



BEYOND BOOKS

Catholic Schools
Elevate Education with Faith

Catholic schools are more than just places of academic instruction. They are vibrant spaces where the light of Christ illuminates every subject, transforming learning into an exciting journey of discovery. Imagine a classroom where mathematics reveals the unwavering truths of God, science becomes an adventure into His creation, and history unveils His hand in the unfolding of time. This is the enriching vision our Catholic schools strive to achieve, where the Holy Spirit invigorates each child with a zeal for learning, seeing God woven into the very fabric of knowledge, and fostering a love for truth that overflows beyond the classroom walls.

By August 27, all 24 of our Catholic schools will have begun their journey into the 2025-2026 school year.

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Seminarian Clifton Mastran, serving at Ss Peter and Paul Church and School in Oak Hill, recently presented a reflection on how the Catholic school and its teachers help our children walk in the Light of Christ – weaving God into every subject.

The following is a summary of the message he conveyed.

The Holy Spirit is enriching all subjects with the reality of their relationship to God, how they integrate from the parts and into the whole. This is an exciting endeavor, and it should invigorate a zeal for learning within each child to learn what they can to the best of their abilities

in every class. And this love for learning about each subject in relationship to God should overflow out of the classroom, where it cannot be contained or kept locked-up in a locker door, silenced when the final bell rings.

We pray that all of what we create with our knowledge adheres to His Holy Will and brings glory to His Holy Name!

- **Mathematics** represents fundamental elements of unchangeable truths, as $1 + 1$ will always = 2, no matter what - a reflection of the eternal, unchangeable Truth of God.
- **Science** is an exciting adventure in which we discover the world - a gift from God to be continually opened, as it reveals and presents itself to us, for us to learn what it is, how it works, and to use our reasoning and moral judgments - for the Good and betterment of all humanity.
- **History** unfolds the universe over time - all forever entwined with its Maker.
- **Social Studies**, of our cultures and societies, follows a similar track as that of history - not fully understood without knowing what and who Jesus is, and knowing that he was created in the image and likeness of God; and we are destined to be sons and daughters of the Father, loving and serving God in this world.

- **Language** studies expression, meanings, and allows us to grow closer to understanding and loving each other, the world around us, and God.
- **Literature** captures the human experience in a timeless and beautiful way, revealing truths expressed with words.
- **Art and music** express God's Creation in a way that words cannot - each moves the heart of Man and stirs up emotions that touch the soul.
- **Physical Education** reveals we are not souls trapped in bodies but embodied souls.

No subject is beyond this approach, and when we view, study, and teach in this manner, how can our eyes not grow wide with wonder, as discoverers on a wild and exciting adventure of learning?

We all must help each child to go and take what they have learned in the academic arena and engage with and encounter the rest of the world - with eyes that see reality as it is, in the Light of Christ. And while we are making them stronger in their hearts and minds with this wonderful gift of true knowledge, we must also encourage and strengthen them to share this with everyone they know and meet in the world, from family to friends to strangers. This is a wonderful opportunity to take every day as it comes and help others in the world to see it as we do, in the Light of Christ! There will be no shortage of opportunities to do this given our current state of affairs, of a world that has actively tried to cut-out God.

We must pray that what we teach and how we teach young souls in our classrooms will lead to their salvation and to that of the world...one soul at a time.



Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas for All Students

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator,
true source of light and fountain of wisdom!
Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect,
dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin
and of ignorance.

Grant me a penetrating mind to understand,
a retentive memory, method and ease in learning,
the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in
expressing myself.

Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress,
and bring it to successful completion.

This I ask through Jesus Christ,
true God and true man,
living and reigning with You and the Father,
forever and ever.

Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas...*pray for us.*



SPEND TIME WITH THE SAINTS

AUGUST 25TH IS THE FEAST DAY OF ST. LOUIS IX



How can this 13th century king of France influence us? Read this letter to his eldest son, who would inherit his throne, and see for yourself:

“My first instruction is that you should love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your strength. Without this there is no salvation. Keep yourself, my son, from everything you know displeases God, that is to say, from every mortal sin.

“If the Lord has permitted you to have some trial, bear it willingly and with gratitude, considering that it has happened for your good and that perhaps you well deserved it. If the Lord bestows upon you any kind of prosperity, thank him humbly and see that you become no worse for it, either through vain pride or anything else, because you ought not to oppose God or offend him in the matter of his gifts.

