

Faith IN WV
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

MAY 25, 2025



MEMORIAL DAY

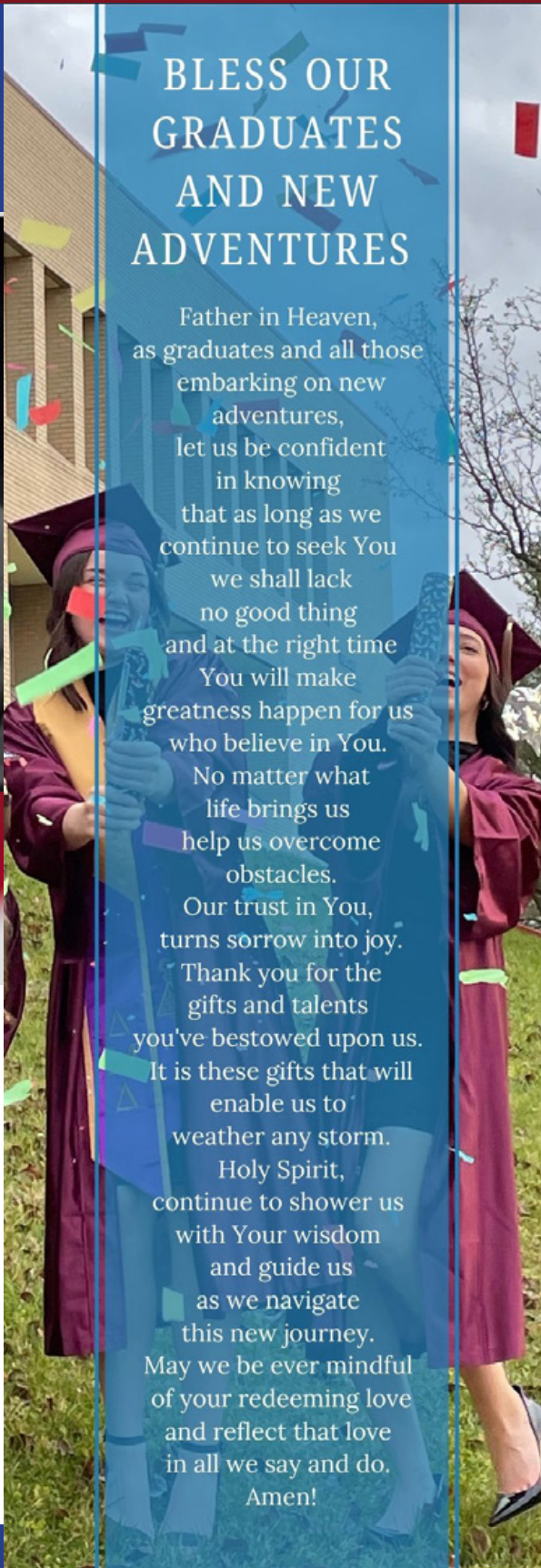


May we never forget
FREEDOM ISN'T FREE.

**GOD BLESS
OUR FALLEN SERVICEMEN
AND WOMEN
AND THEIR LOVED ONES.**

BLESS OUR GRADUATES AND NEW ADVENTURES

Father in Heaven,
as graduates and all those
embarking on new
adventures,
let us be confident
in knowing
that as long as we
continue to seek You
we shall lack
no good thing
and at the right time
You will make
greatness happen for us
who believe in You.
No matter what
life brings us
help us overcome
obstacles.
Our trust in You,
turns sorrow into joy.
Thank you for the
gifts and talents
you've bestowed upon us.
It is these gifts that will
enable us to
weather any storm.
Holy Spirit,
continue to shower us
with Your wisdom
and guide us
as we navigate
this new journey.
May we be ever mindful
of your redeeming love
and reflect that love
in all we say and do.
Amen!



MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE.

A second long look at Pope Leo XIV on the day of his Inauguration Mass, May 18, 2025, reveals humility, authority, mission, reverence, unity, beauty, and respect.

Adding not only grandeur to the liturgy, but also commanding attention to our Lord, Jesus Christ and the splendor of His Church, Pope Leo XIV's ring, pectoral cross, pallium, staff, and chasuble were tangible signs of not only his distinguished role, but also his selflessness echoed in his choices. They are not objects, but powerful symbols of faith and commitment. Further his choices also reflected his thoughtfulness, acknowledging the 105th birthday of Pope St. John Paul II.

