



Faith IN WV

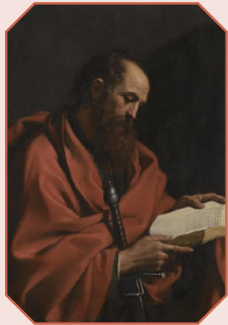
MARCH 23, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Learn from The Past & Don't Be a Fool

Saint Paul is pretty straight forward with his message for us in our second reading for this Third Sunday of Lent (1 Corinthians 10:1–12). He tells us to take ownership, accountability, and responsibility for our faith. He gives us a call to action:

1. Learn from the past.
2. Seek God's grace, and bring Him glory.
3. Don't be overconfident.

The Past is Meant to Teach Us



Saint Paul reflects back on the Israelites' journey out of Egypt. Their wandering in the wilderness and desert written in Exodus and Numbers. They ignored and took for granted any blessing. Instead, they complained, gave into temptations, became demanding, and tested God. The bottom-line is don't repeat this history. Be patient, trust God, and cling to hope.

Seek God's Grace

Steer away from the temptations that continue to haunt us and remain steadfast in faith no matter what. Be humble and obedient to God. Love Him deeply, be a disciplined disciple, and strengthen your relationship with Christ. Bring Him glory through your actions.

Fair Warning: Don't Be Overconfident



Saint Paul puts it right out there, "Whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall."

Do not be an ideologue with such stubborn thinking that you

believe your ways and opinions are right no matter what. Don't look down on others.

Similarly, he warns for us not to become complacent – taking our faith for granted, not continuing our own Catechesis, and going through the motions of a Catholic.

He is urging us remain focused, condition our hearts and minds like an athlete conditions for a competition, and rely on God. Then when we do fall, we will overcome the adversity, pain, and suffering.

So, invest our time and attention on God and His word for it is lifegiving hope. Walk always seeking to know more and understand more about God by following Jesus and inviting others to seek him too.

Editor's note: The 17th Century portrait of St. Paul is by Italian artist Giovanni "Guercino" Francesco Barbieri.



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**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

The Solemnity of the Annunciation

March 25



On March 25th as we continue our journey through Lent, we honor the Solemnity of the Annunciation of our Lord. It is the announcement by the Angel Gabriel of conception of God the Son through the Holy Spirit to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38).

We know Mary's response as the Gospel of Luke recorded it (1:38), "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

The Annunciation – Mary's "yes" – illustrates her faith and obedience, inspiring us during Lent to trust God and His plan for our lives.

Make time to pray the Angelus. This is a beautiful meditative prayer traditionally said three times a day – dawn, midday and dusk (6 am, noon, and 6 pm). It shows our respect to Mary and encourages us to imitate her.

Praying the Angelus every day and letting it become a holy habit gives us the opportunity to purposefully pause to remember the amazing mystery of the Incarnation, and honor our Blessed Mother Mary.



The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary ...

And the Word was made Flesh:

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,

that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, thy son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



Editor's note: TOP OF PAGE: the vintage art with this post is The Annunciation Part 1 The Angel Gabriel and - Part 2 The Virgin Mary by Mikhail Nesterov circa 1898.

ABOVE: the photo is from a 1962 book, "Women of the Bible: May the love and devotion of these Great Women be a Guiding Light to all Christians everywhere..." The portrait of Mary is by Alberta Rae Sune Richards from 1957.

What Bible Should I Purchase for My Child?



Editor's note: the following was written and presented by Nancy Bandzuch, a Catholic mom from Minneapolis who brings us CatholicSprouts.com – resources, activities, podcasts, books, etc. This is her recommendation and opinion, but great food for thought. Be sure to click the USCCB list.

It's a great question, and since I have thoughts, I'll take a minute to share with ALL of you...

GENERAL THOUGHTS:

First, the Bible must be CATHOLIC and include all 73 books.

Protestant Bibles have removed books and have only 66 books.

Second, get a BIBLE, not a book of Bible Stories.

Your children can (and should) interact directly with Sacred Scripture. Bible stories are great and certainly have their place, but they should never replace reading directly from the Bible.

Third, translation matters.

Some translations (including the very popular NIV) are decidedly anti-Catholic. Therefore, stick to the translations the Church has approved. Here is a list from the USCCB: WWW.USCCB.ORG/OFFICES/NEW-AMERICAN-BIBLE/APPROVED-TRANSLATIONS-BIBLE

Note: For Mass we use the New American Bible, Revised Edition. The Bible In a Year podcast with Fr. Mike (Schmitz) uses the New Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition – which is also the translation we cite in our printed materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

There are many great Catholic Bibles out there, but (in my opinion) the best are made by St. Mary's Press. Here are the specific Bibles we use in our home.

