



# REJOICE!

God so loved the world  
HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON,

so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but may have eternal life.

-John 3:16

## WE ARE HALFWAY THERE ~ IT'S LAETARE SUNDAY

Here we are, right in the middle of our Lenten journey - our long days of solemn reflection of our faith, love, and trust in Christ Jesus. On this Sunday, we clearly see what God wants from us - to embrace His love, hope, and mercy giving us endurance every step of our life. God wants us to carry that focus, strength, and endurance forward.

No matter what we are going through in life, call upon Christ to bring us from darkness to light - life with Christ. Rejoice! He came to free us and give us eternal life.

The Church honors the Fourth Sunday of Lent as Laetare (pronounced lay-TAR-ray) Sunday. The word Laetare means "rejoice" in Latin.

Indeed, this is a joyous Sunday to encourage us. Priests will be wearing rose (pink - made of a mix of red and gold) vestments, flowers are allowed on this day to be placed at the altar, and the liturgical music may be more upbeat and played more fully.

As a Church we also celebrate the Second Scrutiny for the Elect in RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) today. This is a significant day not only for catechumens but also all the faithful, giving us a day to look within ourselves and seek God's mercy on all for our sinfulness.

Our readings focus on the Light of God - turning away from darkness to seek and be all that is good. Christ is our Light, leading us away from darkness and hard to break habits of selfishness.

Don't lose trust. Don't lose hope. God shows up and gives us healing, love, and mercy.

Revive the second leg of Lent and pray with purpose and listen to God's word - powerful, and personal. He gave us free will. We can choose to be encouraged by the light or stay hidden - stay in the darkness of sin, selfishness, emptiness, and irresponsibility. God knows that is the easy choice - the easiest route.

When we seek to be forgiven and enter into the sacrament of reconciliation, the heavens rejoice. God knows the courage it takes to confess and choose to be seen - come out of the darkness.

Christ forgives us, and will always love us.

Praise be the name of the Lord!

# CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH 14

## POPE FRANCIS OFFERS HIS RESPECT AND PRAYERS

Their selfless devotion to Christ and the mission of the Church are immeasurable. For 52 weeks a year our religious sisters stand with the poor and immigrants, teach children, fight injustice, heal the sick, share spirituality, empower women, defend the planet, promote peace, create community, offer hope, and much more.

Since 2014, Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated every March 8-14. It is a time to reflect on how they have influenced our lives with their love, compassion, service, and example. Honor them through prayer and acts of gratitude.

In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we have 19 religious communities of sisters, serving the faithful in our Catholic schools, parish communities, higher education, and health care/social services.

We share the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis:

“We pray in a special way for religious sisters and consecrated women. What would the Church be without religious sisters and consecrated laywomen? The Church cannot be understood without them.

“And let us pray that they may show the beauty of God’s love and compassion as catechists, theologians, and spiritual guides. I invite them to fight when, in some cases, they are treated unfairly, even within the Church; when they serve so much that they are reduced to servitude —at times, by men of the Church.

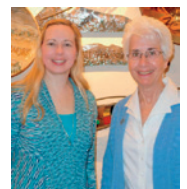
“Do not be discouraged. May you keep making God’s goodness known through the apostolic works you do. But above all through your witness of consecration.

“Let us pray for religious sisters and consecrated women, thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times. Thank you for what you are, for what you do, and for how you do it.”

For more information about religious sisters serving in your area contact the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Office of Consecrated Life at 304-233-0880 ext. 264 or email Karen Muenze at [KMUENZE@DWC.ORG](mailto:KMUENZE@DWC.ORG).



CATHOLIC  
SISTERS WEEK





# Women's Discernment Retreat

June 21-23, 2024 St. Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling, WV



DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

[www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)



The Office of Consecrated Life presents a discernment retreat for single Catholic women ages 18 and over. In a world that lacks moments of silence and reflection it can be easy for us to ignore our callings. Join us and take this time to get to know yourself, your heart, and how Christ is working in your life.

- ✦ Retreat is free.
- ✦ Be with other discerning women.
- ✦ Register now - space is limited!



