Faith IN WV
OCTOBER 26, 2025
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Journey to Grace

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

Humility is a core Christian virtue. It will lead to a relationship with God and eternal salvation. Our readings today illustrate for us the confidence we need to have.

Be humble, kind, and admit your failures, despite the mixed messages of society.

In our second reading today, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, St. Paul is telling his friend Timothy that as he approaches the end of this life, he is confident he kept the faith and did as Christ wanted -making disciples along the way.

Further, he wrote that even when others deserted him, his convictions didn't waiver, crediting God for his strength to persevere and his voice to declare the Good News of Jesus and salvation.

He wasn't saying here that he was perfect. Remember that in 1 Corinthians 15:9, he called himself "the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God". Further he considered himself the worst of sinners – "Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost" (1 Timothy 1:15).

The book of Acts in the New Testament illustrates his conversion. He was a fierce foe and made himself an enemy of early Christians, following orders to arrest men and women, throwing them in prison, and ultimately escorting them to their death for following the Way of Christ. He was mean, a sensationalist, evil, and unjust.

Originally named Saul. His conversion came after he was stopped in his tracks by an overwhelmingly bright light. It was the Risen Lord, who appeared on the road to Damascus where Saul was sent by the high priests to arrest more Christians. The scene is described for us in Acts chapter 9. The light made him to fall to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul! Saul why do you persecute me?"

The light left him blind. It wasn't for some time later that Ananias, a true and loyal disciple of Christ was summoned by God to go to Saul, lay his hands on him, and heal him.

Ananias said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit." He immediately regained his sight and gained understanding.

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At his conversion St. Paul admitted his failures just as in the parable Jesus shared in today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14.

"O God, be merciful to me a sinner." God hears the cry of those who sincerely, and humbly seek mercy and cautions those who think they are better than others - foolish righteousness. This was prophesized by Sirach in today's first reading. Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; he wrote that God hears the cry of the oppressed, orphaned, widowed, and those who serve God, for he is just.

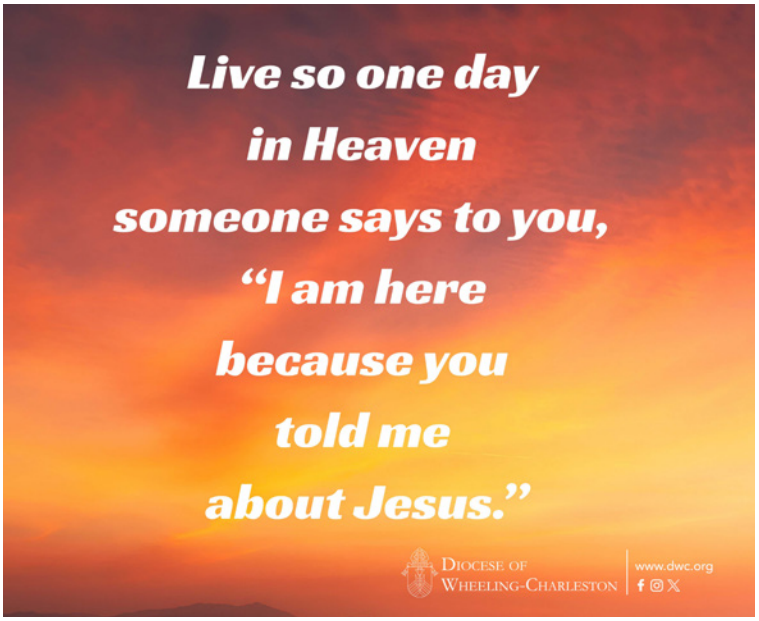
At his baptism he took the name of Paul. We honor him as one of the most important and influential of all the saints through his letters and writings, which have influenced the growth of the Church and the faithful for centuries.

We need to ask ourselves daily, can we aim to be confident like St. Paul? Are we willing to share Christ? Freely? Lovingly? Naturally? Even when we may feel deserted?

Saint Paul wrote, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing" (2Timothy 4:7-8).