“Listen to the divine office with pleasure and devotion. As long as you are in church, be careful not to let your eyes wander and not to speak empty words, but pray to the Lord devoutly, either aloud or with the interior prayer of the heart.

“Be kindhearted to the poor, the unfortunate, and the afflicted. Give them as much help and consolation as you can. Thank God for all the benefits he has bestowed upon you, that you may be worthy to receive greater.

“Be devout and obedient to our mother the Church of Rome and the Supreme Pontiff as your spiritual father. Work to remove all sin from your land, particularly blasphemies and heresies.

“May the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity and all the saints protect you from every evil. And may the Lord give you the grace to do His will so that He may be served and honored through you, that in the next life we may together come to see him, love him, and praise him unceasingly.”

Saint Louis IX, pray for us!

AUGUST 26TH IS THE FEAST DAY OF ST. JOSEPH CALASANZ

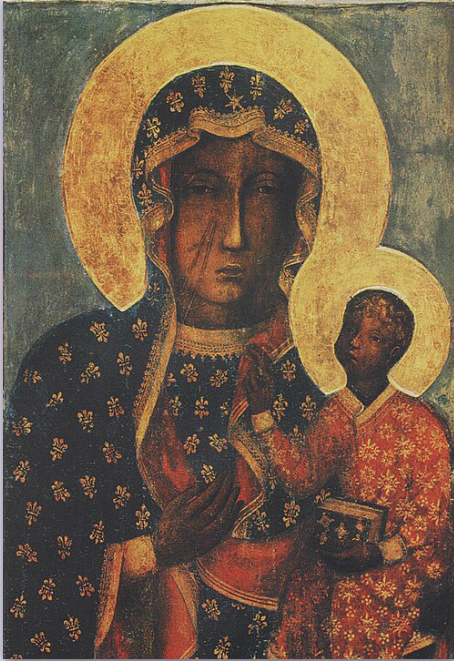


He was born in 1557 in Spain. By the age of 14 he knew he wanted to be a priest, but his parents wanted him to be a scholarly nobleman. Honoring his parents he earned his doctorate degree in philosophy and law. Before his father passed away, he gave Joseph his blessing to receive Holy Orders. St. Joseph Calasanz was ordained at the age of 26. Nearly 10 years later his vocation took him to Rome, where his fate unfolded. He became passionate about helping the poor children struggling to survive in the city. Five years later he opened the first free public school in Europe.

More than 1,000 students entered his school and others opened across Rome and neighboring communities. He lived to be 90 years old. He is a great example of a man who put God and the ways of Christ first.

St. Joseph Calasanz, patron of children and Catholic schools, pray for us!

AUGUST 26TH IS THE FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA



The icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, also known as the Black Madonna, is a painting of the Madonna and Christ Child which legend states was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist.

Even more captivating is that it is believed to have been originally painted on a tabletop from a cypress wood table built by St. Joseph for the Holy Family. Further it was discovered by St. Helena in 326 AD in the Holy Land and taken to Constantinople where it remained for centuries, being venerated by many royal families there.

It ended up in Southern Poland as part of a wedding dowry between royals and then in 1382 it was taken to Czestochowa during a war by Ladislaus, Prince of Pole. It was damaged in 1430, leaving slashes on the face of the Virgin Mary.

Through the most recent centuries miraculous events such as spontaneous healings occurring to those who made a pilgrimage to the portrait have been documented. Our Lady of Czestochowa gets its name “Black Madonna” from the soot residue that discolours the painting. The soot is the result of centuries of votive lights and candles burning in front of the painting.

AUGUST 27TH IS THE FEAST DAY OF ST. MONICA AND AUGUST 28TH HER SON - ST. AUGUSTINE



With the help of Saints Monica and Augustine, we can approach it with the mindset of being a blessing for another not a burden.

For all who have left the Church in our families and communities, call upon the powerful intercessor – St. Monica! It is through her we learn not give up hope, be persistent in prayer, and do not hesitate to go to our Almighty God with our big asks.

Saint Monica prayed tirelessly for 17 years that her son, Augustine, would return to his faith - our loving Christ and the Church. Although he was raised Catholic and well knowing of a devout prayer life thanks to his mother, Augustine chose to turn away from God. Prioritizing everything else but his faith, he lived a selfish and sinful life, looking for immediate gratification.

