Faith IN WV
NOVEMBER 16, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
A Life for God

Each year on November 21, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary—a moment of contemplation, faith enrichment, and divine fulfillment, when Saints Joachim and Anne, in love and gratitude, offered their beloved daughter back to the Lord who had given her to them.

Though this story is not found in the canonical Scriptures, it is lovingly preserved in ancient Christian tradition and cherished by the faithful as a glimpse into the early holiness of Mary, the one who would become the Mother of God. It is part of an apocrypha (related writing, specifically the non-canonical literature - Protoevangelium of James, on the life of Mary believe to have been written prior to 200 AD) based on tradition and accounts from the era.

A Promise Born of Prayer

Before Mary's birth, her parents, Saints Joachim and Anne, endured years of longing and sorrow. In their culture, childlessness was a heavy burden, but their hearts remained steadfast in prayer. Joachim withdrew into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days, while Anne, tearful yet trusting, poured out her heart to God. Their prayers were heard. An angel appeared to Anne, proclaiming the promise of a child—one favored by the Lord.

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In gratitude, they vowed to dedicate this child holy to God's service. Thus, when Mary was just three years old, they brought her to the Temple in Jerusalem, fulfilling their promise and entrusting her life to the One who had entrusted her to them.

The Child Who Would Become the Temple

Tradition tells us that as little Mary ascended the steps of the Temple, the priest received her with prophetic words:

"The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you, the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel."

There, among the other young girls, Mary spent her days in prayer, study, and service—her heart quietly preparing for the divine mission that would one day unfold. This feast, then, is not only about a moment in history but about a life of complete surrender to God's will.

In presenting Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne remind all parents of the sacred to nurture their children in faith and lead them toward God. Mary, in her obedience, reminds us that our lives, too, are meant to honor God, be humble, and remain faithful in all times.

A Living Temple of God's Presence

The Presentation of Mary points forward to the great mystery of the Incarnation. Just as Mary entered the Temple, she herself would become the living Temple—the dwelling place of the Word made flesh. Her entire being, from the moment of her conception, was oriented toward God's purpose. This feast invites us to enter into that same spirit of dedication: to let our hearts be temples where Christ may dwell.

A Prayer for Parents and Children

Holy Father, fill the hearts of our children with the love and joy that shine through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bless all parents with the wisdom and faith of Saints Anne and Joachim, that they may place You first in all things and trust Your plan even in times of trial. May our homes be holy ground where Your grace abides, and may we, like Mary, always say "yes" to Your will.

Amen.

The art with this article is circa 1671 by Luca Giordano

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

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND COMMUNITY

BLACK CATHOLIC ROOTS IN THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

As the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston continues to celebrate our 175th anniversary we look back on a story as enduring as the rugged terrain of the beautiful mountain state. For nearly two centuries, the Catholic Church has found its way into every corner of West Virginia—through narrow coal valleys, across rivers, and into the hearts of believers who built this diocese and their parishes from hope, hard work, and prayer.

Among those who helped shape this hopeful Church were West Virginia's Black Catholics, whose quiet courage and devotion helped the Gospel take root in places where few expected it to grow.

A Mission Parish of Their Own: St. Peter Claver, Huntington

In the late 1930s, a small group of Black Catholics in Huntington attended Mass at St. Joseph Church, often worshipping with deep reverence but not always with full acceptance. Fellow parishioners thought they should have their own church, one they would be "more comfortable."

Huntington pastor, Msgr. John Newcomb, understood both their pain and their steadfast faith. With his request and Bishop John J. Swint's blessing, a humble house at 9th Avenue and 15th Street was purchased and became St. Peter Claver Mission—the first Black Catholic parish in West Virginia.

On February 7, 1939, Fr. Leo Landoll celebrated the first Mass. By year's end, 30 people called St. Peter Claver their home parish.

The upper rooms of the parish house soon transformed into classrooms, where the Pallottine Missionary Sisters taught local children Catholic and non-Catholic until the school closed in 1964.

Saint Peter Claver Mission became a hub of community life. Father Landoll was replaced by Fr. Jerome Wolf, and three years later a new pastor came, Fr. Jerome "Jerry" Hoepf, a beloved carpenter-priest and artist, who left his mark with both his woodwork and his compassion. Later, Father Peter DeMeester guided the parish through the transformative years of Vatican II, forming parish councils, study groups, and societies that empowered lay leadership.

