



# HE IS RISEN!

God of life and love,  
you raised your Son  
from the grave,  
giving us hope and meaning,  
our lives to save.

Grant that the new life you  
promise may raise us up  
as we raise our prayers to you  
through your Son, Jesus  
Christ, our Risen Lord.



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# HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Psalm 116

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

John 13:1-15

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/032824-SUPPER.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/032824-SUPPER.CFM)

**HOLY THURSDAY** – the night he was betrayed. It is this day that Jesus gave us the institution of the Eucharist the source and summit of our life as Christians, and the gift of the priesthood, and the model of selfless love.

When Christ gathered his apostles for the Last Supper, much to their surprise got down on His knees and washed the feet of each one. He did so with the humility of a happy servant, selflessness wanting nothing in return, and with the love of a confident leader. He was simply serving them as He wanted them to serve others. The commandment given to our first priests - live like Christ's example and be a servant to all people.

We all need to hear and obey this for we are on this earth to help others and do our best to live like Christ.

The Last Supper was the first Holy Eucharist for the Church. Every time we receive the Eucharist, we are part of that moment with Christ. Do not take it for granted.

“He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it, saying, ‘This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.’ And likewise, he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.’” There exists no greater love than this.

Let us be mindful of this Holy night everyday of our lives. Be a disciple of Christ and listen as Jesus tells us, “Love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:12-13).”



# GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

He himself was wounded for our sins.

Psalm 31

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

John 18:1–19:42

[BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/032924.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/032924.CFM)

**GOOD FRIDAY** – The Passion of the Lord. While Mass is not celebrated, we participate in a solemn liturgy taking us through the moments when Jesus was scourged, sentenced to death, forced to carry His own cross to Calvary, crucified, and took his last breath at the ninth hour (3pm) -the Hour of Mercy.

We are filled with so many emotions on this day especially when we as part of the liturgy repeatedly shout out, “Crucify him!” It’s overwhelming to know that it is our sins that nailed Jesus to the cross. We also are overcome with great humility knowing that all of Christ’s sufferings were to redeem the world – to show us how much he loves us.

Spend time at the foot of the cross.

Meditate on the unthinkable magnitude that Christ in the flesh went through for us, because He believes in us and loves us.

When we face and become consumed by our challenges, burdens, pain, worry, loss, and unrest we are in our darkest hour. We are carrying our own cross. God tells us to be strong in faith because He is always with us and never fails. Believe in Him. Believe in the promises, the teachings of Christ. Joy will come!

TETELESTAI.  
IT IS FINISHED.



*Editor's note: The Crucifixion image is a close up of a larger painting by West Virginia born and raised artist Christopher Santer. Read his story in your FaithInWV next week.*



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET  
POST OFFICE BOX 230  
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Easter, 2024

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

After the storm the sun comes out. After his crucifixion and burial, the Son of God came out of his tomb. He, the Sun of Justice, will never go dark. He is the Light of the World which gives light to every human being. When we walk in his light, we avoid pitfalls, and we see our way clear to our destination: the fullness of eternal life with our God and all His saints.

As our Easter season begins, I hope that you find joy in the firm conviction that we follow the Lord who has overcome the worst that his enemies could do to him and who holds out to us the promise of help now and glory later. Whatever our struggles and difficulties, the Lord Jesus walks with us, like the Good Shepherd who accompanies his sheep and leads them to good pasture.

We live in anxious times. It can seem as if the world is coming apart. We see division and conflict on all sides. We experience the tug-of-war inside ourselves between faith and doubt. Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead assures us that all will end well for us if we keep faith with the Lord. In this life, we have no greater enemy than death, but our Savior has overcome it and, true to his boundless generosity, he chooses to share his new life with us, now by grace and later in eternity.

Rejoice, then, Christians, in your Lord's triumph over sin and death! He has done it for you. Stay close to him and have confidence in your own final victory over sin and death. Let the sunlight of Easter illuminate your spirit and give a sprightly lilt to your step!

Christ is risen, he is truly risen!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

# EASTER

## OUR 50 DAYS OF CELEBRATION

*Unite, serve, and love one another,  
turn away from division, selfishness,  
and throwing stones*

The Church celebrates the Easter season – Eastertide – for 50 days, ending with the feast of Pentecost. It is the longest celebration outside Ordinary Time.

Let your heart and mind be present each day of the Easter Season by taking heed to Christ's call to unite, serve, and love one another; turning away from division, selfishness, and throwing stones.

Celebrate your faith more fully. Be alert and fully alive as we celebrate significant moments within these 50 days including:

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Annunciation of the Lord (moved from Holy Week – March 25)

The feast days of great saints like St. Mark the Evangelist, St. Catherine of Siena, Ss Philip and James the Apostles, St. Matthias the Apostle,

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

Prepare your soul for the culmination of Easter – Pentecost Sunday – the coming of the Holy Spirit into our world to stay with us and guide us to live out the gospel, turn to the Lord, and work to bring others to Christ on life's journey.

