



STRENGTHEN THE TEMPLE WITHIN

Today in the Gospel of John (2:13-25), the apostle illustrates a pretty dramatic scene - Jesus' disgust and outrage over the temple being turned into a spiritually meaningless marketplace.

Let us take seriously this moment and take Christ's message to heart, remembering the purpose of worship, praise, and the focus on God's plan - the Church that Jesus gave us. Let us build up the temple within us and in the Church to help bring others to heaven. Stand up for God and His truth.



Recall the words we hear from Christ that John quoted, "Stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

A stunning and bold statement - Christ publicly declared Himself the Son of God.

John went on to write the Jews shouted back at Jesus asking, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

That is when Jesus said,

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The Jews knew it took 46 years to build the temple, but "you 'will raise it up' in three days?"

We know now that the temple Christ spoke of was His Body and, once destroyed, He will be raised up on the third day.

The disciples remained confused until after the Resurrection, the "disciples remembered that He had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken," John wrote.

Let us rebuild the temple within us, taking responsibility

to not only fast, pray, and give alms, but to also change our behavior, seeking to build upon our own faith formation, and show mercy in order to fully receive the mercy of God.

Let us pray (from the Pray More Novena's novena for restoring the Church):

Dear Lord, we thank You and praise You for giving us Your Church. We pray today that You grant restoration of the Church in every way that is needed.

It can be very difficult for us to understand how we are to best serve You at times. You call each of us to carry out Your will to the best of our ability, but we are all in great need of Your help to understand how to do this best. You can give all members of Your Church the wisdom we need to serve You as You desire.

Please bring about the restoration of the Church, and we particularly pray today for an increase in wisdom.

Help us to do all we can to serve You as You call us to. Give us the grace to truly strive to be saints each day.

Lord, hear our prayers!

Amen.

For the complete novena go to:

WWW.PRAYMORENOVENAS.COM/NOVENA-FOR-THE-RESTORATION-OF-THE-CHURCH

Editor's note: The digital art with this article is by Haley of Restoration Prints, Layton, Utah, restorationprints.com.



Be sure to read
Bishop Mark Brennan's
latest letter at www.dwc.org
**A Pastoral Letter
on Politics and How
Catholics Can Respond**

WV TEENS FIRED UP, DEEPENING THEIR FAITH

Mount2000 Eucharistic Retreat

Ready to fire up your faith? Follow the lead of a few dozen teens in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, who chose to make time to strengthen their faith and personal devotion to Jesus through the Eucharist at Mount2000.

The retreat is hosted annually by Mount Saint Mary's Seminary for more than 1,000 high school students and their youth ministers/chaperones. Set in the beautiful and inspiring Catholic university environment, teens are able to encounter Jesus who is always ALIVE and ACTIVE each day of life.



The WV teens and chaperones attending the Mount2000 retreat hosted by Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

More than 40 high schoolers and their youth ministry chaperones from the Beckley Vicariate attended the Mount2000 Eucharistic retreat in Emmitsburg, MD, whose message is a reminder that *You were made for greatness!*

The students were from Bluefield, Charleston, Oak Hill, Princeton, and Summersville. At the retreat the Beckley Vicariate group were able to meet up with teens from other parts of WV, including 10 students from St. John University Parish (Morgantown), traveling with Fr. Phillip Szabo, who attended St. Mary's Seminary.

The weekend was energized by national speakers, small group breakout sessions led by seminarians, Mass, Adoration, Confession, and both upbeat and sacred music.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has six seminarians attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary – Deacon John Soplinski of Sacred Heart of Mary, Weirton; Dominic Re of Ss. Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; Bryan Tedeschi of St. James the Greater, Charles Town; Nathan Schmidt of Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; Michael Tupta of Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston; and Michael Aiello, Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Charleston.

Lorin J. Albin, Youth Ministry Coordinator at the Princeton parish, helped to organize the trip for the youth of the

southern parishes, after the teens and adults learned about the opportunity through Tupta, whose summer assignment was with Sacred Heart in Princeton with Fr. Sebastian Devasya.

Seminarian Joe Derico, of St. Patrick Church in Weston and who attends St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, DC., was able to join the group when they made a stop to see the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

“Our tour of the basilica was a beautiful educational experience through such rich Catholic art and tradition,” Albin noted. “As our tour concluded, we met up with Seminarian Joe who gave an inspiring talk to the kids encouraging them to take joy in our Catholic truths and to receive what the speakers and seminarians had prepared for them, reminding them that God is going to do amazing things in their lives if they let Him.”