"I was chosen, without any merit of my own, and now, with fear and trembling," said Pope Leo, "I come to you as a brother, who desires to be the servant of your faith and your joy, walking with you on the path of God's love, for he wants us all to be united in one family."



L'anello del
Pescatore



PISCATORY RING - THE FISHERMAN'S RING

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of the Philippines placed the Fisherman's Ring on Pope Leo's right hand ring finger. Made of solid gold it is engraved with Pope Leo's name and an image of St. Peter, casting a net. The world watched as the Holy Father was moved to tears upon the glancing at his ring that forever unites him with his successor, St. Peter.

Pope Leo recalled how Peter is entrusted with "loving more" and a "self-sacrificing" love "giving his life for the flock."

AUGUSTINIAN PECTORAL CROSS

Beneath the chasuble, Pope Leo's pectoral cross represents a powerful connection to St. Augustine. It is an Augustinian cross containing relics from Saints Augustine, Monica, and Thomas (of Villanova); and holy souls Blessed Anselmo Palanco and Venerable Giuseppe Bartolomeo Menochio. Their lives reflect fidelity, reform, service, and martyrdom – the ultimate witness of faith. He received the cross as a gift from his Augustinian Order, when he was announced as cardinal in 2023.



Il Pallio
papale

PALLIUM OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The Pallium, sign of the Good Shepherd who carries his sheep, was placed on Pope Leo by Cardinal Deacon Dominique Mamberti of France, who had announced the name of the newly elected pope on May 8th.

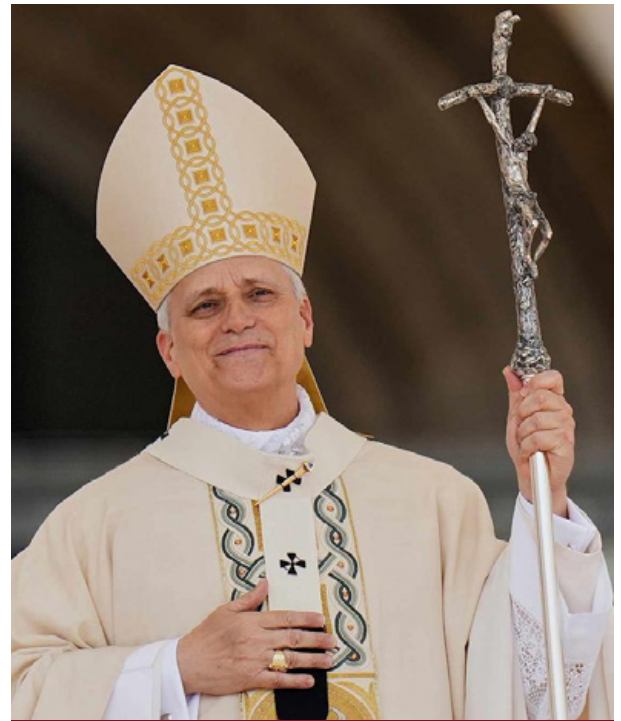
The white woolen band has six black crosses embroidered on it and is adorned with three ornate pins to represent the nails of Christ's crucifixion. Made from blessed lambswool by Benedictine Sisters, the pallium is worn over the chasuble on the pontiff's shoulders, signifying his responsibility to carry the faithful and unite us all with the global Church.

PAPAL STAFF DECLARES HUMILITY

The papal ferula (Pope's staff/rod) chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the inaugural Mass was topped with a crucifix to represent the horrific suffering Christ accepted for our salvation and reconciliation, and to pay homage to the Holy Father's before him.

The pope's staff is most recognizable as the one used by Pope St. John Paul II at his inaugural Mass and throughout his papacy. It was designed for the Holy See in 1963 by Italian sculptor Lello Scorzelli (1921-1997), and first used by Pope St. Paul VI on Dec. 8, 1965, for the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Pope John Paul I (who served only 33 days before his sudden death in 1978) also used it, as well as Pope Francis.

The crucifix's powerful design is of truth and accurate human suffering of Christ for the love and salvation of all humanity. Pausing to see its detail can take your breath away as it shows Christ's deep suffering on the rugged cross. Scorzelli made the cross to resemble an arrow pointing to Heaven – our eternal life with God.



AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino



AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino

THE CHASUBLE – A RELIC OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

The chasuble (ornate outer vestment) Pope Leo XIV was vested in belonged to Pope St. John Paul II. The vestment, designed by the Benedictine Sisters of Rosano, was also worn by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Like the papal staff, wearing the chasuble of St. John Paul unites him with his brother pontiffs and is a visible vow of unity in the Church and the world with Christ.

