



Faith IN WV

MARCH 2, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Are You Ready

to *Stay with Christ and Keep Watch* This Lent?

On His last night with the disciples Jesus had a simple request of them, “Stay with me and keep watch.”

Matthew (26:36-46) describes the Agony in the Garden. It was after the Last Supper. Jesus was with his disciples at Gethsemane. He told them to stay alert and keep watch while he prayed. Specifically, he confided in Peter, James, and John that he was terribly “distressed and full of sorrow,” requesting they stay with him. He turned away from them in prayer. When He turned back to them, they were all asleep. It hadn’t even been an hour.

This happened three times before the Judas and the crowd with swords and clubs came to arrest Him.

As we approach Ash Wednesday, let’s ask ourselves: Can Christ count on me to *Stay with Him And Keep Watch* this Lent?

Can we remain focused and be intentional this Lent? Will we be his disciplined disciples?

Lent is our opportunity to build on our relationship with God – to stay with Him.

Embrace these 40 days of intentional prayer, fasting, and alms giving – to keep watch for Him.

Acknowledge this time as a season sacrifice and action for Christ.

Too often we listen to useless voices, filling our thoughts with negativity and doubt – fear and anxiety. Pray. Fast. Give Alms.



Pray

Stop giving energy away, and instead listen to God’s voice in the Bible, at Mass, in Adoration, and in moments of peace when we intentionally steal away a few minutes for ourselves.

In St. Paul’s letter to the Romans (5:3-4) he tells us that our sacrifices and sufferings are not in vain, “Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”

This Lent give yourself a mindset refresh and be confident in your prayer. Pray wholeheartedly not only for our own needs, but the needs of others. Pray for our

enemies as Jesus taught us in last Sunday’s (Feb. 23) readings. This shows God, we trust Him and want to reflect His mercy and kindness.

Fast

When we fast this Lent, let it be from more than meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. Fast from hurtful words. Fast from gossip. Fast from seeing others’ faults. Fast from holding grudges. Fast from talking so much we cannot hear Christ.

Give Alms

When it comes to almsgiving give in love. Give your time, talents and treasure - give it freely and willingly because you love God and want to others see Him working in and through you.

Editor’s note: the emotional portrait with this article is Agony In The Garden circa 1898, by Frans Schwartz

HONOR ST. JOSEPH IN MARCH

As a Church family we dedicate the month of March to St. Joseph the Guardian of the Redeemer and spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He is the patron of the universal Church and for our diocese. He is a role model for fathers and all Christians for his devotion, faith, humility, and courage.

Consider walking through Lent in this Jubilee Year of Hope reflecting on his character.

His Solemnity is March 19th.

Turn to St. Joseph, the Terror of Demons for spiritual guidance, knowing his most significant role for Almighty God and the Church.

The prominent place that Saint Joseph holds in our Church Tradition can be seen in his patronage, his liturgical feasts, the religious communities that have taken his name, his apparitions with the Blessed Mother, the major shrines and basilicas dedicated to him, the Church documents written about him, the prayers said for intercession by him, his place in the liturgy, as well as the studies devoted to him.

God chose him, a poor man, to be the earthly father of Jesus, and husband to the Virgin Mary.

