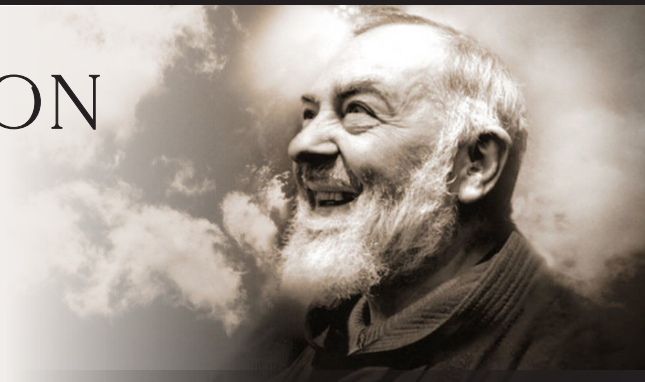




SEEK THE INTERCESSION OF ST. PADRE PIO

“After my death I will do more....”



SAINT PADRE PIO (Saint Pius Pietrelcina) is a rock star saint (with all due respect).

His feast day is Sept. 23rd. Catholics and non-Catholics alike sought his advice and spiritual guidance.

He lived from 1887 to 1968. Today’s popular Catholic influencers quote him frequently, because of his devotion to the Eucharist, the Rosary, and the guardian angel Christ assigned him.

Even as a child he was devoted to prayer, announcing to his parents at the age of five he wanted to live his life for Christ for there would nothing more meaningful.

Saint Padre Pio wasn’t a push over, didn’t patronize people, or just tell them what they wanted to hear. Sure, he was known as a lovable and humble, but he was respected as an obedient servant of God. Even until his last breath, he was also known as one who fiercely defended Christ and stood firm in convictions to cast out evil and demons ruining the lives of God’s people, the Church, and the world.

He is the only priest in history to have the stigmata – the wounds of Christ to his hands, feet, and side. He referred to his daily prayers as his conversations with God.

“In books we seek God, in prayer we find Him,” he said. “Prayer is the key which opens God’s heart.”

Ordained in 1910 and in 1916 was assigned to San Giovanni Rotondo in Apulia, Italy, where he would be for 52 years. He was so popular he would spend up to 12 hours a day hearing confessions of Catholics and non-Catholics.

He celebrated Mass with “extraordinary devotion,” leaving no doubt that the Eucharist was the Real Presence of Christ.

The stigmata happened on Sept. 20, 1918, after celebrating Mass.

In St. Pio’s words he said, *“while I was giving thanks to the choir, I was repeatedly overcome by trembling. Later I became calm again*

and I saw our Lord as if He were on the cross.... He was showing that He was suffering and that He desired to unite souls to His Passion. He invited me to enter into His sufferings and to mediate upon them; and at the same time to concern myself with the health of the brothers. Immediately I felt full of compassion for the sufferings of the Lord and I asked Him what I could do. I heard this voice: ‘I unite you to my Passion’. And immediately, the vision having disappeared, I came to and I saw these signs from which blood was flowing. I did not have them before.”

Saint Padre Pio hid his wounds on his hands with gloves. His wounds brought pain and bled day after day.

He was so universally popular he had to have a team of friars help him with the thousands of letters written to him. Interesting to note, in 1962, Bishop Karol Wojtyla, later Pope John Paul II, was one of those petitioners. He asked Padre Pio to pray for a dear friend, Dr. Wanda Poltawska, who had cancer. Miraculously, Dr. Poltawska’s cancer was found to have degenerated, and doctors could not offer an explanation. Many have said Padre Pio said Wojtyla would become Pope.

When he passed away on Sept. 23, 1968, at the age of 81, he had a rosary in his hands and said, “Jesus. Mary,” over and over. Upon his death his wounds that did not heal for five decades were no longer visible.

Ask for his intercession, before his passing he said, “After my death I will do more. My real mission will begin after my death.”