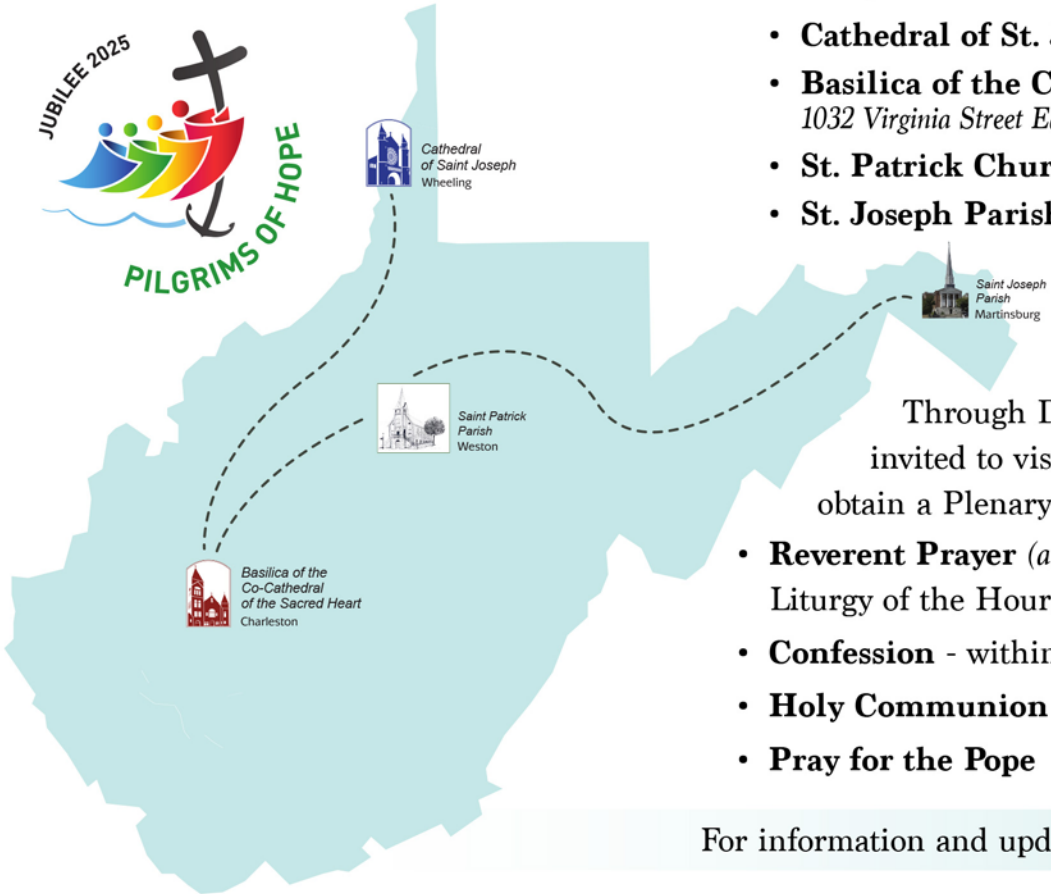
Humble prayers and Christian actions will earn a glorious entry into heaven.

Live to be like St. Paul, so that one day in Heaven another humble soul may come up to you and simply say, "I am here because you told me about Jesus."



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*

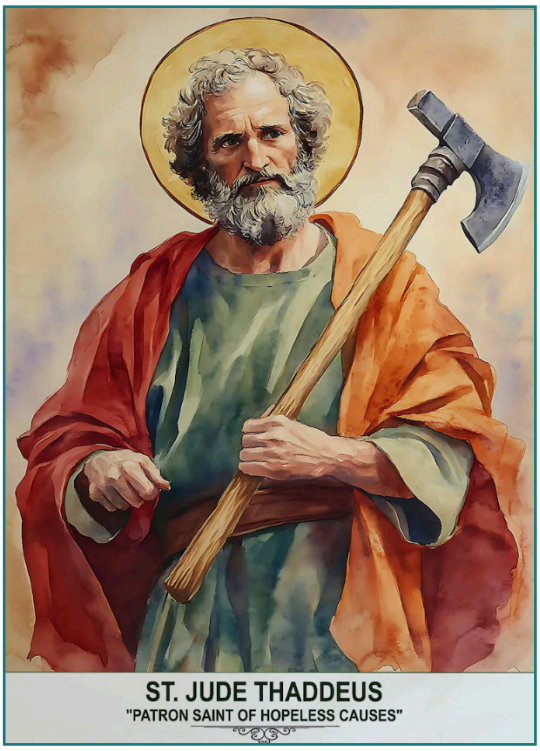
Through December 28, 2025, Catholics are invited to visit any and all of these locations to obtain a Plenary Indulgence by completing:

