felt that they could not do

the difficult tasks expected of them. Only with Jesus, allowing his love and graces to sustain them, were they able to do what they have done. I, myself, was able to experience this on the retreat. Having spent so much time so intimately with Jesus throughout each day, loving others was a natural movement of the heart and soul. It was a joy to serve each other - even though it still was not easy.

The message that God spoke to my heart throughout the retreat was that of John 14:27: **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, nor afraid.”**

The sisters’ complete trust and confidence in God allows them to be open to his every call and love him freely in all those they encounter. Their witness and teachings as well as all the experiences of this trip have impacted my spiritual life immensely. This retreat created a space which allowed for personal discernment and deep spiritual growth for each of us. It quieted the world around me and disposed my heart to be able to hear God in the silence of my heart and to see Him in those around me. Since the retreat, I have implemented the things I learned and discovered into my own daily life - striving to go to Mass every day, praying the rosary, and spending time with Jesus in adoration as often as possible.

I am very grateful for all the people who made this trip possible and allowed God to reach us through them.

As a diocesan family let us pray for the Holy Spirit to move these young ladies and all discerning vocations in the Church. Pray too for those nurturing discernment and for Christ to help us too to lead others to serve Him, His people, and the Church.

AUGUST RETREAT FOR LADIES 18-30

Ladies! What is God asking of you?

If you are single, between 18-30, and living in WV you are invited to a weekend of discernment. The Missionary Sisters Servants of the Word (HMSP) are hosting a retreat August 29-30 at the scenic Priestfield Pastoral Center in Kearneysville, WV.

Give yourself this gift, it is sure to be filled with renewing reflection, prayer, community, and blessings.

Space will be limited. Registration required. The retreat, meals, and accommodations are free!

For more information and to sign up email: westvirginiamission@hmsp.org



Missionary Sisters
Servants of the
Word

Discernment
Retreat
for Women
18-30 years old

August 29th-30th

Priestfield Pastoral
Center
4030 Middleway Pike
Kearneysville WV,
25430

Diocese of
Wheeling-Charleston

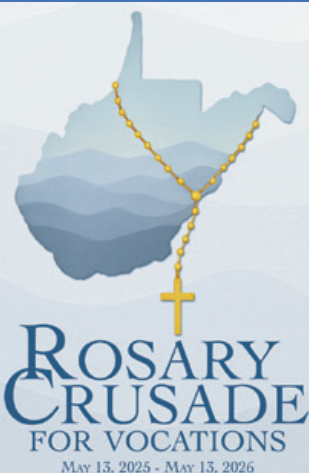
To sign up:
WestvirginiaMission@hmsp.org

What is
God
asking of
You?

Pray the Rosary

“No matter how weak our faith or how poor our love, Mary receives us into her Heart, and Jesus acknowledges our time of prayer as if it came directly from the Heart of his Mother. The Immaculate Heart of Mary makes up for what is lacking in our hearts.”

-St. Teresa of Calcutta



We Have A New Priest!

Congratulations Fr. Travis Moger

Bishop Mark Brennan ordains Father Jourden Travis Moger to the priesthood at St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg May 30. Moger will continue training for Hispanic ministry in an emersion program and return to the Eastern Panhandle this summer, where he will serve the faithful.

