

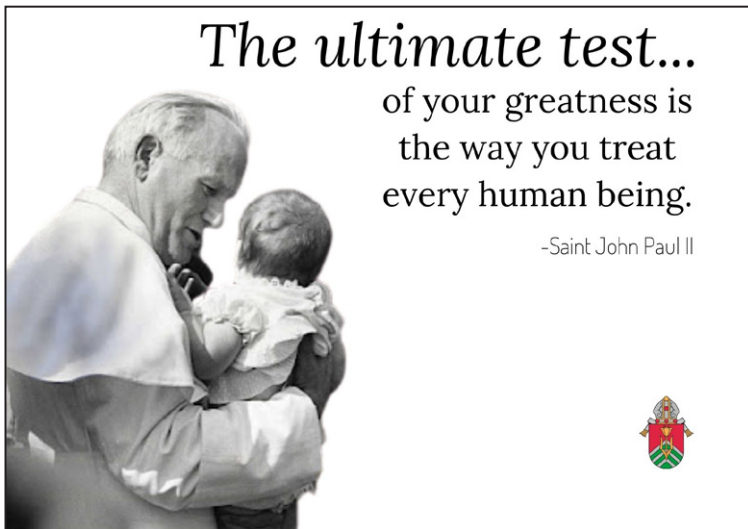
Faith IN WV

OCTOBER 19, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON 

With Pope Saint John Paul II, We Walk in Hope

“Remember that you are never alone, Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! He has called you and chosen you to live in the freedom of the children of God. Turn to him in prayer and in love. Ask him to grant you the courage and strength to live in this freedom always. Walk with him who is ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life!’”

This is the message that Pope Saint John Paul II shared at the 12th World Youth Day in 1997. These were also words he lived by throughout his own life. His feast day is Oct. 22.



He's affectionately referred to as "JP2" and as pope he canonized more than 400 saints, visited 129 countries, instituted Divine Mercy Sunday, began the World Youth Day events, spoke 12 languages, and he added the Luminous Mysteries to the Rosary.

He loved to read and write – poems, letters, books, and religious documents. In fact, the Vatican reported he wrote more than 3,000 pages a year while pope. He was a pope for all people. He considered traveling the globe as shepherding like Jesus.

He is considered a hero in the Respect Life and Pro-Life community by making it very clear we need to be a "Culture of Life" and resist being a "Culture of Death."

He said what kind of people we are is completely revealed by how we treat "the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family – the unborn, the frail elderly, the poor, and the infirm."

Born in 1920, as Karol Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland (near Krakow), he was the youngest of three children born to Karol Wojtyla (a tailor and a non-commissioned officer in the Polish Army) and Emilia Kaczorowska Wojtyla (a schoolteacher). His parents raised him with morals that reflected their strong Catholic faith and structure mirroring his father's military background.

He had a great love for the outdoors, sports, religion, and theater. When he was 18, he studied drama at the local university. Nazi occupation forces closed the university a year later. To avoid being deported from his homeland he was forced to work in a quarry and later a chemical factory.

He knew suffering, loneliness, and grief all too well. His sister died before he was born. He lost his mother when he was a young boy. His brother died, when the saint was in third grade; and he was only 20, when his father died.

It was during the height of World War II tensions, when he said yes to the priesthood.

Because of tensions he attended an underground seminary in Krakow, Poland. His ordination had to be held in a secret ceremony. In addition to pastoring his parish he taught theology at Lublin University. He was actually on an outing with his students in

1958, when he learned he was named an auxiliary bishop.

In those days in Poland was gripped by the Polish Communist Party. Religious retreats outside of a church were illegal, so he was often seen on his excursions without a collar.

Historians have said the naming Fr. Karol Wojtyla as bishop ended up being one of the most underestimated moves towards the fall of the communist party in Eastern Europe.

He wasn't naïve to the fact that the Communist party followed him, as they did other Catholic leaders. It is true he owned and read Marxist literature, but said, "if you want to understand your enemy, you have to know what he has written."

His love and faith in God were evident in his words and actions.

He knew of the significance of his papal election in 1978.

He was the first Polish pope and the first pope in more than 450 years that wasn't Italian.

His papacy revived his country, giving them an energy, strength, and most importantly a voice. In his homily

during his installation Mass he told the faithful and the world, "Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ."