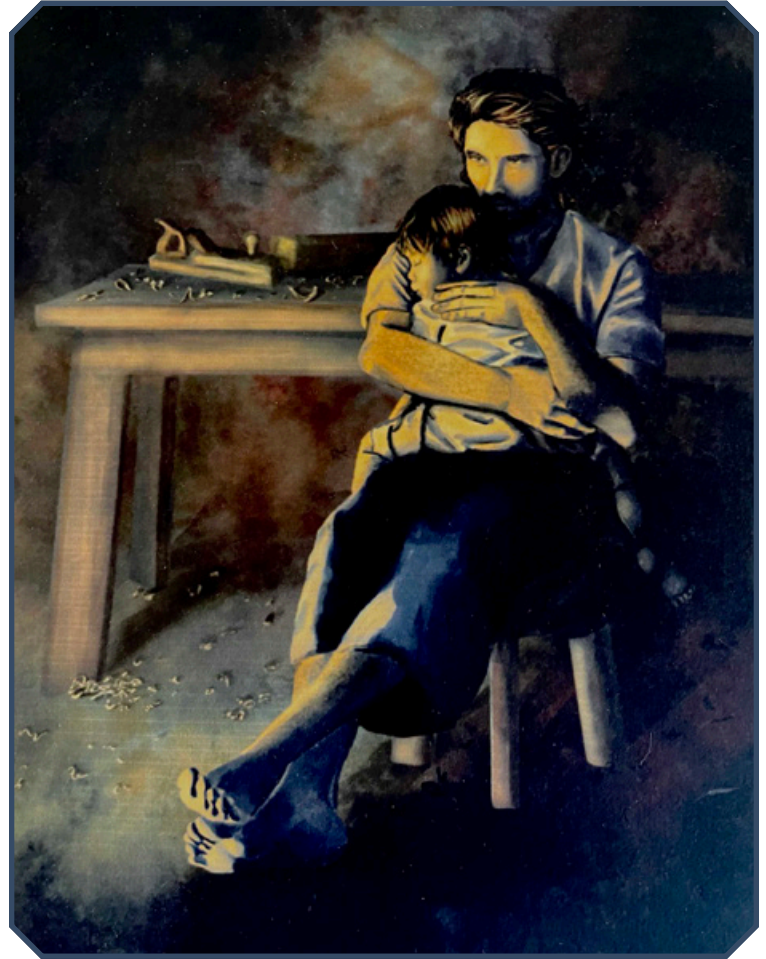
During this month to honor St. Joseph by contemplating his life as you recite the Joyful Mysteries with Fr. Mark Mary, a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal (CFR) at: [MEDIA.ASCENSIONPRESS.COM/VIDEO/PRAIVING-THE-ROSARY-WITH-ST-JOSEPH/](https://www.ascensionpress.com/video/praying-the-rosary-with-st-joseph/)

You may recognize Fr. Mark Mary's name. He is social media famous these days as the host for the Ascension Media podcast The Rosary in a Year.

The heart of the Rosary with St. Joseph is to be able to focus on Joseph - the Terror of Demons consider his mindset, heart, humility, and strength, as it unfolds in the Joyful Mysteries.

Fr. Mark-Mary breaks down each mystery with this in mind:

1. The Annunciation: pray with Luke 1:26-38 and Matthew 1:18-25 (focus on Joseph's response to Mary's pregnancy, and to the angel's message)
2. The Visitation: pray with Luke 1:39-56 (focus on Joseph's response to Mary's Magnificat)
3. The Birth of Christ: pray with Luke 2:1-20 and



Matthew 1:25-2:15 (focus on Joseph's response to seeing Christ for the first time)

4. The Presentation: pray with Luke 2:21-40 (focus on Joseph's response to the prophecy of Simeon)

5. Finding Jesus in the Temple: pray with Luke 2:41-52 (focus on Joseph's response to Jesus being lost, and finding him in the temple)

Want to go deeper as part of your Lenten journey? Try spending some time in Lectio Divina (divine reading) with each passage cited above. Split them up over a week or do one per week. Dedicate some time in the shoes of St. Joseph, focusing on his response to the things God was calling him to.

Meditating on the life of St. Joseph will bring us closer to Christ, helping us see why God chose to entrust such an important role to such a humble carpenter.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Editor's note: The painting of St. Joseph holding Jesus as he's napping by the fireplace in the family's workshop is by Meghan Scdoris of Rooted Art and Design in Lincoln, Nebraska available on Etsy: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/ROOTEDARTANDDESIGN](https://www.etsy.com/shop/RootedArtandDesign)

“MAY HOPE FILL YOUR HEARTS!”

Especially during Lent in The Year of Hope – A Hope That Does Not Fade

“May hope fill your hearts!”

That is the Holy Father’s wish for all who read and reverently acknowledge his letter – the Papal Bull – ([CLICK HERE](#)) for the Jubilee Year 2025.

Make time this Lent to read and reflect on the Holy Father’s letter, as if he were writing it especially for you – he did.

He opens the letter citing St. Paul’s letter to the Romans (5:5) – “Hope does not disappoint” – declaring we are all *pilgrims of hope* in this significant year.

