



# BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

Pilgrimage Site for: Diocesan Shrine of Santo Niño  
“Annunciation” and “Tree of Life” Meditation Gardens



## 3rd Sunday of Lent-March 3, 2024

Pastor: Most Rev. Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Rector: Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, VF - Email: dhiggs@dwc.org  
Associate Rector: Rev. Rayappa Kurakula - Email: rayappak@dwc.org



1114 Virginia St., East, Charleston, WV 25301, Telephone: (304) 342-8175/Fax: (304) 344-3907  
E-Mail: sacredheartwv@gmail.com - Website: www.sacredheartcocathedral.com

*December 15, 2023 - 93rd Birthday*



***Monsignor P. Edward Sadie, P.A.***  
***December 15, 1930 - February 11, 2024***

### MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 8:15 am, Vigil 5:30 PM  
Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM  
Monday & Friday 8:15 AM  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 12:00 PM

Mass from the Basilica is live streamed on our Facebook & YouTube page, Sundays at 10:30 AM

Mass from the Diocese is being live-streamed at 6 p.m. on Saturday, where it remains online. The link is <https://dwc.org/home/mass/>

Listen to EWTN on WLUX 1450 AM  
Dunbar|Charleston  
<https://www.ewtn.com/radio/schedule>

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Saturday's 4:00-5:00 PM** or by appointment.  
304-342-8175

### EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Saturday's 4:00-5:00 PM.**



## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

“We, at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, are a diverse community of the poor, the disadvantaged and hungry, the well-to-do, the youth, elderly, visitors and those seeking refuge.

As a community of many cultures and races, we stand for unity in our diversity by expressing our love of God the Father through prayer and worship, through service to one another, through the ministry of welcoming, through evangelization and ecumenism. With the Bishop, we shall pursue this mission faithfully through the example of Jesus Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the gifts and talents of our members.” All are welcome today, especially visitors, guests and those who might be new to the community.

## Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

TELEPHONE 304-342-8175

FAX 304-344-3907

### ADMINISTRATION

**Bookkeeper:** Pam Acevedo 342-8175  
email: pacevedo@shccwv.us  
**Office Assistant:** Angela Hodges 342-8175  
email: ahodges@shccwv.us  
**Property Manager:** John Blake 342-8175  
email: jblake@shccwv.us  
**Secretary:** Sheila Kerekes 342-8175  
email: skerekes@shccwv.us

### EDUCATION

**Director of RCIA:** Mike Kawash 549-6453  
Email: mak@ramlaw.com  
**Coordinator of Religious Education:** Sr. Ida Chikara 1-304-709-0026  
Email: idachikara@gmail.com  
**Sacred Heart Early Learning Center:** 6 weeks-2 years  
Andrea Stover, Director 414-5757  
**Sacred Heart Child Development Center:** After School Care  
Crystal Ashcraft, Coordinator 344-1125  
**Sacred Heart Grade School:** K-5/Pre-School (ages 3-4)  
Niki Kurten, Principal 346-5491  
**Charleston Catholic High School:** 6-12  
Colleen M. Hoyer, Principal 342-8415

### SACRAMENTS

**Anointing of the Sick, Confession, Infant Baptism, Weddings**  
For information/to schedule any of the above 304-342-8175

