



Faith IN WV

MARCH 30, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

My Lord & My God

The month of April is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

Go into this month, knowing there is no denying Christ is present in the Holy Eucharist. Although appearing as bread and wine, once consecrated these gifts are truly, “My Lord, and my God.”

He’s been dubbed doubting Thomas for a reason. The Apostle Thomas denied Christ three times and then doubted the Resurrection even when the other Apostles repeatedly appealed to him. He failed to believe until he saw Jesus for himself, then saying as John recorded (John 20:28), “My Lord and My God.”



Many Catholics often say silently or softly, “My Lord, and My God,” during the Eucharistic prayers and the transubstantiation, when the Body and Blood are elevated by the priest. This holy habit is a great way to mindfully be reverent and alert to the miracle before us.

If you have never attended Eucharistic Adoration or haven’t gone for a long time, go! Let this be your nudge.

Rejuvenate your spirit and spend time in prayer before the tabernacle outside of the Mass. Choose to make time to kneel or sit before Christ reverently brought before us high in a monstrance. Honor Christ by walking into Church for the simple yet profound intention to spend time with Him.

He is waiting for us and will embrace us with his compassion.

Let Him heal our hearts.

As we walk past the halfway point of Lent take time this week to recommit to devotions to bring us closer to Christ – devotions that strengthen our relationship with Jesus.

Like St. Ignatius of Loyola said, “Jesus in the Tabernacle protects me against all my enemies, evil spirits, the world, my own wicked passions and evil inclinations. He is my support in weakness, my comfort in suffering, my weapon in combat, my refreshment in heat, food for my hungry soul, my stimulus when I am exhausted. He is my Heaven on earth.”

The Anima Christi (Soul of Christ) Prayer was a favorite of St. Ignatius of Loyola if not written by him.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me.

Within Thy wounds hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.

From the malignant enemy, defend me. In the hour of my death, call me.

And bid me come to Thee.

That with Thy saints I may praise Thee. Forever and ever. Amen.

Present in the Eucharist

Editor’s note: the following is an excerpt of a 2022 column for FaithInWV written by Sr. Albertine Cevallos, O.P., native of Charleston where her family are members of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral.



It was a Saturday afternoon, I was 23, and a friend had invited me to go with her to church for something called Adoration.

It had been several months since a grand conversion of faith in which I encountered the merciful love of Jesus at an evangelical church. . . .

I was bouncing from Bible study to Bible study, relishing each copy of the Bible offered from Christians eager to encourage a new believer. After weeks of pouring these pages, hungry for Jesus, I had come to a full stop at the 6th chapter of John. This contains the scene where Jesus invites his many listeners to eat the bread of life: his own body.

The echoes of the Masses I had attended as a bored, distracted child suddenly reverberated in my heart. The same Jesus that I had just fallen in love with, and was pursuing in the pages of Scripture—was he really, literally, what had been offered on the altar every Sunday? If this was true, this would change everything, again. I prayed one of the best prayers I know—*Lord, I believe, help my unbelief*—and waited for God to show me that he was really present in the Eucharist.

That afternoon, my friend led me to a pew toward the front. A priest placed the host in a beautiful, golden holder, which I now know is called the monstrance. In a moment, I experienced the answer to my prayer. I sensed the heart of Jesus, beating for me. I could hear his words of love deep in my heart. . . .

To read the full column download the Dec. 4, 2022, issue at: FAITHINWV.ORG/E-BULLETINS/

Death Is Certain, Life Is Short

Be Patient • Put Aside Hatred

His advice is pretty straight forward and definitely spot on. “Death is certain... life is short... be patient and put aside hatred,” St. Francis said.

Wait. This St. Francis isn't the one you're probably thinking of St. Francis Xavier – the Spanish Jesuit missionary of the 1500s; nor is he St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan orders, although he was his patron saint and namesake.

This frank friar is St. Francis of Paola, a hermit, miracle worker, and founder of the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi, also known as the Minims (friars, nuns and the third order). He was born in 1416 and died in 1507 at the age of 91. Saint Francis of Paola although a friar was never ordained a priest, but was the spiritual confidant of popes and nobility. His memorial is April 2nd.

The Vatican shares his wisdom *Letters of St Francis of Paola, Hermit* (Letter AD 1486) on The Holy See website:

“May our Lord Jesus Christ, who repays most generously, reward your labour. You must flee from evil, and drive away dangers. We and all our brothers, although unworthy, pray constantly to God the Father and to his Son Jesus Christ, as well as to Mary the Virgin Mother, to be with you as you seek the salvation of your souls and your bodies.

