



# Timing is Everything

## Always Make Time for Jesus

Today's Gospel of Luke 10:38-42 encourages us to be a true friend of Jesus. Make time for Him.

"There are times we are to listen to Christ and then do (the routine) tasks," said Deacon Arthur "Art" L. Miller of the Diocese of Hartford in a daily reflection for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Always recognize to bring Christ into the task – the things we are doing.... Often find the task is easier, because you prayed about it."

It is Luke's (chapter 10) that describes Christ's visit to the Bethany home of Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.

Once Jesus arrived Mary stopped what she was doing to sit and listen to Jesus. Martha was attentive by her service – attending to their dear guest, preparing food and drink, as was customary of the Middle East culture. Martha considered this a duty with a sign of great love and respect for her guest.

However, Martha became annoyed at her sister Mary for ignoring her share of the responsibilities.

Jesus noticed Martha's frustration which made her distracted. He tells her to stop her work and listen to Him.

Let Luke's Gospel be a reminder of how "busy" we can all get. God wants us to intentionally stop and simply make time for Him.

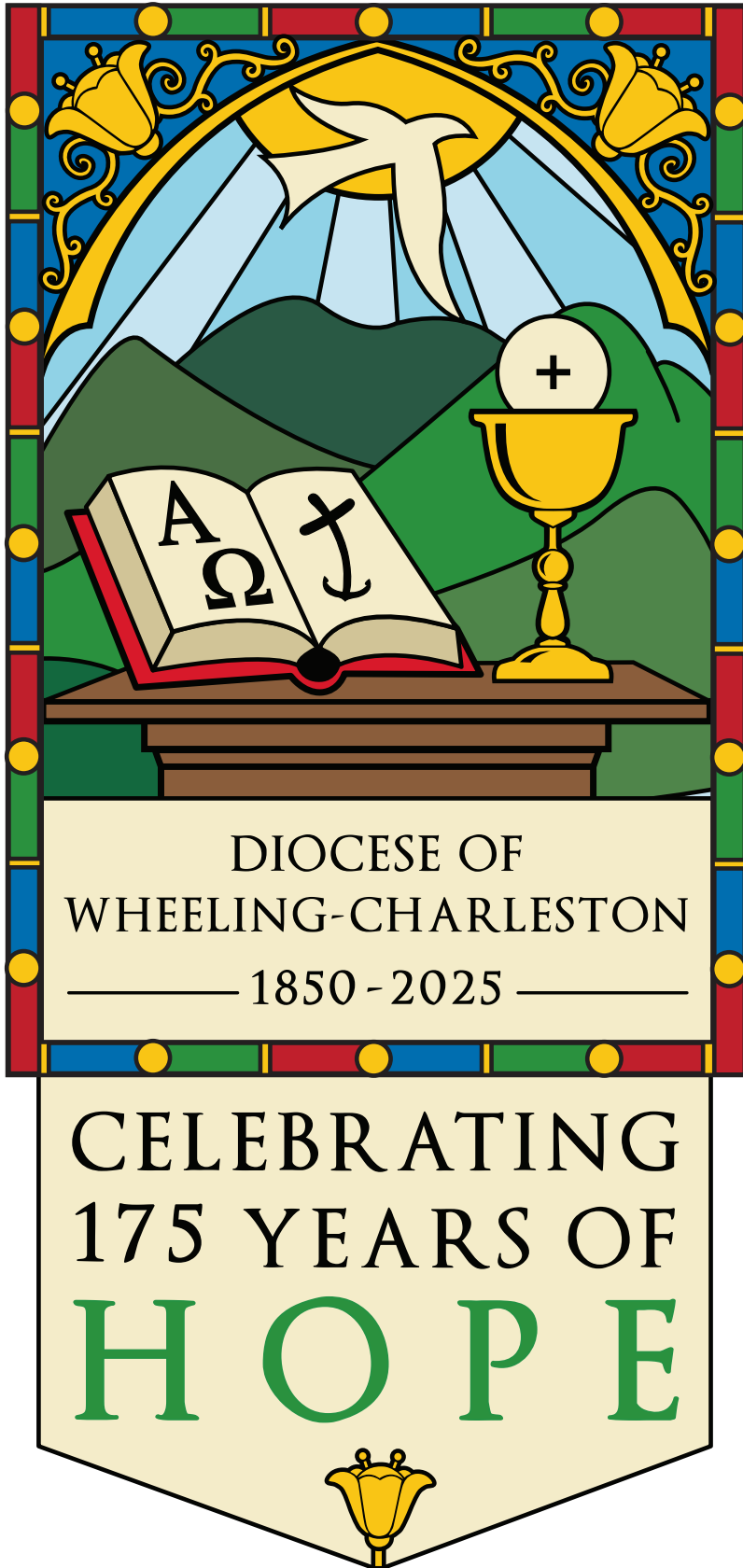
May we all hope to live our lives with such attentiveness, reverence, and genuine love of Christ. Make time for him without hesitation.