His first papal trip was to Poland on June 2, 1979. As he celebrated the vigil Mass of Pentecost before hundreds of thousands of Poles, he honored their history and renewed their hope for their future. He ended his address saying, "Let your Spirit descend. Let your Spirit descend and renew the face of the earth, the face of this land."

The applause he received lasted more than 14 minutes! The last photo of St. John Paul II was from the window of the Apostolic Palace on Easter Sunday. He was waving a blessing to the city and the world.

At his funeral Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI, said, "We can be sure that our beloved pope is standing today at the window of the Father's house, that sees us, and blesses us. Yes, bless us Holy Father."

St. John Paul II wrote many books readily available. Recommended readings about him include: Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves by Jason Evert; and The Making of the Pope of the Millennium: Kalendarium of the Life of Karol Wojtyla by Adam Boniecki.



Special Collection :

World Mission Sunday Collection

Oct. 18-19th



Clinging to the Rosary

The Power of Prayer

As we enter the final months of the Church's Year of Hope, we turn to Immaculée Ilibagiza—a woman whose faith and trust in God transformed unimaginable suffering into a radiant testimony of hope. And in this Month of the Rosary, her story shines even brighter, for it was the Rosary that became her lifeline, her strength, and her constant companion through 91 days of terror.



Ilibagiza, author of *Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, was born and raised in a devout Catholic family in Rwanda. She grew up surrounded by love, laughter, and prayer. Her parents, both teachers, made faith the center of their home.

"Every day, together we would say our Catholic prayers," she recalled, as she talked to nearly 200 people at a retreat in Charles Town last summer. "We loved to be together. We knew we were loved."

She urged the group attending the Eastern Panhandle retreat, "Be grateful for the people who love you. Be thankful for our priests, because our parishes would not exist without

their service and sacrifice. Let your actions reflect your gratitude."

Her words, gentle and sincere, echoed through the social hall at St. James the Greater Parish. There, amid quiet reverence, she shared how her life changed forever in April 1994, when the Rwandan genocide erupted.

Home from college for Easter break, she was forced into hiding—crammed with seven other women in a 3-by-4-foot bathroom. For 91 days, they lived in silence, unable to speak, move freely, or even flush the toilet except at carefully timed moments that coincided with the other bathroom in the house. Outside, more than 800,000 people were being slaughtered.

In that darkness, Immaculée clung to a gift from her father—his Rosary. He gave it to her as he rushed her into hiding at the home of a pastor.

She prayed would end up praying the Rosary twenty-seven times a day, meditating on the life of Christ and allowing the mysteries to still her fear and anger.

"When the voices of despair tried to stop me," she said softly, "I called out, 'Jesus, help me get back on track.' You can too. Focus on God. Know that He through the meditative prayer of the Rosary makes miracles happen."

After the 91 days, when she emerged from hiding, weighing less than 70 pounds, she learned that all of her family had been killed except for one brother who was studying abroad.

She was overwhelmed with sadness at the loss of her family, relatives, and so many neighbors and friends. However, she refused to be consumed by hatred. She chose forgiveness.

"God left me to tell His story," she said. "A story of His goodness."

Her powerful memoir, *Left to Tell*, is more than a record of tragedy—it is a hymn of faith. Through it, Immaculée reminds us that even in the darkest hours, the Rosary leads us back to the light.

At her two-day event in Charles Town, participants prayed the Rosary together, attended Mass, and shared stories of hope, healing, and love.

Immaculée's witness invites us to pick up our Rosaries anew—to trust that in every trial, Mary leads us to Jesus, and that prayer truly can transform hearts, families, and our world.

For more about her ministry and book, visit www.immaculee.com

If you are interested in organizing a retreat at your parish/vicariate with Ilibagiza contact Joyce Bibey at the Chancery jbibey@dwc.org.



COURAGEOUS FAITH

Honor the First Martyred Saints of North America

On Oct. 19, Catholics remember the bravery of the first martyred saints of North America: St. Isaac Jogues, St. René Goupil, and St. John de la Lande. Their sacrifice in the 17th century is honored at Our Lady of Martyrs - a shrine in Auriesville, New York, where they gave their lives bringing the Gospel to the Mohawk and Huron peoples.

