



# BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

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



## 4th Sunday of Lent-March 10, 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](mailto:sacredheartwv@gmail.com) - Website: [www.sacredheartcocathedral.com](http://www.sacredheartcocathedral.com)

### 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.



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

## 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 550-2411  
**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 - 3/3/2024

Regular Collection: \$14,387  
Smile (Sisters): \$390  
Partners In Hope: \$225  
Diocesan Priest Ret. \$4,493  
Easter Flowers: \$270  
Candles: \$181  
Needy Student: \$365  
Social Concerns: \$75  
Good Friday: \$120

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

## The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica 4th Sunday of Lent-March 10, 2024

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  
03/11 Mon. 8:15 am + Msgr. P. Edward Sadie-Months Mind  
03/12 Tues. 12:00 pm + Charles "Ken" Surber  
03/13 Wed. 12:00 pm + Carl "Jr." Higgenbotham  
03/14 Thur. 12:00 pm + Dick Young  
03/15 Fri. 8:15 am + Purita Estalilla  
12:00 pm + Adele Bobinger  
5:00 pm Pray the Rosary  
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross  
03/16 Sat. 8:15 am + Eugene M. Sadd  
03/16 Sat. 5:30 pm + Sam Zifilippo  
03/17 Sun. 8:00 am + Dr. Harry R. Marockie  
10:30 pm + Richard Cassis  
5:00 pm + People of the Parish

### Ministry Schedule week of March 16/17

Lector Schedule  
5:30 PM-Linda Higgs  
8:00 AM-Joel Weese  
10:30 AM-Mark Carter  
5:00 PM-Debra Basham

### Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM-Sr. Ida, Linda Higgs, John Willson, 3 volunteers  
8:00 AM-Jack Burke, Karen & Sam Gross, 3 volunteers  
10:30 AM-Antonetta Stevens, Maria Rendinell, Mike Tupta,  
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 Fourth Sunday of Lent!

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent last year, Bishop Mark reinstated the offering of the Blood of Christ. There is an increase of those receiving the Precious Blood and we need more Eucharistic ministers. Please consider joining in this important ministry. Please contact me for training.

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.

Have a blessed week and a Holy Lent. I remain,

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Don



### 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.

### The Holy Eucharist -- Our Story

Have you seen the episodes of "The Holy Eucharist -- Our Story" that are posted on the Basilica's Facebook page? (Search for Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Facebook) These are short testimonials that our fellow parishioners have made on what the eucharist means to them. They are very powerful -- take a look if you haven't seen them! If you would like to make a testimonial recording, or if you have questions, please let John Willson know at [johnwillson@me.com](mailto:johnwillson@me.com) or at 304-552-4080.

## Lenten Reconciliation Services

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

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

Blessed Sacrament, March 17th at 3:00 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



## 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.

## Hiring Director of Music Ministries

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, WV, is looking for a pastoral musician. Responsibilities include overseeing the selection of music for liturgies, substituting for our organist, directing the choir, cantoring when necessary, preparing worship aids and expanding our current music program. Candidates should have a BA degree or higher in a music field, or other field, if musically trained, excellent organ/keyboards/choral conducting skills and vocal technique and be familiar with music notation software. A practicing Catholic is preferred but not required; candidates must be of the Christian faith with willingness to learn about and genuinely support others in their Catholic faith. Conversant with a variety of liturgical styles including contemporary, classical, and traditional. Must demonstrate a commitment to use a blended approach to liturgical music that encourages the assembly to sing. Working hours are flexible and include weekends and some evenings. Complete job description available upon request. Please send résumés to: Bernadette McMasters Kime, Office of Worship and Sacraments, P.O. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email [bkime@dwc.org](mailto:bkime@dwc.org)

## 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.

## *Knights of Columbus New Sir Knights*



**Front row:** Fr. Donald X. Higgs, Fr. Rayappa "Roy" Kurakula **Back Row:** WV District Marshal Sam Gross, William Brown, Past District Master Anthony Gerard, Lloyd Nutter, Jr., Richard Maack, John Brown, WV District Master Paul Niedbalski



### Knights of Columbus

The Knights are halfway through our [40 Cans for Lent Food Drive](#), so please remember Father Thien and the good work he does to help the food insecure in Clay County. As in previous years, 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 `blessedmccivney` 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.