The theme for the 2024 retreat was *Fire* based on Luke 12:49, “I have come to set the world on fire and how I wish it were already ablaze.” The purpose is for teens to leave inspired and ready to share their voices in their parishes, community, and those who do not know Christ.

Having time to focus on faith was a treasure that was made even more priceless by getting to spend quality time with the WV seminarians and Sr. Mary Pietá from the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal in New York.



Seminarian Michael Tupta, pictured at center, was eager to reunite with members of the Sacred Heart Parish youth group.

“We were touched by the common theme among all of them - the greatest blessing of their vocation has been their own constant conversion and growth,” Albin noted.

“Our teens are hungry, they are eager for real, honest catechesis,” she said and added all the faithful play a role in evangelizing the others. “(Our youth) want to be lead

continue...

and given true examples of how to live a more holy life. I commend our parents and our parishioners for this. I often think that they don't even realize it, but they are inspiring our kids with their love of their faith and dedication to our parish."

Just one of many treasured moments during the Mount 2000 retreat was captured in a photo of Joseph Flanigan, Abby Albin, and Lorin Albin with Seminarian Michael Tupta. The group paused for reverent prayer in one of the gardens at the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto.

The two teens shared their thoughts on the retreat that could be echoed by all:

"Mount2000 was an absolutely incredible experience," Flanigan, who attends Princeton Senior High School said. "I was ecstatic that our parish made this possible for our youth group to attend. Coming from a small town in Southern WV, it was amazing to be one of a thousand Catholics there to deepen our faith and connect with others on a similar journey. From the wonderful sights, sounds, smells, and Masses (particularly Adoration), I didn't want it to end. The retreat blew my expectations out of the water.

"Specifically, the beauty of the Latin hymns at Mass on Saturday at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, and the reverence and tranquility during our visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto; were two of my most favorite parts of the weekend. It was affirming to see so many priests, religious sisters, and seminarians gathered in one place for the same purpose. It showed us (the youth) the unity within the Catholic community."

Abby Albin, who attends the same high school, also expressed her insight.

"I was able to learn and experience more with my faith in a short number of days than I have been able to in years," she said. "One of the most beautiful parts was Holy Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. It was just gorgeous. The architecture and stained glass were pretty but even more memorable was the community. I fell in love with what was happening inside. When I looked around at everyone worshipping and loving our Lord in the same way, it was magical. Everyone was so in awe of the miracle that was happening in front of us, it reminded me that this is how we should worship at every Holy Mass.

"Being able to experience this weekend with our Seminarians Michael and Joe and Sister Mary Pieta brought a new level of understanding to what we believe and why we believe it. This new appreciation deepened my love for our Catholic faith. Another reason I am so thankful for this experience is the friendships we formed with other Catholic teens from Southern West Virginia. Our faith community is small in our hometown, so it was so meaningful to be able to share the love and passion I have for our Lord with others my age. I hope that we will have the opportunity to return next year."

Seminarian Michael Tupta shared his thoughts on the weekend, where it all began, and vital purpose that we all need to hear and renew.

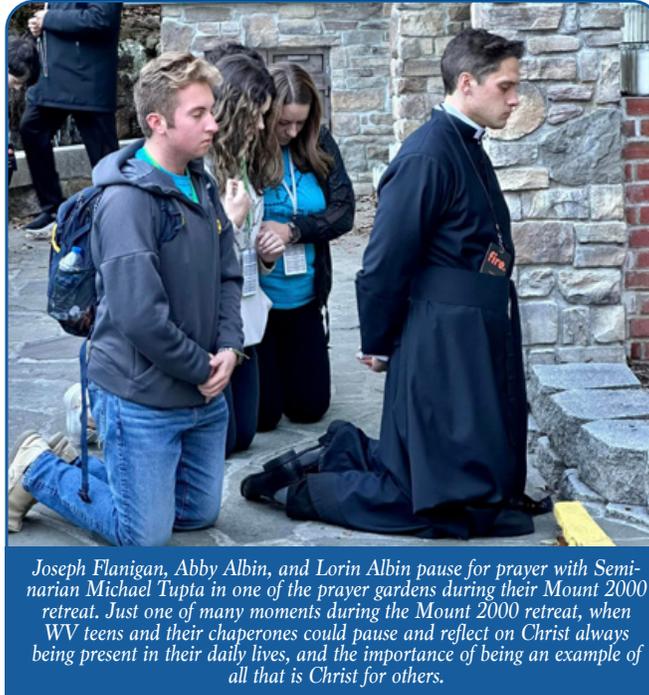
"Having the responsibility of being the small group leader for the Sacred Heart Youth group was the amazing culmination of some seeds planted over six months, dating back to my time in Princeton and Bluefield on my summer assignment last year," he said. "With a retreat focused on our Lord's Real Presence in the Eucharist and profound mercy in the sacrament of Confession, I tried