These Jesuit missionaries faced extreme danger. The Iroquois, particularly the Mohawks, viewed the “black robes” with suspicion, often responding with hostility. Despite the harsh conditions of “New France”—brutal cold, scarce provisions, and violent conflicts—the missionaries pressed on. St. Isaac once wrote, “We just need to offer up our lives to God in whatever our circumstances and not worry about the results. God will lead us to his glory.”

St. Isaac arrived in Quebec at 29, full of zeal for his first Mass and eager to serve. For years, he lived among the Hurons, learning their language and customs. In 1642, while traveling with St. René and a group of Christian Hurons, they were captured by Mohawk warriors. St. Isaac endured unimaginable torture, yet he continued to care for others, writing of St. René: “This angel of innocence and martyr of Jesus Christ. . . consecrated his heart and soul to God and his life and labor to the welfare of the poor Indians.”

After 13 months in captivity, St. Isaac escaped and returned to France. Even after such trials, he did not abandon his mission.

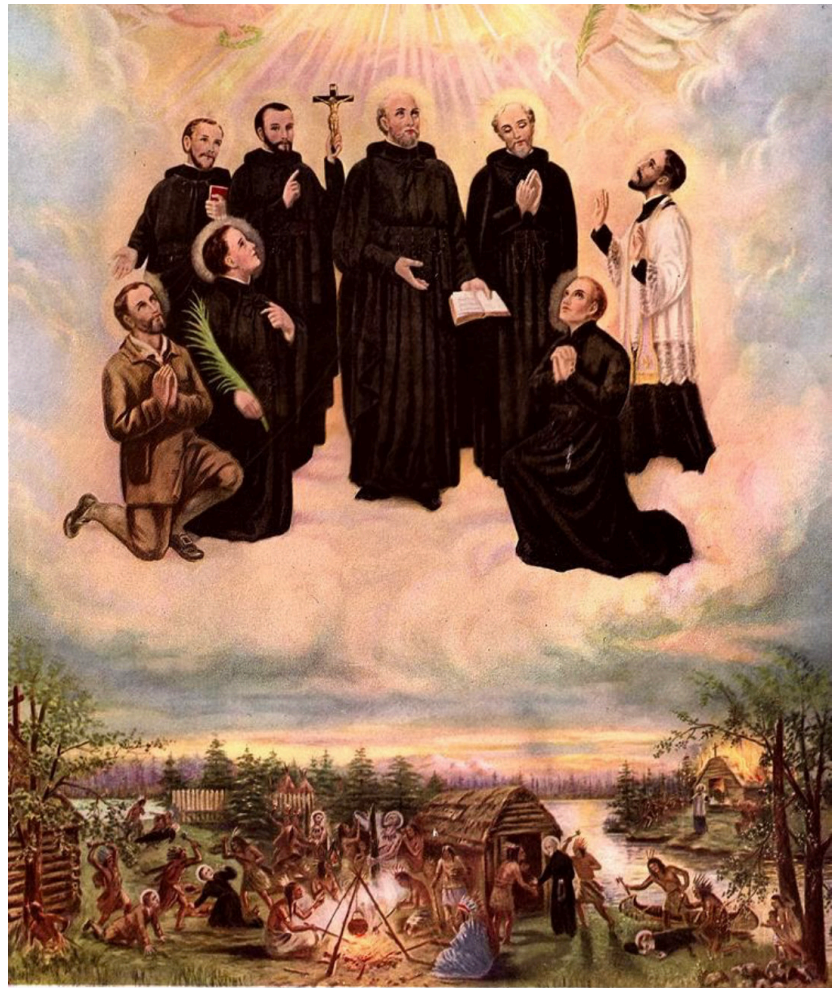
In 1646, he courageously returned to New France to evangelize and negotiate peace. His presence astonished the Mohawks, demonstrating the transformative power of gentleness and forgiveness. Yet, when he returned with St. John de la Lande, both were killed.

Their deaths were not in vain. The seeds they planted bore fruit: Ossernenon became a place of Christian mission, reconciliation, and hope. St. Isaac’s former captor later sought baptism, and a decade after the martyrdom, St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born in the same village.

The feast of these martyrs reminds Catholics that courage in faith is not the absence of fear, but the strength to trust God even in danger.