### MUSIC

**Music Director:** Mark Haas 342-8175  
Email: mhaas@shccwv.us  
**Principal Organist:** Gregory Gray 380-4786

### OTHER PARISH GROUPS OR MINISTRIES

**Boy Scouts:** Sam Wilkes 546-0614  
**Catholic Charities Office-Family Life Center** 380-0162  
**For information on Catholic Charities**  
**Contact:** Karen or Sam Gross 346-2608  
**Cub Scouts:** Adam Rohrig 276-274-8110  
**Girl Scouts:** Deborah Harless 304-553-7021  
**Knights of Columbus** -St. Michael the Archangel #12630  
Dick Fauss, Grand Knight 965-6872  
Sam Gross-Faithful Navigator-Fr. Boniface Assembly #1188 346-2608  
**Ministry to Sick/Elderly**  
Sr. Ida Chikara, SJI 1-304-709-0026  
**Mount Olivet Cemetery/Mausoleum** 342-8135  
Wayne Johnson or Sacred Heart Parish  
**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Wanda Dettinger 344-1181  
**Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center** 342-0507  
**SH Christian Service Committee:** Ron Rushworth 382-7768  
**SH Finance Council:** Cindy McGhee-Chair 342-8175  
**SH Gift Shop:** Antonetta Stevens 415-8132 or Kathy Lamb 344-2011  
**SH Pastoral Council:** Jack Walsh-Chair 533-2298

### Sharing Our Treasure - 2/25/2024

Regular Collection: \$9665  
Smile (Sisters): \$145  
Social Concerns: \$10  
Black & Native American: \$35 (\$930)  
Candles: \$136  
Needy Student: \$175  
Ash Wednesday: \$1895  
Heating: \$40 (\$1714)

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

## The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica 3rd Sunday of Lent-March 3, 2024

03/02 Sat. 5:30 pm + Jean Schumacher  
03/03 Sun. 8:00 am + Shawn Wheeler  
10:30 pm + People of the Parish  
5:00 pm + Tom & Mary Christine Edwards  
03/04 Mon. 8:15 am + Steven Martin  
03/05 Tues. 12:00 pm + Timothy Mallan  
03/06 Wed. 12:00 pm + Ed Klug  
03/07 Thur. 12:00 pm + Tom Whelan  
03/08 Fri. 8:15 am + Elizabeth Paxton  
12:00 pm + John D. Sadd  
5:00 pm Pray the Rosary  
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross  
03/09 Sat. 8:15 am + David Silvestrucci  
03/09 Sat. 5:30 pm + People of the Parish  
03/10 Sun. 8:00 am + Clay Wymer  
10:30 pm + John Ruddick  
5:00 pm + Don & Phyllis Hammond

### Ministry Schedule week of March 9/10

#### Lector Schedule

5:30 PM-Kerri Grant

8:00 AM-Jim Weimer

10:30 AM-Matthew Bowles

5:00 PM-Jack Burke

#### Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM-Kerri Grant, Linda & Matt Higgs, 3 volunteers

8:00 AM-Ann Knebel, Joel Weese, Jim Weimer, 3 volunteers

10:30 AM-Debbie Barr, Steve Naylor, Bob Parker, 3 volunteers

5:00 PM-Debra Basham, Agnes Smith, Angelita Zamora, 3 volunteers

### **Liturgical Ministers are needed.**

We need volunteers for all Masses. Please consider becoming a Reader, Eucharistic Minister, Usher or Altar Server. To volunteer email: ahodges@shccwv.us or call the parish office at 304-342-8175.

### **The Pope's Monthly Intention**

#### **March-For the new martyrs**

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

**FYI...**The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated Saturday, June 8th at the 5:30 pm Mass.

### A note from the Rector...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord!

Greetings on this Third Sunday of Lent!

I am very grateful for all who helped with our Lenten Parish Mission. Deacon Paul Lim was very inspiring and led us well. May we experience the many fruits of our time reflecting on the Eucharist.

For this weekend and our next two Sundays we will be using Year A for our readings. We do this because each Sunday we will celebrate the Rite of Scrutiny for our candidates preparing for the Easter Sacraments. Please keep them in your prayers. Their names are in this bulletin.

HELP! We need more Altar Servers. I do ask that parents and grandparents encourage their children to serve the Church by serving around the Altar. Currently, we don't have enough to be able to have a rotating schedule. We ask for volunteers through Flocknote, but not every Mass is covered. Given the size of our parish, we should have more than enough servers, please make that happen. Please contact Fr. Roy for training or retraining.

