



## SPEND TIME WITH THE SAINTS

You have your own cheering section you know right? Among them are the saints. Our Catholic faith unites us with a communion of saints whom we can look to imitate and call upon in prayer to intercede for us. This week we highlight four in particular – St. Clare of Assisi; St. Susanna; St. Maximilian Kolbe; and St. Jane Frances de Chantal. All are from centuries ago, but each has a story to spark your faith and stir the soul.

### FROM RICHES TO ROBES FOR FAITH AND FORTITUDE



On August 11, the Church celebrates the lives of **Saints Clare of Assisi** and **St. Susanna** both were stunningly beautiful, and both refused to marry, desiring a life of prayer and service to God.

**From Riches to Robes - Saint Clare of Assisi** seemed to have it all, two loving parents, her family's wealth gave her many luxuries and privileges, and she was described as refined and gorgeous. However, she was not happy. Her heart ached over the fact that there were so many poor in her town and surrounding communities. As a teenager, in 1211, she heard St. Francis of Assisi preach about Jesus caring for the poor. After meeting St. Francis, she chose to be a bride of the Church, commit to unceasing prayer, and care for the poor and sick. Clare's long hair was cut off by St. Francis. Her gorgeous dresses and jewels were replaced with a humble grey robe and wooden sandals.

Her father was upset at her actions and tried to have her forcibly removed from the monastery, but her resolve was so steadfast her family conceded and let her be. She along with her sister Agnes founded a convent at the church of San Damiano in Assisi with the help of St. Francis. After her father died, St. Clare's own mother joined their community. They would later be known as the Poor Clares, embracing poverty, penance, and prayer in cloistered life.

**Faith and Fortitude - Saint Susanna** died a martyr in the third century, after refusing to marry the son of a pagan emperor.

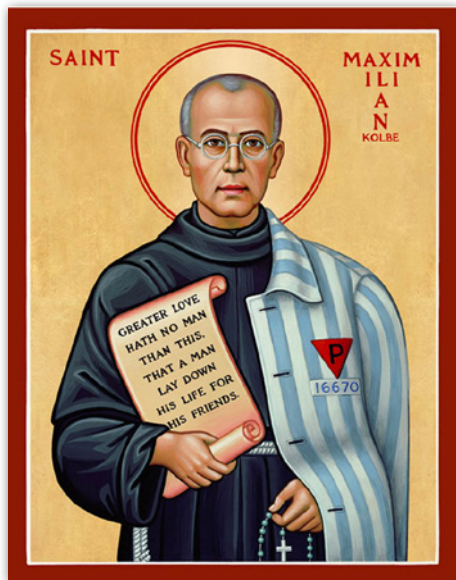
What can we learn from her? Her love of Christ is an example of how we should live our life. She chose a life of serving others in His name, and teaching them the simple truth about God – His love, mercy, and compassion. Legend tells us she converted many of her relatives and acquaintances to Christianity. This infuriated the royal who was humiliated by young Susanna.

It is written that she was beheaded for her refusal of marriage to the emperor's son and her Christian evangelization. She was murdered in her own home, along with her loving father, who was also beheaded for supporting her and not his daughter into marriage.

Today a basilica is named in her honor – the St. Susanna ad duas domos in Rome. The beautiful church sits on the grounds of where historians believe the house she lived in once stood.



## HE DIED FOR LOVE OF GOD & NEIGHBOR



The feast day of **Maximilian Kolbe** is August 14.

It was 1941, St. Maximilian was a prisoner in the Auschwitz death camp. He was sent there after being arrested for helping Polish refugees, including about 2,000 Jews. When a prisoner had escaped the camp, the Nazis picked 10 of the already frail men at random as retaliation. These men were to suffer in an underground cell for weeks of painful dehydration and starvation. St. Maximilian volunteered to take the place of one of the chosen who had immediately cried out in agony for his wife and children.