Enrich your faith and read more about him. His life was full of miracles and almost fantastical unexplained occurrences that were documented by the Church such as his wounds having the ever-pleasing odor of sanctity (the aroma of flowers), ability to know what people were going to say before they said it, bilocation (being in two places at once), visions of Jesus, Mary, and his guardian angel.

OUR LADY OF MERCY

OUR MOTHERLY
PROTECTOR
SEPTEMBER 24



In a meeting room of the historic St. Alphonsus Church in the Centre Market section of Wheeling, sits a replica of a statue “the Ravensburg Virgin of Mercy” by German artist Michel Erhart, created around 1480.

On Tuesday, September 24th we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy.

This medieval statue is like the original from the high altar of the Church of Our Lady in Ravensburg, which

illuminates what the holy feast is all about – a day to reflect how we all wrapped in her mantle (cloak) and when we adore Christ and honor her, we will forever be protected by our Blessed Mother.

Let us pray to our Blessed Mother a greeting of petition and intercession. God Almighty chose her to bring us her Son. We love her as God’s mother. She is our hope, magnifying Christ’s life on earth, His love, His mercy, and His reign in Heaven.

**Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.**

**To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this exile
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.**

**O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.**



DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON SEMINARIANS

"The world looks to the Priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone sees the Priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord!"

-Pope St. John Paul II



JOURDEN TRAVIS MOGER
Fourth Theology
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
St. James the Greater, Charles Town



CLEIFTON MASTRAN
Fourth Theology
Pope St. John XXIII Seminary
St. John, Wehsburg



DOMINIC RE
Second Theology
Mount Saint Mary's Seminary
St. Peter and Paul, Oak Hill



MICHAEL AIELLO
Second Theology
Mount St. Mary's Seminary
Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston



BRYAN TEDESCHI
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CHRISTOPHER NELSON
First College
St. John Paul II Seminary
St. James the Greater, Charles Town



BISHOP MARK E. BRENNAN
Bishop of the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



REV. FR. BRIAN J. CRENWELGE
Director of Vocations
brenwelge@dcz.org





Year of Mission
Walk +++
with **One**
++++



FOCUS ON LISTENING

In the United States our conference of Catholic Bishops (the USCCB) has had us focusing on the National Eucharistic Revival for the last three years, with this third year (2024-2025) designated as the “Year of Mission – Walk with One.”

The universal Church and our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called us to the “Year of Prayer” in 2024 - while still moving to be a more united Church through our “Synod for Synodality” - as preparation of the “Jubilee Year of 2025 - a Year of Hope.

For many - faithful, clergy, and religious alike - these themes and initiatives get lost or can be considered burdensome. Switch that mindset. We can easily welcome and celebrate these initiatives to grow in faith and closer to God - for that is the common thread.

Director of Evangelization and Catechesis Daniel Maul encourages all to unite and incorporate all of these events into one another, by “listening.”

“Prayer is so much more than just talking to and at God occasionally, on they fly, in a rush, as we need it,” Maul said. “Prayer requires listening. It does so because the entire Christian life amounts to love: love of God and love of neighbor, which are linked. And love begins with and is maintained by listening. Prayer is a form of actively loving God (as is service to our neighbor), and, as such, it requires us intentionally to give God the time we need in order to be able to listen to Him.”

As we work to unite towards a Synodal Church, Maul suggests focusing on two quotes. The first from Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta and the second from Bishop Mark Brennan.

Mother Teresa’s listening aspect of prayer:

“We... are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper silence and aloneness with God, together as a community as well as personally. To be alone with Him - not with our books, thoughts, and memories but completely stripped of everything - to dwell lovingly in His presence. Silent, empty, expectant, and motionless. We cannot find God in noise or agitation.”

In his homily from August 22, 2024, celebrating his fifth anniversary as the shepherd of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Brennan said it is, “Listening to God enables us to do good works”

The Year of Mission is a time we can focus on good works to benefit others, extending an invitation to another to come into or back to the Church (Walk with One). In doing so we should listen to God as to whom to invite and then listening to their voice - that of the person(s) you have been praying for.