I pray that your Lent is going well and that you and others will benefit from this season of grace and renewal

I remain,  
Fr. Don

### A Pilgrimage to Catholic Italy with Fr. Don

Fr. Don invites you to join him on a spiritually enriching 12-Day pilgrimage to Catholic Italy October 14-25, 2024.

Highlights include: Florence, Siena, Assisi, the Isle of Capri, Pompeii, Rome, The Vatican and an audience with the Pope. Flight to and from Charleston, W.V. included. Early Bird Discount of \$50 for those who register before February 3rd.

The cost of \$5899 includes breakfasts and dinners, tours, r/t flights, 4-5 star hotels, motorcoach, a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome and memories to cherish forever. Don't miss this once in a lifetime pilgrimage to visit and pray at the Catholic places you have heard of all your life. Plus, you will see the world-famous sites of Italy as well.

For the itinerary, more details and the option to register online, go to: <https://bit.ly/HiggsItaly> or call Fr. Don at 304-685-2367.

### Priests Health & Retirement Association (PHRA) Collection THIS WEEKEND-March 2-3, 2024

A special second collection is scheduled this weekend, to support the Priests' Health and Retirement Association (PHRA). A fund that provides health insurance and retirement benefits to retired priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Please take a moment to reflect on the many years of service by our priests and how we can take this opportunity to thank them in a very particular way with a gift to the PHRA collection.

### LENTEN GUIDELINES FOR ALL CATHOLICS

Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by everyone 18 years and older, who has not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, enough to maintain strength, may be taken, according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but consuming liquids, including milk and juices, is allowed. Abstinence is observed by everyone 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, no meat is allowed. Note that when health or the ability to work is affected, the law does not apply. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays during Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence. If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, other suitable forms of self-denial are encouraged.



### Lent at the Basilica

- Regular Sunday and Weekday Schedule
- Friday's during Lent: Members of the Christian Service Committee will Pray the Rosary at 5:00 pm, followed by Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm.

**Congratulations** to our 2nd graders for making their First Reconciliation on Saturday, February 24th. May you be blessed with His holy joy and peace. We thank their parents and teachers for the wonderful work done preparing our kids for this special occasion. May God bless you all. I also encourage parents to schedule our kids for their First Communion. Thank you, Sr. Ida

### Lenten Reconciliation Services

Ascension, Hurricane, March 7th at 6:30

Immaculate Conception, Montgomery, March 13th at 6:00 pm

St Agnes, Charleston, March 14th at 6:00 pm.

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Chas.,  
March 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Hills, Elkview, March 19th at 6:00 pm

St. Anthony, Charleston, March 20th at 6:00 pm



## Lenten Parish Mission



### Spaghetti Dinner for HOPE-Charleston Catholic's HOPE Project



will host a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 5:30-7:30, on Sunday, March 3rd and the CCHS Commons. Tickets are \$15 a plate. Children, age 5 and under, eat for free. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at the school office or at the door on March 3rd. All of the proceeds from the dinner will go toward the costs for the week-long project in June. HOPE participants commit to raise \$25,000 so that the Cabwaylingo Appalachian Mission can build a house for a family in need. Students and adult volunteers spend the week repairing homes and helping with the new construction. HOPE has the dual purpose of improving the quality of housing for low income folks in need and instilling the habit of service in students with a commitment to living the works of mercy.



Please keep in your prayers our parish candidates, Olivia Campbell, Megan Estep, Joe Hanson, Nick Harmon, Marsha Hoyer, Sherry Massey, Devon Pring & Leah Pring

### Sacred Heart Gift Shop

is opened after each Mass and is generally opened prior to the 10:30 Mass. We have gifts for every occasion. If you can't find what you are looking for, we can order it for you.