For Elementary Children: The Catholic Children's Bible: WWW.SMP.ORG/PRODUCT/4151/THE-CATHOLIC-CHILDRENS-BIBLE-REVISED-EDITION/

For Older Children: The Catholic Youth Bible: WWW.SMP.ORG/PRODUCT/4155/THE-CATHOLIC-YOUTH-BIBLE-4TH-EDITION/

Again, these aren't the only good Bibles, but I like them!

And...the only thing these Bibles are missing is TABS!

(You can get tabs from Catholic Sprouts at: SHOP.CATHOLICSPROUTS.COM)

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Marshall Newman Center

Seeks to Evangelize Through FOCUS

By Daniel Long, Campus Minister at the Marshall Catholic Newman Center, Huntington

HUNTINGTON — Evangelization is very important in the Christian life. The mandate of Christ to “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations” extends to all of us. For me, being a campus minister who serves a university of over 12,000 students, this task of evangelization can be very daunting,

We have been given the great opportunity to bring in 4 FOCUS missionaries (2 young men and 2 young women who have graduated college themselves) who would help me in bringing the truth and beauty of the Catholic Faith to more students on Campus.

If you were wondering, FOCUS stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

I am so happy to say that we currently have a thriving community already at the Newman Center, and it keeps growing!

Our community consists of Catholics, non-Catholics, and those who are considering becoming Catholic. We act as a home away from home for students, a place where they can find community, and somewhere that their faith will be fostered.

The sad reality is that so many students are at risk of losing their faith in college, and there are more students we have not yet reached. According to an article from the National Catholic Register titled College Students’ Lifeline to Faith; “An estimated 80% of Catholic college students will stop practicing their faith”.

This is why what we do at the Newman Center is so important; to be that light in an environment that is not always conducive to a fruitful and lively faith. Though, there is a bright side to this, because according to the same article; “Roughly 70% of Catholic students remain loosely connected to their faith and are responsive to outreach from Catholic campus-ministry centers, often known as Newman Centers”.

If students are still roughly connected to their faith, this would mean they will be more open to coming back to the regular practice of their faith. This is where we come in! If we have more feet on the ground intentionally evangelizing, this will mean we have a better shot of helping Jesus bring back his strayed sheep.

I am also very happy to say that we have been given a \$36,000 matching grant so every donation we receive is automatically doubled! So far, taking into consideration the matching grant, we have raised \$41,909.74 towards our \$72,000 goal. The \$72,000 is the portion we are asked to contribute in addition to what FOCUS themselves contribute.

If you are able, I ask that you help support us in this very important mission. We have multiple ways you can donate if you decide you are able. You can make out a check for Marshall FOCUS and then send it to the Marshall Catholic Newman Center at 1609 5th Ave, Huntington, WV 25703. We also have a secure PayPal link on our website:

MARSHALLCATHOLIC.COM.

For more on FOCUS go to their website at FOCUS.ORG.

For more information about this program at Marshall email dlong@dwc.org



PRAYER DOES WORK MIRACLES

Retreat to Bring Hope through Rwandan Holocaust Survivor's Story



BEST SELLING AUTHOR AND
RWANDAN GENOCIDE SURVIVOR

Prayer works miracles! The life of Immaculée Ilibagiza is a testimony to that mantra.

During the Church's Year of Hope for 2025, Ilibagiza is a beautiful example of how faith, prayer, and hope can pull you through - to put it bluntly - a living hell.

Saint James the Greater in Charles Town invites you and your friends to meet her and be inspired by her story at the Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat, July 25-26 at the parish, 49 Crosswinds Drive.

Want to read her story before coming to the event? Check out her book - *Left to Tell, Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* at your local library or purchase it from your favorite retailer.

Immaculée Ilibagiza was born and raised Catholic along with her three brothers in a rural village in Rwanda, Africa. She was a bright child and was studying to be an engineer in college.