It was St. Monica's pastor that told her to take her grief and plead with God not her son. So that she did. She begged God to have mercy on her son. She prayed to have complete trust in God that His will be done, and Augustine would come back to the Real Presence of Christ in the Church and ultimately be with her in Heaven.

Not only did he return to embrace his Christian foundation, but he would also serve as the Bishop of Hippo, and be known by generations as St. Augustine one of the greatest saints of all time. *continue...*



His prayers are among the most beautiful and relatable ever written, including this one of hope, echoing eloquently his own mother's heart- For Light in Dark Times:

"God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage.

"Flood the path with light, run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so, quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to your honor and glory."

Like St. Monica may we not give up hope, but turn to God in all of our needs.

AUGUST 29TH IS THE SOLEMNITY OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



He was God's chosen one to prepare the way for Jesus. He remained unwavering even to the moment of his martyrdom. The Gospel of Mark (6:17-29) gives the account of his death - he was beheaded at the command of Herodias, the wife of Herod Antipas. She despised him. He was a threat to her position. So, she manipulated her daughter to ask for John's head on a platter upon Herod telling the royal young lady he would grant her anything she wanted for performing a graceful and captivating dance at one of the royal gatherings. Reluctant, but true to his word, he had guards decapitate John the Baptist and presented the daughter with his head.

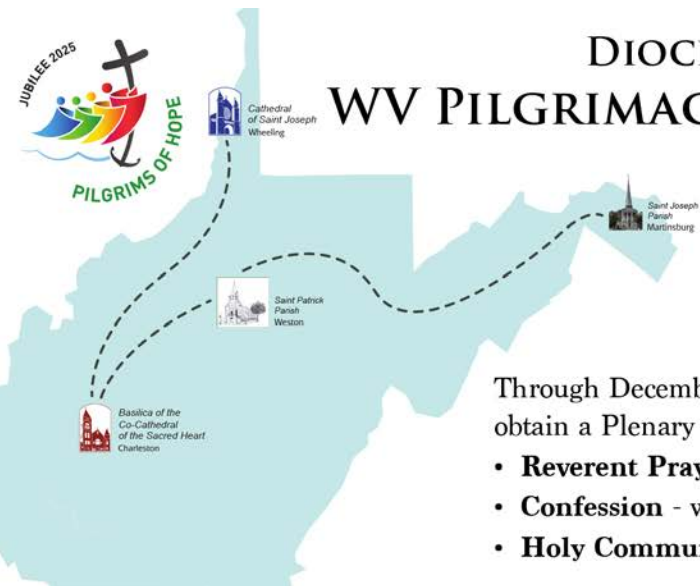
The disciples heard of this horrendous event and recovered the body to bury him.

John the Baptist was considered a great prophet. Even Jesus said he was "more than a prophet."

"Truly I say unto you, among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:9-15).

When the disciples told Jesus of His cousin John's passion, He went off... alone...by boat (Matthew 14:13).

When he returned, he found 5,000 people who had heard and followed him. He healed them, preached, and with only five loaves and two fish, fed them.



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



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

August 18, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In recent months, our hearts have been deeply moved by the suffering of so many in the Holy Land, particularly in Gaza, where ongoing conflict has led to devastating humanitarian consequences. Thousands of families have been displaced, and essential resources such as food, water, medical care, and shelter remain critically scarce. Amid these hardships, our Christian brothers and sisters in the region continue to bear witness to the Gospel in the face of profound adversity.

In solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land and in response to the call of Pope Leo XIV for the global Church to offer both spiritual and material support, I am asking all parishes in our diocese to participate in a Special Collection for Gaza Relief on the weekend of September 6-7, 2025. Funds collected will be sent to The Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Catholic Relief Services, both reliable Catholic charitable organizations who are already working on the ground to provide emergency humanitarian assistance.

Checks are to be made payable to your respective parish/mission and on the memo line indicate *Gaza Relief Collection*. The parish/mission will then send one check for all contributions for this collection to the DWC Finance Department, attention – Flor Prianti.

I urge you to give as generously as you are able. Please also continue to pray fervently for peace in the Holy Land, for those who suffer from violence and displacement, and for our Church's ongoing witness of hope and reconciliation in this sacred yet wounded region.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR GAZA SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025

VISIT [DWC.ORG](https://www.dwc.org) TO GIVE ONLINE

“To always be close to Jesus—that’s my life plan.”



A CELEBRATION OF THE CANONIZATION OF SAINT CARLO ACUTIS

Join us as we give thanks to God for the canonization of *Saint Carlo Acutis*, the first millennial saint—an ordinary teenager with extraordinary faith.