**Friday Lenten Fish Fry**  
**\$10 per person**  
**When: 6:00pm -until sold out!**  
**Fridays March 1, 8,15 &22**  
**Where: Sacred Heart**  
**Grade School Cafeteria**

Enjoy our Fried or Baked Premium Cod, Baked Potato with Butter or Sour Cream, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Green Beans, Roll, Beverage, and Dessert

*Fun for the entire family!*  
*Crafts table for children!*



Hosted by the Knights of Columbus  
 Council 12630

## FAMILY FULLY ALIVE – MARCH – FAMILY DIFFICULTIES

All families face difficulties. At such critical moments, it is important to learn how to suffer well and to suffer together with Christ. Suffering, if given to the Lord, can bring families closer together and strengthen their love.

Breaking Open the Theme: Catholic families today face many challenges in the very real and normal frustrations of marriage and family life. The world tells families that they can simply walk away from such situations and choose whatever lifestyle or solution makes them feel happy as individuals. However, this escapism is not the Christian way.

Meditation: From Pope John Paul II's *Familiaris Consortio*: There is no family that does not know how selfishness, discord, tension, and conflict violently attack and at times mortally wound its own communion: hence there arise the many and varied forms of division in family life. But, at the same time, every family is called by the God of peace to have the joyous and renewing experience of "reconciliation," that is, communion reestablished, unity restored.

1. What are our family's struggles? How might we work together as a family to heal these areas of hurt or confusion, without fleeing from challenges, shutting anyone out or giving in to despair?
2. What difference does it make to view suffering considering the cross of Christ? How does this perspective transform the way we approach suffering together as a family?
3. How can we as a family better rely on God's strength in times of difficulty? In what ways can we allow Christ's love to make our suffering fruitful and deepen our love?

Scripture Reading: Psalm 34:5-11 A prayer for those who suffer to trust in the Lord.

Family Project: Ask each family member to think about one difficulty in the family and to pray for it every day. At the end of the month, share your prayer intentions and experiences.

## It's not to late to join the Jesus and the Eucharist Study Series

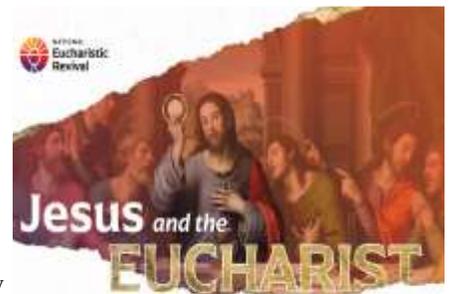
As part of our Faith Formation program for the Parish year of the Eucharistic Revival, we will be presenting the 7-part study program "Jesus and the Eucharist". This program is being made available to all parishes in the US as part of the National Eucharistic Revival.

The program has already started but doesn't end until March 14. Each week, we will provide 3 sessions to cover the material for that week, as follows –

- \* Sundays at 12:00 Noon in the Gathering Space
- \* Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the Cordis Center
- \* Thursdays at 6:30 PM in the Gathering Space

Each meeting will last approximately 2 hours or less, and will provide time for learning and sharing. The same material will be presented in each session of a given week – feel free to attend any one of the sessions that week. If you can't attend a given week, that's OK – please come whenever you can.

We think this will be a very rewarding and informative program for the parish, and will greatly increase our understanding of Christ's saving work in the Eucharist. Please sign up using the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Space.



## Knights of Columbus



Our [40 Cans for Lent Food Drive](#) is underway, please remember Father Thien and the good work he does to help the food insecure in Clay County. You may bring either non-perishable food or give a monetary donation. Father Thien's most requested items are 1. Peanut Butter, 2. Canned Tuna Fish, 3. Canned Soup, 4. Any Canned Vegetable, 5. Canned Fruit. Crackers would also be appreciated. We are again suggesting a donation in the form of a check made out to K of C 12630 for \$30.00 to cover a basic meal.