By the 1970s, the parish thrived under Father Patrick

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McDonough, known for his devotion to the poor and youth. In 1981, Bishop Joseph H. Hodges dedicated the current St. Peter Claver Church. The congregation of 180 parishioners were mostly converts to the faith, and much of the church building was constructed by the dedicated master craftsmen of the parish. It was written, "Each one contributing knew it was a realization of a dream – a new church, and a spacious hall that would remain an 'open house' to people of all faiths, young and old, and future generations.

"We look to the past in gratitude for all that God has done for us. We have a vision of the future of many generations finding a sense of peace and joy and salvation with the walls of this church. . ." – a quote from the St. Peter Claver Dedication Mass booklet from 1981.

Today, St. Peter Claver remains a symbol of steadfast love and inclusion.

Two Additional Parishes to Serve the Faithful

Bishop Swint's vision extended beyond Huntington. In 1938, St. Augustine's Parish opened in Bristol, Virginia (then part of the diocese), led by Fr. Urban Landoll, brother of St. Peter Claver's first pastor. It began with just 32 parishioners. In 1952 it joined with St. Anne's in Bristol.

A few years later, in 1941, Bishop Swint purchased a former Presbyterian church in Bluefield to serve Black Catholics there. Dedicated as Our Lady of Lourdes, it became a place of shared worship for both Black and White Catholics—decades before integration would become law. Though both parishes closed after desegregation in 1955, they remain important chapters in the diocese's story of evangelization and unity.

Blessed Martin School: A Legacy of Learning and Love

In Wheeling, another remarkable chapter unfolded when several Black families petitioned Bishop Swint and the Sisters of St. Joseph to open a school for their children. Their pleas—and tears—were not ignored. In September 1942, Blessed Martin School opened in a converted house on 13th and Jacob Streets. At first, attendance was sparse, but by the third day, classrooms filled with eager students and the hopeful plan became a success.

Led by Sister Anne Patricia Whalen and Sister Teresa Fleckenstein, the school quickly expanded into a respected high school. Its curriculum—offering Latin, French, business, and home economics—earned top accreditation from the State Board of Education. Graduates went on to college and respected careers, carrying the school's values of self-discipline, dignity, and Catholic faith into the world.

Blessed Martin was more than a school—it was a cultural and spiritual hub. The basketball team traveled across the state to play other Black and small schools, such as Cameron; its cheerleaders spread spirit and pride; and the school hosted Wheeling's first Girl Scout Troop for Black girls.

When desegregation came in 1955, Blessed Martin's 150 students integrated into public and Catholic schools across the area. Though its doors closed, its spirit remained alive in its students, staff, and families—a testament to faith overcoming barriers.

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A Living Legacy

The story of Black Catholics in West Virginia is not one of numbers, but of heart. It is the story of men and women who built parishes when they were told they did not belong, who educated their children when resources were scarce, and who kept faith burning in coal towns and city streets.

Their legacy—rooted in perseverance and hope—helped shape the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

As we celebrate our 175 years of faith, we honor not just our founding bishops and parishes, but also those unsung heroes—teachers, parents, and parishioners—who carved out spaces of worship, education, and belonging for future generations.

The Church in West Virginia stands today "tested by an unstable economy, lack of employment opportunities, and challenged by vast distances, we are a determined and family-oriented people of God nurtured by a land of remarkable beauty and abundant resources." Our foundation was and remains one of faith that conquers hardship, love that transcends race, and unity that reflects the very heart of Christ.

MOUNT CALVARY CEMETERY

A SACRED HERITAGE OF FAITH

For the Catholic faithful of Wheeling, Mount Calvary Cemetery is far more than hallowed ground—it is a visual and reverent testament to generations who lived, served, suffered, and hoped in Christ.