“Brothers, I most strongly urge you to work for the salvation of your souls with prudence and diligence. Death is certain, and life is short and vanishes like smoke. Therefore, you must fix your minds on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ who so burned with love for us that he came down from heaven to redeem us. For our sakes he suffered all the agonies of body and mind, and did not shrink from any torment. He gave us a perfect example of patience and love. For our part, we too must be patient when things go against us.

“Put aside hatred and hostility. See to it that you refrain from harsh words. But if you do speak (to) them, do not be ashamed to apply the remedy from the same lips that inflicted the wounds. In this way you will show each other mercy and not keep alive the memories of past wrongs. Remembering grievances works great damage. It is accompanied by anger, fosters sin, and brings a hatred for justice. It is a rusty arrow spreading poison in the soul. It destroys virtue and is a cancer in the mind. It thwarts prayer and mangles the petitions we make to God.

It drives out love and is a nail driven into the soul, an evil that never sleeps, a sin that never fades away, a kind of daily death.

“Be lovers of peace, the most precious treasure that anyone can desire. You are already aware that our sins drive God to anger, so you must repent of them, that God in his mercy may spare you. What men conceal is open to God. Turn to him with a sincere heart. Live in such a way that you bring upon yourselves the blessing of God, and that the peace of God our Father may be with you always.”

Saint Francis of Paola, pray for us.

Editor's note: The painting with this article is The Vision of Saint Francis of Paola, circa 1670, by Spanish artist Bartolomé Esteban Murillo. Murillo illustrates a heavenly vision of the saint, when the word “Charitas” (Latin for Charity) appears in golden light – the motto for his religious order. This is one of the oldest known paintings of the saint and believed to be a great resemblance.



DAY BY DAY ✝️ THANK THE LORD



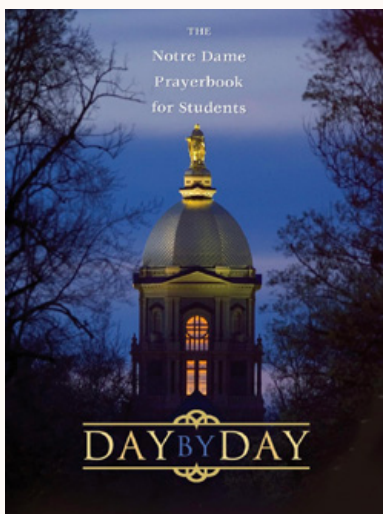
He was a brilliant scholar, but lead others to Christ through simplicity, gratitude, and devotion. Honor St. Richard of Chichester on his memorial April 3rd.

Saint Richard of Chichester, was born in 1197. He became a beloved bishop in England. He was a great scholar studying at Oxford, Paris, and Bologna, Italy; and known for standing against vain vices of priests, the Church, and the royal court. At the end of his life, he lived in a home for poor priests.

He wrote the Day by Day Prayer that is featured in The Notre Dame Prayerbook for Students:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits and blessings
which you have given me,
for all the pains and insults
which you have borne for me.
Merciful Friend, Brother, and Redeemer,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day.

Editor's note: Fun fact – after winning the state championship, the Central Catholic High School (Wheeling) boys basketball team and Principal Becky Sancomb lead their fans in the Day By Day prayer at the welcome gathering in their gym.



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



A Visit to Rome



Bishop Mark Brennan kneeling in prayer beneath one of his favorite paintings - a mural of St. Augustine.

Bishop Mark Brennan and Vocations Director Fr. Brian Crenwelge were able to meet up with Diocesan Seminarian Michael Tupta of Charleston, a student at the North American College in Rome.

The photos on this page are a few highlights of their visit, which included going through the Jubilee Year of Hope's Holy Doors of St. Mary Major, St. Peter's, and St. John Lateran.

One photo captured by Fr. Brian features Bishop Mark kneeling in prayer beneath one of his favorite paintings - *The Sacrifice of the Mass* by Raphael (Raffaello). The fresco is one of many within the ornate Basilica of St. Augustine in Rome, where the tomb of St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine is located in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to the left of the main sanctuary. Bishop Mark studied in Rome as a seminarian and has mentioned in his homilies this particular painting being the most poignant, captivating his heart and mind to this day.