“For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7:9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1),” Pope Francis wrote, adding, “Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often, we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God’s word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome.”

PAPAL BULL
POPE FRANCIS' LETTER
FOR THE 2025 JUBILEE
YEAR OF HOPE

- 1 A WORD OF HOPE**
Hope is born of love – based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus.
- 2 A JOURNEY OF HOPE**
Set out on a journey of rediscovery, encounter, meaning, and faith as pilgrims of hope.
- 3 SIGNS OF HOPE**
Let us seek peace for all, defending the dignity of human life.
- 4 APPEALS FOR HOPE**
The goods of the earth are not for a privileged few – let us help those in need with heartfelt justice.
- 5 ANCHORED IN HOPE**
Unite in hope with faith and charity. Let our trust in the Lord be our stability and security.

He concludes the Papal Bull stating the Jubilee will be,

“A Holy Year marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God.

May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God’s gift of creation.

May the witness of believers be for

our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth (cf. 2 Pet 3:13), where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord’s promises.

Let us even now be drawn to this hope!

Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it.

May the way we live our lives say to them in so many words:

‘Hope in the Lord! Hold firm, take heart and hope in the Lord!’ (Ps 27:14).

May the power of hope fill our days, as we await with confidence the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and glory, now and forever.”

NOTE: The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s website: DWC.ORG/JUBILEE-YEAR-2025/ is your resource from WV to Rome for the Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope.

“May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.” – Bishop Mark Brennan

DIocese of Wheeling-Charleston

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JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Year of Hope Begins
Place Your Trust in God

Pope Francis opened the Year of Hope with the Church's ancient use of the opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter on December 28, 2024. This jubilee is a journey toward spiritual renewal and redemption, where the Holy Father encourages pilgrims to enter the Holy Door of Rome, to have also changed his message to create their own pilgrimage sites, seeking pilgrims to cross the threshold and enter a Jubilee year in Christ. Church to see his mercy and embrace the hope, forgiveness, and grace we obtain when we believe in Christ.

The theme for this jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope" as we are in a world suffering the impacts of war, the lasting effects of the pandemic, and climate crisis. The Pontiff presented in his message that "open your hearts which are closed. You are not yet pilgrims!"

"Everyone knows what it is to hope," said Pope Francis, "for the heart of each person hopes in the desire and expectation of good things to come. Despite our not knowing what the future will bring, there is a certain hope about the future. It is this hope that gives us the confidence to move forward with faith and charity. It is this hope that gives us the strength to overcome our difficulties and to seek the good of all. It is this hope that gives us the courage to stand up for the dignity of every person and to work for a more just and peaceful world. It is this hope that gives us the strength to overcome our difficulties and to seek the good of all. It is this hope that gives us the courage to stand up for the dignity of every person and to work for a more just and peaceful world."

Year of Hope: An opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope. Taking it as our guide, let us return to the message that the Apostle Paul wished to communicate to the Christians of Rome – "May hope fill your hearts!"

Find strength in reading St. Paul's letters to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Thimotheans, and to Philemon. Spend this year hopeful through his preaching and teaching on Christian living, grace, and salvation for us. The true gift from God through our faith in Jesus Christ and His Church. Continue the mission to bring others to Christ, knowing that we should not hesitate to do these good works and deeds for God.

Note: Pope Francis designated five Holy Doors in Rome for the jubilee, in addition to the Holy Doors at Saint Peter's Basilica. The Holy Father also declared Holy Doors at Rome's Basilica of St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of Saint Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls.

- What is a jubilee year?
- What is the significance of the Holy Door?
- What is an indulgence?
- How can I receive an indulgence while in WV?

Is this what St. Thomas Aquinas looked like?

With a combination of history, modern technology, enthusiastic scientists, 3D designers, and ancient images, it may be.

Last month, the National Catholic Register shared the findings and images by Cicero Moraes, a Brazilian 3D designer, who was part of a team with hagiologist, Dr. José Luis Lira that worked to develop what they believe is a realistic image of what St. Thomas Aquinas. The depiction was created from 3D imaging using photographic and structural data from what the Church believes is the skull of the 13th century saint and housed in Toulouse, France.

The team also used ancient portraits, geographical information, and historical facts from the era to complete the image.