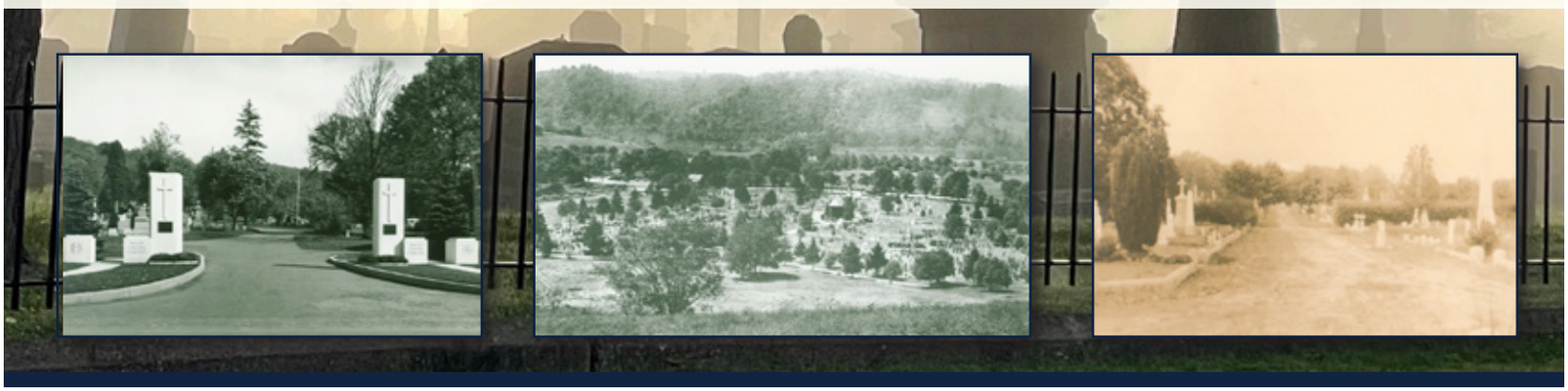
Before the Diocese of Wheeling was founded in 1850, Catholic families buried their loved ones wherever they could. But with the establishment of the diocese, Bishop Richard Whelan sought a unified and dignified resting place for his flock. He purchased land in the Manchester area of Wheeling- on the hillside of Rock Point Road which was across Big Wheeling Creek from 17th Street. Irish and German Catholic families moved their dead to the Catholic Cemetery with the blessing of their priests and Bishop Whelan. Within two decades, the small cemetery was full, and the Church looked once more to its shepherd.

In 1872, Bishop Whelan secured 39 acres along National Road—ground that would become Mount Calvary Cemetery. He personally oversaw its design, ensuring that even those moved from the Manchester cemetery would be laid to rest with honor. Over the years, the cemetery blossomed in beauty: the Bishop's Chapel rose in 1879, a sexton's house in 1883, and special sections were set aside for diocesan priests and religious, whose lives had been poured out in service to the Church.

Mount Calvary also bears witness to profound tragedy and solidarity. On April 28, 1924, explosions in the Wheeling Steel Coal Mine in Benwood claimed 119 lives. Many miners were immigrants—Polish, Greek, Italian, Hungarian, Russian, Serbian, Croatian, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian—who had brought with them both their faith and their hope for a new life. Seventy-two victims – boys and men - were buried at Mount Calvary, including 65 laid to rest together in the largest mass grave in Wheeling's history, where priests prayed in three languages for their eternal peace.

As the decades passed, the cemetery's sacred landscape grew. The McFadden Memorial Entrance was dedicated in 1954; the Crucifixion Shrine followed in 1964; and new burial areas were opened to meet the needs of the faithful. In 1975, Bishop Joseph H. Hodges dedicated the Resurrection Chapel Mausoleum, home to 1,624 crypts and graced by a radiant stained-glass image of the Risen Christ—an enduring sign of the Christian hope in life everlasting.

Today, Mount Calvary Cemetery stands as a quiet, steadfast witness to Catholic history—a place where faith is remembered, sacrifice honored, and the promise of resurrection proclaimed.



REMEMBERING REV. JOHN J. MUELLER

FAITHFUL SERVANT OF GOD AND COUNTRY

Guided by unwavering faith and devotion, Father John J. Mueller dedicated his life to serving both God and his country—a legacy of courage, compassion, and priestly service.

Father Mueller's life as a priest for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and a chaplain for the military is a storied one, the highlights of which have been preserved for generations to come by the Department of Archives for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and its director Jon-Erik Gilot.

Newspaper clippings, medals of honor, photographs, his old pistol holster, and, of course, his rosary are respectfully saved, acknowledging his true example as a true Christian soldier.

John J. Mueller was born on January 15, 1911, in Fulton (Wheeling). He was the third child of John and Isabelle Yontz Mueller.

He graduated from St. Michael's School in 1925 and then attended St. Charles College in Catonsville, MD for high school and two years of college.

He entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and was ordained on May 22, 1937.

Father Mueller began his priestly service to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in Weston at St. Patrick's as assistant pastor the year of his ordination 1937 to 1943. He would often raise his eyebrows recalling the times he had to travel by horseback to get to the outlying mission churches there.

After being a diocesan priest for five years, World War II broke out. Immediately Fr. Mueller felt a strong call to serve his country. He asked for Bishop Swint's permission to serve his country and volunteer as a military chaplain.

In April 1943, Reverend Mueller was accepted by the United States Army as a first lieutenant.

He left his parishioners in Weston to attend Chaplain school at Harvard University from May to June.

In November 1943, Chaplain Mueller was sent off to the Pacific Theater with assignments in Australia, New Guinea; Luzon, Philippines; and Yokohama, Japan, where he filled the crucial role of spiritual ministry to soldiers and civilians of all denominations.

He remained in the prayers of the bishop and diocese, who were aware of the dangers he would face. Records note that the casualty rate for chaplains in WWII was the third highest of all branches, behind the infantry and air forces. Military chaplains faced life-threatening situations constantly. Their duties extended far beyond conducting religious services, they also were vital in assisting medics with the wounded, offering comfort to the dying, and helping with burial duties, all while navigating extreme danger on the front lines. Like all chaplains, they operated under immense emotional strain and a commitment to minister to soldiers of all faiths, not just Catholics.

As chaplain Fr. Mueller was a member of an antiaircraft gun unit and several combat divisions.

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He received numerous commendations for his work, but most prized may have been being decorated with the Bronze Star for Valor. Chaplain Mueller earned this significant honor for rescuing four soldiers wounded in battle and administering physical and spiritual first aid to them.

His Bronze Star recognition stated:

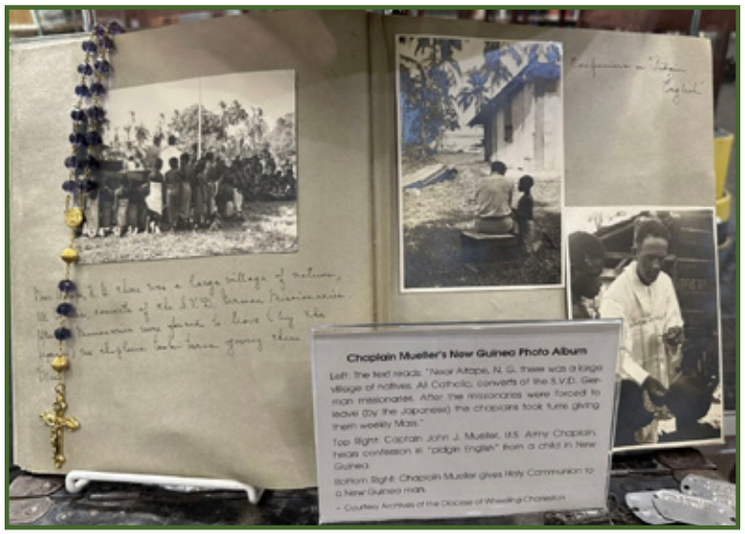
> *Captain John J. Mueller, Chaplain Corps, US Army. For heroic achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in Luzon, Philippine Islands, on 12 April 1945. Chaplain Mueller was visiting a detachment of men from the headquarters of the anti-aircraft artillery battalion who were employing their guns for direct support of the infantry, when the enemy began shelling the position, killing one man and wounding seven others. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he, while under enemy artillery fire, helped move several wounded men to safety and assisted in giving the wounded men such first aid as was possible. The calmness and the heroic example set by him did much to reassure the wounded as well as other personnel present. The outstanding courage and devotion to duty exhibited by Captain Mueller is in keeping with the highest traditions of the service and reflects great credit upon himself and the military service.*

In addition to this commendation, he received the Asiatic Pacific medal with two battle stars and arrowhead, a Victory medal, and a Philippines Liberation medal with one star. He was promoted to a Captain on September 9, 1944.

According to diocesan archives, Chaplain Mueller, "oversaw the building of a chapel. . . the first in a considerable area" made from "native materials 'procured, begged, or stolen,' and had a tent roof."