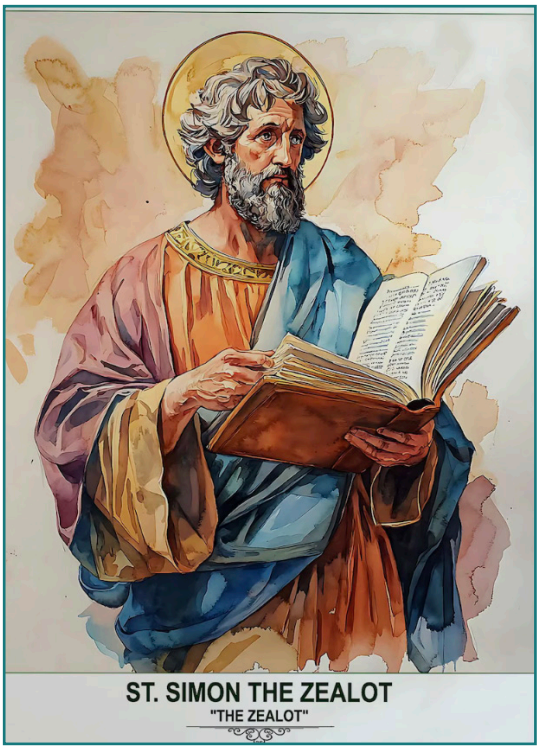
- **Reverent Prayer** *(at site)*: Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Liturgy of the Hours, or Mass.
- **Confession** - within 20 days before or after pilgrimage.
- **Holy Communion**
- **Pray for the Pope**

For information and updates go to: dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025

THE SAINT FOR THE DESPERATE AND THE FANATICAL SAINT

CELEBRATE SAINTS JUDE AND SIMON ON OCTOBER 28





Named tenth and eleventh in the sequence of the apostles, Saints Jude and Simon were followers of Christ with little notoriety but echo great lessons - be strong and courageous. Share the love of Christ willingly and without hesitation.

At baptism and confirmation, we receive gifts of grace and courage to grow in and be a witness of our faith in word and deed. Through the sacraments and faith formation we are empowered to love God above all and through the best and worst of times.

While we don't know many details of Ss Jude and Simon, we do know Jesus hand-picked his apostles, and as such experienced the love of God firsthand.

They were at Christ's side following him in his three-year ministry witnessing many miracles and signs.

There were also present when He was charged with blasphemy and arrested after being betrayed by one of their own, Judas.

They suffered in the shadows of the Passion.

They rejoiced in the resurrection of Jesus.

They stood in awe at the Ascension.

Ten days later the Holy Spirit descended like tongues of fire upon them and miraculously they became fluent in many different languages so people of all nations could understand them as they preached about the lessons and promises of Christ.

Both men were known by other names during their lives. Jude was also known as "Jude Thaddeus." People used this formal title to distinguish Jude from Judas Iscariot the betrayer. Simon was often called "the Zealot" so not to be confused with Simon Peter. A zealot was a political activist, but also fanatical in pursuit of religious beliefs. He was strongly committed to the following of Jewish law, but his relationship with Jesus changed his focus to be a committed follower of the Messiah and His teachings.

Church historians believe both Jude Thaddeus and Simon the Zealot were relatives of Jesus.

They were martyred in Persia.

Pray for them to intercede for us as we proceed down life's challenging path. Call upon them to give us the courage to share our love of Christ in our words, character, and actions.

The paintings of St. Simon the Zealot and St. Jude are by PouDecor available at: www.etsy.com/shop/PouDecor

Blessed Chiara, Pray for Us

Courageous Teen on Her Way to Sainthood

They prayed so hard for a child. God blessed them with a little girl – a child that is on her way to sainthood. Wednesday is her birthday.

It took more than 10 years for Ruggero and Maria Teresa Badano of Sassello, Italy, to have the baby. On October 29, 1971, they welcomed their sweet baby girl – Chiara Bandano. Her parents said she had a heart of gold. She grew up in a home where the example of virtue and the witness of Christ's love and the love of the Blessed Mother formed her conscience and taught her discipline. From an early age, Chiara was known for her generous, outgoing, and genuine personality.

Her life was cut short though. She died of cancer just before her 19th birthday. She accepted her pain and terminal illness with grace.