to just be a mediator to encourage the teens to open up to Christ in a new way.

"Part of maturing in our Catholic faith is stepping out of one's comfort zone and trusting those who have your best interest in mind. So as the group leader and assisted by Sr. Mary Pietà from the CFRs and fellow seminarian, Joe Dericco, I encouraged everyone to let the Lord in and choose Him. This is vital for those growing up in a culture that is getting further and further away from the Gospel."

Albin said, "Mount2000 was the fruit of many efforts that began and seeds that were planted this summer at Sacred Heart. Under the guidance of our Director of Religious Education, Laura Wyatt, and Father Sebastian, we have been revamping our Youth Ministry Program. Our focus has been to engage our teens more, to help them open their hearts more fully to the beautiful truths of our Catholic faith, and to inspire them to take real ownership of their personal relationships with our Lord."

For more information about the experience to help your youth group contact Albin at: LORINJALBIN@GMAIL.COM



LET YOUR FAITH BE SO STRONG YOU FEAR NOTHING



March 7 is the memorial of Saints Perpetua and Felicity. Seek their Courage.

The women are named in the first Eucharistic Prayer, but do you know their story?

They are two of the first women martyrs.

Perpetua was from a noble family in Africa, and Felicity was a slave. The year was 203. They were both preparing to become Christian.

This was a time when the emperor had forbidden anyone to be baptized or become Christian. So, when it became known what they were doing, the women and other catechumens were arrested and sentenced to death. Their teacher upon finding out of their arrest turned himself in and joined them in prison, where he continued to teach them about Christ and the eternal happiness of heaven.

Perpetua kept a diary during her imprisonment. The diary was found by a witness of the executions who added details of the account to the end of St. Perpetua's last entry. The diary is published as *The Passion of Saints Perpetua and Felicity*.

Perpetua was 22 at the time and still nursing her newborn son. Felicity was late into her pregnancy when she was thrown in jail. Just before the executions Felicity gave birth to a baby girl.

Perpetua's father, a pagan, begged his daughter to denounce Christ, so she would be set free, but she refused. She wrote of her exchange with her father in her diary. The book also notes of visions she had of getting to heaven and commanding a dragon "In the name of Christ Jesus" not to harm her.

While awaiting their executions the women were baptized. On the day of execution, the women were "joyful" as if they were "on their way to heaven," a witness recorded.

Saints Perpetua and Felicity, pray for us. May we have the courage of these young women as we face our trials, and share their joy knowing that because of their steadfast faith they will see the face of God.

Editor's note: the painting accompanying this article was created by Hadley Brown of Sanctified Souls, Dallas, Texas (WWW.SANCTIFIEDSOULS.NET).



MAKE HISTORY, WALK IN THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON ROUTE INCLUDES EVENTS IN WV

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Procession is just three months away!

Organizers emphasize that America has never seen anything like this. From May 17 to July 16, Jesus will be carried along four unique routes on foot, by motorcade, and by boat across more than 6,000 miles of our nation. These routes form the shape of a cross, marking our nation with this holy sign of our salvation on Our Lord's way to the National Eucharistic Congress.

Thousands of Catholics will join Christ for portions of his journey across the nation all are invited to take part.

Today, we are happy to share the dates, details, and locations of events open to the public along the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route that runs through WV.

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton was the first American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church. A lifelong protestant, the young mother was drawn to the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. St. Elizabeth Ann opened the first free Catholic school for girls in America in 1810. Her work laid the foundation for what is now the parochial school system.

