

## Ascension of the Lord

Today we celebrate a significant day in the history of the Church. Ascension Sunday, a celebration of the day Jesus ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father.

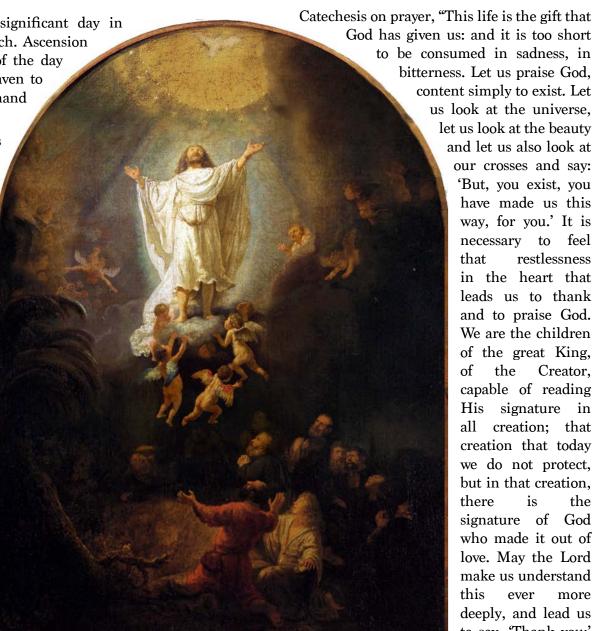
Christ appeared to his apostles, reassuring them that He will always be with us until the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

When we are stubborn or impatient, it can be hard to clearly see Jesus strengthening His will on earth as it is in heaven, but we need to take accountability - God wants us to look in the mirror. Jesus directed his disciples to carry on His ministry, proclaiming the good news to the whole world. We are now those disciples. We too have that responsibility - in our homes, in our

work, and in our community. We need to share the is a beautiful prayer." good news and teach others about God by our words and actions.

Pope Francis encourages us to look toward heaven and fix our eyes on the joys of eternal life.

"We are all capable of bearing joy," he said during a



Do not let negative thoughts, hateful words, or ugly bantering disturb your focus. Choose to find the good. Choose to show mercy. Choose to remain in Christ. Choose to pray in all circumstances. Look to heaven for answers and guidance, and pray - THANK YOU, LORD!

our crosses and sav:

'But, you exist, you

have made us this

way, for you.' It is

necessary to feel

in the heart that

leads us to thank

and to praise God. We are the children

of the great King,

capable of reading

His signature in

all creation; that

creation that today

we do not protect,

but in that creation,

signature of God

who made it out of

love. May the Lord

make us understand

ever deeply, and lead us

to say, 'Thank you;' and that 'thank you'

is

the

that

of

there

this

restlessness

Creator,

the



• PO Box 230, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003 •

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

### Statement of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston regarding the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022

It is with great sadness that I once again call on all West Virginia residents to join with the world in prayer for the victims of the horrendous school shooting that took place yesterday in Uvalde, Texas.

As Catholics, we are called to pray for those who have died and assist in healing the deep wounds of those who mourn. But we must now do more than offer prayers and support. We must encourage concrete action in the hopes that never again are school children the target of these heinous acts of violence.

It is obvious that mental health issues, unchecked anger, and rage are part of the problem and can lead to people committing unspeakable acts of evil and violence, and we must address these issues, but it is equally apparent that those perpetrating these terrible atrocities are able to do so because they wield powerful weapons that are able to kill and maim dozens of people in just seconds. We must do more as a society to limit the availability of these types of weapons; especially to those whose sole purpose is to use such weapons to commit atrocities against our brothers and sisters.

I call on everyone to pray for an end to this evil and implore both gun owners and our elected officials to work together and take action to ensure the safety of our children, our schools, our churches, and our communities.

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

+ Mark E. Breman

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Follow the Diocese on Facebook and Twitter

### Honoring Service and Sacrifice

WE ARE TO REMEMBER AND CALLED TO PRAY

As we celebrate Memorial Day we remember on the meaning of the day, but let us also concentrate on praying for the souls we honor for protecting us, our country, and our freedoms that we often take for granted. Pause also to pray for the families of those fallen servicemen and women.