At the age of four her mother told Chiara they should give a few of her old toys to charity, but young Chiara made of pile of her new toys to give.

When she was nine, she attended a Catholic family festival in Rome with her parents, where she learned about the Focolare Movement founded by Chiara Lubich. She was empowered by the experience, and the group became her passion. The Focolare Movement is a group of faithful focused on the Forsaken Jesus and committed to living the Gospel, building a more united world where diversity is valued and respected.

Blessed Chiara Badano's friends describe her as cute, athletic, and a good friend with a compassionate faith-filled heart. Her parents were often told "You have a daughter who is not of this world," because of the extraordinary genuine kindness she showed.

The ultimate test of her faith came the summer when she was 17 years old. She had a sudden shoulder pain that forced her to stop playing tennis. Her doctor thought it was a broken rib, so they treated her for that, but the pain did not subside. Upon further examination it was discovered she had osteogenic sarcoma with metastases – a painful and debilitating bone cancer that was spreading. During her first chemo sessions she lost the use of her legs.

Her pain was within her body but also overwhelming the minds and hearts of her parents for the two years she fought the progressive cancer.

Her father said, "Certainly she offered this pain to

Jesus. . .. What always helped us in those years was the presence of Jesus among us, trying to offer Him this suffering, the only way we knew how, the three of us together, and each of us on our own: so that He would give us the strength."

In her words she accepted the suffering, "for you Jesus. If you want it, I want it too!" The Badanos said they would come up to the door of her room and hear her singing. While they knew she was in immense pain she still found it in her heart to get through it by focusing on her faith and all that was good.

She was an inspiration for her family, friends, and religious who visited with her. Her mother wrote that on the day she died Bl. Chiara was able to receive Holy Communion – her food for her heavenly journey.

She passed away on Oct. 7, 1990, just three weeks shy of her 19th birthday.

The Bl. Chiara Badano Foundation has more information on her life and light in the world at: www.chiarabadano.org/en/

Her inspiration is also the subject of a book produced by the foundation, *In my Staying, Is Your Going – the life and thoughts of Chiara Luce Badano.*

A TIME TO WALK TOGETHER IN FAITH

HALLOWEEN • ALL SAINTS' DAY • ALL SOULS' DAY

As October ends and the month of November begins, we enter into Hallowtide—three days that shine light into the darkness:

- October 31 – All Hallows' Eve (Halloween)
- November 1 – All Saints' Day
- November 2 –All Souls' Day

These sacred days are not really a season of fear, but rather one of hope, remembrance, and unity with the Communion of Saints.

ALL HALLOWS' EVE: ROOTED IN FAITH

Yes—Halloween has Catholic roots! The word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve", the vigil before All Saints' Day. It was once a time when Christians prepared their hearts through prayer, remembering both the saints who now share eternal life with God and the reality of our own mortality.

Images of skeletons, tombs, and darkness can remind us of the great mystery of life after death—but as Christians, we know death is not the end. Just as Lazarus emerged from the tomb wrapped in burial cloth, Christ calls us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

As we participate in Halloween festivities, let us do so with joyful awareness of what we celebrate the next day. Dressing up, laughing together, or lighting a pumpkin candle can all be moments to honor the light of Christ that overcomes every darkness.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." — John 1:5

ALL SAINTS' DAY: OUR HEAVENLY FAMILY

On November 1, we rejoice in the great cloud of witnesses—all holy men and women, known and unknown, who now stand before the throne of God. These are our role models, our intercessors, and our heavenly cheering section.

Martyrs like St. Lucy, St. Joan of Arc, and St. Charles Lwanga remind us of the cost of discipleship and the power of courage. Saints like St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and countless others show us everyday holiness. Pope Francis beautifully compares the saints to stained-glass windows:

"They are not perfect models, but people whose lives God has crossed—allowing His light to pass through them in unique colors."

This feast day is a reminder that each of us is called to be a saint. Not perfect, but persevering. Not flawless, but faithful.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us." — Hebrews 12:1

Consider creating a Litany of Saints in your home

or parish: list your patron saints, your Confirmation saint, and those who inspire you. Thank God for their example and ask for their intercession.

ALL SOULS' DAY: PRAYING FOR OUR LOVED ONES

The very next day, November 2, we remember and pray for all the faithful departed, especially those in purgatory who are being purified in the love of God.