If you like the things the Knights do, consider becoming a member. Knights participate in all manner of charitable activities to support families, the church community, faith and life. Food drives, coats for kids, socials and fish fries are just some of our activities. The first year of membership is free if you join online at [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus). The free code is `blessedmcgivney` for online membership. After a year, we ask that you pay dues which go to support our Charitable activities. Please ask a Knight if you are interested.



## St. John XXIII Pastoral Center is Hiring

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center is currently seeking to fill the following three positions: Cook, Housekeeper, Maintenance Worker. For more information, see the diocesan website: <https://dwc.org/diocese/administrative/humanresources/employment-opportunities/> Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304-342-0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.



## Madonnas of Color

**St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Huntington March 16th, 9:00am-2:00 pm, includes lunch.** Since the earliest days of the Church, Black Madonnas have been a source of devotion, inspiration, and conversion of hearts. Using his own art and stories from his multi-award winning book, Brother Mickey McGrath will guide the retreat. To register email [lizjdeal@gmail.com](mailto:lizjdeal@gmail.com) or text 304-521-8515. please register by March 10th



## **DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON**

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

February 29, 2024

### **A Pastoral Letter on Politics and How Catholics Can Respond**

“What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” In the ancient Mediterranean world this question was posed to highlight the relationship between reason or philosophy, symbolized by Athens, renowned for its philosophical traditions, and religious faith, symbolized by Jerusalem, sacred to Judaism and Christianity (and now to Islam). In our present American context Athens and Jerusalem may stand for the relationship between politics and religion.

We Catholics know that Jesus taught that our love of God has to be joined to love of our neighbor. That command prompts us to foster the good of the communities in which we live: our town or city, our state and nation and our world. Our civic involvement might lead us to coach a children’s soccer team or contribute to an organization that provides sheltered workshops for persons with special needs or join an international group that works for peace. Our service fulfills the Lord’s command, for all people are in some degree our neighbor.

It is said that, after the constitutional convention in 1787 in Philadelphia, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what kind of government the framers had given the country. He reportedly said: “A republic, Madam, if you can keep it.” Love of country is a form of love of neighbor. Do we not all want to keep our republic strong? Then we must dedicate ourselves to its wellbeing, which demands that we be involved in political affairs. Jesus has joined Athens and Jerusalem and what God has joined we have no right to separate. As Pope Francis has said: “Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader may govern.”

In some countries religion is banned from public expression. In Vietnam religious believers may gather for worship and to study their faith but they are not allowed to engage in public activities or criticize the government. Catholics in Nicaragua are now experiencing government restrictions on their free speech. Such governments tolerate Jerusalem but not its relationship with Athens. Our American situation is different but not benign. Powerful groups wish to curtail our right to the free exercise of our religion. Federal agencies’ regulations and decisions by government officials and courts are increasingly hostile to the values we try to live by, often seeking to force compliance to values alien to our faith – even in Catholic institutions. Our concern, however, is not only with our internal Church life but with the effect of unjust policies on the common good. It is incumbent, then, on us Catholics, to take part in the political process and raise our voices in the public square.

Our Catholic faith is a great help to us in seeing our way forward. With centuries of experience with many forms of government, certain basic principles have emerged in our Catholic tradition to guide our efforts to do good for our communities. The most fundamental one is our respect for the human person in community. That means that we consider both what affects individuals and what affects the common good (which includes families and marginalized groups).

This fundamental principle is why we oppose abortion and assisted suicide and favor efforts to lift people out of poverty and end unjust discrimination. Both the individual and the group deserve our support. Concern for the common good, however, is not limited to sub-groups but must respect the needs, rights and obligations of all people. It is why we must all obey traffic laws, pay taxes and ensure the right of every citizen 18 or older to vote.

We are well aware of the serious divisions among Americans today. Some disagreements are over matters so essential to our common life – the nature of marriage and gender, hard-won civil rights for African Americans, our historic welcoming of refugees – that one view or the other must prevail through persuasion and conversion of minds and hearts and, finally, by law. In other matters – and often regarding the specific ways in which more fundamental concerns are resolved – compromise is appropriate to achieve social peace. No one gets the whole loaf, but everyone gets a part of it.