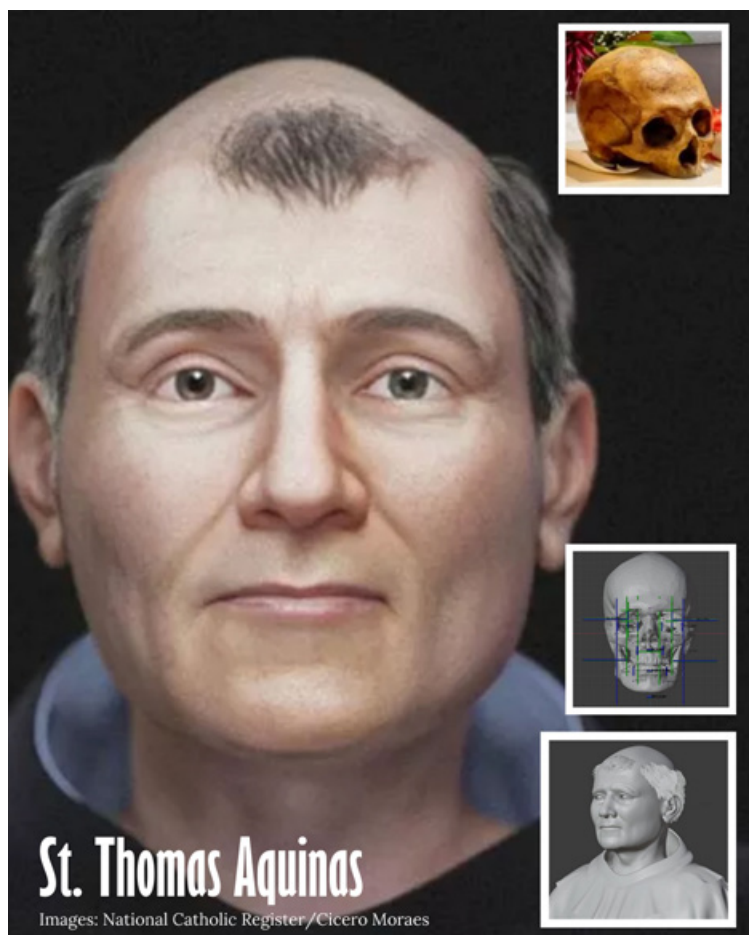
Whether a skeptic or believer that this image could be what St. Thomas actually looked like, all should agree that it is great to have attention brought to his saintly life.

Saint Thomas Aquinas was born 800 years ago in the year 1225. He died at the age of 48 on March 7, 1274. He was canonized in 1323, and in 1567 the humble yet brilliant author and influential theologian was named Doctor of the Church. The Dominican friar is the patron saint of students, Catholic schools, and universities.

On this anniversary week of his death recite his prayer to honor his life and influence in the Church:

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.

Editor's note: The graphic with this article includes images from The National Catholic Register courtesy photos from Cicero Moraes.



SUNG
**SOLEMN
VESPERS**
Music by *The Cathedral Schola*
**SUNDAYS OF LENT
6:00 PM**


THE Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 EOFF STREET, WHEELING



“Press Forward Fear Nothing”

-St. Katherine Drexel

As the Church honors the life of St. Katharine Drexel on her memorial on March 3rd, get to know a glimpse at her story, fitting for National Women’s History Month (March) and International Women’s Day (March 8th).

Saint Katharine Drexel is a saint for all people – Catholics and non-Catholics. Born on Nov. 26, 1858, she was an advocate for social justice - faith-filled, compassionate, persistent, determined, and generous. She worked to stop the plight of Native Americans and the unjust treatment of African Americans, who were far from free and being denied a quality education and constitutional rights.

An heiress of great fortune, St. Katherine grew up knowing that her family’s fortune was a blessing to be shared.

Her life spanned 96 years. Those years were filled with pivotal historical events that definitely molded her character and motivated her calling – the Civil War, the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, Jim Crow Laws, World War I, the Great Depression, World War II, and the beginning of the Cold War. She died in 1955, the same year Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat in the white section of a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

In her lifetime she began the congregation of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and opened 145 missions, 50 schools for African Americans, 12 schools for Native Americans, and Xavier University of Louisiana, the first Catholic college for African Americans in the US. Historians said she spared no expense and made sure students had the best materials available.