Dear Heavenly Father,

As you hold dear the brave souls who died serving our country and defending our freedoms, we call upon You to surround their families and loved ones with legions of angels to protect them, send Mary our Blessed Mother to comfort them, and the Holy Spirit to guide them and give them peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The photo that accompanies this reflection was taken at the funeral of Marine Staff Sgt. Marc Golczynski, who was killed in Iraq in 2007. Golczynski's 8-year- old son Christian courageously stood to receive the flag that had been draped over his father's coffin. The moment was captured by Aaron Thompson for The Daily News Journal, Murfreesboro, TN. This moving picture went viral for everything it represents. It also is the inspiration behind the non-profit organization A Soldier's Child (ASC) Foundation founded by Daryl Mackin (a neighbor of Staff Sgrt. Marc Golczynski's parents. He has the photo framed in his office). The ASC honors the children of our fallen American defenders of freedom by celebrating their birthday every year through the age of 18, they also have summer camps, mentorship programs, and secondary/college scholarships.

According to their website there are 18 children in WV being honored by ASC. For more information go to: <a href="https://www.asoldierschild.org">www.asoldierschild.org</a>.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**



THE DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON
WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE
ALL THE
2022 GRADUATES!

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AS YOU START A NEW CHAPTER IN YOUR LIVES.

"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS

I HAVE FOR YOU,"

SAYS THE LORD.

"THEY ARE PLANS FOR

GOOD AND NOT FOR

DISASTER, TO GIVE YOU

A TURN AND A POPE.

JEREMIAH 29:11

### THE SHEER JOY OF THE VISITATION

When we receive good news, we can't wait to share it. We beam with pride and are so determined to tell our closest family and friends about our joy and enthusiasm that nothing can get in our way. Imagine the excitement, energy, and determination that overcame Mary after the Angel Gabriel visited her to share God's perfect plan for her to be the mother of God, and also disclose the miracle that would be John the Baptist.

We celebrate the Feast of the Visitation of Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth on Tuesday, May 31.

The Visitation is written about in the Gospel of Luke 1:39-56, telling us Mary traveled in haste to get to her cousin Elizabeth despite the nearly 100 miles of hilly terrain from Nazareth to Judea. There she stayed for three months to care for her cousin.

Earlier in Luke's Gospel, Mary was described, as a "highly favored daughter," also translated as, "Mary, full

of grace," according to the Angel Gabriel as he addresses her (Luke 1:28). She was chosen, a pure and the worthy mother for Jesus a part of God's perfect plan, the greatest miracle in the history of humankind. The messenger angel also tells Mary that her elder cousin Elizabeth is six months into her pregnancy.

When Mary arrives, Elizabeth shouts with joyful excitement, "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Through Luke we receive Mary's hymn – the Magnificat. Luke (1:46-55):

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."



When praying the rosary, the Visitation is the second mystery of the Joyful Mysteries, and we are to meditate on the story from Luke- Mary's travel, the greeting scene, and the love of neighbor mindset.

Pray the Rosary this week concentrating on the Joyful Mysteries. You can follow along and pray the rosary on our FaithInWV. org website by CLICKING HERE. If you prefer an audio to follow along,

we suggest <u>WORDONFIRE.ORG</u> with Bishop Robert Barron. As he helps us meditate on this mystery by reminding us to think about "your place in God's story." Listen to it here: <u>WWW.WORDONFIRE.ORG/ROSARY-JOYFUL/</u>

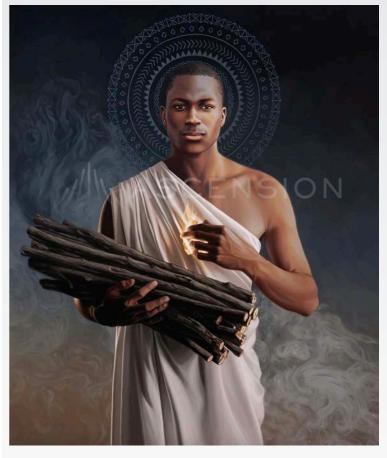
The art in this article radiates Elizabeth's genuine joy. It is by Corby Eisbacher, an artist from North Carolina. See his Etsy online shop by CLICKING HERE.

### St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Pray for Us

Theirs is a story of ultimate faithfulness amidst a literal fire of persecution. On June 3rd the Church celebrates St. Charles Lwanga and his companions as martyrs.

"Like the Apostles and the Uganda martyrs before us, we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit to become missionary disciples called to go forth and bring the Gospel to all," said Pope Francis during a 2015 visit to Uganda.

"If, like the martyrs, we daily fan into flame the gift of the Spirit who dwells in our hearts, then we will surely become the missionary disciples which Christ calls us to be."



He said the people of Uganda are "a people of martyrs. Through your own veins runs the blood of martyrs, and that's why you have such a strong faith and life that you enjoy now."

