Faith IN WV
NOVEMBER 9, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

You Can't Have Jesus without His Church

The church is precious; it was created by God on the cross, when they pierced Christ's heart with the lance.

The Church was created to be part of God!

The Church is holy.

The Church is something precious, mystical, beautiful. . . and beyond all understanding....

The human Church, the people of God – of course, they will make mistakes.

Who doesn't?

But notwithstanding all its human sinfulness, out of this community of love comes something fantastic, transparent, beautiful, beyond our kenning, whose head is indeed the Son of God, and whose Bride she is. She encompasses us all, such as we are.

That is the Church we belong to.

It's easy to criticize.

It's easy to say, "With all that's happening in the Church, you want me to stay there?"

We talk like this because our faith needs strengthening.

Faith is like a light.

Faith is like a curtain rising to show the beauty of what is behind.

continue...

The Mother Church of All

Feast Day Reminds Us: We are One Church

Each year on November 9, the Catholic Church celebrates the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica—a feast day that may seem distant from parish life but actually reminds us of our deep unity as one universal Church.

Most people assume our "mother church" is St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, but that title belongs to the Basilica of St. John Lateran.

Built in the fourth century by Emperor Constantine on the site of the Lateran Palace, it was the first public Christian church ever constructed after centuries of persecution. On its facade are inscribed the words *"omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput,"* which translates to "the mother and head of all the

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Faith changes everything....

The Church is holy: "one, holy."

I personally would die for the Church.

The Christ in priests is what matters.

It is he who is of the essence.

At Mass, when you come to the consecration, it's the word of Christ that matters....

Touch the Church, and you touch God.

We need to examine this prayerfully....

Where Jesus Christ is, there is the Church.

People say, "I believe in Jesus, but not in the Church."

But you cannot separate Jesus and the Church: it's impossible.

Where Jesus Christ is there is the Church....

Mysteriously, the Church comes from the very heart of the Lord and is given to us to come close to the heart of the Father....

When you begin to love the Church, you begin to enter into its mystery....

As you enter, you will enter into the heart of Christ.

And he will take you by the hand and bring you to his Father.

Editor's note: *The Glory of Holy Mother Church* is a meditation written by Servant of God Catherine de Hueck Doherty. She was born in Russia and immigrated to North America as a penniless refugee in 1920. She lived a life of faith amidst her harsh real-world struggles—including poverty, marital problems, and professional failures. she dedicated her life to living the Gospel without compromise. As a lay woman she founded the first Friendship House in the slums of Toronto, and later a well-known one in Harlem, New York, to serve the poor and fight for interracial justice long before the Civil Rights Movement. Today, these communities of laypeople and priests have missions worldwide.

We Are United in Faith

Two Inspiring Stories – Journeys to Christ

As we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – the Mother Church, FaithInWV, proudly presents two articles written by the faithful, highlighting our real "Faith In WV" – how our parishes and schools lead us and others to Christ.

Thank you to Megan White of St. Patrick's in Weston and Meg Partington of St. Joseph's in Martinsburg, for sharing your gifts to enrich us all.

churches of the city and of the world."

The Lateran Basilica is the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome, making it the official ecclesiastical seat of the Pope, the Bishop of Rome.

Its dedication, originally celebrated only in Rome, was extended to the entire Catholic world by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726—a sign of our shared spiritual heritage and communion with the Holy See.

The basilica itself is dedicated to our Savior Jesus Christ and to Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist. It stands as a symbol of victory, faith, and unity.

The Constantinian Cross and the sacred art within it proclaim Christ's triumph over sin and death—a message that still inspires hope for believers today.

Celebrating this feast invites us to renew our gratitude for our own parish church—our "local" mother church—where we too are gathered as one Body in Christ, nourished by Word and Sacrament, and sent forth to be His living temple in the world.

As we honor the dedication of St. John Lateran, our mother church, we remember that every church building, no matter how simple, is a visible sign of God's dwelling among His people and of our enduring unity as one Church – the true Church Jesus gave us.

A Child Shall Lead Them
Evangelization in Our Catholic Schools

Editor's note: the following was written by Megan White, the director of religious education at St. Patrick Parish in Weston.

"You're an Apostle!" Bishop Brennan exclaimed upon meeting nine-year-old Kian Hefner, who had just served at the altar for the first time during the bishop's visit to St. Patrick's School.