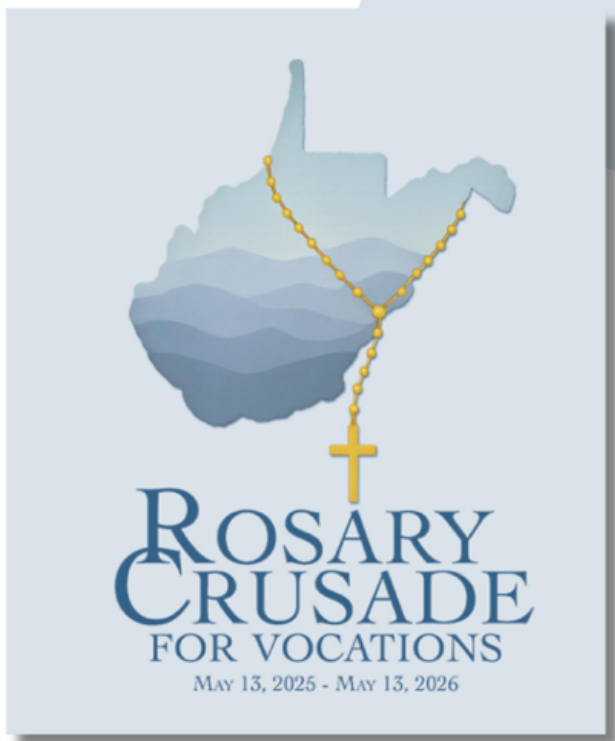
Be sure to read The Catholic Spirit's print issue this month for photos and story. Also available online at: thecatholicspiritwv.org



Photo by John Sherwood

ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!

Step up for Jesus and His Church!

Pledge. Share. Pray.

Prayer

Oh, my Jesus,
listen to my prayer today.
Bless more young people,
more men, and more women,
in West Virginia
to say yes to your call
to be religious brothers,
sisters, and priests.
Bless my family
and my Church family
so, we can support them,
and remain close to you.
We ask Blessed Mary
and St. Joseph to come to you
in our need to build up the Church
in the great Mountain State.
Amen.

1. GO TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.IMMACULEE.COM](https://www.immaculee.com)
2. CLICK ON RETREATS TAB
3. SELECT ST. JAMES THE GREATER

Easy as 1, 2, 3!

RETREAT REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

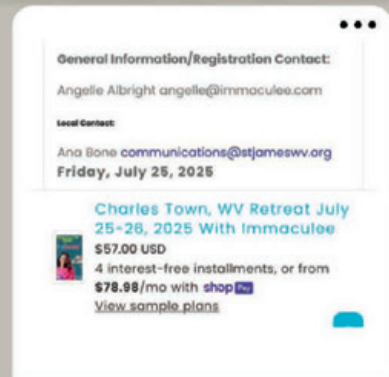
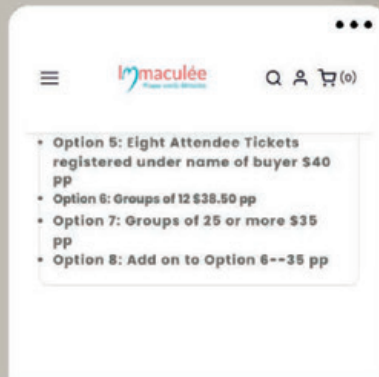
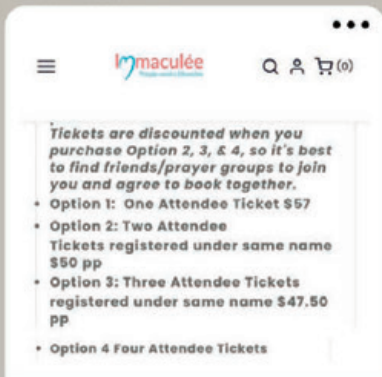
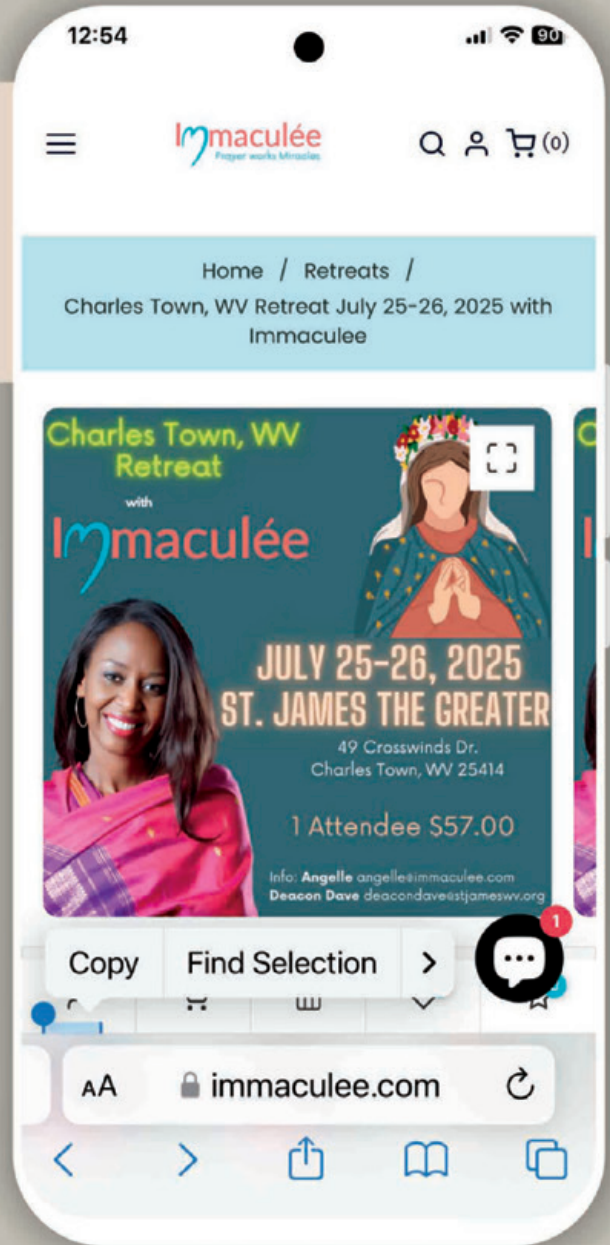
**Prayer Does Work Miracles!
Rwandan Holocaust Survivor,
Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat
July 25-26, 2025
at St. James the Greater,
Charles Town, WV**

