



# BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART



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

## 5th Sunday of Lent-March 17, 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

### 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 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 - 3/10/2024

Regular Collection: \$11,509  
Smile (Sisters): \$346  
Partners In Hope: \$166  
Diocesan Priest Ret. \$1,097 (\$5,590)  
Easter Flowers: \$1,293 (\$1563)  
Candles: \$160  
Needy Student: \$76  
Social Concerns: \$45

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

## The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica 5th Sunday of Lent-March 17, 2024

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  
03/18 Mon. 8:15 am + Robert Cleary  
03/19 Tues. 12:00 pm + Elizabeth Michelle Knight  
03/20 Wed. 12:00 pm + Debbie Johnson  
03/21 Thur. 12:00 pm + Angel Cinco  
03/22 Fri. 8:15 am + Greg Trimble  
12:00 pm + Fr. Richard Klug  
5:00 pm Pray the Rosary  
5:30 pm Stations of the Cross  
03/23 Sat. 8:15 am + Jason Brennen  
03/23 Sat. 5:30 pm + People of the Parish  
03/24 Sun. 8:00 am + Deceased Members of the Sadd Family  
10:30 pm + Denver "Buck" McCallister  
5:00 pm + C.W. Moore

### Ministry Schedule week of March 23/24

Lector Schedule  
5:30 PM-Michael Kawash  
8:00 AM-Jack Burke  
10:30 AM-Maricel Bernardo  
5:00 PM-Jason Pizatella

### Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM-Kerri Grant, Linda & Matt Higgs, 3 volunteers  
8:00 AM-Mary Agnes & Rex Kern, Joel Weese, 3 volunteers  
10:30 AM-Bob & Jeannie Tyler, Jim Siebanoller, 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 5th Sunday of Lent!

Bishop Mark will be with us next weekend. Saturday at 10am, Bishop Mark will celebrate the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for two of our seminarians, Michael Tupta and Travis Moger. You are invited to attend this Mass.

Bishop Mark will celebrate the 8am and the 10:30am Mass on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

On Monday, the 25th, our Bishop along with priests of our Diocese will celebrate the Chrism Mass at 4pm. Our Bishop will bless the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens. Bishop Mark will consecrate the Oil of Sacred Chrism. During this Mass, our priests will renew their priestly vows. You are invited to join us.

With monies raised and with a Diocesan loan, we have a contract to build a new mausoleum. It was Msgr. Sadie that began this project but was delayed due to several factors. I am happy we are able to move forward. I will let you know when the build will happen.

The major fundraiser for our Sacred Heart Grade School this year will be on March 23rd at Charleston Marriott Town Center at 7pm. Please check out the announcement in this bulletin and support the important mission of our Catholic school.

Please remember that we will be having our reconciliation service this Monday at 7pm. One great way to prepare for the Easter celebrations.

Have a blessed last week of Lent. I remain,

In Christ,  
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.

## Prayer to Saint Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.

As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven.

Amen.

## 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 [johwillson@me.com](mailto:johwillson@me.com) or at 304-552-4080.



## 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.

## Lenten Reconciliation Services

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



## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

**March 24th** 5:30 PM, 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 5:00 PM

## Holy Week & Easter at the Basilica

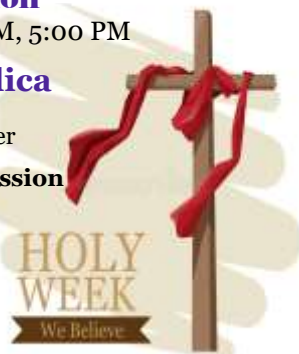
**March 28th Holy Thursday**  
7:00 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**March 29th Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**  
3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
12:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
7:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**March 30th Holy Saturday**  
8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass

## Resurrection of the Lord

**March 31st** 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, **NO 5:00 PM MASS**







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



Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist  
A Video Presentation by Dr. Brant Pitre

Sunday, March 24, 2024-6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

In Sacred Heart Basilica's Msgr. Sadie Gathering Space



This video catechesis will change the way you see the Eucharist. Dr. Brant Pitre is Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado. He received his Ph.D. in New Testament and ancient Judaism from the University of Notre Dame, Indiana. This video presentation is based on his book of the same title.



Study guides will be provided. For more information contact Michael Kawash at 304-549-6453 or mak@ramlaw.com



Knights of Columbus  
**DON'T FORGET OUR LENTEN FISH FRY**  
Friday, March 15 & 22 at 6:00 PM  
\$10 each, at Sacred Heart Grade School

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.