The chasuble features embroidered vine and branches as a sign of St. John's Gospel 15:5, describing the relationship of Jesus and His followers. He is the vine and we believers are the branches. The lower front panel features the Eucharist, the source and summit of our faith – the true Body and Blood of Christ. Elaborate signs for the simple truths of the Church.

“We want to say to the world, with humility and joy: Look to Christ! Come closer to him! Welcome his word that enlightens and consoles! Listen to his offer of love and become his one family: in the one Christ, we are one,” he urged. “This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!”

How to become Catholic?



Google Search Surge!

FUN FACT:

Searches for “how to become Catholic” increased by 373% across the world on Easter Sunday and that first week of Easter through April 26, according to Google Trends data.

The data, compiled by Vatican Tickets & Tours, call the search’s jaw dropping number “unprecedented.”

Not accurate data exists for the “why” of the search, but many believe non-Catholics were moved by the Holy Spirit through the Pontiff’s insistent return to the people after his 38-day hospitalization for pneumonia and other complications, despite cautions from his doctors.

The late Holy Father spoke to the world, declaring the Risen Lord is for all.

“Easter is the celebration of life! God created us for life and wants the human family to rise again! In his eyes,

every life is precious! The life of a child in the mother’s womb, as well as the lives of the elderly and the sick, who in more and more countries are looked upon as people to be discarded.... On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!”

Immediately after the announcement of Pope Leo, Catholic Connect posted that Google searches for “How to become Catholic” surged by 33%. Look at that number again – 33! Is it significant? Hmmm. A Godwink? Let’s think so.

Oh, and FYI, Catholic Answers media ministry provides a pdf, YouTube video, and article to satisfy the answer to one of the seemingly most searched google topics of late. Go to:

WWW.CATHOLIC.COM/TRACT/HOW-TO-BECOME-A-CATHOLIC

Feast of the Visitation – May 31



As the Church celebrates the Feast of the Visitation on Saturday, May 31; take time this week to read Luke 1:39-55 - the story of the Visitation when Mary travelled to Elizabeth.

Let us all imagine the sheer joy the two shared when they first embraced. Keep in mind that young Mary had to travel nearly 100 miles of hilly terrain!

Also, pray the Rosary this week for strong Catholic vocations in WV, concentrating on the Joyful Mysteries. Put yourself in the scenes of the mysteries. You can follow along and pray the rosary at: FAITHINWV.ORG/THE-ROSARY/.

(AND don’t forget to pledge Rosaries at: DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE/)

Editor’s note: the featured art is by Sarah Arellano of The Wilder Prints at: WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THEWILDERPRINTS

SOLEMNITY MOVED TO SUNDAY



The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be celebrated on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 30-June 1.

As a province of Baltimore, which we are a member, the Solemnity has been transferred from Thursday, May 29th, to the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

Why did it move from a “Thursday” to the weekend? Traditionally, the Ascension was thought to be 40 days after Easter. The Code of Canon Law #1246 gives permission to bishops’ conferences to transfer observances to a Sunday for specific holy days. Note, many U.S. Bishops are in favor of this change for a few reasons. First, with the dwindling number of priests in many parts of the U.S., it harder to have weekday Masses celebrated by priests who are assigned to as many as three or more parishes. Therefore, transferring the Mass to the weekend will enable the faithful to honor the solemnity and hear the readings, prayers, and homily centering on this significant event within our liturgical year.

Editor’s note: The art with this article is a mosaic of Christ’s Ascension at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

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

SUCCESSFUL SPRING MEAL PACKING EVENT

Enables WV Knights of Columbus to Focus on Fall Mission

The West Virginia Knights of Columbus just did a clean sweep for their Spring Hope in Action Meal Packing event in Hurricane, and are now putting pen to paper prepping for a September event in Wheeling.

WV Knight, Will Dempsey of Ascension Parish, said 60,738 meals were packed by volunteers from all over the region representing all faiths. The meals will be delivered internationally, but nearly 6,500 were distributed in WV.

“Our volunteers are from varying backgrounds of beliefs and come together for one joint mission – feeding people – unity in the community,” he said. “Through God all things ARE possible!”

The WV Knights held a similar event last fall for the Cross Catholic Outreach (CCO) program that supports the Catholic religious, laity, and relief organizations serving the vulnerable in 30 countries.