Moments before, parish secretary Sandra Mick had excitedly introduced the bishop to Kian, eager to tell him the story of a young boy who inspired his family to convert to Catholicism.

The Hefner family—consisting of Kian's parents, Brian and Rachel, his little sister, Ainsley, and aunt, Nastausha—joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2025. Their journey to that point was shrouded in unlikely events that can only be explained by the Spirit of God that gently guides and beckons us toward Him.

Three years ago, after moving to Lewis County, Kian was set to enter the first grade. The Hefner family went to enroll him in the local public school but quickly realized the school's schedule would not align with their family's needs. With school soon approaching, a decision had to be made. They contacted the local Catholic school, St. Patrick's. Kian's mother felt an immediate sense of calm when informed about the school's programs. "By the grace of God, they had exactly one spot left open in first grade!" Rachel reflects.

While the Hefner family was thrilled to have their children enrolled in a school that provided a safe and engaging learning environment that aligned with their schedules, the last thing they expected was for the school to provide a foundation for faith to be built upon. A year later, when in the second grade, half of the children in Kian's class were preparing for their First Holy Communion. He paid close attention to the teachings about the Eucharist and quickly felt a longing in his heart.

"I kept telling my mom and my dad that one of them needed to become Catholic so I can take First Holy Communion," Kian said. His parents attest to this strong desire, stating, "He would come home excited to share what he learned about the faith and ask thoughtful questions about God, the Church, and the Mass. Before long, he began asking if we could all attend Mass together on Sundays. It was clear that his heart was being drawn toward the Catholic faith..."

But was his desire to become Catholic simply because the children around him were undergoing such a sacred process during their second-grade year? No parent wants their child to miss out, but joining the Church was quite the commitment that their hearts were not ready for. Yet, the Eucharistic Lord was not finished calling the Hefner family to His heart.

Second grade came and went for Kian, whose desire for the sacraments remained steadfast. He recalls talking to his parents about it on a daily basis. Eventually,

his parents, as well as his aunt Nastausha, registered for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) program at St. Patrick's Church, and Kian was joyfully enrolled in First Communion preparation classes during his third-grade year. Like many people sampling Catholic teaching as outsiders, the

Hefner's felt skeptical but was curious to find out what it was exactly that had little Kian so enamored.

Throughout their conversion journey, Kian offered constant encouragement to his family. Many moments left a lasting impact on his aunt.

"Watching his sincerity and consistency in living out his faith deeply moved me. He never misses a prayer before meals and speaks about Jesus with such conviction and love. Seeing that kind of faith in someone so young made me stop and think about my own relationship with God," Nastausha said.

She described her early days attending Mass: "...it all felt a little overwhelming at first—I was just taking it all in. One day, as I sat there quietly observing, Kian looked over at me and gently motioned for me to place my hands together in prayer. It was such a small gesture, but it meant so much. For a while, I didn't feel comfortable kneeling or going up during certain parts of the Mass, and he would give me that little look, as if to say, 'Come on, you can do it.' His gentle encouragement and quiet confidence helped me feel more at home in the Church and more open to fully participating in the faith."

Nastausha also treasures a memory of her nephew giving her a rosary and asking her to keep it forever. She placed it in her car as a constant reminder of her faith as well as "the quiet way God works through others—even the very young."

It was not long until the Hefner family came to understand why Kian so loved the Catholic faith: Christ was the missing piece in their lives.

"I had been carrying a sense of emptiness that nothing and no one seemed to fill—until I realized what I was missing was a true relationship with God," Nastausha wrote before the Easter Vigil.

The Easter season was brimming with joy as the Hefners entered into full communion with the Catholic Church, Kian finally receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Their newfound faith has impacted their lives in many ways, strengthening their family and acting as a guiding light during times of uncertainty. Kian now serves devotedly at the altar of the Lord, where he enjoys being able to witness the miracles of the Mass up close.

The story of the Hefner family is inspiring but not entirely unique.

It highlights a phenomenon recently observed within the St. Patrick's community—that of the school serving as a catalyst for conversion.

Over the past few years, many families have entered faith formation due to their children coming home from school with a love and curiosity for religion.

In the recent past, a private education has not always been accessible to many. However, with the rise of the Hope Scholarship in West Virginia, financial barriers are being removed for families who desire a Catholic education for their children, opening the door for a more diverse student population.

This exciting shift is a call to mission. We must ask ourselves: Do our school communities bear the light and truth of Jesus Christ to all who enter our doors?