With that in mind let us give great attention and thought into a prayer written by the beloved St. Teresa of Avila:

“Christ has no body now on earth, but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours.

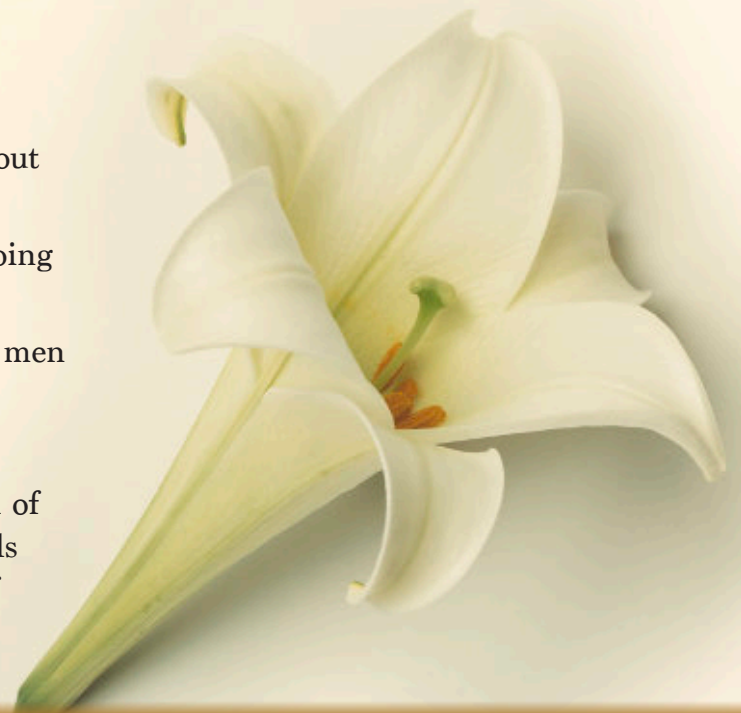
Yours are the eyes through which is to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world;

Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing  
good;

Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men  
now.

Amen.”

As we celebrate the Resurrection, let us be mindful of St. Teresa's words and strive to be like saints – models of love, encouragement, and hope. Be a beacon of hope and joy for others.



## CALL FOR THE INTERCESSION OF GOOD FATHER GUS

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the birthday of Venerable Fr. Augustus Tolton. He lived from 1854 to 1897, and was the first priest of acknowledged African descent in the US. A former slave, He was known as “Good Father Gus,” who had eloquent sermons and a beautiful signing voice.

His story is one of suffering service. Through his experiences of racial negation by a society that would separate black and white by force of the law and lawless custom, Tolton found the love of God, found his own vocation, and ultimately has received his reward from God as a figure of Christian faith in action, indiscriminate love of neighbor and pastoral charity despite the bigotry that was thrown at him.”



On his birthday let us pray the prayer shared by the Archdiocese of Chicago:

*“O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We “in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.*

*Father in Heaven, Father Tolton’s suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son’s passion and death. If it be your Will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now request through his intercession (mention your request) so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.*

*Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are our God, living and reigning forever and ever.*

*Amen”*

## VENERABLE MARIA DOMENICA LAZZERI

### UNBELIEVABLE STORY OF A SPECIAL SOUL UNITED WITH CHRIST’S SUFFERING



On April 4th, call upon Servant of God Maria Domenica Lazzeri, to aid us all in our hours and days of unbearable suffering.

Most don’t know the unbelievable story of Maria, but

it holds enough validity that the young Italian woman would be declared venerable in 2023.

Maria Domenica Lazzeri, was the youngest of five children born on May 16, 1815, in the province of Trent, Italy. Her father died in 1829 of pneumonia. It devastated the 14-year-old, but she turned her grief into praise to God for giving her such loving and faith filled parents. She poured her heart into prayer and caring for the sick.

It was at this time her mystical journey began. When she was about 17, she developed a sickness that lasted for more than a year. During that time, she prayed and put herself within the story of Passion of the Christ. In that year, when she was well enough to help another, she did.

Maria Domenica gave her whole self to serving God by helping those worse off than she was.

However, on August 15, 1833, at the age of 19, her unnamed illness became too much. She had become paralyzed with no hope of recovery. Her doctor, Dr. Leonardo Cloch, declared her bed ridden.

In 1935, Maria Domenica received the stigmata – the wounds of Christ Crucified and the Crown of Thorns – on her hands, feet, ribs, and head.

The most fascinating part of her story happened next. In October of 1835, she vanished from her bed, which was noted in letters by Blessed John De Nepomuceno Tschiderer, the Bishop of Trento at the time.