Her entire worth, an estimated \$20 million was spent on building her missions, schools, and even Catholic churches for Native Americans and African Americans.

Despite ridicule, threats and attacks from anti-

desegregation groups, anti-Catholics, the Klu Klux Klan, and others, she forged ahead with her plans and convictions with a joyful heart:

“If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing.”

A rainy grey sky loomed over St. Peter’s Square on the day of her canonization, but when her name was announced the audience of more than 300,000 people stood in awe as the sky opened, the sun came out, and a rainbow appeared.

St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us!



SEEK THE COURAGE OF SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY

Saints Perpetua and Felicity are named in the first Eucharistic Prayer, but do you know their story?

They are two of the first women martyrs. Perpetua was from a noble family in Africa and Felicity was her servant. The year was 203, when they were studying to become Christian.

This was a time when the emperor had forbidden anyone to be baptized or become Christian. So, when it became known what they were doing, the women and two others were arrested and sentenced to death. Their teacher upon finding out of their arrest turned himself in and joined them in prison, where he continued to teach them about Christ and the eternal happiness of heaven.

Perpetua kept a diary during her imprisonment. The diary was found by a witness of the executions who added details of the account to the end of St. Perpetua's last entry. The diary is published as *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*.

Perpetua was 22 at the time and still nursing her newborn son. Felicity was late into her pregnancy when she was thrown in jail. Just before the executions Felicity gave birth to a baby girl.

Perpetua's father, a pagan, begged his daughter to denounce Christ, so she would be set free, but she refused. She wrote of her exchange with her father in her diary. The book also notes of visions she had of getting to heaven and commanding a dragon "In the name of Christ Jesus" not to harm her.

While awaiting their executions the women were baptized. On the day of execution, the women were "joyful" as if they were "on their way to heaven," a witness recorded.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, pray for us. May we have

the courage of these young women as we face our trials, and share their joy knowing that because of their steadfast faith they will see the face of God.

Editor's note: the mixed media art of Ss Perpetua and Felicity is by Jessica Huber of Sanctified Souls on Etsy.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Let our ashes be our reminder that Jesus redeemed us by the cross.

Find the readings here:

BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/030525.CFM



“Do what is
right in
Christ’s sight!”

-St. John of God



“Labor without stopping, do all the good works you can, while you still have the time.” These are wise words from St. John of God – words from a man who was desperate.

The Memorial of St. John of God is March 8.

He lived much of his young adult life pretty reckless. It wasn’t until he reached dire straits that he looked to change his ways.

He was born in Portugal on March 8, 1495. At the age of 8 he was somehow separated from his parents and grew up far from home along the Spanish peninsula.

At the age of 22 he was a soldier – drinking, self-centered, and wild. As the story goes, he had stolen a horse and was fleeing from authorities, when he was thrown off. He feared he would be killed or captured. It was in that moment of desperation he pleaded to God that he would not be caught. He knew he had to change his ways.

He traveled to the shrine of St. James of Compostela in Spain. It is the burial place of the Apostle St. James the Great. This trek is still famous today called the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James). It is also believed that the hike is a way to reset your life. He confessed his sinful ways and professed not only his love of God, but his commitment to serving the rest of his life doing good as penance for all of his previous wrongdoings. He even went in search of his parents, but found that both had already died. He immersed himself into reading Scripture and religious books.

Years later he had a vision of the Child Jesus. He had been traveling and came upon a child who was barefoot and disheveled. The boy asked John to carry him, so

he did. When the two stopped at a fountain to take a drink the boy transformed into the Christ Child. Before disappearing, He said, “John of God, Granada shall be your cross.” Granada is a city in southern Spain. John went to the city and opened a bookstore to sell religious books and holy cards. It was in Granada he also heard Saint John of Avila preach. His words influenced John of God so strongly he felt even more remorseful for his sins – for hurting God. He gave away all his possessions. People believed he was insane. For 40 days he suffered cruel treatment in a hospital area for lunacy. It was St. John Avila who had him moved to a better part of the hospital.