He said that determination is what makes all good in the eves of God.

"If I can transform the negative into positive, I am triumphant in the Lord. But that can only be done with the grace of Jesus Christ."

The story of St. Charles (Kaloli) Lwanga dates back to the late 1800s after the first Catholic missions began in Uganda and Central Africa. Under the rule of King Mtesa missionaries were welcomed and preached and many believed in Christianity. However, Mtesa's successor, King Mwanga despised Christians in Uganda.

Charles Lwanga was a young man, in his late teens, who was a page in the court of King Mwanga. He encouraged others to be a Christian. This infuriated the king, so he summoned all the pages and separated the ones proclaiming to be Christian from the rest. He ordered his soldiers to march the young Christians, reportedly as young as 13, more than 30 miles to Namugono, an area of execution. The young men continued to praise Jesus Christ even during their torture. Witnesses recorded Lwanga built his own funeral pyre of wood and was burned alive. During this horrific scene when they began burning his feet, Lwanga was quoted as saying, "It is as if you are pouring water on me. Please repent and become a Christian like me." After that he stayed silent until just before he died, saying, "My God."

While Mwanga and other pagan rulers wanted to end Christianity, their actions procured the opposite. It was one of the earliest Christians in Africa, Tetrullian (or in Latin - Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus) who said, "The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of Christians." Tertullian lived in 155-240 AD.

To this day millions of people make the pilgrimage to Namugono to honor Lwanga and his companions. It is there where a shrine in the shape of a funeral pyre sits in victory.

Catholic artist Tianna Williams has created many inspiring life-like portraits of significant saints, St. Charles Lwanga is one of them. The art featured in this article is hers. They are available as prayer cards, or portraits for your space. Read more about the symbolism in this painting and order prints and more CLICK HERE.

# REGISTER FOR LOCAL LEVEL World Meeting of Families' Events

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will celebrate Pope Francis's call for meetings of families across the world, in all dioceses, with days of celebration, from Wednesday, June 22nd, until Sunday, June 26th. Register now at: DWC.ORG/ WORLD-MEETING-OF-FAMILIES.

Each day will be celebrated with a mass, a reception, and speakers who will present talks on the intersection of our Catholic Faith and issues pertaining to marriage and family life: parenting, sexuality, divorce, and health.

The Catholic Spirit Editor Colleen Rowan shared in the May 6th issue announced the lineup of featured speakers. From the article: Daniel Maul, director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, is one of the featured speakers. Joining him will be: Joyce Bibey, manager of Social Media in the diocese's Office of Communications and Marketing, and writer for the diocesan FaithInWV e-bulletin, #FaithInWV feature stories, and the FaithInWV.org website; Tim Bishop, director of Marketing and Communications for the diocese; Deacon Walter Calabrese, renowned author from the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C.; Nick Chancey campus minister and director of the Marshall Catholic Newman Center at Marshall University in Huntington; Collegen Criste, director of Programs and Development for Campus Ministry at St. John University Parish in Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University; Seth Johnson of Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio; Tyler and Sydney Kilbane—he is a licensed therapist who established Known By Name Counseling Services and she is a licensed mental health therapist who works with Pastoral Solutions Institute, Catholic Counselors; and Micah Schlittenhardt, a student of theology, philosophy, and Catholic studies at the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D., where she is a member of the University Ministry Team.

See the article and more detail on the speakers and events on pages 7-9 by CLICKING HERE.

For more information, please contact Jeanne McKeets, at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, at 304-233-0880, ext. 374, or <u>imckeets@dwc.org</u>.

### CELEBRATE FAITH AND FAMILY WITH US!



### Wednesday June 22nd

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

6:00pm - Mass

Speakers:

### Thursday June 23rd

St. Leo Catholic Church

6:00pm - Mass

Music by Ross Semler Speakers and Reception to Follow

> Speakers: Joyce Bibey

Tim Bishop Nick Chancey Tyler and Sydney Kilbane

#### Friday June 24th

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center

6:00pm - Mass

Speakers:

Speakers and Reception to Follow

#### Saturday June 25th

St. Francis De Sales School All Day Festival with Food, Kids Activities, Confession, and Adoration/Benediction 8:00pm - Mass

Speakers:

#### Sunday June 26th

Cathedral of St. Joseph Wheeling, WV

3:00pm - Mass

Music by Matthew Berher Speakers and Reception to Follow

Speakers:

Joyce Bibey Nick Chancey Daniel Maul



Register Online at www.dwc.org/world-meeting-of-families

### GRIEVING PARENTS RETREAT GIVES COMFORT, COMPASSION

Registration is open for the Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents' Spiritual Retreat set for 9:30 am to 7:30 pm, July 16 at St. Mary's Parish, 3334B University Avenue, Morgantown.