**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



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

*Catholic Dictionary*  
**Laetare Sunday**  
 (Latin for "Rejoice")  
 /leɪˈtɑːri/  
 is the fourth Sunday of Lent. The counterpart of Gaudete Sunday or third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday gets its name from the first few words (incipit) of the traditional Latin entrance (Introit) for the Mass of the day: "Laetare Jerusalem" ("Rejoice, O Jerusalem") is Latin from Isaiah 66:10. The priests wear rose vestments to express encouragement and joy.  
 Catholics@Work

**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.

**Happy Birthday Sr. Ida Chikara Thursday, March 7th**

From Fr. Don, Fr. Roy, Staff, and Parishioners. We thank God for the gift of your life.



**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.

**Employment Opportunity**—Seeking a part-time Office Manager for St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Hills parishes. Responsibilities are varied and include maintaining parishioner records plus sacramental records, parish financial records, the bulletin, etc. A working knowledge of QuickBooks and Microsoft Office Word, Excel and Publisher is preferred. This position is limited to 20 hours each week. Successful candidate must be able to pass a background check prior to hiring. Equal opportunity employer. If you are interested in this position, please contact the church office at 304-342-2716 by Friday, March 22, 2024.



**Madonnas of Color**

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.

**St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Huntington March 16th, 9:00am-2:00 pm, includes lunch.**



## **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

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Light of the World

Good and gracious God, in your mercy you called your people out of darkness to live as children of the light. Give us courageous hearts so our lives may bear witness to the Light of the World. Grant us, too, the strength to walk with those who struggle in darkness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, March 10, 2024-Man Born Blind

Today's readings: Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41. Today we celebrate the second scrutiny with the elect and hear the story of the man born blind. In the verse preceding today's Gospel, Jesus says that he is the light of the world. This is a primary image as we ponder the Gospel.

During the time of Jesus, sickness was thought to be a punishment for sins. In the Gospels, disease is often used to highlight those who are marginalized from the community. Jesus' ministry is one of healing and bringing people back to the community, back to the flock. When Jesus heals the blind man, he not only cures his blindness, but also reveals to him God's saving power. Jesus brought light into this man's life, and because he has been made clean, he can rejoin the community. Just like last Sunday's Gospel, today's reading is one of faith. Once the man is healed, he comes to know Jesus, the Messiah, and boldly claims that he believes.

As we pray with the elect during these final days of Lent, think about all the blind spots that keep you from seeing God's saving power. Ask that Jesus will heal those areas of your life that hold you in sin. Once we have named our sin and sought forgiveness, the Holy Spirit fills us to go forth to boldly proclaim, "I do believe, Lord." How can you reach out to the "blind" in your community?



### This Week at Home

#### Monday, March 11-Blind Faith

John tells the story of a man pleading for Jesus to cure his dying child. The miracle of the cure convinced this man and the others present that Jesus was the Messiah. But what about those of us who have never witnessed such a miracle? Take some time to journal about your faith in Jesus. On what do you base your belief? How much do you trust in the Lord? Today's readings: Isaiah 65:17-21; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12a, 13b; John 4:43-54.

#### Tuesday, March 12-Journeying Together

Asking for or accepting help shows courage because it implies that we are not self-sufficient. Recognizing our dependence on God and one another is a virtue. Being in relationship with others requires listening. Today, await the answer when asking someone how he or she is doing. Then really listen. Similarly, make sure that you leave space and time in your prayer for God's voice to bubble up inside of you. Today's readings: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; John 5:1-16.

#### Wednesday, March 13-Blind Faith

While the Lord is a just judge, people are not always so fair or righteous. Are you your worst critic? The idea of self-compassion might seem hedonistic or selfish, yet it can be hard to give what we do not possess. If we desire to extend God's kindness to others, we need to express compassion toward ourselves. Examine how well you practice patience and mercy toward others. To improve, begin with yourself. Today's readings: Isaiah 49:8-15; Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; John 5:17-30.