The soldiers accepted the Franciscan priest's offer and threw him in with the other men. It was reported he preached to them as the long days and nights passed. After two weeks, Nazi soldiers entered the bunker and found St. Maximilian still alive. He was put to death by lethal injection. He gave the ultimate sacrifice, and often when referring to his story the bible verse John 15:13 is quoted: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down his life for his friends."

The man he saved was, Franciszek Gajowniczek. He attended St. Maximilian's canonization in 1982.

Many believe St. Maximilian walked every step of his life knowing his fate. He told of a story from his childhood, when he had a vision of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, offering two symbolic crowns: the white crown of purity and the red crown of martyrdom. He accepted both.

While in seminary in Rome he founded the Militia Immaculata (Army of Mary) – an evangelization movement for souls to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Virgin Mary with the motto of "To Jesus through Mary."

Saint Maximilian also produced a newspaper – the Little Diary – with 230,000 readers and a monthly magazine – Knight of the Immaculata – with more than one million in circulation. Both publications' intent was to promote conversion and strengthen the Catholic Church, and to "fight for Mary" against enemies of the Church.

## SHE LISTENED TO GOD NOT HER ANXIOUS MIND



**Saint Jane Frances de Chantal** is celebrated by the Church on her Memorial on August 12.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal was born in 1572 into a well to do French family. Her mother died when she was a toddler, so she was raised by her father, M. Benigne Fremoit – President of the Senate of Dijon. Jane was smart and kind, caring for her father and others as if she was serving God. She adored the Blessed Virgin Mary and found strength in her and her grace.

She was happily married at 21 and had four children. However, seven years into her marriage, her husband was shot and killed in a hunting accident. Even though she was tormented with sadness, felt abandoned by God, and overwhelmed with living as a young widow, she was able to forgive the shooter, because God would want her to forgive.

Jane questioned if she ever would be happy again.

She was confused about what God really wanted from her life. She concentrated on listening to her heart and not her anxious mind. She prayed for spiritual guidance.

After hearing St. Francis de Sales speak, she found the beginnings of peace. He became her spiritual director. When her children were grown, she became a nun and later the Mother Superior for the Order of the Visitation, which she founded with St. Francis de Sales.

In a book of her writings – Selected Letters of Saint Jane Frances de Chantal –

*continue...*



she writes honestly her feelings of abandonment, confusion, joy, sorrow, and many other common feelings we all have, but fail to relate to a saint's life.

"Though we should fall fifty times a day, let us rise again quite simply, without wasting thought in self-reflections on what we may have done or left undone. Such useless discouragements are often greater faults than the ones that so disturb us."

Live, love, and pray – with the right attitude, "anyone who always maintains the right attitude is always ready for prayer, and indeed is always praying. Show God that you love Him to this degree, that you would be willing to love Him just as much for a small reward as for a great one." (From Wings to the Lord – Thoughts on Prayer by St. Jane Frances de Chantal.)

St. Jane Frances, pray for us.



**The Department of Catholic Schools welcomes new principals as they prepare for an exciting school year.**

*Pictured left to right: Dr. Rhonda Combs, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Jenn Hornyak, Superintendent of Catholic Schools; Julie Peroni, St. Vincent de Paul Parish School; JoAnn Gilbert, Fairmont Catholic Grade School; Bishop Mark Brennan; Barb Been, St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School; Jeff Mennillo, Parkersburg Catholic High School; Fr. John Rice, Vicar General; and Tammi Secrist, Office Manager, Department of Catholic Schools.*



# She Said Yes & Heaven Embraced Her

Friday is a Holy Day - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On August 15, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she was taken up body and soul to heaven, sharing in her son's victory over death and resurrection.

We can marvel at the joys and sorrows of her entire life – the Immaculate Conception, the presentation of Mary by Saints Anne and Joachim in the temple, her fiat-YES to God, faithful from the moment of the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, escape to Egypt, life in Nazareth, the foot of the Cross, Pentecost, her first holy communion.