On July 29, the Church celebrates the feast day of the sibling saints - Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.



# THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

## CELEBRATING OUR 175TH ANNIVERSARY



On July 19, 1850, the Holy See established the Diocese of Wheeling, a region that would include all of what is now West Virginia except for the eastern panhandle, and it would also include the section of present-day western Virginia.

Four days later, on July 23, 1850, Blessed Pope Pius IX named Bishop Richard Whelan as the first bishop for the diocese. Whelan an ambitious evangelist was Bishop of Richmond and was instrumental in convincing the Church hierarchy in Baltimore to divide the Diocese of Richmond by the natural barriers of the Allegheny Mountains.

The 175th will be celebrated through July 2026. A Mass honoring the establishment of the diocese will be held on August 22nd, which happens to be the sixth anniversary of Bishop Mark Brennan's installation as the ninth bishop of the diocese.

Faithful from across the state rang in the anniversary officially with the tolling of bells at 7:19 pm., Saturday, July 19th.

This symbolic act of unity was heard from Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, to the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, and various parishes and missions in all reaches of the Mountain State.

Anchored in hope and love of Christ, let us celebrate our diocese, honor the past, and pray for the future.



# God is with us, when we pray!

Known for his captivating sermons, his impressive verbatim knowledge of Scripture, and his endearing love of sharing Christ's love, the Church honors St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Doctor of the Church and child prodigy on July 21st.

He encouraged all to nurture a sincere life of prayer, a love of Scripture, and a heart that is strengthened by living out Christ's teachings.

*"Oh, if we were to consider the reality... that God is truly present to us when we speak to him in prayer; that he truly listens to our prayers, even if we pray only with our hearts and minds. And that not only is he present and hears us, indeed he willingly and with the greatest of pleasure wishes to grant our requests."*



He emphasized the need to not only read and know the word of Christ written for us in the Bible, but to also act upon it and live to bring it fully alive.

*"Faith comes through hearing, and what is heard is the word of Christ. The preaching of the word of God, then, is necessary for the spiritual life, just as the planting of seed is necessary for bodily life...Preaching therefore, is a duty that is apostolic, angelic, Christian, divine. The word of God... is the source of faith, hope, charity, all virtues, all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all the beatitudes of the Gospel, all good works, all the rewards of life, all the glory of paradise: Welcome the word that has taken root in you, with its power to save you. For the word of God is a light to the mind and a fire to the will."*

Pope Benedict XVI said, "St Lawrence of Brindisi teaches us to love Sacred Scripture, to increase in familiarity with it, to cultivate daily relations of friendship with the Lord in prayer, so that our every action, our every activity, may have its beginning and its fulfilment in him. This is the source from which to draw so that our Christian witness may be luminous and able to lead the people of our time to God."

## *From Child Prodigy to Saint*

He was born Julius Caesare Russo, the son of William and Elizabeth Russo of Brindisi, Italy, on July 22, 1559.

Imagine a kindergartener from your parish getting up to the lectern to preach about his faith so enthusiastically that it moves you to be a better Catholic. Saint Lawrence of Brindisi did just that and became known early on for his biblical knowledge and his ability to capture an audience.