She was gone and could not be found. Eight-and-a-half days later she reappeared in the bed – Tschiderer recorded she had actually disappeared and angels had transported her to many places – How? All things are possible with God, he would write. Physicians documented that she did not eat or drink anything for the last 14 years of her life except Holy Communion.

Artists often present her portrait with bleeding hands and head as she lays upon her bed.

She died on April 4, 1848, at the age of 33, just like Jesus. She was declared venerable in 2023.

Read more about her at: [WWW.MYSTICSOFTHECHURCH.COM/2010/07/MARIA-DOMINICA-LAZZARI-MYSTIC-STIGMATIC.HTML](http://WWW.MYSTICSOFTHECHURCH.COM/2010/07/MARIA-DOMINICA-LAZZARI-MYSTIC-STIGMATIC.HTML) and at [WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA/EN/POPE/NEWS/2023-03/POPE-FRANCIS-DECREES-SAINTS-CROCI-FLANAGAN-BATTISTA-PEREIRA.HTML](http://WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA/EN/POPE/NEWS/2023-03/POPE-FRANCIS-DECREES-SAINTS-CROCI-FLANAGAN-BATTISTA-PEREIRA.HTML).



# SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR THE FAITHFUL: SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOR TODAY'S TIMES

Father Joe Freedy is from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is nationally known as the Quarterback priest and shared the viral story of "The Power of One Hail Mary." He was also a keynote presenter and break out leader at our Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses last year in both Charles Town and Charleston.

Presenter: Fr. Joe Freedy  
Date: Wednesday, April 3  
Time: 6:15 pm  
Location: St. Michael Parish,  
1225 National Rd, Wheeling

*The evening is hosted by the St. Michael Parish's  
Confraternity of Christian Mothers  
and Christian Women*

*Social immediately following.  
All are welcome!*



# BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS YOUTH CAMP

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Are you passionate about your Catholic faith?  
Do you want to make a difference in kids' lives?

JOIN OUR TEAM!

## Camp Carlo is hiring for Summer 2024!

We are looking for counselors and kitchen staff to serve the youth of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston this summer.

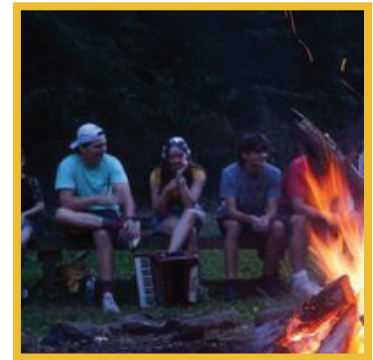
- Commitment to working June 2nd-August 10th, 2024
- \$500 weekly stipend in addition to free room and board
  - Selfless service and hard work ethic required
  - Teamwork and communication are essential



Enjoy God's creation!



Grow your own prayer life!



Be a mentor for kids!

## Interested in applying? Have questions?

Request an application or ask your questions by emailing  
[kmilinovich@campcarlowv.org](mailto:kmilinovich@campcarlowv.org).

Return your application to the email above!

Once your application has been reviewed, we will reach out to schedule an interview.

Camp Carlo's goal is to have all summer staff positions filled by April 15th, 2024.





**LOUDfence**

A SIGN OF TOGETHERNESS,  
HOPE, AND ACTION

# Plan to attend



## What is LOUDfence?

An international organization that started out of compassion to support faithful Christians who had been abused, as well as the faithful who care and pray for healing, hope, and change.

LOUDfence is a way to bring a hushed and taboo topic into a healthy conversation and act of solidarity as a step forward.



## Ceremony after Mass?

Faithful will tie ribbons to represent prayers, hope, and healing for victims of abuse in Christian churches. Inspired by the gospel, LOUDfence works with churches around the world to actively foster a culture for safeguarding and truth telling. Being a safeguarder is being one to stand at the foot of the cross, helping others to literally live out the values of the gospel.

## Mass & LOUDfence

### Ceremony

**10:30 am, April 7**

**Cathedral**

**of St. Joseph,  
Wheeling**

**Celebrants**

**Bishop Mark Brennan  
of the Diocese**

**of Wheeling-Charleston  
& Bishop Paul Mason of England**

**SOLIDARITY**

**COMPASSION**

**SUPPORT**

EASTER  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43**

“Everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name.”

**Responsorial: Psalm 118**

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

St. Paul reminds us, “Seek what is above.” Keep our focus on the Risen Lord for we are an Easter People.

**Gospel: John 20:1-9**

The tomb was empty!

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, let us all rejoice in the risen Lord, today and all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the resurrection of our Lord may bring comfort to those who suffer, hope to those in despair, and new life to all those who are dying physically, mentally, or spiritually, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the newest members of the Church, especially those here in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, that the good work the Lord has begun in them may continue to bear fruit, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have suffered loss and are alone on this Easter Sunday, that they may be comforted by the eternal spiritual bond they have with those they love, 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!

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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).