The diocesan archival office has Fr. Mueller's scrapbook. On a two-page spread are photos taken in New Guinea from 1944, with people of all ages from that island. The message he wrote on the page says, "Near Aitape, N. G. there was a large village of natives. All Catholic, converts of the S.V.D. SVD (Society of the Divine Word) German missionaries. After the missionaries were forced to leave (by the Japanese) the chaplains took turns giving them weekly Mass."

The page opposite the handwritten message, is an



endearing photo of Chaplain hearing the confession in "pidgin English" from a Catholic child in New Guinea.

On the same is a photo of him presenting Holy Communion with a young man from the island assisting as an altar server.

Chaplain Mueller earned the rank of Major on April 10, 1946.

In an interview Fr. Mueller said giving last rites to a soldier never got easy. Each was humbling, hard to do, but an honor to do.

"We used to have to meet the bombers as they came back from their missions and unfortunately, not everyone came back," he said. "And some of the ones who did come back were so badly injured they never made it through the evening. That was the hardest part of my job."

Days after he returned to the states after the war, in 1946, he was assigned to serve as pastor of the former Sacred Heart Parish in Wheeling, where he worked until 1962. Additionally, during those years, he served the United States Army Reserve until April 1, 1953.

In 1962, Fr. Mueller was transferred to serve the old St. Teresa Parish in Morgantown through 1969, before returning to Wheeling to serve as rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph from 1969 – 1981. His last parish he served before his retirement was in Sistersville at Holy Rosary Parish from 1981-1984.

Father passed away on May 4, 1992, in Wheeling.

Witnesses of Faith and Love

Make time to honor several lives called to be saints to shine in faith, charity, and devotion to God. Each of them—St. Margaret of Scotland, St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Blessed Grimoaldo of the Purification, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, and St. Cecilia—reminds us of the many paths to holiness and service. From queens who ruled with compassion and humility, to missionaries and martyrs who lived with courage and unwavering prayer, these holy men and women invite us to draw closer to Christ in our daily lives. May their examples inspire us to serve with joy, to pray without ceasing, and to let every action become a song of love to our Lord.

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND, NOV. 16

She knew attending Mass and being present before the Blessed Sacrament gave her many graces and strength beyond measure. November 16 is her feast day - St. Margaret of Scotland.

She was an 11th Century Queen of Scotland with royal lineage in England and Hungary as well.

Three of her sons became kings of Scotland and a daughter the Queen of England. She lived a holy Catholic life, honoring the Mass for her grounding, compassion, and focus. Performing charitable acts for the poor as if serving Christ was second nature to her – her Christian duty, maternal instinct, and merciful mindset.

She used her royal status to help people in need. Saint Margaret was also a great evangelizer – introducing all to her faith and the Lord and Savior of us all, Jesus Christ. Mirroring that mission was her establishment of the Queens Ferry that would take the faithful and those seeking Christ in their life across the waters of the River Forth to the Shrine of St. Andrew.

The painting of St. Margaret of Scotland is circa. 1898.

ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, NOVEMBER 17

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary was indeed a princess, becoming queen by title, but always remaining a humble servant of God by choice.

She, like St. Margaret of Scotland, had a compassionate and empathetic heart never tiring of using her gifts and talents to serve others even when she had to risk her life to do so.

Although she was privileged, Elizabeth lived a simple life. With the support of her husband, Louis IV (Ludwig) she gave away as many possessions she could to feed or cloth families in desperate situations.

The couple was happy and reverent to God and His teachings.

In 1226, St. Elizabeth used her dowry to establish a hospital in in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, where she personally cared for the sick.

One of the most well-known miracles of Elizabeth happened when she had stowed several loaves of bread in

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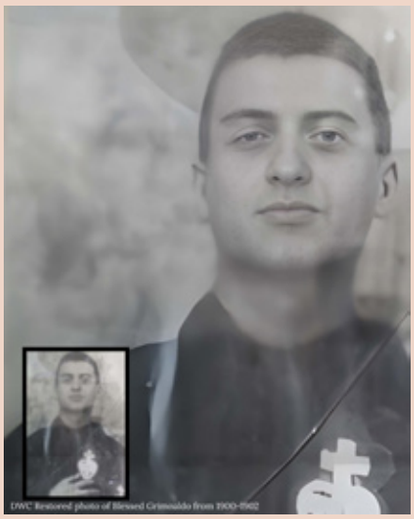
her apron to take to the poor, but when she came upon a royal hunting party, they asked her what she was hiding in her cloak, assuming she may have been stealing from the castle. However, when she opened her arms roses appeared instead of the bread. Her great compassion and selfless acts of love revealed another miracle during the early years of her marriage. She had welcomed a leper into her home. She gave him her room to rest. This infuriated her mother-in-law, and she had her son go clear out the room. However, when Louis IV removed the cover from the leper, he saw the crucified Christ in the bed.