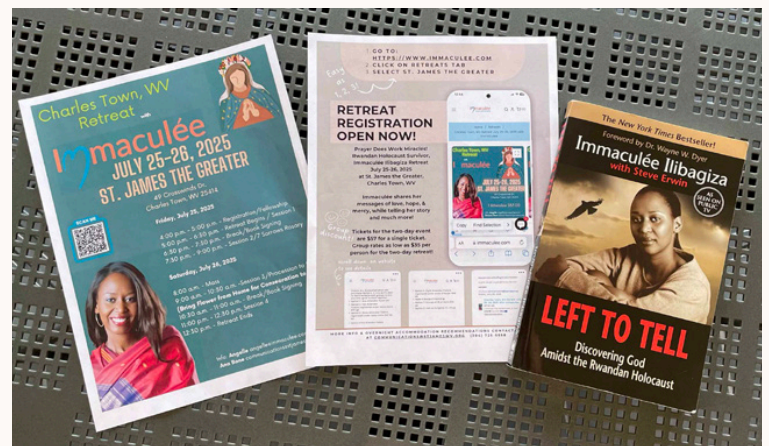
In April of 1994, home for Easter break, what would be the worst civil war in her country began to rage. Her survival is one thing, but what bloomed into a devotion

to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary is her other awe-inspiring story.

To protect his precious daughter from unthinkable assaults and murder, Immaculée's father gave her his Rosary and had her run to the local pastor's home for protection. It was there she and seven other women were hidden by the pastor in a 3-foot by 4-foot bathroom for 91 days. Not knowing their fate sorrow set in, then anger, and then a turning point - prayer. It was her Rosary and prayer that lifted her above the hatred and saved her and her companions. When it was safe to come out of hiding, and weighing less than 70 pounds she learned her entire family except for one brother who did not make it home from his university outside the country, were dead. They were among the more than 1 million men, women, and children brutally murdered.

Her book includes photos from her childhood and images taken after the genocide.

At the two-day retreat in Charles Town Immaculée Ilibagiza will also share her love and knowledge of apparitions around the globe including Our Lady of Kibeho in her home country. No one will leave this retreat the same as when they came. Tickets are \$57 per person (group rates re as low as \$35 per person).



For general information and to register [CLICK HERE](#).

For information from St. James the Greater and overnight accommodation recommendations contact Ana Bone at COMMUNICATIONS@STJAMESWV.ORG or call her at the parish: (304) 725-5558.

Charles Town, WV Retreat

with

Immaculée

JULY 25-26, 2025

ST. JAMES THE GREATER



SCAN ME



49 Crosswinds Dr.
Charles Town, WV 25414

Friday, July 25, 2025

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Registration/Fellowship
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Retreat Begins / Session 1
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Break/Book Signing
7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Session 2/7 Sorrows Rosary

Saturday, July 26, 2025

8:00 a.m. - Mass
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Session 3/Procession to Mary
(Bring Flower from Home for Consecration to Mary)
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Break/Book Signing
11:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Session 4
12:30 p.m. - Retreat Ends



Info: **Angelle** angelle@immaculee.com
Ana Bone communications@stjameswv.org

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!

