



## FIND ETERNAL PEACE AND JOY IN THE RESURRECTED CHRIST



Today's Gospel (Luke 24:35-48) describes the moment when the two disciples who encountered Christ on the road to Emmaus returned to the 11 Apostles. As they gathered Jesus appeared and stood before them all, greeting them with, "Peace be with you."

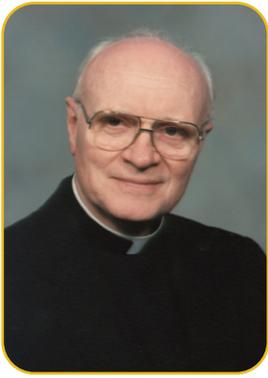
Christ did this to truly make himself known to them and to us. He is and will always be our Merciful Lord and King of Peace.

Once they recognized Him, and could see and touch his hands and feet, they were overjoyed.

Jesus invites us to see and find peace with him. Do not be afraid for He will always be with us.

Christ lives and reigns forever. Let the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones today and every day.

*Editor's note: the painting featured with this article is *The Resurrected Lord* by Del Parson and available at: [delparson.com](http://delparson.com)*



# FINAL HOMILY OF FR. JEROME MCKENNA SENDS MESSAGE FOR US ALL

*“There is no greater joy than to go to bed at night and to know I’ve given God my best.”*

*- From Fr. Jerome McKenna’s last ever Easter homily, March 31, 2024*



The 3 pm hour on Divine Mercy Sunday – the hour that is considered a privileged time, when Christ died on the Cross; and the Divine Mercy hour when we are to mindfully put ourselves at the foot of the Cross – this was the hour, six days shy of his 94th birthday, that Father Jerome McKenna, passed away.

Father Jerome McKenna was born on April 13, 1930, and died April 7, 2024. Although in his 90s, Fr. Jerome was very active in his ministry, serving as pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Roman Catholic Church in Atlanta.



A native of Pittsburgh, Fr. Jerome’s First Profession into the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ as on July 17, 1951, and was ordained a priest on April 25, 1958.

Those in West Virginia know Fr. Jerome as pastor of parishes in Preston County from 1981-2000. In 1987, he started a youth camp held in Huttonsville for the children of his parishes. The camp was later named Camp McKenna after him and his family, who helped with the funding for it. Camp McKenna is now in its 36th year.



In 2000, Father Jerome’s Passionist ministry continued in an executive staff position, serving the entire Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as the director of diocesan planning and pastoral services. Then he served the diocese as the Vicar General from 2005-2009.

It was in 2009, his congregation moved his ministry to St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Atlanta, where he was loved beyond measure. In a letter late Sunday to parishioners announcing the padre’s passing, the parish staff noted, “We have lost a wonderful person and pastor today, and we will never be the same without Fr. Jerome in our lives. May God’s grace surround our congregation during this time of loss and may our pastor’s legacy continue to inspire and guide us.”



In what would be Father Jerome’s last ever Easter Mass homily (March 31, 2024), his sincere words, tone of his voice, and accentuating gestures are certainly a lasting inspiration for all to hear and take heed.

The following are excerpts of his opening comments and homily from that Easter Mass at St. Paul of the Cross (the homily was shared with permission of the Georgia parish on our Facebook page at [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESEOFWHEELINGCHARLESTON)):



*Easter Mass! This is the greatest day of the Christian year - the greatest day in world history!  
The Lord throws a challenge out to us not from the grave, but His glorious Risen Body. He calls us to share in His life as we travel our journey in life to really join him in the fullness of life that only God can offer us in and through Jesus.*

*continue...*

*The Lord never really leaves us unchallenged.*

*God is patient with us.*

*The Word of God is always powerful. It's always penetrating if we have ears to hear, eyes to see and a heart – really – open. The Word of God... makes us come alive, not through our own power, not through our own ability. All we have to do is to open ourselves through Almighty God and allow the Spirit of God to enter in... to make us that new person God calls us to be.*

*We take life for granted. We live for what we see and hear and taste and touch. We always have to have proof of everything. (But) God didn't create us for this world.*