The Seton Route begins on May 18 with Pentecost Vigil at the tomb of Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney in New Haven, Connecticut. From there, this route will journey through our nation's oldest diocese and across the Appalachian Mountains. Pilgrims will

visit holy sites, embrace the sacraments daily, and publicly proclaim Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist as they accompany him on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

Highlights for events in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (for a full list [CLICK HERE](#)) :

- **June 20** - 8 am Mass and Eucharistic Adoration pilgrims will gather at St. Joseph the Worker Church, in Weirton, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to nearby Sacred Heart of Mary Church for Benediction, Adoration, and Reflection.

- **June 20** - 7 pm Eucharistic Adoration with praise and worship at St. Paul Catholic Church, 140 Walnut Street, Weirton.
- **June 21** - 8:30 am Mass Sacred Heart of Mary Church, Weirton, followed by breakfast.
- **June 23** - noon to 4 pm Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Bradley of the Diocese of Steubenville will gather pilgrims at the Steubenville Marina, along the Ohio River in Steubenville, while the Eucharistic Procession continues by sternwheeler! The bishops will bless pilgrims awaiting on the banks of the Ohio River at four sites between Steubenville and Bellaire Marina in Bellaire, Ohio.
- **June 23** - 7:30 pm Bishop Mark Brennan and the faithful around Wheeling will welcome the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage at the Cathedral of St. Joseph for an all-night prayer vigil.
- **June 24** - 8:30 am Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph followed by a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of downtown Wheeling to the historic St. Alphonsus Church (0.6 miles) where breakfast will be provided to all participants.

To Explore all the specifics about the Seton route, including events in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania for faithful in the Eastern Panhandle; and any of the other three routes across the country go to the [NEW INTERACTIVE MAP](#). Click on any of the routes to see exactly where and when this once-in-a-lifetime Eucharistic procession will be.



STEPPING OUT OF COMFORT ZONE TO BUILD CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Young Adult Group at St. Michael Parish a Great Example

We all need a little nudge sometimes to step out of our comfort zone, but when we do the rewards can yield endless blessings.

That is exactly what Emma Romanek a life-long parishioner at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling is experiencing.

Romanek, a sixth-grade teacher at Triadelphia Middle School in Wheeling, was instrumental in starting the Saint Michael Parish Young Adult Faith Formation Group.

“It’s a long sort of fancy title for a group of people in our 20s and 30s, who are also Catholic and are having a good time getting together.”

Faith has always been a priority for Romanek and her family. She went to St. Michael Parish School from preschool to fifth grade, and then the parish school of religion when she attended public middle and high schools. As a student at West Liberty University, Romanek took advantage of fun and inspiring activities, speaker presentations, book clubs, a bible study and more that were planned by Campus Minister Shirley Carter.

It is during those years of your life when you enter your 20s, you feel pretty independent, and your choices steer your journey in faith, Romanek said.

“Some choose to leave their faith, others live it,” she said. “Regardless of whether that decision is made daily or long term, God is always there.”

She is grateful for her upbringing to know that. However, she never really thought about being the one to step up

to be in a position to steer her peers on a faith journey.

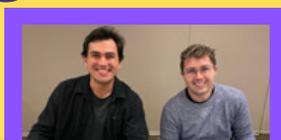
Three events inspired Romanek to initiate a young adult group at her parish and Catholic peers from other area parishes: first, the isolation and void of Covid; second, the Synod listening sessions, reflecting on how to be a better Church; and third, a nudge from older adults at St. Michael’s who encouraged her to try and make a casual, fun, and motivating young Catholic adult group a reality.

“It’s obvious in every parish that we need something for young adults,” she said. “There are a number of strong youth ministry groups, but those of us in our 20s and 30s are too old for that and many of our age group think they’re too young or because of our jobs too busy for other groups.”

Through word of mouth and announcements at Mass and in the bulletin, the group began meeting in May for socials with a purpose.

Whether a half a dozen or 30 people show up, the gatherings are successful and filling a great need to build up the Church and help young adults see that diving deeper in their faith does not have to be intimidating or unnatural, she said, adding, “We get together and have fun, pray with and for each other, and appreciate spending time with like-minded people. The world can get crazy and so negative, why not choose to get together with your peers and pick each other up while growing in faith at the same time?”