### 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, PO. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email bkime@dwc.org

**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.

### 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 to schedule an interview or for more information.

### Prayer for the Faithful by St. Patrick



*May the Strength of God guide us  
May the Power of God preserve us  
May the Wisdom of God instruct us  
May the Hand of God protect us  
May the Way of God direct us  
May the Shield of God defend us  
May the Angels of God guard us-  
Against the snares of the evil one.  
May Christ be with us!  
May Christ be before us!  
May Christ be in us!  
Christ be over all!*

*This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen*

[www.sharecatholic.com](http://www.sharecatholic.com)

All parishioners are invited to pray with St. Monica's Prayer eGroup which receives prayer requests and sends them to members by Flocknote. If you wish to send a request or be added as a member to receive requests, simply text Diane Kimble 304-881-9766 for details. Thank you



## DIocese OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

March 11, 2024

### Catholic Teaching on In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)

The Alabama Supreme Court's 8-1 decision on February 16, 2024, declaring that an embryo is a human being and is protected under state law from mistreatment, has brought to public scrutiny the procedure called in vitro fertilization (IVF). The media generally has derided the decision, saying that the Court's decision makes embryos equivalent to "people" or "children." Many politicians, both conservative and liberal, have taken a stand in favor of IVF and say it must be protected in law. The Alabama legislature quickly passed a bill giving legal immunity to facilities that perform IVF and to those who seek it. IVF births are about 2% of all children born in the United States.

The underlying problem is infertility. I pray regularly for infertile couples I know. Every once in a while, I hear that the wife is now pregnant and I rejoice. A couple usually seeks advice from a gynecologist/obstetrician. If the OBGYN follows established protocols, a thorough examination of fertility issues for both the man and the woman is conducted, which sometimes leads to remedies that allow the couple to conceive a child naturally. There are reports that at other times a complete fertility examination is not done and the couple is simply referred to a fertility clinic to start IVF or artificial insemination.

The basic principle guiding Catholic reflection on infertility is that measures that assist a couple to conceive a child in their marital act are permissible while measures that replace the marital act are not. Both nature and God intend that the conception of new human beings occur in the intimate relations of a man and woman who should be committed not only to one another (i.e., married) but to the responsible upbringing of their children.

IVF departs from that norm. Its very name, *in vitro*, means in Latin that the conception occurs "in glass" (a petri dish in most cases), not in the couple's marital act. Ovum and sperm are extracted from the man and woman, often by masturbation, and are manipulated in the laboratory. Multiple embryos are usually created, because some do not survive the freezing before insertion in the mother; others are not used because they are judged to have low reproductive potential; and some of those with high reproductive potential fail to attach to the uterine wall. As laudable as sympathy for an infertile couple may be, there is more than a whiff of "eugenics" in IVF as medical personnel choose which embryos are worthy of life and which are not.

So, what happens to the embryos that are not used? Unless the couple objects, they are discarded. If the couple wants to keep them, they are kept frozen for possible future use. Now, consider again what the media and many politicians have said: "The Alabama Supreme Court called these embryos people!" But the Court got it exactly right. What species are these embryos? Canine (dog)? Feline (cat)? Bovine (cow)? No, they are *homo sapiens*: they are "humans who know." They may be small and only in the initial stages of development, but they are human beings. Simply throwing them out kills them, a literal example of Pope Francis' sharp criticism of our modern "throw-away culture."

Even though the embryos that died in the Alabama hospital should never have been conceived by IVF, still they were conceived and should be protected. That's why the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that the parents of those embryos could sue for damages owing to the destruction of their children due to the negligence of the IVF clinic.

Every help possible should be given to couples experiencing infertility but the ends do not justify the means. Technology in medicine as in warfare, commerce, and daily actions such as driving a car or using the Internet must be guided by ethical standards or else technology will betray the good which it pretends to serve. IVF looks for a short-term solution but does not recognize the longer-term damage it does by making the embryo an object of medical manipulation rather than a fruit of parental love.

The Catholic Church, relying on the sound conclusions of philosophy, anthropology and moral theology, has not approved *in vitro* fertilization because it does not assist a couple to achieve a pregnancy through their intimate union but rather replaces it. Our Church has also sponsored research to aid infertile couples. It behooves a couple facing infertility to insist on a thorough examination of the causes of their condition to see if a remedy may be found.