“Mission is Evangelization, and evangelization begins with listening,” he said. “Mission is being sent out into the world bringing the message and reality of the Love and Truth of Jesus Christ. Prayer and Acts of Mercy (C corporal and Spiritual) - we have to listen to God, first, in prayer, and we have to listen to our neighbor, in order to know what they need. Do not give them answers to questions that they don’t have. Listen for their concerns, first.

Look forward to the Jubilee 2025 - Year of Hope, a time to be grateful that every single one of our joys in life stem from God.

“Hope needs joy in order for it to be sustained,” Maul said. “Joy comes only from Jesus Christ, not from the things or situations of this world and earthly life.”

It is joy that casts out worry and fear, he said, adding, “We cannot participate in the Mission of Christ, if we are racked with worry and fear.”

It is St. Teresa who ties beautifully the lesson that joy is the result of Christ and Christ is the answer to unrest; so, rest all of your hope in the Lord.

“Jesus is the source of my joy, not anything in this world,” she said. “I go to prayer, every day, so He can fill me with His joy. When I am weary and discouraged, I go and sit with Jesus. He invited us to do that. ‘Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

To have a strong faith and be confident to Walk with One; to find hope and put aside doubt; and to feel and be able to give love we must be first listen, Maul said. Do not be distracted by themes, titles, or initiatives - listen.

By listening welcome opportunities in our local, national and world-wide Church as opportunities to grow in faith, which ultimately brings you closer to God.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission

Walk with One

In the Silence He Spoke

By Maria Zalduondo of Sacred Heart Parish, Bluefield

QUESTION: What experience from attending the National Eucharistic Congress changed you, inspiring you to Walk with One - take ownership of your own faith formation and encourage others to do the same?

ANSWER: Nightly Adoration. We were always in anticipation of this sacred moment when the secular stadium was converted into sacred space.

In this space we invited Jesus to dwell with us.

And in the silence (the silence of tens of thousands of people), He spoke to our hearts and minds, powerfully filling many of us with His Presence, love and joy.

It was very beautiful to see so many in the stadium kneeling reverently and praying - young and old, families with babes in arms, all kneeling in reverence to the King of Kings.

These experiences and singing "I want more of you God" led me to want to help our parish set aside (an hour) of prayer.

Our Centering Prayer group (at Sacred Heart) is now sponsoring (a Holy Hour), with the blessing of Fr. Sebastian: a commitment to keep our beautiful 100-year-old Sacred Heart church open for prayer from 12-1pm during the work week for anyone to sit in contemplation and prayer during that time.

Editor's note: as we shared personal experiences from the National Eucharistic Congress each week written by our fellow WV faithful, let us all commit to Walk with One, sharing the Light of Christ and how His Presence - this moment in our Church - has been and can be life changing for each of one of us.



Maria Zalduondo is pictured at far right with (from left to right) Loretta Hammond, Fr. Sebastian Devasya, and Mary Malamisura (all of Sacred Heart) on the morning of the National Eucharistic Congress' Eucharistic Procession with more than 80,000 in attendance.



CELEBRATE

THESE SIGNIFICANT SAINTS THIS WEEK



SAINTS COSMAS AND DAMIAN – They were twin brothers, doctors, and Third Century martyrs. Their memorial day is Sept. 26.

We hardly know anything about them, but as a Church we call out their names, honoring them in the Mass. Their names were mentioned in tandem in the ancient Roman Canon – today it’s the First Eucharistic Prayer.

Consider this – they are definitely in heaven praying for each one of us to grown in love in order to hear Christ’s call for our lives.

Although they were born in Arabia, once educated they took their health care expertise to Turkey. Legend tells us they lived out Christ’s call to heal the sick as we read in Matthew 10:8. They did this out of charity not seeking payment or financial gain.

Living during a time when Christians were despised – they were apprehended, tortured, mocked, and crucified because of their Christianity.

Despite this agony they were subjected to, they did not die on the cross. So, they were taken down and beheaded.