**Immaculée shares her
messages of love, hope, &
mercy, while telling her story
and much more!**

Group discount!

**Tickets for the two-day event
are \$57 for a single ticket.
Group rates as low as \$35 per
person for the two-day retreat!**

scroll down on website
to see details



See you there!

**MORE INFO & OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION RECOMMENDATIONS CONTACT ANA BONE
AT [COMMUNICATIONS@STJAMESWV.ORG](mailto:communications@stjameswv.org) (304) 725-5558**

Quo Vadis

DISCERNMENT

Retreat

NEW

Now thru high school!

Welcoming boys grades 6th - 12th!

PRAYER KAYAKING CAMP FIRES
HIKING GAMES CHALLENGES



11 am June 30 to 1 pm July 3, 2025



Priest Field Pastoral Center
Kearneysville, WV

CAMP IS STAFFED BY LAITY, PRIESTS, AND SEMINARIANS FROM THE
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

SEMINARIAN RETREAT LEADERS:
Middle School Breakouts



Peter Russman

St. James, Charles Town
Pontifical College Josephine, Columbus, OH

High School Breakouts



Dominic Re

Ss. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill
Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD



Joe Derico

St. Patrick, Weston
Pope St. John Paul II, Washington, DC



IT'S FREE!

Register now at WVPriests.org



PENTECOST

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

As on Sinai, the Lord descends in fire and wind..

Responsorial: Psalm 104

“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

The Spirit calls the baptized to ministry for the common good.

or Romans 8:8-17

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

On the first day of the week the risen Christ imparts the Holy Spirit.

or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be open to the movement and guidance of the Holy Spirit, who draws us to God's perfect love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the peace of the Holy Spirit may find a home in the hearts of all people, bringing comfort to those who are troubled and reconciliation between those in conflict, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are discerning vocations to the priesthood or religious life, that they may heed the voice of the Holy Spirit in their lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For each of us gathered here, that we may see the fruit of the Holy Spirit revealed in ourselves and in each other, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.*



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.