The events are possible, because the statewide Catholic men’s organization has been able to raise the \$19,000-\$20,000 needed to obtain the provisions needed. Dempsey said the cost per meal is about 33-cents.

“Here in WV, we are blessed to be able to average about two events a year, packing as many as 40,000-120,000 meals, depending on the funds raised for the events,” he said.

Dempsey has been involved in a leadership role for the events since 2021, when he attended training in Maryland for CCO.

The purpose of the event is to provide hope for hungry



children and families. The meals are Vitafood formulated with a blend of protein, vitamins, and nutrients to improve health. Servings are calorie-dense, are easy to ship and store, and can be seasoned to suit local preferences, CCO reports.

More than 3 million children worldwide die from hunger related causes each year. That is one child every 10 seconds.

“We can’t even begin to imagine their challenges,” Dempsey said. “This isn’t about an organization, a faith, a state... it’s about feeding people – families like our own.”

FALL EVENT DETAILS

Dempsey said the next meal packing event will be Sept. 13 at St. Michael’s Angelus Center in Wheeling. Faithful in the diocese and staff and friends of Wheeling Hospital are asked to volunteer to honor the 175th anniversary of both the Diocese of Wheeling and Wheeling Hospital. Both were established in 1850, 13 years before WV became a state.

Organizers are hoping to surpass the 60,000-meal mark, but again donations and sponsorships to fund the event are needed.

For more information on the event (project number UCP25K5049021) and how to make your gift contact Dempsey at: wkdepsey3@gmail.com or go directly to: CROSSCATHOLIC.ORG/FOOD-PACKING-EVENTS/DONATE/ and scroll down to the Sept. 13 WV event.

To volunteer for the Fall event in Wheeling go to: CROSSCATHOLIC.ORG/FOOD-PACKING-EVENTS/VOLUNTEER/

WEST VIRGINIA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS / WHEELING HOSPITAL 175 TH ANNIVERSARY

JOIN THE MOVEMENT TO FEED THE HUNGRY

through
the love
of Christ!



Provide nutritious meals for children and families
in developing countries and share God's love by putting your faith into action.

Come and pack **60,000** meals with us!
Saturday, September 13, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The Angelus Center at St. Michael Parish
1225 National Rd., Wheeling, WV 26003

For more information or to sign up today, please contact:

Will Dempsey • 304-382-3081 • wkdempsy3@gmail.com



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**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

To Volunteer





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**Cross Catholic
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Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

WV Knights of Columbus + Wheeling Hospital 175th Anniversary Food Packing Event

60,000-Meal Food Packing Event: **Saturday, September 13, 2025**

An estimated 820 million people do not have enough to eat, and in the poorest countries, families sometimes go days without food. More than 3 million children die from hunger-related causes each year; that's one child every 10 seconds.*

To help fight the scourge of hunger in developing countries, we are partnering with Cross Catholic Outreach to pack nourishing meals. These nutrient-rich meals designed by a nutritionist will feed children and families in a poverty-stricken country for just 33 cents a meal.

By donating your time and treasure, you can make a difference! We invite Knights, families, community and school groups to come join us in this incredible Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry. If you are inclined and able to do so, donations to support our efforts are also appreciated.



How many meals would you like to sponsor?

SPONSORSHIP	AMOUNT	MEALS PROVIDED
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend Sponsor	\$250	757
<input type="checkbox"/> Peace Sponsor	\$500	1,515
<input type="checkbox"/> Love Sponsor	\$1,000	3,030
<input type="checkbox"/> Joy Sponsor	\$2,500	7,575
<input type="checkbox"/> Faith Sponsor	\$5,000	15,151

YES! I want to help. Please accept my gift of \$_____.

Please provide the following information for your gift. Checks should be made payable to **Cross Catholic Outreach**.

Company/Organization Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

We hope you enjoy receiving ministry information and updates from Cross Catholic Outreach via email. If you do not wish to receive these email messages from us, please check this box: ☐

Project Number: **UCP25K5049021**



**DONATE
ONLINE!**

or mail your
check to the
address below.

Please mail your gift to:

Cross Catholic Outreach • Donation Processing Center • PO Box 97168 • Washington DC 20090-7168

To give online, scan the QR code • 800-914-2420

*Sources: World Health Organization, United Nations

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2025, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

This was produced by Cross Catholic Outreach, Inc. which is recognized as a tax exempt organization under IRC § 501(c)(3). Our principal office is PO Box 273908, Boca Raton, FL 33427-3908, Tel: 561-392-9212. Contributions to Cross Catholic Outreach, Inc. are tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Requests for copies of recent financial statements or other information may be directed to Compliance Officer at the address and telephone number listed above.