As our priests mention in the First Eucharistic Prayer before the Consecration, we venerate Cosmas and Damian and all the saints, and ask “through their merits and prayers, in all things we may be defended by your protecting help. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

The painting is by 16th Century artist Jean Bourdichon.

The Feast Day of **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** is Sept. 27. He is known for his service to the poorest of the poor.

Did you know St. Vincent de Paul was captured by pirates and then sold into slavery? He was! He was able to escape. Be grateful for God’s plan to give us this heroic saint, one whose quotes are so relevant and relatable even today for all ages.

Be confident Christ will always protect you and be at your side. Yes, we will stumble and face challenges but those who love God will be victorious.

“The children of our Lord walk gladly in His ways; they have confidence in him, and so when they fall, they rise again...”

Fittingly for our American focus on Eucharistic Revival it is St. Vincent who reminds us that the Eucharist commits us to holiness - “Do you not feel, my brothers, do you not feel this divine fire burning in your chest, when you receive the adorable Body of Jesus Christ in communion? Understanding this helps us to ‘become what we are, the Body of Christ.’”

Need motivation to do what is right, pray for St. Vincent’s intercession by using his own prayer, when he was on this earth, “God grant us the grace to see things with the same eyes as you do.”

SAINT LORENZO RUIZ and his companions are honored by the Church on Sept. 28.

Saint Lorenzo Ruiz is the first Filipino saint, also known as San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila.

We recall his story on Sept. 28th which some believe is the anniversary of his martyrdom.

His Chinese father taught him Chinese, and his Filipino mother taught him Tagalog. Both of his parents were Catholic. Lorenzo served at the convent of Binondo church as an

...continue





altar boy. After a few years Lorenzo earned the title of “escribano” (notary). He became a member of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary.

He loved and honored reverently the Blessed Mother, a devotion which he later passionately passed along to his wife, two sons and daughter.

While working as a clerk at the Binondo Church he became a scapegoat for Spanish authorities who had falsely accused him of killing a Spaniard in 1636. The Spanish rulers in the Philippines discriminated against anyone who was Filipino-Chinese, considering them the lowest of all social classes.

Lorenzo was forced to leave his country in order to seek asylum on board a ship with three Dominican priests, Saint Antonio Gonzalez, Saint Guillermo Courtet, Saint Miguel de Aozaraza, a Japanese priest: Saint Vicente Shiwozuka de la Cruz, and a layman named Saint Lazaro of Kyoto, a leper. The group thought they were escaping to Macao (China’s southern coast) to do missionary work, but the ship took them toward Okinawa, Japan – who were merciless to all known Christians who preach on their land.

The group did manage to dodge authorities at first. Then while celebrating Mass in a secluded village, they were caught. The Shogun leader tried to bargain with them, telling them he would let them go if they all denounced Christ. They refused and were tortured in unthinkable ways -

Sharpened bamboo sticks were hammered into their fingernails and toes, and Lorenzo was hanged upside down and his head buried in a pit filled with human and animal waste. Lorenzo, however, in his dying breath replied: “I am a Catholic. If I had a thousand lives, I shall offer them all to God!”

Editor’s Note: To learn more about St. Lorenzo Ruiz join Fr. Carlos Melocoton a presenter for the part 20/20 Vision Series – A Year with the Saints. The presentation will begin at 7pm on Sept. 30. You must register with Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org (\$15). This live online presentation is brought to you by the Office of Consecrated Life and St. Joseph Retreat Center.

(The sculpture of St. Lorenzo is by Suzanne M. Young).

This saint’s grandmother gave him the best gift one could give – his faith. **SAINT WENCESLAUS**, known also as Vaclav the Good, was born in Prague in 907 and the son of royalty. His father was Catholic and his mother a pagan. When Wenceslaus was about 12, his father died a tragic death for being Christian, Wenceslaus’s mother let all know she was proud to be anti-Christian.

It was Wenceslaus’s grandmother, St. Ludmila who taught him - all about Christianity. For that his mother and the anti-Christian tyrants eventually killed Ludmila.