*He never gives us up on us. He sees all of us as His children whether we are old, whether we are young, and all in between. (Let us) focus on a life well lived for the Glory of God.*

*We are not here for nothing. You and I through our baptism are incorporated in the life of the Risen Lord. We are members of the living body of Christ. God works through everyone. We through our calling - through our special bond of baptism – are to announce to the world that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We have to really proclaim that loudly and clearly by the way we live, by the way we act, and by the way we carry out the affairs of our life – not just our personal life, but our social life as well.*

*God wants to see in us - as we live in this world - a reflection of Jesus.*

*What a task we have before us! The Lord never leaves us unchallenged. The challenge is always there – 'become the people God wants us to be.' He needs our cooperation.*

*We are called to that renewal – recommitment of our baptismal vows.*

*It is really very extremely important to understand who we are, and what we are about, and what our task is. As long as we live in this world, we know we are children of God.*

*We can say 'no' to God because we are selfish. We're concerned with 'what I want – me, myself, and I.' Selfishness is a struggle of original sin. Get rid of selfishness!*

*Being here (at Mass shows) you want to be a better person. (You want to) share more fully in the Risen Lord.*

*God knows – there are far too many people that are less fortunate than you and me. They have not been touched by the Risen Lord. That is where you and I enter the picture. We are called to be Christ (for others). We can move mountains with the intent faith and power Jesus prayed with. Gather here to offer supreme prayer – the prayer of Jesus - and join Him, (be) in union with Him. We can give God no greater gift!*

*We have to look at reality -what kind of society we live in today.*

*It's very divisive. There is a lot of hate, a lot of vengeance. There's a lot of murder. There's a lot of racism. You name it and it's there. The world and especially our society today is changing – (unrecognizable) elements of even being human. The way we treat one another.... There are so many people today that are the victim - victimized by the attitude of others who see themselves superior to a sister and brother in the flesh. We can't afford that! We dare not do that, because we are Christian. We sing it. It was said by the Romans, 'They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. They will know we are Christian by our love!' And that love is not exclusive! It's total embracement and we have to show that love to our neighbor.*

*How are you going to teach them about God? (It's) by the way we live – actions are louder than words. Be faithfully active in regard to our neighbor.*

*We have a duty to fulfill. We have a beautiful ministry to share with our neighbor. Let's get to work!*

*There is no greater joy than to go to bed at night and to know I've given God my best.*

*Let's do our part!*

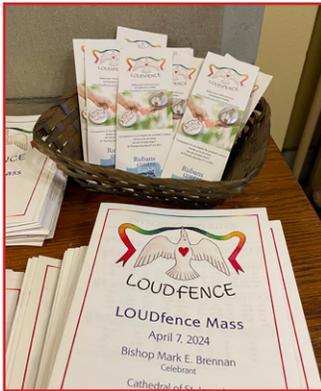
*Let's all do our part to really be the people God calls us to be and to rely constantly on His grace and His blessing and the guidance of His spirit which never really guides us in the wrong direction in order that we might in our own time - whether we are young or whether we are old - fulfill the will of God and bring the world back to the Kingdom that God has planned for us all."*



A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 am, Friday, April 19, at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, 148 Monastery Avenue, Pittsburgh. Interment immediately following Mass in Passionist Cemetery.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will hold a memorial Mass, at 12:05 pm, Tuesday, April 23, to celebrate the life of Fr. Jerome McKenna, C.P. (This Mass will be live-streamed).

# DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON WAS FIRST TO HOLD LOUDFENCE CEREMONY IN THE U.S.



More than 200 people attended the 10:30 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph for Divine Mercy Sunday and our welcome of the LOUDfence to the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and the Americas.

LOUDfence is an international organization that started out of compassion more than three years ago in the small town of Cumbria, England, to support survivors of abuse, as well as the faithful who care and pray for healing, hope, and change.

The event in Wheeling was the first ever outside of Europe.

Hosting a LOUDfence is a way to bring a hushed and taboo topic into a healthy conversation and a visible act of solidarity not only in support of victims and survivors of abuse in our churches, families, and society, but also in support of continued and improved safeguarding - the protection of children and adults.