The retreat is a one-day experience for parents who have lost a child of any age, by any cause, and no matter how long ago.

The Emmaus Ministry is a Catholic ministry in the Franciscan tradition – all faiths are welcome to attend. The name of the ministry is taken from the story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-32) –the early resurrection appearance, when Jesus joined his distraught disciples on the road to Emmaus. In turn we ask God to walk with us "as we struggle through this horrendous journey of grief every day."

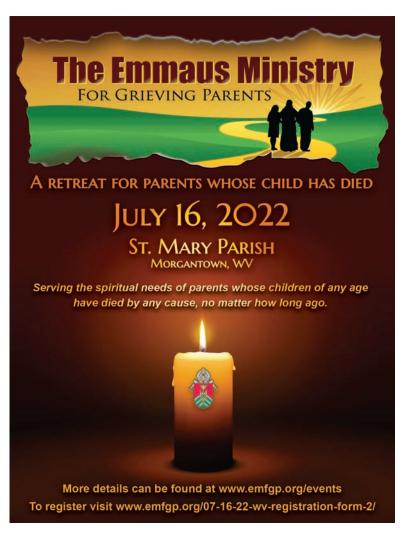
Organizers of the retreat, including parents who intimately know the loss of a child and were once Emmaus Ministry event attendees, note the day is to be a gift of time to focus on the myriad of questions such as Where is God in my pain; How am I to get through something this horrible; and Where do I go from here? Additionally, the retreat will give attendees the opportunity to concentrate on their individual spiritual journey, listening to the experiences of other parents dealing with grief. It is a time to escape the routine of your day and find comfort and inspiration in a spiritual environment.

The day will include prayer services, reflection, breakout

sessions, an Emmaus Walk, Mass, and spiritual reflection. A donation of \$25 for an individual and \$40 a couple is suggested but not required. The donation helps cover the cost of a light breakfast, lunch, dinner, and all materials.

To register go to: <a href="https://www.emfgp.org/events/07-16-22-one-day-retreat-at-st-mary-church-morgantown-wv/">www.emfgp.org/events/07-16-22-one-day-retreat-at-st-mary-church-morgantown-wv/</a>

For more information you may also contact Ed Cesa at (724)324-9222.



### SHORT & SWEET SALUTATION

An acknowledgement that we will be scaling down the content of our FaithInWV e-bulletin for the summer.

Please continue to follow us and our features on social media (<u>FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON</u> and <u>TWITTER.COM/DWC1850</u>) and the <u>DWC.ORG</u> website and <u>FAITHINWY.ORG</u>.

Let us all strengthen our FAITH IN WV, giving hope, rising above the odds, and being a blessing to others.

Let us continue to find the good in all circumstances, letting others see Christ in us especially in times of uncertainty and adversity.

God bless our Almost Heaven West Virginia.

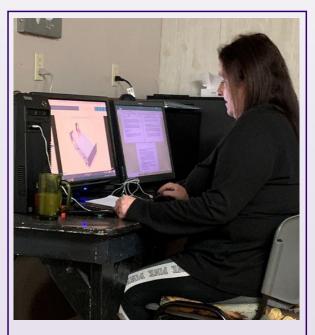
# "The Options Wouldn't Have Been Available to Me Anywhere Else" ~ Chrystal's Story

Chrystal has been working with the Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) Adult Education program for a few months to get back on her feet. Chrystal came to us as a condition of her bond after getting out of jail for a drug-related offense.

"At first I had to be here," Chrystal said. "Now I see I needed to be here to get sober. 'Cause I couldn't do it by myself. I've tried."

With two grown kids and seven beautiful grandkids, Chrystal is ready to start fresh. Once she finishes her certificate program she plans to go to Beckley, where her sister-in-law lives. While she imagined she'd get a low-paying job as a housekeeper for a hotel, her work with CCWVa staff and volunteers has allowed her to see more compelling possibilities. She could use her certificate to get a job as an assistant manager in a restaurant, gain experience, and then work her way up to manager.

Michelle is a CCWVa Adult Education Instructor who has been working with Chrystal for the past several months. She says her favorite part of her job is encouraging and cheering



Chrystal is furthering her education through CCWVa's Adult Education program.

on learners as they reach for their goals. "I love to help them realize they had it in them all along. That they could always do it, and all they needed was to believe in themselves," said Michelle.