In the painting St. Augustine is offering Mass with St. Thomas Aquinas and others, in the background you are able to see suffering souls being pulled out of purgatory by the angels.



Holy Doors at the entrance of St. Peter's Basilica



At the Holy Door of St. Mary Major



Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome



Holy Door at St. John Lateran



Chair of St. Peter at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City

CARLO ACUTIS

ROADMAP TO REALITY

IN THEATRES APRIL 27 - 29 ONLY

In a world losing itself to screens, teenage mystic Carlo Acutis saw beyond the social media-addicted society we live in and offered an answer... if we're willing to listen.

WATCH TRAILER >



THIS!

You've GOT TO SEE! SERIOUSLY.

CARLO ACUTIS: ROADMAP TO REALITY

the movie is premiering in theaters the same weekend of his canonization – April 27-29.

According to the movie promoters, "*Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality* explores the life and legacy of the soon-to-be Saint Carlo Acutis and how he navigated the modern world.

"It tackles urgent technology-related questions, examining how the virtual landscape threatens our fundamental understanding of what it means to be human.

"The film also tracks the journey of a group of high school students who embark on a two-week pilgrimage from North Dakota to Italy to visit Carlo's tomb. A requirement for their pilgrimage: disengage from technology and leave their phones at home (for two weeks)."

You can get tickets now – discounts available if you go as a group

"In a world losing itself to screens, teenage mystic Carlo Acutis saw beyond our social media-addicted society and offered an answer—if we're willing to listen. *Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality* explores the life of the first millennial saint while following teens on a phone-free pilgrimage to his tomb, immersing them in his story, his passion for Christ, and a search for meaning in a digital age," notes producers of the film.

THIS FILM WILL GET PEOPLE TALKING!

In a recent survey of WV Catholics, it was reported that the overwhelming majority cherish their faith, but only 18% feel comfortable talking about it, said Fr. John Rice in a recent homily at Mass for the Chancery staff.

Film marketing reps noted that the more advanced tickets sold will secure not only additional showing times, but also locations for areas not already on the schedule.

Carlo's family and friends share their firsthand experiences and his impact on their lives. Many well-known voices in the Catholic Church today are also part of the film.

WHERE CAN I SEE IT?

As of now the film will be shown in Morgantown, Bridgeport, Vienna, Nitro, Huntington/Barboursville, and bordering cities in KY, OH, MD, VA, and PA.

The movie is brought to us by Castletown Media and Wahl St. Productions, in association with the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc. and the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame invite you to the Catholic film event of the year.

LINKS, PLEASE!

[CLICK HERE](#) For tickets!

For more information on the film go to:

CARLOACUTISFILM.COM

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!