In the 16 century it was a Christmas Season tradition in the Catholic Church to honor the bible story of child Jesus preaching in the Temple. Italian boys would preach in church or in public. When Saint Lawrence was six years old, he delivered a heartwarming sermon on the Child Jesus in his cathedral, which "deeply affected" his congregation and theologians reported it inspired those in attendance to be more faithful Christians.

He was taught by the Capuchin friars and as a young teenager, after the death of his parents and encouragement from his uncle, Saint Lawrence chose to enter the Franciscan priesthood. He was incredibly smart and able to speak Latin, Hebrew, German, Syriac, Bohemian, Spanish, and French, in addition to his native Italian. He adored the Blessed Mother and credited that devotion to his intellectual strength and captivating preaching.

According to one account of his life, "While he was saying holy Mass in Munich in the chapel of the duke of Bavaria, our Lord appeared after the elevation in the form of a resplendent Child, who lovingly caressed the saint. Frequently Saint Lawrence of Brindisi was so affected during the celebration of holy Mass that he shed copious tears. Altar linens thus moistened with his tears were later used on the sick, and they were cured as were the faithful by the kerchiefs of St Paul."

He died at the age of 60 on July 22, 1619, in Lisbon, Portugal.

# INSPIRING LIVES WE HONOR

JULY 22ND

## MARY MAGDALENE - THE APOSTLE TO THE APOSTLES



July 22 is the Feast Day for St. Mary Magdalene, who is named in the gospels more than most apostles. Mary Magdalene was a follower of Jesus. She was with our Blessed Mother at the foot of the cross, and was the first to see Jesus, soon after she collapsed, weeping at the empty tomb (John 20:11-18).

According to John's Gospel, Jesus told Mary Magdalene to announce to the apostles He appeared to her, and to tell them, "I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."

She went straight away to them, declaring, "I have seen the Lord," and shared His message. For that she is referred to as "The Apostle to the Apostles."

There is scholarly debate over her background before she met Jesus, and if she was the same Mary, who wept and washed Jesus' feet with her tears and hair in the Gospel of John.

Despite the difference of opinion, it is what she did after encountering Jesus Christ and His teachings that are significant in her story. Whatever her background, through her we can see how no one is denied the saving grace of God if you love and wholeheartedly believe and follow Christ.

JULY 23RD

## LIVE WELL FOR CHRIST

July 23, we remember the life of St. Bridget (Brigitta) of Sweden, who said, "To write well and speak well is mere vanity if one does not live well."

It is believed that as a young child, Birgitta had a vision of The Man of Sorrows. When she asked Him who did this to Him, he answered "All those who despise my love."

She continued to have visions throughout her life.

As tradition in the Middle Ages Bridget was married when she was only 13 years old to a young man, Ulf Gudmarsson. The couple had eight children, four girls and four boys.

Upon Ulf's death, Bridget lived in a little house at an abbey in Alvastra, where he was buried. She became the founder of the Bridgettine nuns after having a vision when God gave her the detailed plans on how to do so.

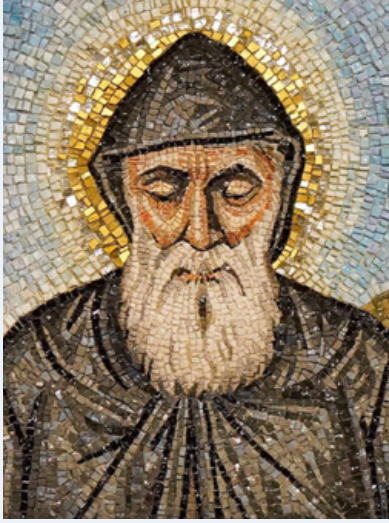
Interestingly enough - one of her daughters became a saint also - St. Catherine of Sweden.





JULY 24TH

## LOVE OF FAMILY IS LOVE OF GOD



Keep the roaring of the noise of the world away from your homes! - St. Charbel  
Honor this humble, holy Lebanese saint today – his feast day, July 24.

Saint Charbel (Sharbel) Makhlouf was born in Lebanon in 1828. He was a humble and holy monk, known for his wisdom. He cautioned families that their greatest enemy is Satan who is “hell-bent” on destroying them. His book *Love is a Radiant Light: The Life and Words of Saint Charbel* focuses on his advice.