St. Patrick's School religion teacher, Mrs. Fiona Ayala, comments, "In today's world our children face a culture that often leaves them jaded and isolated. As a Catholic school, we are uniquely able to offer them something they desperately want and need. We offer them hope—hope that does not fail, because it is founded on the truth that is Jesus Christ."

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HOW DO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EFFECTIVELY EVANGELIZE?

Ayala said as adults we are timid to share the Gospel, but children are actively seeking truth: "Our students are smart kids, and they are looking for something solid, something real to hold onto." As a model of evangelization, she looks to the 4th-century saint Macrina, who crafted a template for the faith communities of her day. "At the heart of all we do must be Christ. We must make the sacraments available to students, open the Scriptures to them, teach them the richness of the Mass, boldly confess the faith, and not keep Jesus confined to religion class. There is so much richness in the liturgical life, ritual, and traditions of the Church—our students deserve to experience it fully," Ayala said.

Father Doug Ondeck, who has seen the school double in size since his arrival at St. Patrick's in 2021, speaks to the purpose of a Catholic education, saying, "At the heart of a solid Catholic education is instruction in the knowledge and love of God and in serving our neighbors out of that knowledge and love."

When asked what role sending his son to Catholic school played in their family's conversion, Kian's father, Brian, summed it up in one word: "Everything. Without his enrollment in St.

Patrick's, I do not believe any of this would have been possible—at least not in the foreseeable future."

The Lord continues to plant families like theirs within our communities, and the fields are ripe for harvest!

Therefore, let us not hold back in sharing our faith, but rather heed Pope St. John Paul II's famous line: "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ!"

Like St. Clare, Saint Joseph Student Proves True Beauty Is in Giving

Her story beautifully mirrors the spirit and example of St. Clare of Assisi, her namesake in faith.

St. Clare was known for her deep love of Christ, her humility, and her radical generosity. When she left her wealthy home to follow St. Francis, she cut off her hair as a sign of giving her life completely to God and serving the poor. That act of surrender became a symbol of simplicity, compassion, and love for others.

In a similar way, young Clara Weinstein of St. Joseph School in Martinsburg, has sacrificed unselfishly through her gift of her hair.

Both Clara and St. Clare remind us that true beauty and faith are not found in what we keep, but in what we give away for love of others.

Clara Weinstein, a sixth grader at Saint Joseph School in Martinsburg, poses with Principal Maria Byrd before getting 18 inches of her cut for donation to Children with Hair Loss.

The following story written by Meg Partington illustrates that like St. Clare, holiness begins with small, loving acts done from the heart:

Eleven-year-old Clara Weinstein's giving spirit grows with every haircut.

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The Saint Joseph School sixth grader recently made her fourth hair donation, this time giving 18 inches of her brown locks cut on Oct. 9 to Children with Hair Loss, a nonprofit organization that provides free hair-replacement and care kits to children experiencing hair loss due to medical conditions.

Clara's journey of giving began when she was just 4 years old. After learning that some children lose their hair due to illness, she decided to do something about it. The first time, she donated 13 inches of her hair to Wigs for Kids. On the drive home after her haircut, she told her mother, Tandy Schmidt, "I want to give it to a girl who doesn't have hair. When my hair grows long, I'm going to donate it again."

Clara kept that promise.

Since then, the sixth grader has grown out and donated her hair three more times, each to a different children's charity.

"She's always had such a giving spirit," Schmidt said. "Every few years, when her hair starts getting long again, she tells me it's time. She loves knowing that what she's giving is going to help another child feel special and confident."

The Bunker Hill, West Virginia, resident's most recent donation went to Children with Hair Loss, from whom she received a certificate of appreciation for her contribution. The Michigan-based organization provides hundreds of replacements each year to children who lost their hair due to medical conditions or diseases, according to its website, CHILDRENWITHHAIRLOSS.ORG/.

For Clara, the real reward isn't the certificate; it's knowing she's helping make someone else smile.

Clara's stylist, Erin Elliott, owner of Alter Ego Hair Color and Design Studio in Frederick, Maryland, has been with her through all four donations.

"It's been amazing to see Clara grow up through each of these moments," Elliott said. "She sits in my chair with excitement and purpose every time. What she's doing is so genuine — it's pure kindness."

Saint Joseph School Principal Maria Byrd said Clara's compassion reflects the mission of the school, which her two younger brothers also attend.