He became dedicated to sheltering the homeless and poor. He also opened a hospital. He helped all he could. When he heard that a hospital was on fire, he impulsively ran inside and began carrying patients out. After all were safe, he ran back in to start saving equipment in the hospital. When the building collapsed all believed he died, but he walked out of the billowing smoke unharmed.

He died in 1550, on his 55th birthday from pneumonia he suffered after rescuing a boy from the river. He was found in the infirmary kneeling before a crucifix.

He is the patron saint of booksellers, printers, firefighters, heart patients, hospitals, nurses, mental illness, and the sick.

Editor’s note: the portrait of St. John of God is by Jessica Huber of Sanctified Souls, available on Etsy.

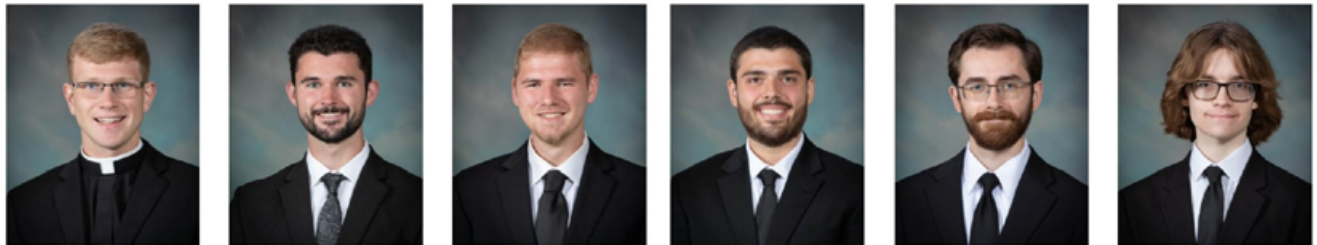
WRITE TO LET YOUR SEMINARIANS KNOW YOU'RE PRAYING FOR THEM

Mount St. Mary's Seminary 16300 Old Emmitsburg Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727



Dominic Re **Bryan Tedeschi** **Travis Moger** **Michael Aiello** **Nathan Schmidt** **Christian Davis** **Andrew Dean**
 Birthday: February 10 Birthday: October 17 Birthday: June 25 Birthday: September 16 Birthday: January 20 Birthday: October 4 Birthday: November 14

The Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 N High Street, Columbus, OH 43235



Timothy Kawash **Peter Russman** **David Hensler** **Donvito Cortese** **Reece Lopatka** **Sebastian Lasko**
 Birthday: July 22 Birthday: April 16 Birthday: July 29 Birthday: August 30 Birthday: June 5 Birthday: September 18

Pope St. John Paul II College Seminary 145 Taylor Street NE, Washington, DC 20017



Joe Derico
 Birthday: February 16



Chris Nelson
 Birthday: December 4

Pontifical North American College
 00120 Vatican City State Europe



Michael J. Tupta
 Birthday: April 24

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
 558 South Avenue Weston, MA 02493



Clifton Mastran
 Birthday: May 1



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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SCAN ME





DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



PRIESTHOOD Discernment Retreat

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- Hear talks about priestly life and discernment

ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER

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FRIDAY
MARCH 7



SATURDAY
MARCH 8

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<http://wvpriests.org/>

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through 1pm on July 3

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Camp Fire • Games**

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Works of Mercy

The camp is staffed by laypeople, priests
and seminarians from the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

RETREAT IS FREE!!!



EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Praise no one before he speaks.

Responsorial: Psalm 92

“Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Stay firm in faith and devoted to the ways and works of Christ.

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Don't be spiritually blind, nor let the spiritually blind influence you. Surround yourself with goodness and grace will follow.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Pope Francis, may he be surrounded by legions of angels and his example help us all to stand firm in faith and fully devoted to the way of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For government leaders, that they resist all evil and temptations, while instead remaining faith filled, honest, and humble, understanding Christ's caution – don't let the spiritually blind lead the spiritually blind, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That this coming season of Lent we don't waste time focusing on the sins of others, but face our own sins and commit to repentance and renewal, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That for the next forty days we remain focused on the light of Christ – His mercy and love – walking in His path and sharing Him with others which also emphasizes the purpose of the Jubilee Year of Hope, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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.