In dealing with societal divisions, can our experience as Catholics be helpful? It can be, if we remain united ourselves. I urge you not to import disagreements over politics into the Church. We must treat one another as the brothers and sisters in faith that our baptism has made us and not primarily as political opponents. We must respect the person even if we firmly disagree with his or her views.

Despite many differences of race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education and political persuasion, we Catholics enjoy a unity of faith, charity and governance that are the envy of many other groups. We must all learn to respect one another, remembering Jesus' words: Judge not lest you be judged. The measure with which you measure will be measured back to you [Matthew 7:1-2]. Our unity comes from staying within the parameters of the faith that comes to us from the Lord Jesus through his Apostles. Analogously, we Americans can be united, even though we are of many races, levels of income and education and political leanings, if we all hold to the ideals of liberty, justice and equality for which past generations strove. We must call our fellow citizens back to those ideals. Our unity as Catholics gives them good example.

In the current political climate, how can the faithful Catholic respond? First, if you are capable and so inclined, you might offer yourself for political office. Bring your Catholic conscience with you: respect for the dignity of the individual and service to the common good. Running for office usually means joining a political party. No party fully embodies the fundamental principles of Catholic political life; yet, if you have the fortitude to keep your principles, you may by your integrity and persistence win some people to your side. If running for office is too strong a drink for you, you might help a candidate in whom you have confidence or volunteer to serve at a polling place on election day or simply be willing to share your well-informed point of view in cordial conversations with family and friends.

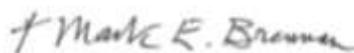
Second, there are groups working for justice in various areas. They are always looking for new members. The prolife movement was successful in attracting many to its cause, as have been some groups advocating for racial justice. Working with others is usually more effective than going it alone.

Third, vote. But before you vote, consider seriously the candidates. What is the candidate's track record and positions on important issues? What about his or her integrity and sound judgment? Does the office the candidate is seeking have much impact on issues that affect individuals or the common good? Regarding issues, our Church looks at them through the lens of the dignity of each human being and the common good. Look for the document entitled, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," at the US Bishops' Conference website ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)), then click on Issues and Actions, then Topics, and then Faithful Citizenship). I encourage you to read it because it gives insights from a thoughtful Catholic perspective on many issues facing American voters today.

The most maligned person in the political process is the voter. We are often faced with very difficult choices, forced at times to determine which candidate will do the least harm. I urge you to form your conscience according to the fundamental Catholic values of respect for the individual person's dignity and the promotion of the common good. Because each of you brings your conscience into the voting booth or as you fill out your absentee ballot, the Church's clergy must respect your conscience. I have made it clear to our priests and deacons that, while they should address issues based on the Church's teachings, they are not to endorse or defame particular candidates or parties, whether in the pulpit, in teaching, on social media or in other ministerial settings. They are welcome to their opinions, but they should not exploit their ministry to advance them. You deserve that respect.

Jesus was once confronted by his opponents and asked whether or not taxes should be paid to the Roman government which was occupying the Jewish land. His response was: Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God [Mark 12:17]. The Lord accepted the legitimate role of government while emphasizing the higher sovereignty of God. In acting on behalf of our republic through political involvement, we fulfill both roles, for the sovereign God has taught us to love our neighbor, leading us into the world of civic life and politics. Athens and Jerusalem are distinct but are not inherently opposed. May God's grace sustain our service to our neighbor through appropriate political activity and participation in the public square, where we both render God praise and benefit our fellow citizens.