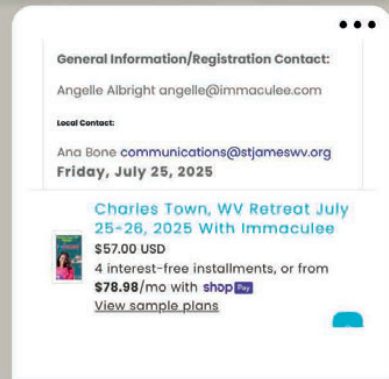
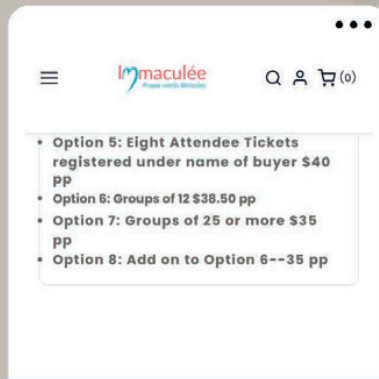
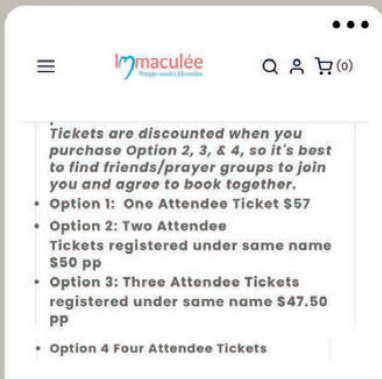
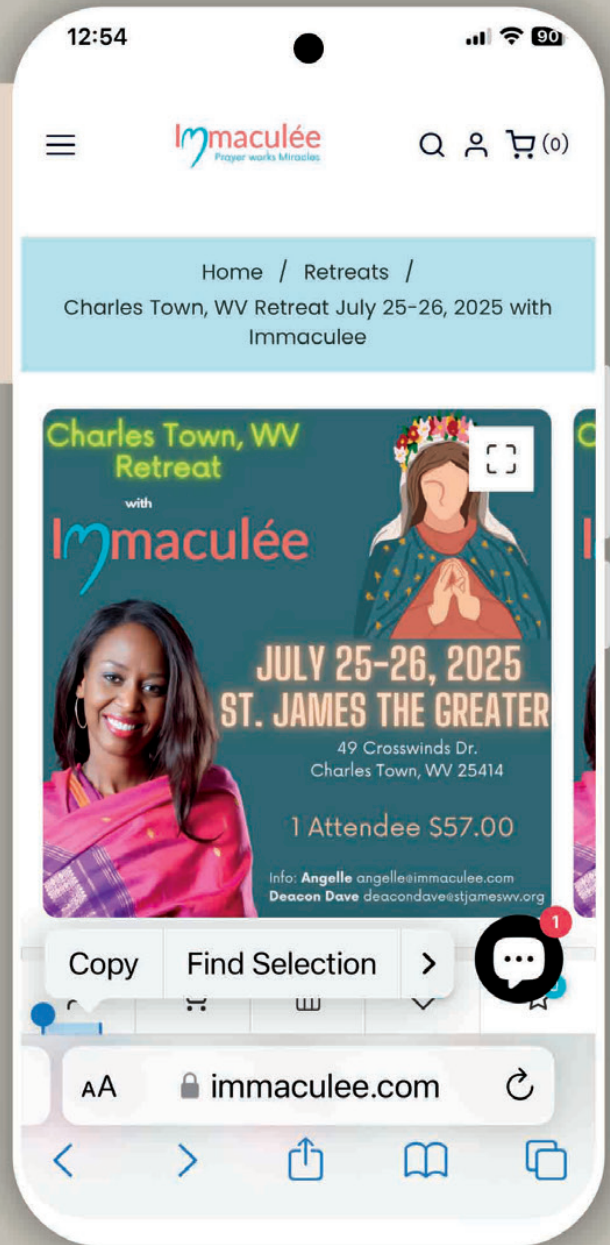
Prayer Does Work Miracles!
Rwandan Holocaust Survivor,
Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat
July 25-26, 2025
at St. James the Greater,
Charles Town, WV

Immaculée shares her
messages of love, hope, &
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Group discount!

Tickets for the two-day event
are \$57 for a single ticket.
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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

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David Anderson also serves as Organist and Director of Pastoral Music and Liturgy at Ascension and St. Edmund Parish in Oak Park, Illinois where he conducts three parish choirs of various sizes and age groups. David completed a Master of Church Music at Concordia University, and a Master of Liturgy and Ministry at Catholic Theological Union, both in Chicago. In 2024, he received the Doctor of Pastoral Music degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Quo Vadis

DISCERNMENT

Retreat

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Michael Tupta

Co-Cathedral, Sacred Heart, Charleston
Pontifical North American College, Rome



Joe Derico

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



IT'S FREE!

Register now at WVPriests.org



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

From a burning bush God speaks to Moses – “I have witnessed the affliction of my people... and have heard their cry... I have come to rescue them. ‘I am who am.’”

Responsorial: Psalm 103

“The Lord is kind and merciful.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Saint Paul cautions us – don’t complain like the Israelites did. Learn from the past. Learn from trials. Remain right with God.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Jesus used a story about 18 people perishing in the collapse of a building and a parable about the fig tree that remained fruitless for years. He did so to emphasize that we must remain humble and repent. Do not give up. We may not bear fruit now, but if mindful, attentive, and responsible we have hope for the future.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we work together and love one another so we may bear fruit in the future in ways that we have failed to do in the past, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For world leaders, that they lead with wisdom, understanding, and empathy while also working with the others to be united in peace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For victims of human trafficking, and for all those without any power to leave or change a desperate situation, that they may not lose hope as they long to be freed from their captivity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who mourn loved ones who have died, especially those who died suddenly and unexpectedly, that they may be comforted, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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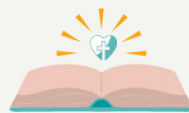
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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.