#### Thursday, March 14-Taking a Pause

During every Mass, we encounter Christ in the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. He is present especially in the consecrated bread and wine, in the Scriptures, in the ministers, and in the assembly. God does not want us to continue wandering in the desert; he beckons us to the promised land of eternal life. This week, meditate on a part of the Mass. Practice being truly present during Mass to allow space for conversion and transformation. Today's readings: Exodus 32:7-14; Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; John 5:31-47.

#### Friday, March 15-Genuine Encounter

What does it mean to truly know someone? Have you followed a famous figure or professional contact and felt that you knew everything about him or her without having even met the person? Or perhaps you met the individual and encountered someone different than you had imagined? In today's Gospel, the inhabitants of Jerusalem think that they know Jesus, but their knowledge is on a surface level. They do not know the One who sent him. When you read the Scriptures, invite the words to fill your heart so that you can know the Lord. Today's readings: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21, 23; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30.

#### Saturday, March 16-The Body of Christ

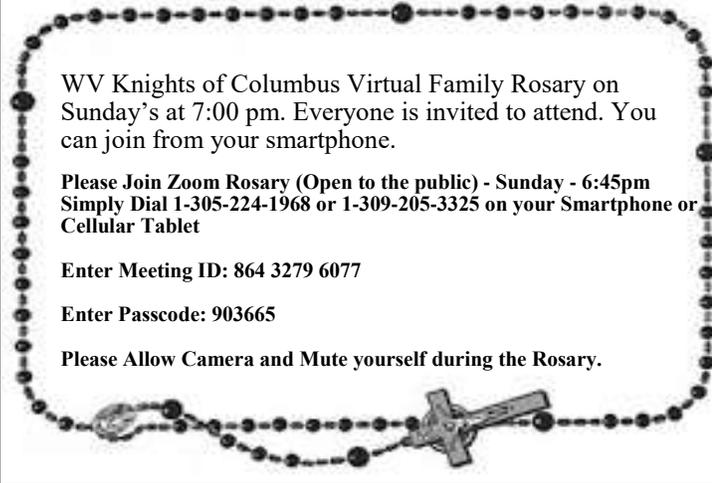
Many things can distract us as we seek to become closer to God and spread the Good News. How can you stay rooted in a life of discipleship? What are some of the things you can do in your community to continue the ministry of Jesus? Can you read to children at the library? Or volunteer in a soup kitchen? Does your community have a cleanup day for which you could sign up? Strive to be walking testimonies of Jesus' love. Today's readings: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12; John 7:40-53.



**KNIGHTS CORNER**  
**St. Michael the Archangel Council #12630**  
**Membership Info: kofc.org/joinus**

**LEAD WITH FAITH**  
 prayer & faith formation resources available  
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WV Knights of Columbus Virtual Family Rosary on Sunday's at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. You can join from your smartphone.

Please Join Zoom Rosary (Open to the public) - Sunday - 6:45pm  
 Simply Dial 1-305-224-1968 or 1-309-205-3325 on your Smartphone or Cellular Tablet

Enter Meeting ID: 864 3279 6077

Enter Passcode: 903665

Please Allow Camera and Mute yourself during the Rosary.

**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.



**The Serra Club of Charleston**  
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**Contact Mark Sadd 304-343-2149**



**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.

Sacred Heart Early Learning Center  
 Ages 6 Weeks to 2 Years open to children of all faiths, located at 204 Leon Sullivan Way. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 7:00 am to 5:30 pm, year round.  
 At the Early Learning Center, care teachers provide a safe, clean, predictable and nurturing environment in which children can explore, build relationships and develop a positive self concept. If you are interested in our program, call Andrea Stover at 414-5757 for an appointment, or for information.

**SACRED HEART GRADE SCHOOL**  
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**For information, or to schedule a tour, call 304-346-5491.**

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- \* ECE-3 Year Old-Full Day Program
- \* PRE-K-4 Year Old-Full Day Program
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