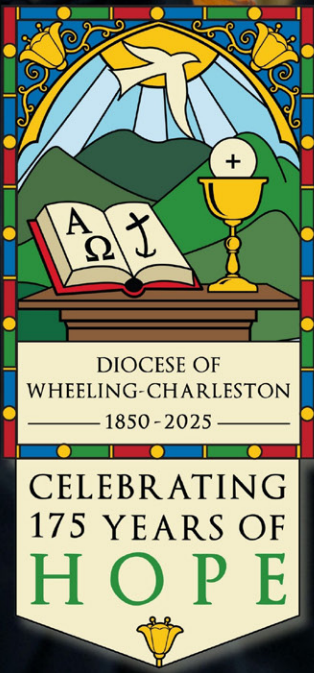
Saint Isaac, St. René, St. John, and their fellow missionaries inspire us to live boldly for Christ, offering our lives in service to God and others.

Their legacy calls each of us to be strong, courageous, and unwavering in faith, knowing that even small acts of love and witness can change hearts and transform the world.



THE JESUIT MARTYR-SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

(Standing) Fr. CHABANEL Fr. LALEMANT Fr. de BREBEUF Fr. JOGUES Fr. DANIEL
(Kneeling) JOHN de LANDE Fr. GARNIER RENE GOUPIL



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

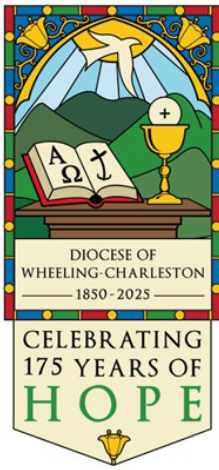
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Wheeling Vicariate Gathering:

Celebrating the 175th
Anniversary of the Diocese

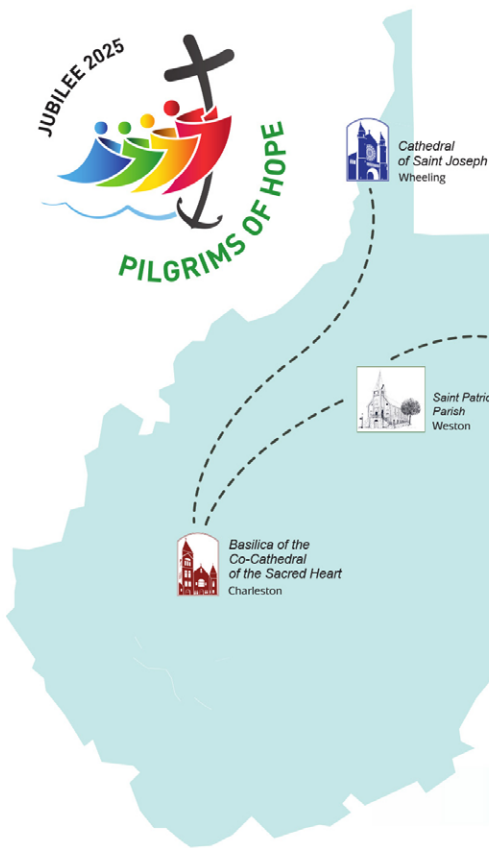
Tuesday, October 28
St. Paul Parish
140 Walnut St. Weirton WV

Mass at 6:00pm
Celebrated by Bishop Brennan
and priests of the Wheeling Vicariate

Reception to follow the Mass

All are welcome!!

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

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

Moses' stamina was tested. With the help of his faithful friends good prevailed.

Responsorial: Psalm 121

"Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Saint Paul writes to Timothy - remain faithful to all that Christ taught share the Scriptures and the Good News of Jesus.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Be persistent in prayer, especially for peace and justice - never tire of this.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that like the widow in the Gospel, we may persist in pursuing justice for all who are oppressed, persecuted, or treated unfairly, so that their thirst for the justice Jesus proclaimed may be satisfied, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in public authority, that they may exercise prudence and good judgment in making decisions and that their hearts may be moved, like the judge in today's Gospel, by those appealing for justice, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For missionaries in this country and around the world and for the people they serve, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For chaplains and all spiritual caregivers, that their ministry may bless the people they serve as well as those they work alongside to bring healing and well-being, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our parish community, that we may support each other when we grow tired, as Aaron and Hur did for Moses, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

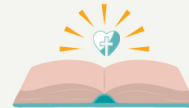
Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Eastern Panhandle - coming soon	FM	88.5
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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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.