Ribbons were tied on the fencing and railings around the outside of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Each ribbon is representative of a prayer, a sign of hope, and a solidarity for compassionate healing in our churches, organizations, and families.

LOUDfence founder, Antonia Sobocki of Cumbria, England, praised the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and Bishop Mark Brennan for bringing LOUDfence to WV and the Catholic Church of the US.

Sobocki was accompanied at the Cathedral by several LOUDfence members including Deacon Peter Collins of the Northampton Diocese in the UK.

Representatives from several dioceses in Pennsylvania were also in attendance in hopes to bring the event to their faithful.

“We want those who experienced abuse to experience healing and peace,” Bishop Brennan said in an interview with the Confraternity of St. Nicholas Founder, Adam Marquart, “We pray for the restoration of faith - faith lost because of abuse by clergy or others within the church.”



The event in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has now sparked interest of laity, religious, and clergy from around the United States and Canada, Sobocki said. “It’s incredible really to think that an ordinary mum started this all out of love and concern for the Church and compassion for victims of abuse. It brought me to Lourdes, to Rome, to an audience with Pope Francis, and now to America. God has a huge hand in this. I am just one person. God is the one with the plan.”

The ribbons, prayers, and notes that were part of the diocese’s LOUDfence are being preserved and will hopefully be included in an art piece to travel around the diocese before it is permanently placed to honor victims and survivors, as well as a reminder to be vigilant in our efforts to protect our children and adults.



# LOUDFENCE “WALK IN MY SHOES” EXHIBIT



While the colorful ribbons and prayers for the survivors and victims of abuse as part of our LOUDfence were prominently displayed on trees and railings outside of the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, inside the church it was another story – the “Walk in My Shoes” exhibit.

Patricia Debney of the LOUDfence organization, eloquently described the meaning of the displays as a respectful and poignant reminder.

It is a visual reminder that before you are too quick to judge another, before you express a cold opinion, be empathetic. Stop, and for a moment try to understand their situation – try to imagine what life would be like in their shoes. Stop, and in this House of God, pray.

“Each pair of shoes represents a person who has been abused,” she said. “They are of all ages and sizes from the smallest of children to the elders among us. They are shoes that were worn, and representative of a radiant life God created, but a life that was darkened by evil.”

Walking by the baptismal font or the Altar of the Holy Family one would see shoes representing adult laity who suffer abuse.

At the lectern were the shoes of priests, deacons,



and seminarians with a special declaration of purpose, “For the majority of priests who are innocent and have devoted their lives to serving God by serving us. When people label you as an abuser because of the actions of a minority, know that you are not alone. We are one church, and we support each other.”

At the center of the sanctuary in front of the altar, were dozens of shoes of little children each tied with a bright ribbon and tag that said, “See me.” The marker at this exhibit noted, “They were just children... One in three girls and one in six boys become victims of abuse before the age of 18. This cathedral must be a safe space for all of them.”

Attached to several pairs of these little shoes was a verse from the Gospel of Luke (17:2), “It were better for him that a millstone

were hanged about the neck and he cast into the sea than that he should offend one of these little ones.”

Shoes adorned with hand painted designs and gold leafing like the ones for priests, deacons, and seminarians were scattered about a fourth exhibit by the Bishop’s chair - one was specifically representative of those in religious orders “a cherished part of the church. If one part of the body of Christ is harmed, we are all harmed.”



## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

• PO Box 230, Wheeling, West Virginia 26003 •

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### DIOCESE NAMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, announced today that Jennifer Hornyak has been named superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



Hornyak has served as interim superintendent of Catholic Schools since July 1, 2023. She has been a part of the Department of Catholic Schools in the diocese for nearly 23 years. Hornyak served as the Associate Superintendent in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston for seven years. Prior to her role of associate superintendent, she served as the Director of Educational Technology. During her time at the diocese, Hornyak has worked with teachers and principals in many areas including educational technology, professional development, data analysis of assessment data, and school improvement. In addition to her work at the diocese, Jennifer is an adjunct instructor in the Educational Department at Wheeling University where she has taught both online and in-person education classes over the past ten years.