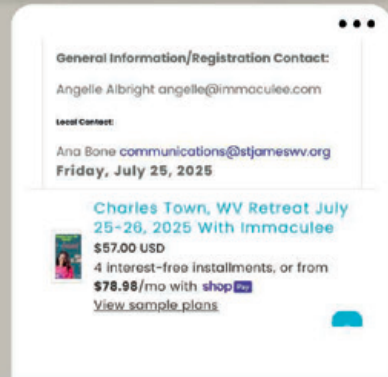
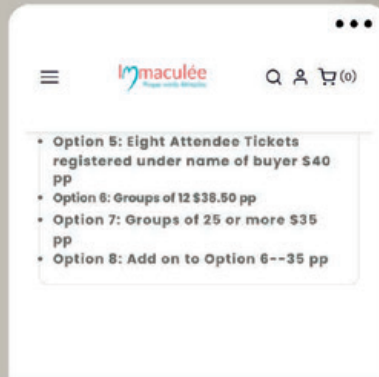
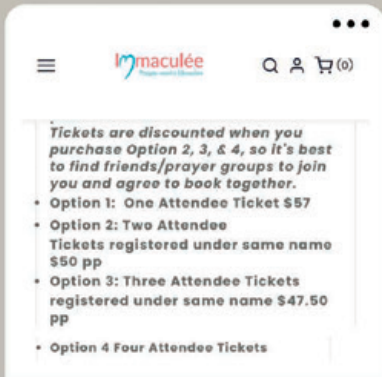
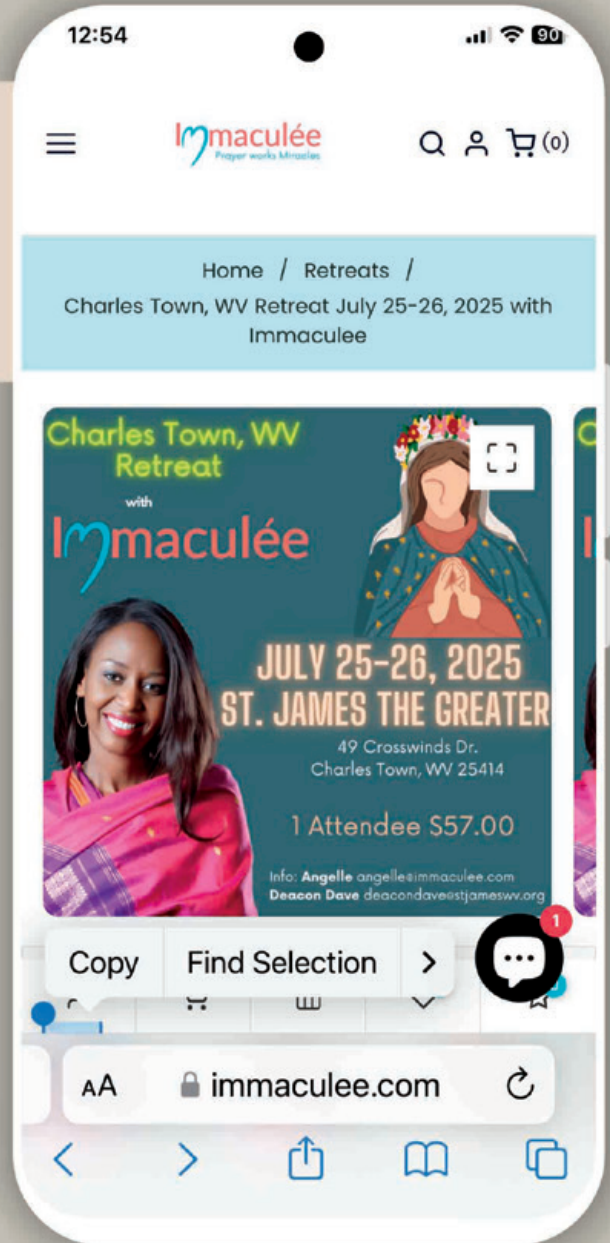
Prayer Does Work Miracles!
Rwandan Holocaust Survivor,
Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat
July 25-26, 2025
at St. James the Greater,
Charles Town, WV

Immaculée shares her
messages of love, hope, &
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



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!

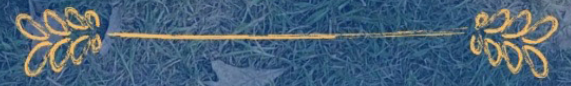
Register now at WVPriests.org





What is
God
asking of
You?

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a-12

The people celebrate the first Passover in the promised land – God provides.

Responsorial: Psalm 34

“Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Saint Paul tells us that Jesus reconciles us to His Father.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The story of the prodigal son teaches us it is best to forgive, reconcile, and celebrate that even when lost and out of control, when we come back to God, He will welcome us with open arms.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we welcome all who return with a sincere heart to the practice of the faith, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations on down to our local communities may they act with wisdom, mercy, and good judgment in their duties, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our Muslim brothers and sisters, who are celebrating the end of the holy month of Ramadan, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That during this Jubilee Year, our parish community may be a beacon of hope to those who have left the Church and are unsure if they will be welcomed back, 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
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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ENROLL TODAY

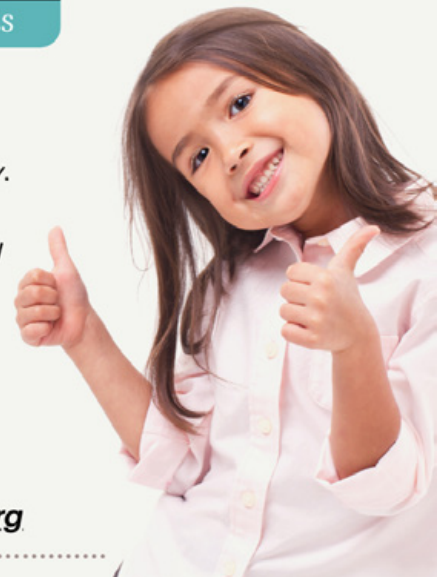
WV Catholic Schools

*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.