◆ **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 | 7:00 P.M.**

Carlo Acutis: Roadmap to Reality Movie

Pizza, popcorn & drinks provided

◆ **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 | 10:30 A.M.**
MASS OF THANKSGIVING

The highlight of our weekend celebration!

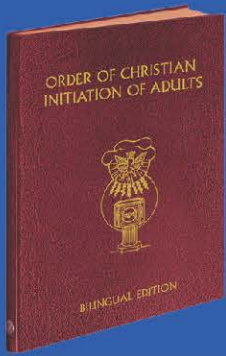
A reception will follow the Mass, featuring
Carlo’s Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition

Share your photos with **#CarloCanonized**

Cathedral of St. Joseph
1300 Eoff Street
Wheeling, West Virginia

Please RSVP at DWC.ORG





The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston proudly presents

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults Workshops

Designed for all Parish coordinators, team members, and anyone involved in this ministry

COME AND LEARN ALL ABOUT THE REVISED RITUAL TEXT

Workshops have been scheduled throughout West Virginia for your convenience. Choose the one that works best for you!

Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - beginning with coffee and donuts; lunch will be served

Registration is required but cost is FREE - please register here at <https://dwc.org/ocia-workshop/> or call 304-233-0880 ext. 268.

| Dates | Locations |
|--------------------|---|
| August 16, 2025 | St. Michael Parish Angelus Center, Wheeling |
| August 23, 2025 | St. Francis Xavier Parish Center, Parkersburg |
| September 6, 2025 | Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, S. Charleston |
| September 13, 2025 | St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Beckley |
| September 20, 2025 | St. Leo Parish Hall, Inwood |
| September 27, 2025 | All Saints Parish Hall, Bridgeport |



Day of Reflection **(for those in the second half of life)**

Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Department of Faith Formation & Office of Worship and Sacraments



Join us for a day of meaningful presentations, prayer, reflection, and discussion centering around issues relevant to both men and women.

Wednesday, September 10, 2025
Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston
or
Thursday, September 25, 2025
Saint Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling

9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Spaces are limited - Cost is \$25 per person

(* if you cannot afford this fee, please contact 304-233-0880 ext. 268.)

Register at <https://dwc.org/day-of-reflection/> or complete the form below and send it to

Karen Muenze

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

P.O. Box 230

Wheeling, WV 26003

Please make checks payable to Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Payment must be made in advance.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

I will be attending:

- ☐ Wednesday, September 10 St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston
- ☐ Thursday, September 25 Saint Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling

JOIN THE INAUGURAL
GATHERING OF . . .

MOUNTAIN STATE CATHOLIC MEN

Friday, September 12

St. Joseph Cathedral Parish
Wheeling, WV

5:30 P.M. EXPOSITION OF
BLESSED SACRAMENT & VESPERS

6:30 P.M. INFORMAL DINNER
FOLLOWED BY ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION

Saturday, September 13

Pittsburgh, PA

Gathering of Catholic Men's Conference

Noon to 4:30 p.m. (Mass at 4:30 p.m.)

For more information and to register for
Pittsburgh conference, go to:

www.cmfwpa.org

BUILDING
CATHOLIC
MEN'S GROUPS
IN OUR
COMMUNITIES

JOIN MEN FROM
AROUND THE
DIOCESE

in

PRAYER
PLANNING
FAITH-SHARING
NETWORKING

RSVP TO



Tyler Greenwood
tgreenwood@dwc.org
304-233-4121

OR

Mike Tupta
mjtds@cisinternet.net
304-541-5177

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

"I will gather all nations – they shall see my glory."

Responsorial: Psalm 117

"Go out to tell the world and tell the Good News."

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Discipline strengthens our weakness. It is a sign of the love of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Live life focused and "strive to enter through the narrow gate" of Heaven.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, and especially our diocese during our 175th Anniversary, may we always reach out to those from different cultures and traditions, confident that God's people are from every nation and together we shall be in the House of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our world leaders, let them have hearts filled with love and wisdom as they welcome all those trying to find safety and security in a foreign land, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the 2025-2026 school year, may it be one that produces countless blessings of mind and soul, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may share and represent God's kindness and faithfulness for it lasts forever, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

WV CATHOLIC RADIO
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

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

~Listen on LoL Stream at www.rdo.to/WLOL~

ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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.