“I am pleased to appoint Jennifer Hornyak as superintendent of our Catholic Schools,” Bishop Brennan said. “Since being named interim superintendent, she has shown a great love not only for our students, but also for the staff and administration of our schools. She has shown a great commitment to our Catholic identity and has worked very hard to create a nurturing environment where students can learn and grow in love of Christ.”

Hornyak has earned two undergraduate degrees from Wheeling (Jesuit) University and a master’s degree in educational technology from Boise State University. She also earned a graduate certificate in School Technology Coordination from Boise State University. In addition, she has earned a Certificate in Catholic School Management from Villanova University.

“I am truly grateful for this opportunity to lead the Catholic schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,” Hornyak said. “It is a privilege to be entrusted with the responsibility of guiding our schools in faith formation and academic growth of our students. I am very proud of the strong tradition of Catholic education of providing intense academic rigor within the context of our Catholic faith, here in West Virginia. Our Catholic schools are a true gift to all of us.

“I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with our extremely dedicated principals, teachers, and staff to continue to make our schools the best that they can be. Working in partnership with parents, the primary teachers of their children, we have an important role to help each child recognize, develop, and share their God-given talents.”

Hornyak added that she is excited to see continued growth in Catholic schools across the diocese— from enrollment to academic achievements to spiritual formation. “I look forward to continuing to improve our schools for our students so that they are always part of a nurturing and supportive learning environment preparing them for academic successes and lifelong moral development shaped by the Catholic faith,” she said.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston provide a Christ-centered education to more than 4,500 students in six high schools and 18 elementary/middle schools in 13 counties in our state. For more information, please visit [WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WVCATHOLICSCHOOLS.ORG).

# COMMEMORATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENWOOD MINE DISASTER IN PRAYER

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston invites the public to a special prayer service at 4pm, Sunday, April 28, at Mt Calvary Cemetery, 1685 National Road, Wheeling, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Benwood mine disaster.

The event will honor the lives of 119 men and boys, who lost their lives as a result of two explosions within the Wheeling Steel Coal Mine in Benwood on April 28, 1924.

While the miners were from the surrounding communities on both side of the Ohio River, the majority were immigrants from Poland, Greece, Italy, Hungary, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Lithuania, and Ukraine. Notably many were also Catholic, belonging to St. John Parish in Benwood and St. Alphonsus Church in Wheeling.

The memorial on April 28th this year will take place at the site at Mt. Calvary, where the largest mass burial in Wheeling ever took place. In all 72 miners are buried at the Catholic cemetery. There are 65 buried at the Mass grave, where the gravesite service was conducted in three languages. Seven other miners were buried in other areas, including three Hungarian immigrant friends, whose families chose to have them buried together. Their names were Istvan Vargo, Ignac Orban, and Sandor Horvath.

Victims of the disaster including those miners who were burned beyond recognition were buried in a mass grave at Greenwood Cemetery across the street.



# WV DISASTER RELIEF COLLECTION

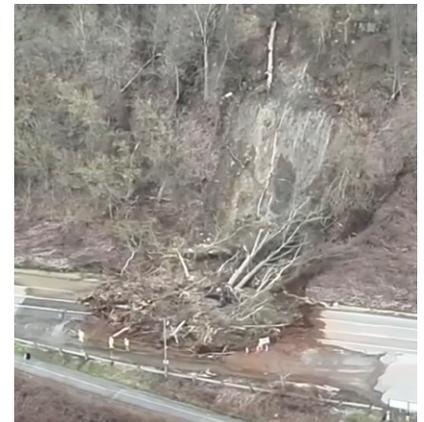
## APRIL 20-21

Efforts continue across the Mountain State after the severe flooding that occurred earlier this month. West Virginia encountered tornados, microbursts, strong winds, heavy rains, and mudslides. Several counties have experienced moderate-to-substantial flooding, notably along the Ohio River and its tributaries. The National Weather Service has confirmed 5 tornadoes in West Virginia – Huntington (Cabell/Wayne), St. Albans (Kanawha), Cross Lanes (Kanawha), Quick (Kanawha) and Lavista (Fayette). A State of Emergency has been declared in 17 West Virginia Counties.