He said the love of a family is a beautiful reflection of the love and image of God, as well as the Holy Family in heaven.

He wrote, “Guard your families and keep them from the schemes of the evil one through the presence of God in them. Protect and keep them through prayer and dialog, through mutual understanding and forgiveness, through honesty and faithfulness, and most importantly, through listening.

“Listen to one another with your ears, eyes, hearts, mouths and the palms of your hands, and keep the roaring of the noise of the world away from your homes because it is like raging storms and violent waves; once it enters the home, it will sweep away everything and disperse everyone. Preserve the warmth of the family, because the warmth of the whole world cannot make up for it.”

He passed away at the age of 70 on Christmas Eve 1898.

JULY 25TH

## JOURNEY IN THE SHADOW OF ST. JAMES

July 25 is the Feast Day of St. James the Greater.

It was James and his brother John that were out fishing when Jesus appeared to them, and they left their livelihood to follow him.

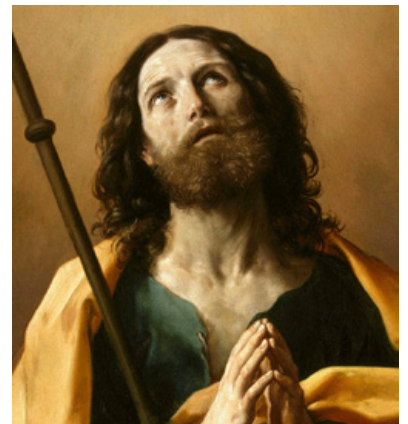
James, John, and Peter were particularly close to Christ. James was present at the Transfiguration and in the Garden of Gethsemane. “The greater” distinguishes him from the other Apostle James, “the lesser,” who was younger.

James is believed to have been the first of the Apostles to be martyred.

There is an infamous hike through Europe that is called the Camino de Santiago or the Way of St. James. The journey has several routes but all lead to the shrine of St. James the Apostle in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. The original hike is 500 miles through Northern Spain. The pilgrimage has been taken by countless people since Christianity began. The journey takes about 30 days. However, there are various routes through Europe pilgrims can take that are as short as 100 km (62 miles).

Many who complete the journey say they feel as if they were walking in the shadow of Saint James. Before he was killed in Jerusalem by order of Herod Agrippa about 44 AD, James the Greater is believed to have been preaching and evangelizing in Spain.

There are many websites and publications about the infamous pilgrimage and its meaning that you can search.



# JULY 26TH

## HAPPY FEAST OF THE GRANDPARENTS!



On July 26, we celebrate the feast of the grandparents - Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of Our Blessed Mother Mary.

While don't have a wealth of facts on Jesus' maternal grandparents it is safe to say their faith, love, and trust in God must have been wonderfully strong and pure.

Saints Joachim and Anne are mentioned in writings that complement the bible - the Proto-Evangelium of James the Less. It includes the account of the life of Mary, beginning with Joachim and Anne longing for a child. Joachim went into the desert or wilderness to fast and pray for forty days and forty nights. Anne relentlessly prayed. One day when she was weeping, an angel appeared to her promising she would conceive. Joachim and Anne did not doubt God, and they vowed to consecrate their child to the Lord. When Mary was three the holy couple presented her to the priests at the temple. The priest at her reception said, "The Lord God has magnified your name for all generations; through you the Lord will reveal deliverance to the children of Israel in the last days."

Researching the Hebrew meaning of the name Joachim you will discover it means God prepares, raised by Yahweh, and God has granted a son. In Hebrew, Anne means God has given grace.

We should have no doubt Joachim and Anne were overjoyed being the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We can only imagine the conversations and traditions Saint Anne and Joachim shared with her to make sweet Mary's heart so blessed, ultimately being chosen to be the Mother of the Christ child.

As grandparents they surely enjoyed passing down their steadfast faith, stories, songs, and religious customs to young Jesus.

Today we can and should be doing the same for our children and grandchildren in our homes - the domestic church.

Make an effort to grow in faith outside the Mass.