In 1227, when Elizabeth was 20 years old, Louis IV died while out on a crusade to Jerusalem. She was so distraught and vowed not to remarry. Saint Elizabeth fell from power and was exiled by her in-laws, who did not support in any way her charitable and pious life.

She was declared a saint four years after her death.

The painting of St. Elizabeth illustrates her as a child praying at the door of a locked church, by Charles Allston Collins, circa 1850-52.



BLESSED GRIMOALDO OF THE PURIFICATION, NOVEMBER 18

Pope St. John Paul II described him as a model of spirituality "firmly rooted in Christ's paschal mystery," emphasizing the importance of a deep prayer life, devotion to the Passion of Christ, and finding Christ and true joy in the sacraments. Despite his short life, Blessed Grimoaldo of the Purification has left a lasting impression encouraging us to live and be Catholic - intentionality!

Blessed Grimoaldo was cheerful, kind, and went out of his way to help others. His prayer life made him an example for his peers. He was born to parents Peter Paul and Cecilia Santamaria, in France in 1883, and given the name Ferdinando.

He loved being an altar server and singing in the choir. Some would describe him as a child who truly loved Jesus and the Blessed Mother. He was fondly called "the little saint".

Wanting to be a priest since he was a young boy, he entered the Passionist Congregation as a novitiate in 1899 by the age of 16. He took his vows a year later, also taking the name Grimoaldo for devotion to St. Grimoaldo, the patron saint of his native town in Pontecorvo, Italy. He also added the clarification "of the Purification" to emphasize his Marian devotion.

Sadly, Blessed Grimoaldo was never ordained. He died soon after contracting meningitis in 1902 at the age of 19.

ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE, NOVEMBER 18

People annoying you lately? Call upon the intercession of Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, whose life emphasized to avoid being overly critical, practice tolerance, embrace imperfection, and pray others can endure our own flaws and annoyances.

Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne was born in 1769 into a prominent family in France. At 18, she joined a group of nuns in Grenoble without telling her parents, but when the French Revolution broke out the religious house was forced to close, and she had no choice but to return home.

She continued, however, to live the vows of a religious by her actions – helping those who suffered due to the war, never losing her focus on Christ, and unceasingly praying to live through those tragic times so she could return to her dream of becoming a nun.

After the war, because of her total selfless dedication to serve others and God, her parents gave her their blessing to join the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1804. Her next goal was to be a missionary and bring the Church to the Americas. After waiting 14 years, she was finally called upon to leave Europe for the US, where she would do charitable work throughout the Louisiana Territory, create schools for girls throughout the Missouri region, and also minister to Native Americans.

When she retired from her administrative duties at the age of 71, she opened a school for Native Americans of the Potawatomi tribe, whose name for her meant "Woman Who Prays Always."

She had the ability to gracefully humble those in her presence, counseling, "Let us try not to be exacting with other people, but rather to pass over in silence those thousand little annoyances that tend to irritate us. For we know that no one is perfect in this life, and we must put up with the defects of others as they put up with ours."

She was no nonsense, which was likely an unwritten prerequisite for her ministry. As you ask her to intercede for you on her feast day, keep in mind her attitude, "Let us bear our cross and leave it to God to determine the length and the weight."

Editor's note: the mosaic of St. Rose Duchesne is in the Cathedral Basilica in St. Louis.

ST. CECILIA, NOVEMBER 22

Let Our Actions Be a Song to God saying, I love you!

November 22 is the Feast Day of St. Cecilia, who taught us, "Let everything you do for others and yourself, be a gift of love in song to God."

The noise all around us in the world today can drown out the call of God and trample our will to live by word and action to honor Him.

Stop the noise. It's your choice! Pray and sing praises to God, like St. Cecilia. Do not cave to the pressures of this world. Ask her to intercede for us, that we hear the heavenly call of God in Heaven, drawing us closer to Christ and everlasting joy.