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

## Third Sunday of Lent

### Journey With Me

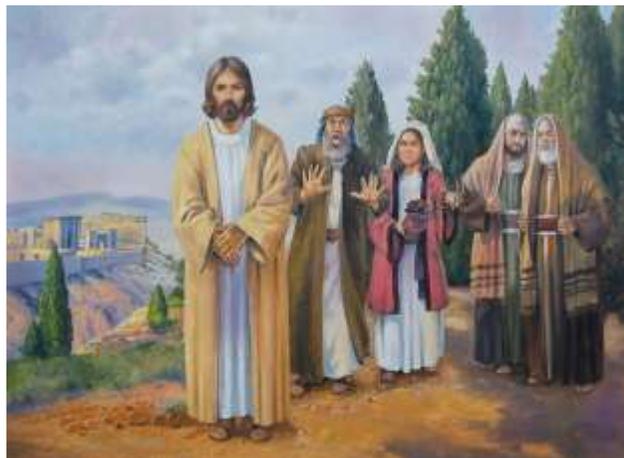
Lord God, fill my heart with love, so that I can see you in others and recognize them as the temples in which you reside on earth. May your spirit guide my every step. In my struggles, give me strength and courage so that I will be steadfast in faith as I continue my journey. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, March 3, 2024-Renewed Temples

Today's readings: Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25. Lent is a time for interior and exterior cleansing. Jesus was outraged when he saw what was taking place in the temple. The moneychangers failed to show reverence for the house of God when they used it as a marketplace. While some could not understand Jesus' overturning of the moneychangers' tables, the disciples recalled the words of Scripture, "Zeal for your house will consume me." Jesus' reaction to the sales in the temple make it apparent that such zeal was missing from others.

In baptism, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Our consideration of Christ's care for the temple in Jerusalem is an opportunity to reflect on how we care for all human beings, who are made in the image and likeness of God. Do we treat them with the dignity that a child of God deserves, remembering each person is sacred?

Just as you show concern for others, you need to care for yourself. How do you care for your interior life? Do you seek reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance? Do you take to heart that God's mercy is for you as well as for others? In the remaining weeks of Lent, be especially attentive to the words of the penitential act. During this part of the Mass, the faithful may pray the Confiteor, after which the priest calls on God's mercy. The other option is for the faithful to pray the Kyrie, saying, "Lord, have mercy / Christ have mercy" to the priest's invocations. Seeking mercy, our zeal for God is apparent.



### This Week at Home

#### Monday, March 4-Faith and Humility

When Jesus is asked to perform signs in his hometown as he did in other places, he refuses, saying, "No prophet is accepted in his own native place." Jesus accepted that his former neighbors would not believe and so did not seek to prove himself. Sometimes we face humbling situations; we, too, do not need to prove ourselves. It is necessary only to accept that all we have is by the grace of God. Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Psalm 42:2-3; 43: 3-4; Luke 4:24-30.

#### Tuesday, March 5-Love and Kindness

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Peter that he must forgive another "not seven times but seventy-seven times." From that instruction, we may ascertain that we are to forgive over and over again. Such forgiveness is an act of kindness, one which any of us would hope to receive after our own transgression. When wronged, we have an opportunity to create enmity or to nurture love. Who needs your forgiveness? From whom do you need to request forgiveness? Today's readings: Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Matthew 18:21-35.

#### Wednesday, March 6-Praise the Lord

"Praise the Lord, Jerusalem," we sing today in the refrain for Psalm 147. In recognizing all that God has done, the psalm is a reminder that prayers of praise should be part of our prayer life. During these remaining weeks of Lent, schedule a time at the end of the day to recall the ways that God has blessed you. Compose your own prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You might include today's refrain in your prayer. Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Matthew 5:17-19.

#### Thursday, March 7-Softening Your Hearts

In the reading from Jeremiah, the Lord speaks of how his people have ignored his voice and his commands. The Lord tells the prophets: "But they obeyed not, nor did they pay heed. They walked in the hardness of their hearts." Hardened hearts are still noticed, as people are concerned with many things. Efforts can be made to soften hearts. Today, tell someone that God loves him or her, and that you do too. Do not expect a response. Today's readings: Jeremiah 7:23-28; Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 11:14-23.