Today, as we prepare to honor of the Solemnity of the Assumption:

- REFLECT on how we can be a good example for others, inspiring their spiritual journey and supporting strong virtues like our Blessed Mother.
- SHARE the respect, joy, and love of Mary for all to see; and not hesitate to ask her to intercede for us.
- CONTEMPLATE what God is asking us to do and then find the courage to say, “Yes” to do God’s will.
- MINDFULLY CARE for others in our neighborhood, nearby nursing homes, or parish community, like Mary cared for Elizabeth for three months.
- BE CONFIDENT in our prayers just as Mary was when she called upon her Son at the Wedding Feast at Cana.

Let our faith reflect our trust in the Lord so that upon our death we see Mary at the gates of Heaven, lovingly welcoming us into the arms of Jesus in paradise.

The bible does not give us an exact account of this glorious moment. We can only imagine that perhaps at her last breath on earth she was taken into the arms of angels as the heavens opened and the most luminous light came down to kiss the earth, welcoming Mary to her eternal home in paradise with her son our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Assumption is one of the most important Marian feast days in the Catholic Church.

The painting featured with this article is by the Catholic Creative based out of Charlotte, NC, and available at: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THECATHOLICCREATIVE](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/THECATHOLICCREATIVE).





## SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**First Reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10**  
She is clothed with the sun, crowned with the stars, and the moon at her feet.

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**Responsorial: Psalm 45**

“The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.”

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**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27**

Saint Paul says as Christ's death and resurrection brought all to life in proper order.

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**Gospel: Luke 1:39-56**

Luke tells us of the visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, as the unborn John the Baptists jumps in her womb, Elizabeth proclaims of Mary, “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may continue to grow in holiness as we hear the word of God and observe it, just as did Mary, the Mother of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For women around the world, that they are honored and respected as children of God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For young people, that they may respond generously and willingly to their vocation, listening to the Lord who is calling them to ordained or consecrated life; strong Catholic marriages or single life, devoted to God and on earth to do His work, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That we may each strive to bring Christ into our world, imitating the Blessed Virgin Mary in taking on this responsibility with confidence and grace, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



The annual special collection to support the education of Seminarians for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be held at all parishes and missions the weekend of  
**AUGUST 16 & 17.**





# DWC 175



## HONORING THE PAST, CELEBRATING THE PRESENT

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is celebrating our 175th anniversary all year long.