Let the Holy Spirit Guide You

Two Saints to Help Us Stay on Track

In the Gospel this weekend John shares Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit as a guide and to remind us how to live.

God also puts holy souls and saints before us to help our troubled hearts and learn from their example.

As Catholics we received the Holy Spirit at Baptism to shape us, accept God's love, and show love to others.

At Confirmation our relationship with the Holy Spirit intensifies.

However, in the course of life's journey we inevitably become confused and lose sight of the Spirit within us.

Thankfully, we don't have to look far to get back on track to be reminded of the fruits of the spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control – they are evident in the saints. The Holy Spirit flourishes in the saints' wisdom, words, writing, and works. The saints had their fair share of shortcomings and faults like us, but they let the fruits of the Holy Spirit grow within them and inspire them in their vocations.

Two saints to honor this week - **St. Bede the Venerable**, and **St. Philip Neri**.



On May 25th we honor **St. Bede the Venerable**, who lived in the 7th and 8th century. He was a Benedictine monk and priest and an early Doctor of the Church for his many writings, translations, and homilies.

Of his works, two quotes stand out to help us today as we renew the Holy Spirit in us. "I was no longer the center of my life, and therefore, I could see God in everything," he wrote. And giving advice to all the faithful he penned, "Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will."

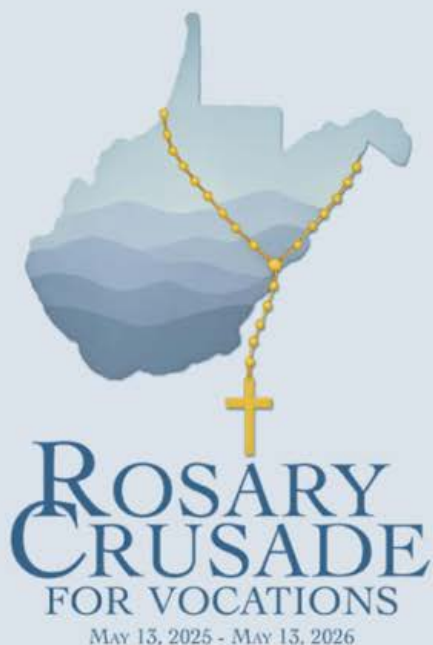


On May 26th we honor **St. Philip Neri** (1515-1595) a priest and founder of the Oratorians– a community of priests and lay brothers. He is known for his sense of humor and compassionate spiritual direction. He was often a spectacle wearing goofy clothes, shoes, or even sporting a half shaven beard to teach lessons in humility and the importance of not taking yourself too seriously. Today we share a few quotes from the book *Maxims and Sayings of Philip Neri*.

- "There is no surer or clearer proof of the love of God than adversity."
- "He who continues in anger, strife, and a bitter spirit, has a taste of the air of hell."
- "Our enemy the devil, who fights with us in order to vanquish us, seeks to disunite us in our houses, and to breed quarrels, dislikes, contests, and rivalries, because while we are fighting with each other, he comes and conquers us, and makes us more securely his own."

ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026, faithful around the world can join our Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!

Step up for Jesus and His Church!

Pledge. Share. Pray.



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

1. GO TO:

[HTTPS://WWW.IMMACULEE.COM](https://www.immaculee.com)

2. CLICK ON RETREATS TAB

3. SELECT ST. JAMES THE GREATER

Easy

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1, 2, 3!

RETREAT REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

Prayer Does Work Miracles!
Rwandan Holocaust Survivor,
Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat
July 25-26, 2025