It is the normal desire and expectation of most couples to have children but there is no absolute right to have a child. If a couple's desire cannot be achieved by morally and spiritually appropriate means, then, if they are persons of faith, it behooves them to accept their condition, just as God would want them to do if they conceived and gave birth to a child with serious physical or mental deficiencies. Potential parents are not consumers "buying" children. I have known childless couples who have adopted children, others who have given time and energy working with youth in their parish or community, others who have careers teaching children or serving them in the medical and legal professions. When faced with childlessness, we who believe in a provident God must seek above all to do God's will and trust that this will bring the best outcome: peace of soul and a clear conscience.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



# Wild and Wonderful

Dear Families,  
March 23rd at 7 pm is our Wild and Wonderful Gala at the Mariott Downtown. If you haven't registered already, scan the QR Code to do so.



**SCAN HERE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS**

Jim Strawn will be our emcee for the evening, with DJJazzyJC with We Make You The Star Entertainment spinning music for the evening, along with his 360 Photo Booth.

A live auction will be held for vacations, dinners, and the coveted Art Projects created by our students. Special shout out to Hayley Woodrum on her work on these.

The silent auction items are incredible! The class baskets have turned out fabulous. Another shout out to Marisa Skaff for her work on these. Scan the QR code to view items as they are loaded to the site.

**SCAN HERE TO BID  
ON AUCTION ITEMS**



Silent Auction Items will go live before the event and can be bid on by ANYONE. This allows even those who can't attend to be able to bid and win.

Thank you all and we look forward to having a Wonderful and Wild time!  
Your Gala Committee

**FREE  
TUITION  
RAFFLE**



**SCAN HERE TO  
ENTER THE RAFFLE**

After scanning, scroll to  
the bottom to purchase

Don't forget about getting your raffle ticket for a chance to win free tuition for 2024-2025 school year. This applies to Tiny Hearts through 5th grade and can be won by families who are enrolling next year (including incoming students).

## Fifth Sunday of Lent



### Release Us by Your Spirit

God of all life, who raised Lazarus from the dead, and released the poor from their suffering, you lead us in the land of the living: bless us and give us your Spirit, your Spirit of generosity and holiness, of life and of creative energy. Lift us from our graves of sinfulness and raise us from our dry and wasteful ways. May our sins be left behind and our life in your Spirit bring us joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Sunday, March 17, 2024-Spirit Dwelling Within

Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45. The Spirit of God gives life. Today's readings emphasize the role of the Spirit in those apparently dead. Ezekiel emphasizes this image vividly: graves will be opened, and we will rise from them. That is only the beginning, though. God will settle us in our land by putting his Spirit within us.

Have you already died, buried in a grave of apathy, disillusionment, or sinfulness? Have you allowed a negative attitude to cut you off from God? If so, you have dug your grave. The first reading reminds us that God's Spirit is in us that we might live; and we are not just to live, but "settle" in the land of the living.

We who have been baptized carry within us the Spirit of Christ, as St. Paul reminds us in the second reading, and therefore have life—Christ's life—dwelling in us. That is a reminder that we are sustained by our baptismal graces throughout our ups and downs, our joys and our failings. We do not need to remain in the graves we have dug. When we are open to the Spirit of God dwelling in us, we can take part in the new life that Christ offers.

Belief in Jesus as the resurrection and the life is at the heart of today's Gospel. In the dialogue between Jesus and Martha, Jesus states, "Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." Martha, Mary, and Lazarus had lived the life of the Spirit of God. Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead, then, is an affirmation that the grave had no power over a life lived in the Spirit.

### This Week at Home

#### Monday, March 18-Traps for Kindness

Even though Jesus was without sin, he did not condemn. How much more should we, with our failings and shortcomings, follow his example and offer a kind word instead of judgment. As we live these final days of Lent, let us practice kindness by complimenting others and refraining from critical words. Today's readings: Daniel 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; John 8:1-11.

#### Tuesday, March 19-Feast of St. Joseph

"It was not through the law that the promise was made to Abraham and his descendants that he would inherit the world, but through the righteousness that comes from faith," we hear in today's reading from Romans. The phrase "righteousness from faith" personifies St. Joseph, who was inclined to quietly divorce the pregnant Mary but followed the angel's instruction and took her into his home. Have you considered looking to St. Joseph as a model of faith? Today's readings: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a.

#### Wednesday, March 20-Becoming Better

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his listeners that to be his disciples, they are to remain in his Word. Only by remaining in his Word will they know the truth and be set free from sin. Reading and meditating on Scripture is a regular practice of many to come closer to God during Lent. During your prayer time, ponder how you act out your discipleship. Are the people that you encounter aware that you are a Christian by the way you live? Today's readings: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Psalm: Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56; John 8:31-42.