She hopes the St. Michael’s group can spark other parishes and groups of parishes to do the same. *continue...*



Stepping Out of Comfort Zone

**EMMA ROMANEK,
BUILDING CHURCH
AND COMMUNITY
FOR YOUNG ADULTS**



#FaithInWV

DIocese of
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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f @

“We have to take ownership of our faith,” she said. “If all we are doing is going to Mass and then home with no other focus on learning or growing or how we can strengthen our circles then it’s our own fault if our Catholic faith is boring.”

Wholeheartedly agreeing with Romanek, Nick Chancey the director of youth and young adult discipleship for the diocese, said, “The need to have groups for young adults is crucial for the Church. We all say we want younger people to stay Catholic and be involved, but we have to be there to support, encourage, and help jump start programs and activities for them.”

Having a group to be part of is huge, Chancey said. “It doesn’t have to be some formal, stuffy affair with a lot of pressure on just one person to organize. It doesn’t even have to be an absolute grand slam with every seat filled.”

However, it does take a little effort, a warm welcome, and personal invitations, aka nudges, but that is what Chancey’s office has been established to support.

He said group’s like the one Romanek has helped initiate are a great example of evangelization in the most casual

and natural way, “getting together with your peers, making friends, sharing, and of course strengthen each other’s faith in the process.”

Talking to pastors, Catholic groups, and campus ministers across the state Chancey shares, “Data tells us that young people, now more than ever, need authentic Christian friendships and mentors. We need less ‘programs’ and more leaders in our communities who are willing to go out... and be the hands and feet of Christ for them. Pope Francis said it best, ‘Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are disciples and missionaries, but rather that we are always missionary disciples.’”

For more information on the young adult group at St. Michaels contact Romanek at: ECROMANEK@WESTLIBERTY.EDU.

For more information on supporting a young adult group in your parish contact Chancey at NCHANCEY@DWC.ORG or (304)-233-0880.

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Lenten

Eucharistic Encounter

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:00 pm



Deacon Paul Lim will lead us in Adoration
and deliver a homily to stir our souls.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available following.

The MAN of the SHROUD

In collaboration with the Turin
Shroud Center of Colorado

Viewing Times

March 8th , from 9am
to 10 pm

March 9th and 10th,
from 9 am to 9 pm

March 11th from 9 am
to 5 pm

SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBIT

A CRITICAL SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS, DATA AND HYPOTHESIS

You're invited to an up-close experience of the most studied artifact of all time - **The Shroud of Turin**. Witness this powerful display of the history, science, and mystery behind what many believe to be the *authentic burial cloth of Jesus Christ*. Then, you can ask YOURSELF - who is this *Man of the Shroud*?



March 8th to 11th, 2024

St. Michael Parish Angelus Center, Wheeling, WV

Full exhibit details:
spiritcatholicradio.com/shroud

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Women's Discernment Retreat



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June 21-23, 2024 St. Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling, WV



The Office of Consecrated Life presents a discernment retreat for single Catholic women ages 18 and over. In a world that lacks moments of silence and reflection it can be easy for us to ignore our callings. Join us and take this time to get to know yourself, your heart, and how Christ is working in your life.

- ✦ Retreat is free.
- ✦ Be with other discerning women.
- ✦ Register now - space is limited!



To Register/More Info:



Sister Martha Gomez, RGS,
mgomez@dwc.org



Office of Consecrated Life
(304)233-0880 ext. 264

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

God gives Moses the Ten Commandments – the Law – based on love and leading to eternal happiness.

Responsorial: Psalm 19

“Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

This reading is part of the Paradox of the Cross. Those who are called by God have the wisdom to know Christ crucified. The cross is more than a symbol, but a way of life- love, hope, and mercy through Jesus.

Gospel: John 2:13-25

John illustrates for us Jesus’ disgust of the temple being turned into a meaningless marketplace. Let us take seriously this moment and take Christ’s message to heart, remembering the purpose of worship, praise, and the focus on God’s plan.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Pope Francis, Bishop Mark, and all bishops may the Holy Spirit guide them always and in all ways, so their vision of God’s plan for His people is crystal clear, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our political leaders, may they uphold the commandments as they serve the people, acting with love, honor, wisdom, and respect, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all who are completing their preparations for the Easter sacraments, may they see and feel the love of God in the commands and the Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may forever honor Christ crucified by the way we live our lives - our actions, evangelization, love, forgiveness, and hope, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
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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.