The tyrants took overrule, but in 922 St. Wenceslaus regained the throne. His brother, who like his mother, declared Christians evil. The two conjured up a plan with the anti-Christian Bohemians (Bohemia is now Czech Republic) to persuade Wenceslaus to come to a religious festival, and when Wenceslaus was on his way to Mass, he was killed. The year was 935.

Does his name sound familiar? Well, St. Wenceslaus is also known as Good King Wenceslaus the main character for a Christmas carol with one of the most popular recordings by Bing Crosby. Crosby crooned the song that defines the spirit of Christmas for many – the lyrics describe how honorable St. Wenceslaus braving the bitter winter to give alms to the poor as charitable kindness on the Feast of St. Stephen (Dec. 26).

Crosby didn’t write the carol. The words of the song were written in 1853 by John Mason Neale, and the melody was from a 13th century song. Here Bing Crosby’s recording here: [YOUTU.BE/CVoANsKNLLs?si=A_UvPFJMR_JKV5FE](https://youtu.be/CVoANsKNLLs?si=A_UvPFJMR_JKV5FE)



GOOD KING WENCESLAS

20/20 VISION SERIES

A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

Join us as we journey throughout the year focusing on various Saints and their legacies, presented by those among us who live out these legacies in their lives and in their communities.

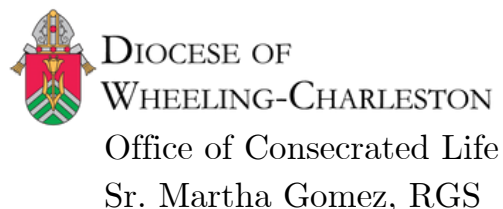
Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

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|--------------|---|
| January 29 | St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Sr. Mary Clark, SC |
| February 26 | St. Brigid of Kildare – Sr. Karen Kirby, CSJ |
| March 18 | St. Joseph – Sr. Kathleen Durkin, CSJ |
| April 29 | St. Mary Euphrasia – Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S. |
| May 20 | Blessed Virgin Mary – TBD |
| June 24 | Marcellin Champagnat – Brother John Byrd, FMS |
| July 29 | St. Ignatius of Loyola – Lou Volpe |
| August 26 | St. Dominic – Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP |
| September 30 | St. Lorenzo Ruiz – Fr. Carlos Melocoton |
| October 28 | Jesuit Martyrs – TBD |
| November 18 | Servant of God Dorothy Day – Kate Marshall |
| December 16 | St. Stephan – Deacon John Yaquinta |

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.

RSVP – Anna Marie Troiani: atroiani@csjoseph.org





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Learn more at collection.catholic.edu

Sept. 28-29 Masses



THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Let us condemn him to a shameful death.

Responsorial: Psalm 54

“The Lord upholds my life.”

Second Reading: James 3:16-4:3

Jealously and selfishness bring conflict. Avoid it and be righteous and sow peace.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

On their journey through Galilee, Jesus tells his disciples that the Son of Man is to be handed over and killed. But they did not understand. Instead, they chose to argue who was the best among them. Christ sat the 12 down saying the first shall be last and the last first.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, and all the clergy that they may model peace and righteousness for all to witness, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all children, born and unborn, may be valued by our society, embraced by their families, and kept safe from harm, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That this season of autumn bring a blessed and bountiful harvest recognized as a gift from God Our Father for not only farmers, but also migrant workers, food handlers, and consumers, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all whom we have hurt by our self-centeredness, jealousies, and rivalries, may God bless them and protect them from harm, as we work to build bridges to establish peace and accord among others and ourselves, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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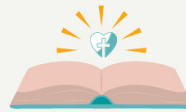
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| Berkeley Springs | FM | 107.9 |
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| Dunbar - Charleston | AM | 1450 |
| Eastern Panhandle - coming soon | FM | 88.5 |
| Grafton - Clarksburg | AM | 1190 |
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| St. Marys - Parkersburg | FM | 105.3 |
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Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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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.