Saints Joachim and Mary, pray for us.

## DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

### WV PILGRIMAGE SITES FOR JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

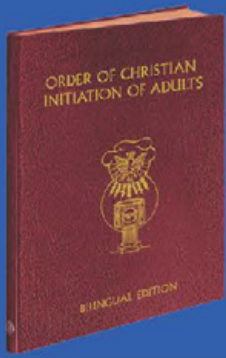


- **Cathedral of St. Joseph** 1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling
- **Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** 1032 Virginia Street East, Charleston
- **St. Patrick Church** 210 Center Avenue, Weston
- **St. Joseph Parish** 225 S. Queen Street, Martinsburg

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](http://dwc.org/jubilee-year-2025)



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



1. GO TO:

[HTTPS://WWW.IMMACULEE.COM](https://www.immaculee.com)

2. CLICK ON RETREATS TAB

3. SELECT ST. JAMES THE GREATER

Easy  
as  
1, 2, 3!

# RETREAT REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

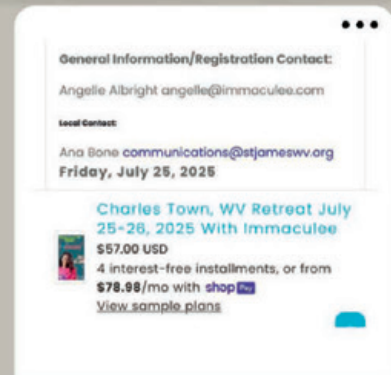
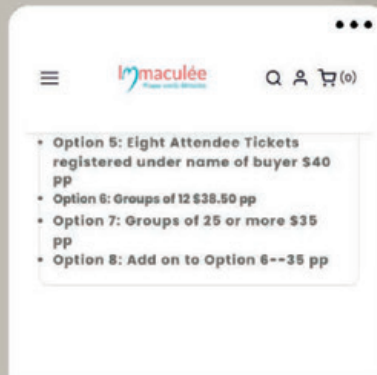
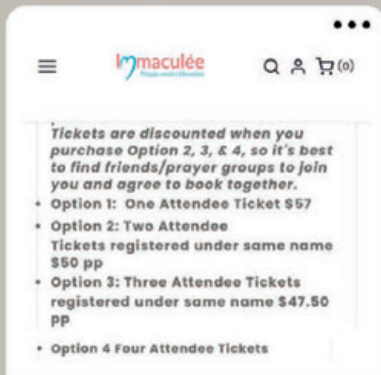
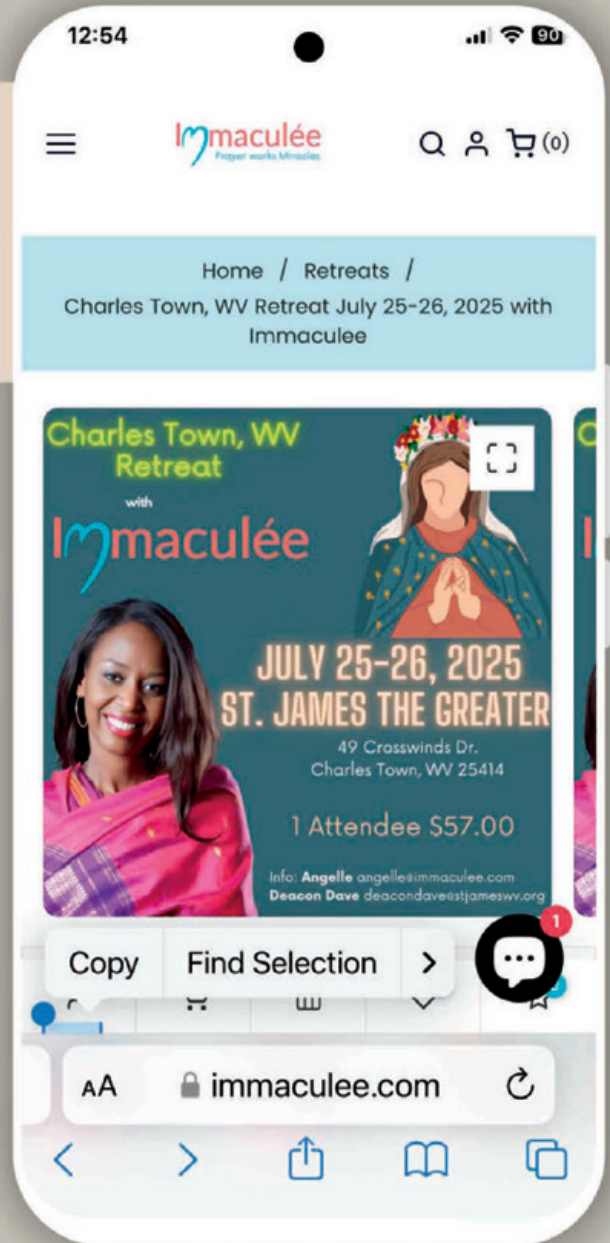
**Prayer Does Work Miracles!  
Rwandan Holocaust Survivor,  
Immaculée Ilibagiza Retreat  
July 25-26, 2025  
at St. James the Greater,  
Charles Town, WV**