"Clara lives out the values we teach every day — faith, kindness and service to others," Byrd said. "Her generosity inspires both students and staff."

Through her ongoing acts of giving, Clara reminds everyone that even the smallest hands can make a lasting difference and that kindness, like hair, always grows back stronger.

Clara Weinstein, 11, of Bunker Hill, West Virginia, holds the 18 inches of hair she donated to Children with Hair Loss after getting it cut on Oct. 9 at Alter Ego Hair Color and Design Studio in Frederick, Maryland.

Clara Weinstein holds the braid that was lopped when she was 4, before it was donated to a child experiencing hair loss.

Clara Weinstein with her stylist at Alter Ego Hair Color and Design Studio.

This Veterans' Day Call to Mind St. Martin of Tours

On Nov. 11, Veterans' Day, as we show our respect and honor to all who served, call to mind the example of St. Martin of Tours, whom the Church celebrates today.

St. Martin grew up way back in the 4th century in Rome to parents who weren't Christian. He joined the Roman army at 15 years old.

The most famous story about him happened while he was guarding a gate. A man who was poor and had no clothes asked for help in the name of Jesus. Martin didn't have money or food, just the cape he was wearing. He immediately grabbed his sword, sliced his cape in half, and gave the bigger piece to the cold man.

That night, Martin had an amazing dream. Jesus appeared to him, wearing that same piece of the cape, and said, "Behold, here is Martin, an unbaptized Roman soldier: He has clothed me".

This powerful experience led Martin to get baptized that Easter when he was 18.

He kept serving in the military for over 20 years, showing that you can be a faithful Christian in any environment! Later, he became a priest and eventually the Bishop of Tours, living a life dedicated to serving God and others.

St. Martin of Tours, pray for us!

St. Martin of Tours, pray for our veterans who are soldiers for peace.

St. Martin of Tours, pray for serve and served in our armed forces who bring the love and mercy of Christ to those who do not know Him.

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.

ST. PAUL CENTER

PARISH EVENT

Scott Hahn in Wheeling, WV

The Catholic Church: Family of God, Body of Christ

Study Scripture from the heart of the Church with one of today's most respected scholars.

St. Michael Parish

1225 National Road
Wheeling, WV 26003

Thursday November 13
7:00 PM

The Sisters of St. Joseph invite you!

Mount St. Joseph Chapel
137 Mount St. Joseph RD Wheeling, WV

Simple Supper 5:00 pm
Taizé Prayer 6:00 pm

Next Gathering
Friday, November 14th

Prayer Leader: Robert Troeger

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

MONONGALIA
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
& REGIONAL
DIOCESAN CHOIRS
AND MUSICIANS

6 PM
NOV. 16

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH
MORGANTOWN, WV

JUBILEE & HOPE SYMPHONY CONCERT

SONGS TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE
AND THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

EVENT IS FREE | ALL ARE WELCOME | RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

SPONSORED BY: DIOCESAN MUSIC COMMISSION

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON | www.dwc.org

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
CENTENNIAL

$1,000,000
Campaign Goals:

- ***Roof Replacement***
- **Exterior Stone Repair**
- ***Interior Repair & Restoration***

Let Us Go Rejoicing to the House of the Lord

Psalm 122:1

Celebrating 100 Years of Faith.

A Cathedral for All the Faithful

The Cathedral of St. Joseph is more than a parish—it is the spiritual heart of the entire Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. It is where we gather as one Church for Chrism Mass, ordinations, diocesan celebrations, and moments of mourning and hope.

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.

Support the Cathedral of St. Joseph
by donating online at:
saintjosephcathedral.com/100th

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

CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Water flows through the temple just as the Holy Spirit flows through the baptized. Our saving grace.

Responsorial: Psalm 46
"The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
We are the temple of God.

Gospel: John 2:13-22
Jesus will raise the temple in three days. Christ's Body is the temple.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, as we thank Jesus for the gift of the Church, let us work together to steadily build her, strengthening our faith and our local parishes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That government leaders work together on initiatives to make sure the hungry are fed, the stranger is welcomed, and the forgotten are cared for, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have served in the armed forces in times of war and peace, give us the wisdom to treat them with respect and dignity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who design, construct, repair, and maintain our church buildings, may St. Joseph guide them so their work reflects our beautiful faith, hope, and love, 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
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WLOL2

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.