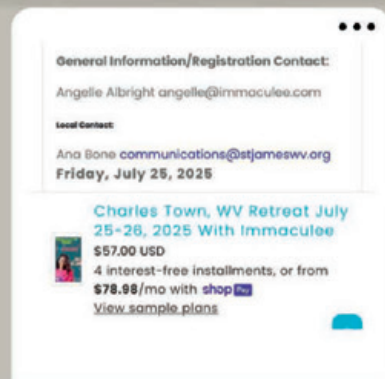
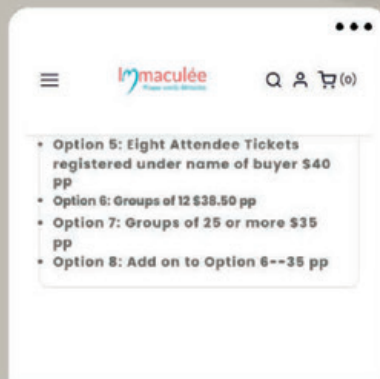
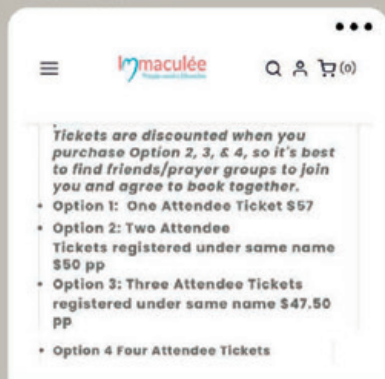
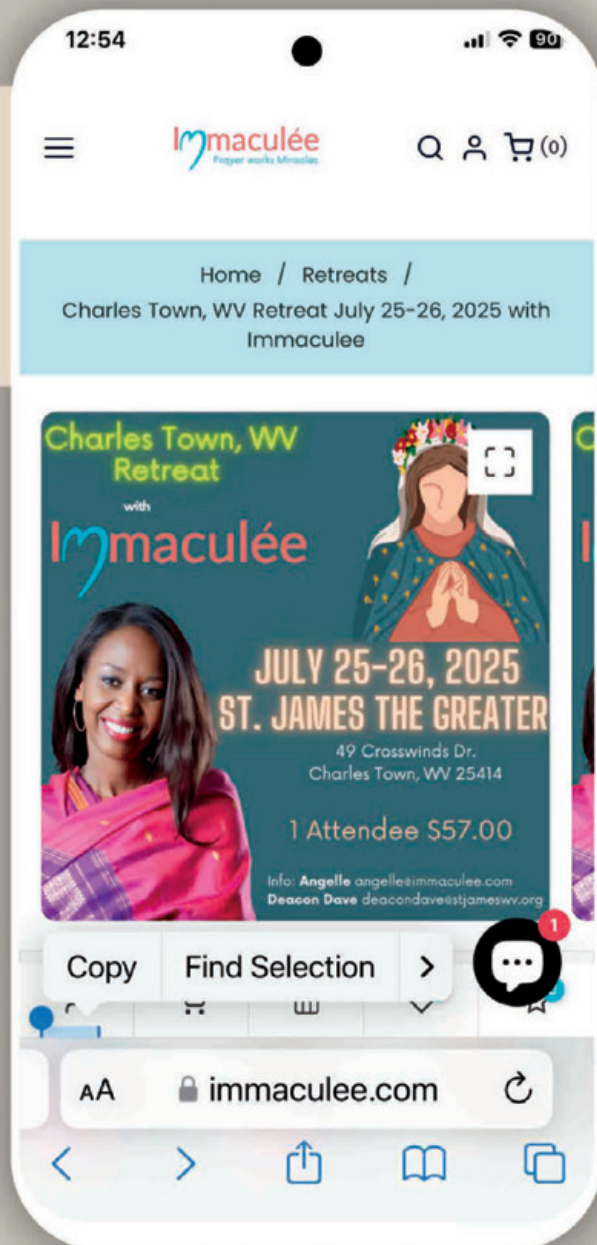
at St. James the Greater,
Charles Town, WV

Immaculée shares her
messages of love, hope, &
mercy, while telling her story
and much more!

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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



Dominic Re

Ss. Peter & Paul, Oak Hill
Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD



Joe Derico

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



IT'S FREE!

Register now at WVPriests.org



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

The disciples, Paul and Barnabas, call upon the Holy Spirit to guide them through controversy that Christ didn't teach the response instead of reacting harshly.

Responsorial: Psalm 67

"O God, let all the nations praise you!"

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

John sees the city of God in its glory with 12 entrances, representing the tribes of Israel and number of apostles. Though the truth is there are many ways into the heavenly city from every direction not just one way.

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to guide his followers and remind them all he taught them.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that the Holy Spirit guides us through controversies arise, as Jesus promised his disciples, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations to focus on means of peace rather than war, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are graduating, that they vow to be continued learners especially strengthening their faith by reading the Good News, volunteering in our parishes, and calling upon the Holy Spirit to bring joy every day to their vocation, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That during this jubilee year and always, we remain be pilgrims of hope for our families, our Church, and the world, 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
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ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

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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 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.