**Immaculée shares her  
messages of love, hope, &  
mercy, while telling her story  
and much more!**

Group  
discount!

**Tickets for the two-day event  
are \$57 for a single ticket.  
Group rates as low as \$35 per  
person for the two-day retreat!**

scroll down on website  
to see details



See  
you  
there!

**MORE INFO & OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION RECOMMENDATIONS CONTACT ANA BONE  
AT [COMMUNICATIONS@STJAMESWV.ORG](mailto:communications@stjameswv.org) (304) 725-5558**

# ROSARY CRUSADE FOR VOCATIONS IN WV

SCAN ME!



ROSARY  
CRUSADE  
FOR VOCATIONS

MAY 13, 2025 - MAY 13, 2026

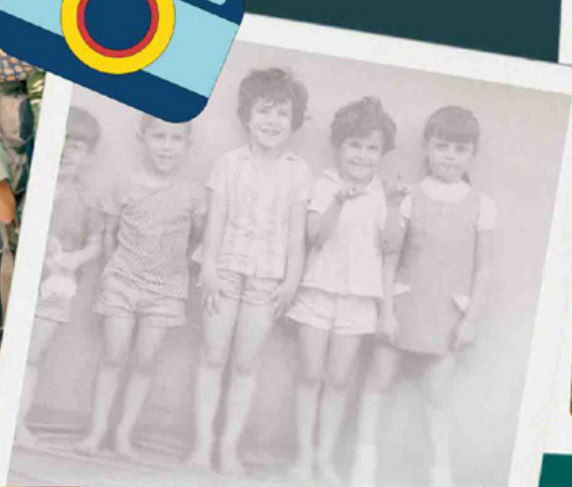
From May 13, 2025, to May 13, 2026,  
faithful around the world can join our  
Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV.

PRAYER WORKS!

Step up for Jesus and His Church!

**Pledge. Share. Pray.**





# SHARE YOUR THROWBACK PICS!

FROM OUR HUTTONSVILLE CATHOLIC CAMP

CAMP

TYGART

CAMP  
BOSCO

→ EMAIL: Joshua Christe  
[jcriste@dwc.org](mailto:jcriste@dwc.org)

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Genesis 18:1-10a**

Sarah and Abraham receive God as a guest.

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**Responsorial: Psalm 15**

“He who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.”

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**Second Reading: Colossians 1:24-28**

Saint Paul tells us the Body of Christ suffers and rejoices in our sufferings and joys. Christ's salvation is offered to all.

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**Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

Martha and Mary received Jesus as a guest, taking on separate roles – one serving hospitably and the other listening attentively.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may take the time and make the effort to listen to the Lord speak, spending time in prayer and worship, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That leaders in our community, state, and nation serve with attentiveness to the needs of all justly and peacefully, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all faithful that we offer the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah, and of Martha and Mary, realizing others may see the presence of God in our actions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all members in the Church within the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston continue to be the HOPE that our neighbors need, especially during this 175th Anniversary of our beginnings, 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

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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).