Saint Cecilia was born in the second century into a noble family. Although she was promised in marriage, she remained a virgin. Church tradition tells us on their wedding night her husband saw an angel appear surrounding her with flowers as a sign of her dedication to God. Because of this great witness he converted to Christianity. Together the couple converted many souls during their life – a time when the faith was despised by nobles and the government.

Saint Cecilia's story is one of great virtue, grace, and unthinkable strength. She preached about Jesus with great joy. She was martyred for her faith.

The watercolor painting of St. Cecilia is by Paper Plane Primary available for purchase on Etsy.

Mary's Refuge Gala Raises Funds and Awareness

Maternity home is a bursting at the seams success.

The following is an excerpt and summary of an article by Meg. Partington, of St. Joseph School. The complete article will be featured in The Catholic Spirit.

More than $80,000 was raised at the Gala for Mary's Refuge in Martinsburg last week. Mary's Refuge is a safe haven for expecting mothers-to-be.

Since November 2024 the home has helped 21 mothers and 17 children.

Deacon Patrick Michel from St. Joseph Parish explained that the refuge came into being thanks to a coalition of all the Eastern Panhandle Catholic churches: St. Joseph in Martinsburg; St. James the Greater in Charles Town; St. Agnes in Shepherdstown; St. Bernadette in Hedgesville; St. Leo in Inwood; and St. Vincent de Paul in Berkeley Springs.

Currently 11 mothers and 13 children are living at the maternity home, that operates with a four-person staff and countless volunteers, who believe in putting single mothers on the path to self-sufficiency – the ultimate pro-life, pro-woman, and pro-child action.

"It's plainly evident that we have a space problem," Michael Gormley, president of the Mary's Refuge board, told those assembled at the gala.

He outlined plans for growth, including converting the third floor of the facility into two apartments; renovating the home of a parishioner into two apartments; and purchasing a building in the city of Martinsburg to house six more apartments for transitional living, plus an area for office space with mental health services, fatherhood programming, classes, child care and job training.

"We are so thankful for the generosity you have shown us," Gormley said, adding that financial support from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has been vital to the establishment and expansion of the refuge.

For more information about Mary's Refuge or to make a donation, call 304-350-1632; email life@marysrefuge.com; or go to marysrefuge.com.

Photos by Hallie Brown, Hallie Michelle Photography

Allison Ferrell, executive director of Mary's Refuge in Martinsburg, holds 5-month-old Amina, one of the residents of the refuge, during the annual fundraising gala on Nov. 6 at the Hilton Garden Inn Martinsburg.

From left, the staff at Mary's Refuge includes Ayla Gressler, case manager; Haleigh Ruppenthal, case worker; Jacqueline Robinson, house manager; and Allison Ferrell, executive director.

Gathered at the Nov. 6 gala for Mary's Refuge are, from left, emcee Ed Wilson; keynote speaker Lisa Kratz Thomas; Allison Ferrell, executive director of the refuge; and Deacon Patrick Michel from St. Joseph Parish.

Kratz Thomas speaking: Keynote speaker Lisa Kratz Thomas addresses the crowd assembled Nov. 6 for the fourth annual Mary's Refuge Gala at the Hilton Garden Inn Martinsburg.

We are Called to Evangelize Through the Living Word

On November 9th, 2025, at St. James the Greater in Charles Town, a Bible study group of seven took a bold leap of faith at Mass before their fellow parishioners – to work towards bringing others back to the Church and continuing their own evangelization.

Missionary Sister, Sister Jennifer Lopez, HMSP, said that after exploring the History of Salvation and discovering the vital role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, these seven individuals that represent both the English and Hispanic communities chose to be a witness to their faith for others and seek a deeper relationship with God.

While many of us today face the challenges of balancing work, studies, and faith, Sr. Jennifer said, these seven have prioritized to make time for prayer, reflection, and sharing how God's Word transforms their hearts. Their perseverance is a living witness to the power of the Gospel.

Across all our parishes, the Holy Spirit is calling us to renew our commitment to evangelization through Scripture. Whether we lead a Bible study, participate as learners, or simply open the Bible at home with our families, each of us shares in the mission Jesus entrusted to His Church—to proclaim the Good News to all nations.