The Church teaches that purgatory is not a place of despair but a state of hope—where souls are made ready for the joy of Heaven. St. Catherine of Genoa wrote that in purgatory, "day by day. . . happiness grows as God flows into these souls, more and more."

Our prayers truly make a difference. Jesus promised St. Gertrude the Great said that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time herprayer is offered devoutly:

"Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

Throughout November remember the souls of the departed - offer Masses, pray the Rosary, light candles, visit cemeteries, and perform acts of mercy. These spiritual works of mercy draw us closer to God—and to each other.

"May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

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

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!!

Candlelight Rosary Procession & Mass

Join us for an outdoor Candlelight Rosary Procession as we pray for our Church, our world, and our families.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025
7:00 PM

Procession begins at ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH (2111 Market Street, Wheeling) and ends with Holy Mass at the CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH (1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling)

ST. PAUL CENTER

PARISH EVENT

Scott Hahn in Wheeling, WV

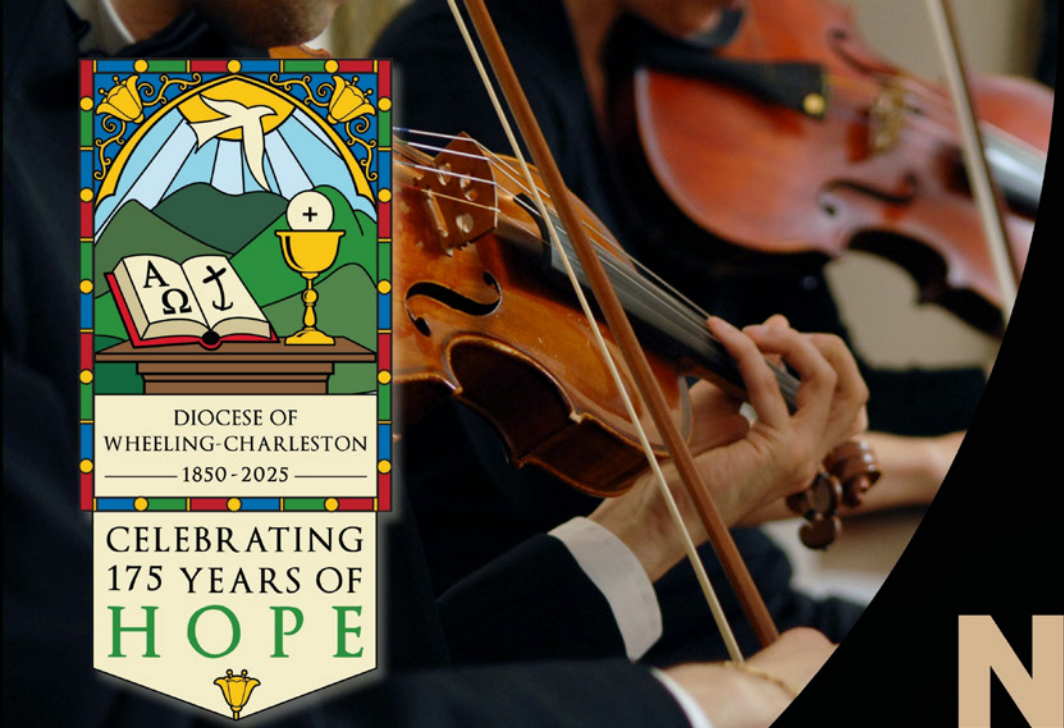
The Catholic Church: Family of God, Body of Christ

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



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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18
God hears the cry of the oppressed, orphaned, widowed, and those who serve God for he is just.

Responsorial: Psalm 34
"The Lord hears the cry of the poor."

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Saint Paul writes to Timothy – St. Paul's end of this life is near, but he is confident in his faith and actions even when others deserted him. The crown of righteousness awaits those who long for the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14
"O God, be merciful to me a sinner." God hears the cry of those who humbly seek mercy and cautions those who think they are better than others - foolish righteousness.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we remain humble in prayer, seeking Christ's mercy and recognizing it is better to serve others as a sign of our love for God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those in public office, that they serve the lowly, the poor, orphaned, and widowed, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may cherish every human life, from conception to natural death, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who have kept the faith through trials and abandonment, that they may be welcomed by Christ into the heavenly kingdom, 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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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.