#### Thursday, March 21-Beyond Imagination

Abraham surely never imagined that God would come to him to make a covenant. It is beyond imagination that God would come to make "an everlasting pact." Yet God promised the childless Abraham that he would be "the father of a host of nations." God has a plan for each of us too. In the Gospel, we hear, "Whoever keeps my word will never see death." To keep God's Word is the work of each disciple. For that work, the reward is eternal life. Today's readings: Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; John 8:51-59.

#### Friday, March 22-Do You Believe?

In the first reading, we hear the prophet Jeremiah say, "All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine." Jesus, too, knew that people who practiced their religion looked for reasons to arrest or stone him. Reminding them of the Father's good works he had performed, he asked, "For which of these are you trying to stone me?" In the world today, who is being punished for their good works? How do you recognize the work and action of Jesus around you? Today's readings: Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7; John 10:31-42.

#### Saturday, March 23-All Praise to God

As we stand at the precipice of Holy Week, reflect on a time in your life when you turned away from God. Perhaps you felt persecuted or ashamed of your relationship with God. Many young people face this problem; they hide their faith because it is unpopular, yet our faith in God is not about popularity. How can we be examples of hope to the younger generation? How can you turn a tense moment into an opportunity to share God's love and mercy? Today's readings: Ezekiel 37:21-28; Psalm: Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13; John 11:45-56.

## *Chrism Mass*

The Chrism Mass comes once a year to your cathedral.

If you've never celebrated it, you're missing one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our Church. During the Mass, your bishop will bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism. We use the first for adult catechumens and infants, the second for anointing the sick, and the Sacred Chrism for Baptism, Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the consecration of altars. All three are basically an olive oil; Chrism spices the air with the scent of a perfume, traditionally balsam. For pastoral reasons, another vegetable oil and perfume may be used.

Bishops have blessed oil ever since the early Church. They baptized catechumens at the Easter Vigil and prepared Chrism fresh for the occasion. While they were consecrating Chrism, they blessed the other oils as well. Rather than overburdening the Vigil with this ritual, bishops blessed these oils at the previous celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Thursday. This also allowed time to transport vessels of oil from the cathedral to all the churches in the diocese. For more than one thousand years, bishops blessed the oils at the cathedral Holy Thursday liturgy, but in 1955, we added a separate Mass earlier in the day at the cathedral for that purpose, the Chrism Mass. Today it may be celebrated on a different day shortly before Holy Thursday to give the celebration independence and so that more people like you may attend.

Because the bishop is the only minister in the diocese who may consecrate Chrism, this Mass highlights his ministry and our union with him. He will not baptize and confirm everyone in the parishes of the diocese, but he will be symbolically present in the Chrism that the priests and deacons will use. In recent years, this Mass has also acknowledged the ministry of priests. It invites them to renew their commitment of service and to receive the prayers and support of the people. The Chrism Mass gathers the faithful of the diocese at their mother church with their shepherd to prepare for celebrations of Christ in all our churches throughout the year.



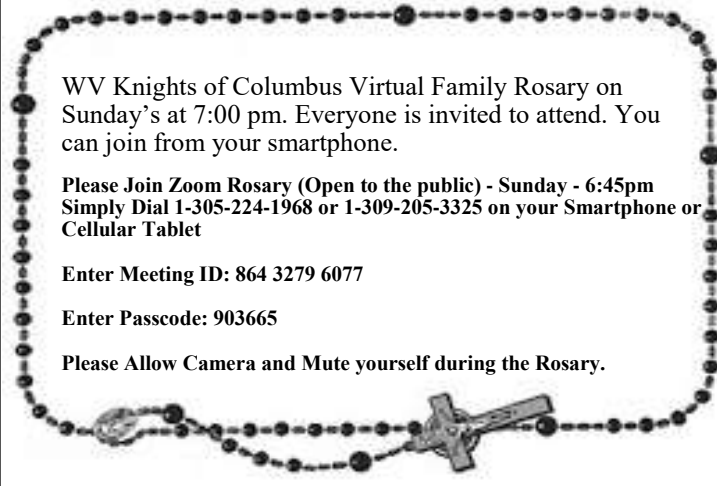




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**Pastoral Care** is offered to all parishioners. If you would like a visit or the Eucharist brought to your home, the hospital or assisted care facility, you can contact Sr. Ida at 1-304-709-0026.

**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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