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of April 20-21, 2024, in all parishes and missions throughout the diocese to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. Checks should be made out to your respective parish with “Disaster Relief” on the memo line. Donations can also be made on the diocesan website at [DWC.ORG/DISASTER-RELIEF/](http://DWC.ORG/DISASTER-RELIEF/).

Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities West Virginia. Their offices assist families long after other organizations have moved out. The role of Catholic Charities will last months and years as they help families and individuals in the rebuilding process to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions. All of the money raised will stay in West Virginia to assist our neighbors.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.





# NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

**Be Part of this Historic Event!**

*The pilgrimage comes to the Northern  
Panhandle of West Virginia June 20-24*

FROM THE EAST

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route



### Welcome perpetual pilgrims to the Mountain State!

Gather with them for Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, praise and worship, and special programs as they share their experiences. Watch the Eucharistic Procession on the Ohio River led by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul J. Bradley and receive a blessing. Pilgrimage events are open to all! Full schedule is on the right.



### Participating Northern Panhandle Parishes

**Weirton:**

St. Joseph the Worker  
Sacred Heart of Mary  
St. Paul's

**Wheeling:**

Cathedral of St. Joseph  
St. Alphonsus



### Pilgrimage Events

**Thursday, June 20,  
National Eucharistic Pilgrimage  
Kickoff in Weirton**

**St. Joseph the Worker Church:** Meet the perpetual pilgrims and gather for Mass, Adoration, and praise and worship—8-9 a.m.

**Eucharistic Procession** from St. Joseph the Worker to Sacred Heart of Mary Church with Adoration and Benediction to follow—begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Sharing Session & Reflection by Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—11 a.m.-noon

**Eucharistic Adoration** with praise and worship at St. Paul Church—7-8 p.m.

**Friday, June 21**

**Morning Mass** with the perpetual pilgrims at Sacred Heart of Mary—8:30-9 a.m.

**Breakfast with Perpetual Pilgrims** at Sacred Heart of Mary—9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Sunday, June 23**

**“Put Out into the Deep” on the  
Ohio River!”**

Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Steubenville, will board a sternwheeler and lead a Eucharistic Procession down the Ohio River. Boatercade with the two bishops leaves the Steubenville Marina at noon and will stop at four sites on both sides of the river where faithful can receive a blessing. Blessing sites: Steubenville Marina, Wellsburg Wharf, Wellsburg-Brilliant Bridge, Mazerowski Park (Ohio), Pike Island Lock and Dam, and Heritage Port in Wheeling. Final destination is Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.

**Arrival of National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Wheeling**—7:30-8:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Joseph. Bishop Brennan and the faithful of Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the cathedral.

**All-Night Eucharistic Prayer Vigil**—8:30 p.m. (June 23) -8 a.m. (June 24) at the cathedral.

**Monday, June 24**

**Mass at the cathedral** celebrated by Bishop Brennan—8:30-9:30 a.m.

**Solemn Eucharistic Procession** through the streets of Wheeling from the cathedral to St. Alphonsus Church—9:30-10 a.m.

For more information, visit:

[www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route](http://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/st-elizabeth-ann-seton-route)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

The Author of Life was put to death, but God raised him from the dead.

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### Responsorial: Psalm 4

“Lord. Let your face shine on us.”

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### Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a

Christ died for our sins and the sins of the whole world.

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### Gospel: John 20:19-31

The two disciples whom Jesus appeared to on the road to Emmaus return to the 11 to share the Risen Lord has been seen. Christ then appears – flesh and bone – for all to see, greeting them, “Peace be with you!” The Resurrected Lord assures us of peace and forgiveness.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be the hands and feet of the Risen Lord, visible through our acts of mercy and love, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For leaders of nations, that never tire of seeking and extending justice, and may they work endlessly to right the wrongs that persist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who entered the Church during the Easter Vigil and all those who will be celebrating the sacraments this Easter season, that they may know Christ is always close, bringing peace, hope, and joy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are neglected and all who encounter them, that we all recognize the Lord in each other, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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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
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
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Transformed  
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## Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://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](http://DWC.ORG).