To Register/More Info:



Sister Martha Gomez, RGS,  
[mgomez@dwc.org](mailto:mgomez@dwc.org)



Office of Consecrated Life  
(304)233-0880 ext. 264







# NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE COMING TO WEIRTON AND WHEELING

The Catholic communities in Weirton and Wheeling are preparing to host the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage which will process across the United States on four separate routes beginning May 17 and ending July 16 in Indianapolis before the National Eucharistic Congress.

The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route will pass through the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-23. This will be the eastern arm of the pilgrimage that will begin in New Haven, Conn.



Having the pilgrimage pass through West Virginia is tremendous for the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, said Mark Tirona, director of religious education at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Weirton, which will be the pilgrimage's first stop in the Mountain State.

"There's never been a better time to be Catholic," Tirona said. "And with that there's never been a better time to worship Jesus in the Eucharist, especially at a national level. This is a once in a lifetime event and all Catholics are encouraged to come— whether they're already fully devoted to the Eucharist or are seeking to develop or

deepen that devotion to the Eucharist. This is definitely the place to be."

Mass will be celebrated at St. Joseph the Worker Church at 8 a.m. June 20 to welcome the pilgrims to West Virginia. Weirton-area Catholics are invited to the Mass and all pilgrimage gatherings in the days that follow.

"Meet the pilgrims and gather for Mass, adoration, and praise and worship at St. Joseph the Worker," pilgrimage organizers said.

The faithful will then join a Eucharistic Procession from St. Joseph to Sacred Heart of Mary Church a mile down the road with exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament and benediction. The parish will host a meal and a program in the cafeteria with sharing and reflection by pilgrims on their faith experiences and what the Eucharistic pilgrimage means to them.

"As they sojourn from parish to parish, from state to state, what their experience has been, how this has helped to form them in their devotion to the Eucharist, and how they've seen other people's lives changed," Tirona said. A closing reflection will be offered by a priest.

Pilgrims will then head to St. Paul Parish in downtown Weirton for Eucharistic Adoration at 7 p.m.

Tirona said it is fantastic to have all three Weirton parishes involved together in a national effort to revive belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

The following day, parishioners will join pilgrims for Mass at 8:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart of Mary Church and then gather for a breakfast. A sharing activity with pilgrims will also be held. The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, will join pilgrims in a game of pickleball.

## **A Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River**

A historic event for both the Diocese of Wheeling-  
*continue...*

Charleston and the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, will be part of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage called “Put Out into the Deep” on the Ohio River! on June 23. Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler that day and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boater-cade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage website lists West Virginia blessing sites at the Steubenville Marina, the Wellsburg Wharf, the Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, and Heritage Port in Wheeling; and Ohio blessing sites at the Steubenville Marina, the Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazeroski Park, and Pike Island Lock and Dam.

Boater-cade’s final destination is the Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

Radio connection is also listed on the website: Our Lady’s Radio WWGL FM 97.9 Steubenville station reaches Follansbee; FM 90.7 reaches Wellsburg & Wheeling; Bellaire, Ohio, Sunday 6-23-24 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. LoL Radio stream [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL) reaches wherever there is internet service.

### **Wheeling’s Welcome for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage**

Bishop Brennan and the Catholic faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 7:30 p.m. June 23. The cathedral will host an All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil beginning at 8:30 p.m.

“Come and adore Our Eucharistic Lord! The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the main altar of the cathedral for quiet prayer and adoration throughout the night,” the pilgrimage website states.

The next morning, June 24, Bishop Brennan will celebrate Mass at the cathedral at 8:30 a.m. He will then lead a Eucharistic Procession at 9:30 a.m. from the cathedral through downtown Wheeling to St. Alphonsus Church. A breakfast will follow benediction.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage presents Wheeling’s Catholic faithful with these prayerful opportunities to gather with the pilgrims and deepen their devotion to the

Eucharist, said Tyler J. Greenwood, pastoral associate at the cathedral.