CCWVa Adult Education programs are offered free of charge, and all adults are eligible to participate. Certification programs allow people to explore and develop new skills while also improving their resumes and job prospects.

CCWVa has also partnered with the state of West Virginia to offer a financial incentive, called Job Jumpstart, to people who obtain certain certifications before August 2022.

Learners rely on volunteer tutors to help them gain confidence and excel in a variety of fields. Some examples of certificate programs offered are WV Welcome (for hospitality careers), Food Management, Customer Service, and several computer literacy certificates. "We also work with people who are applying for college," says Michelle. "We can help them prepare for the ACT or SAT."

Chrystal is just one person who has found the support she needed to make positive changes in her life. She is looking forward to the future, confident in her ability to thrive on her new path in life.

To learn more about Catholic Charities West Virginia, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesWV.org.

The Mission of Catholic Charities West Virginia: Guided by God's love, Catholic Charities collaborates with community partners, parishes, and families to provide caring and compassionate services to people in need and work toward lasting and meaningful change.

### ASCENSION OF THE LORD

### Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

Before the Apostles watch Jesus ascending into heaven, He tells them the Holy Spirit will come upon them and they will be His witnesses throughout the earth.

#### Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 47

"God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord."

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23** (Hebrews 9:24-28: 10:19-23)

St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, blesses us with a Spirit of wisdom, revelation of knowledge of Jesus Christ, and an enlightened heart of God's greatness and power.

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#### Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

St. Luke describes the joy filled Apostles on the day of the Ascension. Before rising to heaven Christ led the Apostles to Bethany and blessed them.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/052922ASCENSION.CFM

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

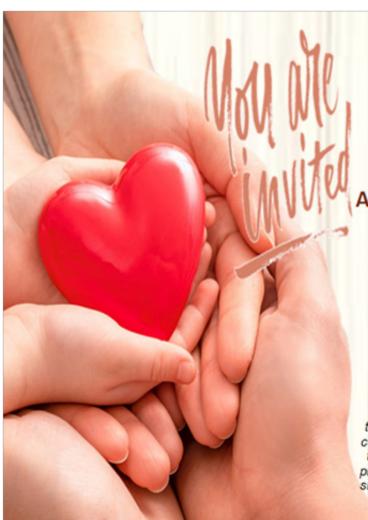
For the Church, that we live and serve others like Christ did when He walked among us, knowing that the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts to guide us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That as we pray that all leaders permit their citizens to freely practice their faith, that we too be respectful to others and free of the temptation to persecute, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For an enduring love for all human life, from the womb to natural death, so that all people may refrain from the deliberate taking of any human life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the Holy Spirit may give us courage to live out and teach the messages of Christ without hesitation in our families, our workplaces, and our communities, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer



MABables

MINIES

A Healthy Approach to Family Planning

June 25, 2022

10:00AM – 12:00 Noon | St. John Marist Hall 1610 Webster Rd, Summersville, WV 26651 Please register on or before June 20, 2022

by calling the Parish Office at 304.872.2554.

Lunch will be served.

Presenters Philip and Jaimie Althage are parishioners of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Summersville, WV-they will celebrate nine years of marriage this June, and they have three children. They moved to Clay County, WV from Texas a couple of years ago, where they take care of Jaimie's grandfather and manage the family farm. They are both certified NFP promoters through the Couple to Couple League, and are passionate about sharing the message of NFP, and God's plan for Christian marriage, with other couples.





# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour! <u>EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS</u>

Scan the OR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



### WV CATHOLIC RADIO

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### **ENROLL TODAY**

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered by knowledge. Transformed by faith.







#### 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.

Below are four options for enriching your spirit through daily Mass online.

- EWTN airs daily Mass from Our Lady of Angels Chapel, in Irondale, Alabama, at 8am, noon, and 7pm: HTTPS://WWW.EWTN.COM/TV/WATCH-LIVE
- St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York has daily Mass live streamed at 7am: HTTPS://SAINTPATRICKSCATHEDRAL.ORG/LIVE
- Catholic TV also streams its daily Mass: <a href="http://catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass">http://catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass</a>
- Daily Mass Online at Notre Dame' Basillica of the Sacred Heart is live at 11:30 am Monday-Friday: HTTPS://CAMPUSMINISTRY.ND.EDU/MASS-WORSHIP/BASILICA-OF-THE-SACRED-HEART/WATCH-MASS/SPECIAL-MASSES/