#### Friday, March 8-Listen with Your Heart

Sometimes we ask questions when we already know the answer. Are we hoping for a different answer from what we know is from God? The third week of Lent is winding down. Have you committed to a process of transformation? Have you set aside time for discernment and reflection? As the Lenten season continues, take courage and listen with your heart. Today's readings: Hosea 14:2-10; Psalm 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14, 17; Mark 12:28-34.

#### Saturday, March 9-Spring Cleaning

The phrase "Practice makes perfect" is kept in mind while seeking to improve performance. In today's readings, we hear that God desires our love and mercy, not our sacrifice. Each season of the liturgical year is a new opportunity to grow in our love for God and others and to learn to be generous with our mercy. Lent's emphasis on penitence and baptism is an invitation to discard what keeps us from God and bring to the fore those practices that conform us to the promises of our baptism. Some might call this an interior spring cleaning. Today's readings: Hosea 6:1-6; Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Luke 18:9-14.



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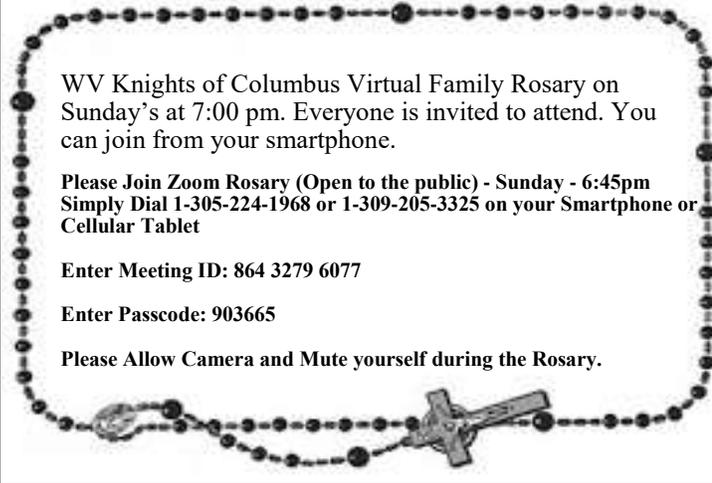
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**Pastoral Care** is offered to all parishioners. If you would like a visit or the Eucharist brought to your home, the hospital or assisted care facility, you can contact Sr. Ida at 1-304-709-0026.

**Now Hiring**-Our Parish has full-time and part-time teacher positions for the Early Learning Center and After-school care programs. Diocesan benefits and salaries commensurate with experience and education. Applicants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma and clear a background check. WVIT and ACDS helpful but not required. Please contact Sheila Kerekes at 304-414-5757 or mail your resume to 1114 Virginia St. E., Charleston, WV 25301.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880.

**New Mausoleum to be built at Mount Olivet Cemetery-the only Catholic Cemetery in Kanawha County.**

The church has consulted with Tim White at Barlow Bonsall Funeral Home to help us get the mausoleum built. You may contact him at (304)342-8135 or his cell phone at (304)395-4824 for more information or to set up a private meeting. This may be done either virtually or in person. Affordable monthly payment plans are available.



*“Lord Jesus Christ, by your own three days in the tomb, you hallowed the graves of all who believed in you and so made the grave a sign of hope that promises resurrection even as it claims our mortal bodies” – Rite of Committal*

For your information, this QR code is a quick way to get to the parish giving page.



Or...

Consider having your church contributions sent directly to the Church from your bank; please contact your own bank to do so. Almost every bank offers this service. If possible please have your parish ID included on the check. Many parishioners are opting to do this.

Baptismal Preparation Class for First Time Parents  
 To schedule a baptism preparation class or to get more information please call 304-342-8175.



Sacred Heart Early Learning Center  
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