“As Catholics, we are called to witness to our faith each day,” Greenwood said. “The Eucharistic Revival in our country is very much a time of witness —first, for us to be inspired by the witness of others who proclaim their faith in the Eucharist, and, that we may give witness by the very pilgrimage itself. This national pilgrimage is going to be witnessing to our brothers and sisters in the Catholic faith, of other Christian faiths, and people of no faith at all, that we have something that is truly life-changing and life-giving and that is Jesus Christ Himself, truly present in the Holy Eucharist.

“The world needs to hear this message,” Greenwood continued. “People in our communities and even our own families and friends need to hear this message. That is what we are going to do as we join countless lay men and women, clergy, and religious from throughout our country in publicly bearing witness to our Eucharistic Lord who can transform us if we welcome Him into our lives.”

For more on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, visit [www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org). For more on the National Eucharistic Revival and Congress, visit [dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/](http://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/).

*By Colleen Rowan, Editor of The Catholic Spirit*

# HONOR BLESSED ANGELA SALAWA THIS WEEK

Remember Blessed Angela (Aniela) Salawa on March 12th, the anniversary of her death.

At her beatification, Pope Saint John Paul II, said, “Aniela Salawa can serve as an example of strong faith, a perfect conformity with God’s will amid an exceptional piety.”

Just as we are called to look to the saints for inspiration, Bl. Angela Salawa found great inspiration in the writings and lives of St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Francis of Assisi. At the age of 12 she went to work as a maid, tending to farm animals and caring for the children of the family she worked for. At the age of 16 she had refused to marry and moved to Krakow, Poland to live with her sister, Teresa. When her sister died at a young age, Angela was devastated. After having a vision of Jesus, which illustrated His love and compassion, she chose to dedicate her life to God.

At the age of 19, working as a servant, she became a member of the Franciscan Third Order of women. She dedicated her free time to prayer and religious activities.

During World War I, Bl. Angela Salawa served as a nurse in Krakow hospitals to help injured soldiers and used her own money to give them “decent food.”

Her life was tangled with illnesses, false accusations that lead to job loss, and evil spirited character attacks that resulted in being shunned by her own mother. Blessed Angela continued to choose Christ and not be bitter or seek revenge. She focused on serving others as if she were serving the Lord.

She kept a diary -writing it as if it were written to Christ. “I want you to be adored as much as you were destroyed,” she wrote.

Blessed Angela Salawa, pray for us.



## Support Fish Fry Fridays FOOD FOR THE SOUL!

IT JUST TASTES BETTER,  
knowing you're supporting Faith  
communities helping others.



*Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston • [www.dwc.org/fish-fries](http://www.dwc.org/fish-fries)*



*Blessed Carlo Acutis' Exhibit*

# **Eucharistic Miracles of the World**

Miracles from all over the world  
that prove Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist.  
**COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!**

*Our Lady of Peace Parish*  
*Battaglino Hall*

*690 Mount Olivet Rd, Wheeling*

*Saturday, March 9, 4-5pm and 6-7pm*

*Sunday, March 10, 9:30am to 4pm*

*Monday, March 11, 7:30-8:30pm*



Brought to you by:

The Eucharistic Revival Committee at OLP  
and the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



*Our Lady of Peace Parish*  
Wheeling, WV  
*"People of Peace"*



DIocese OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

[www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org)



LAERATE SUNDAY  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

The Chronicler writes, "The wrath and mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people."

**Responsorial: Psalm 19**

"Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you."

**Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10**

St. Paul tells us that it is God's grace that saved us. We are all the handiwork of God, created to do good works.

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

The Gospel today includes the most quoted bible verse by both believers and non-believers – "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

We are sinners, but God shows his mercy and love for us, so we can choose to come out of the darkness and into the light of Christ.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, and our parish priests that their work be clearly seen as done in God, to strengthen the faithful, and bring souls to heaven, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our civic leaders, that they may always choose good, walking in the light of Christian living and leading all people out of darkness, injustice, and misery, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our own minds and hearts, that the Holy Spirit guide us making it clear to choose to protect the dignity of life in the unborn, homeless, working poor, refugees, elderly, and all who face unjust treatment, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all preparing for the Easter sacraments of the Church, particularly those in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, that they may recognize God's grace in their lives and choose to share that joy with others, 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
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~

ENROLL TODAY

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by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.



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*Liturgy of the Hours*  
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).