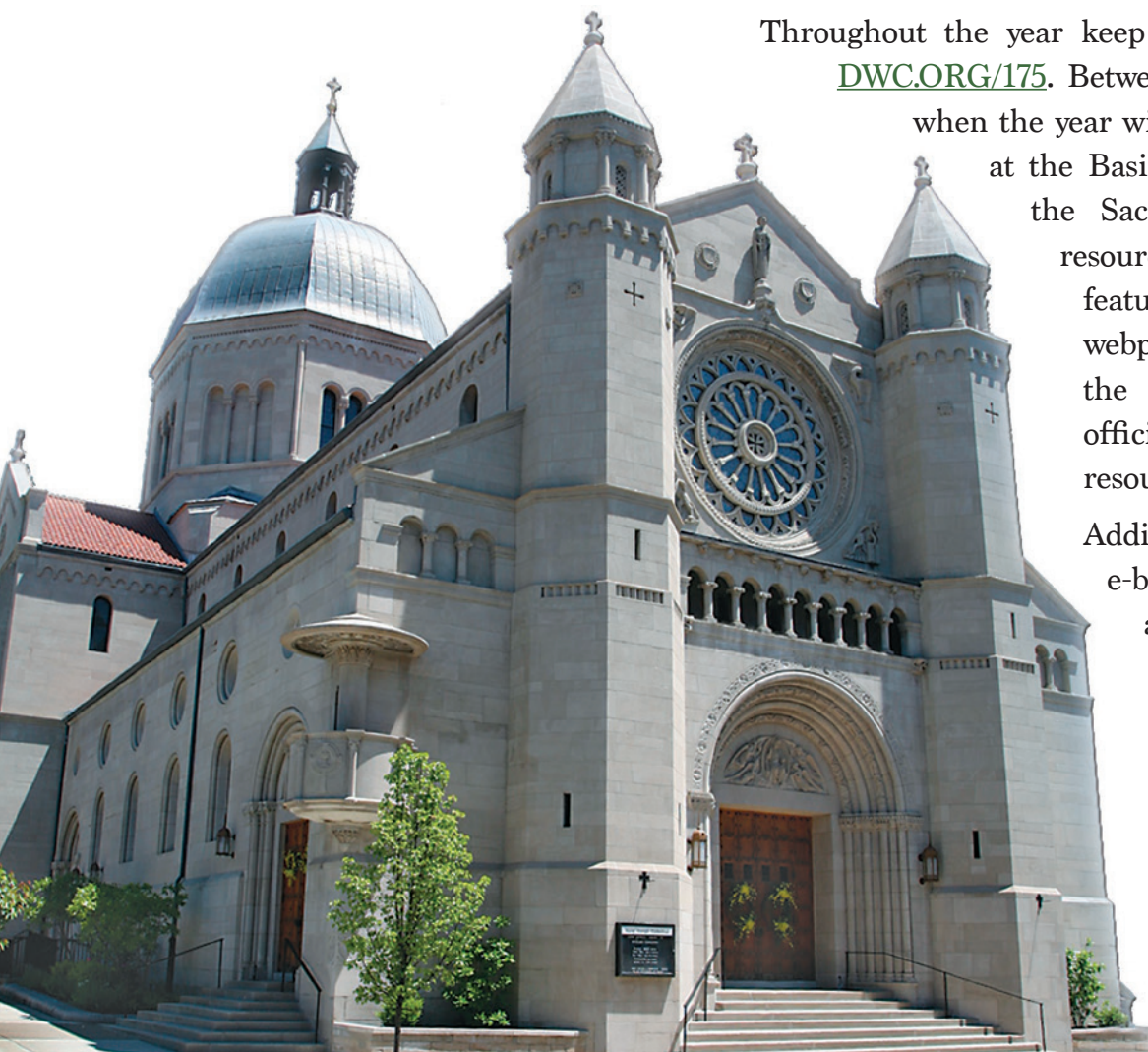
Churches across all reaches of the state rang in the anniversary on at 7:19 pm, July 19, honoring the July 19, 1850, date when the Holy See established the Diocese of Wheeling (at that time the diocese would include all of what is now West Virginia except for the eastern panhandle, and it would include the section of present-day western Virginia to our southern border).

## JOIN US FOR MASS

Faithful from the Mountain State are invited to Mass at noon, August 22, 2025, at the **Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling**, which will formally open the jubilee. That day is also the 6th Anniversary of Bishop Mark Brennan as ninth Bishop of Wheeling Charleston.

Throughout the year keep an eye on our website at [DWC.ORG/175](http://DWC.ORG/175). Between now through July 2026, when the year will close with a special Mass at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, resources and links to historical features will be posted on the webpage that will also include the Diocesan 175th Hymn, official prayer, and children's resources.

Additionally, your FaithInWV e-bulletin, The Catholic Spirit, and diocesan social media will feature diocesan history and photos to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire us for the future of the Church in WV.





*“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**

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

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**Please RSVP at [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG)**



NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9**

God's chosen people knew the night of the Passover was coming and they trusted God to save them.

**Responsorial: Psalm 33**

"Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own."

**Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19**

"Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

**Gospel: Luke 12:32-48**

Be prepared. The Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we are confident in our love for Christ and His Church to enable us to evangelize with ease and joy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That world leaders are generous and empathetic to all who care for all of God's creation respectfully and with great integrity, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For victims of violent crime and those who live in fear, that by the grace of God their hearts and mind are no longer troubled, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our parish families in the Diocese of Wheeling Charleston are prepared for the second coming of the Lord as we strengthen our relationship with Christ outside of the Mass and throughout the week, not just Sundays, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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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).