Let us all praise God for all children, youth, and adults currently engaged in Bible studies throughout the Diocese. May our shared efforts to know, live, and proclaim the Word of God bring many hearts back to Christ. Let us continue spreading the beauty of our Catholic faith through the diverse ministries of our Church, united in our call to evangelize and to bear witness to the living Word made flesh—Jesus Christ.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

CURSILLO

CURSILLO INVITES YOU:

To an Ultreya Weekend Event – IN PERSON OR ZOOM!!!!!!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 FROM 4:30-6:00 PM.

IN PERSON - Join us in Wheeling at St Vincent Parish Center

VIA ZOOM - To get access to our Zoom meeting, please email us at cursillo@dwc.org.

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo Movement: A "Short Course" with Lasting Impact "De Colores" By Joe Pangilinan:

The Cursillo movement—formally known as Cursillos in Christianity—offers parishioners a concentrated spiritual experience, one designed not merely as a weekend retreat but as a lifelong method for living and sharing Christian faith. Rooted in the National Cursillo framework in the U.S., the movement continues to foster committed lay leadership, evangelization, and small-group fellowship across dioceses.

Origins and Purpose:

Cursillo traces its roots to Mallorca, Spain, in the 1940s, when Eduardo Bonnín Aguiló and other lay collaborators devised a three-day "short course" in Christianity as a way to encourage spiritual renewal and apostolic commitment. Over time, the movement spread globally, arriving in the United States around 1957, where it has been adapted in numerous dioceses.

On its national website, the mission of National Cursillo USA states that the movement seeks "to communicate the best news of the best reality: that God, in Jesus Christ, loves us; … communicated by the best means which is friendship." Its vision rests on three fundamental encounters: with oneself, with Christ, and with others.

The Cursillo movement is a remarkable example of a lay-led, Church-rooted tool for evangelization. Far more than a weekend retreat, it aspires to transform environments by equipping ordinary people with spiritual depth, mutual support, and missionary momentum. In the words of its national mission: to bring alive the reality that God, in Jesus Christ, loves us—through friendship, conviction, and constancy.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON
1850 - 2025
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF HOPE

MONONGALIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & REGIONAL DIOCESAN CHOIRS AND MUSICIANS

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Card Making
CHRISTMAS EDITION

Please join us as we explore basic cardmaking techniques with a Christmas flair. You'll learn the basics of card making, including stamping and die cutting. Each participant will receive all materials to complete these 2 cards. No prior experience is necessary.

Date: November 21, 2025
Time: 2:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Retreat Center

Marilynn Novak is a life-long lover of all things crafty. She's been sharing her love of crafting by teaching since high school. She's taught a variety of crafts, such as crochet, Japanese braiding, sewing, cardmaking and more. Her students include residents of Hamlet Retirement Center, the PTA, Beading Beadwork retail shop, and family and friends.

RSVP

Reserve your spot today:
Contact Anna Marie Troiani
Phone: 304-907-0171
Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

St. Joseph
RETREAT CENTER

Special collection
Nov. 22-23

1926•2026
THE Cathedral of St. Joseph
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$1,000,000
Campaign Goals:

- ***Roof Replacement***
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Let Us Go Rejoicing to the House of the Lord

Psalm 122:1

Celebrating 100 Years of Faith.

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As we mark 100 years of grace, we invite every Catholic across the Diocese to participate in preserving this sacred treasure that belongs to all of us.

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Please join us for the

Mass of Gratitude

In thanksgiving of all those who support the Catholic Sharing Appeal

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH, WHEELING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025
12:05 P.M.

Unable to attend in person?
JOIN US VIA LIVESTREAM AT
DWC.ORG/CSA

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20a
The day is coming when evildoers will perish, and those who fear the Lord will arise.

Responsorial: Psalm 98
"The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice."

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Don't grow weary doing good – working hard and not being a burden. Those unwilling to work and are disruptive shall not prosper but remain idle.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19
Jesus tells his followers not to be terrified of the end of the world – the souls of the faithful will be saved.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, especially Pope Leo, our bishops, and all clergy and religious, may they always recognize Christ in all people, as they shepherd the flock patiently, lovingly, and fairly, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That government leaders make personal sacrifices like St. Elizabeth of Hungary, who served the poor and helpless with unfailing charity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For each one of us. that when others challenge our faith we stand up for the truth and not be easily tempted to compromise our beliefs, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have forgotten or ignore Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist, the accompaniment of angels and saints with us as Mass, and the strength and love written for us in the Gospels, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
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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.