



BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

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



Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord-May 21, 2023

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
In Residence: Msgr. P. Edward Sadie, P.A., S.T.L.



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
Tuesday, 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

EUCCHARISTIC 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 Bias, 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)
Anne Davis, 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, SJ 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 - 5/14/2023

Regular Collection: \$12,288 Candles: \$220
SMILE (Sisters): \$200 Partners in Hope: \$75
Needy Student: \$75 Social Concerns: \$65
Cath. Relief Ser. \$75 PHRA: \$50 (\$6259)

Thank you for your faithful generosity.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica
Solemnity of the the Ascension of the Lord-May 21, 2023

05/20 Sat. 5:30 pm + Robert "Bob" Miller
05/21 Sun. 8:00 am + Paul E. Van Buren
10:30 am + Michael Max Smith
5:00 pm + People of the Parish

05/22 Mon. 8:15 am + Herminigildo Banzon Abella, Jr.

05/23 Tues. 12:00 pm + Fr. Richard Klug

05/24 Wed. 12:00 pm + Pam Edwards

05/25 Thu. 12:00 pm + Victor Salutillo

05/26 Fri. 8:15 am + Elizabeth O'Leary
12:00 pm + Linda Kay Collins

05/27 Sat. 8:15 am + Anna Abramowicz

05/28 Sat. 5:30 pm + People of the Parish
Sun. 8:00 am + John Ruddick
10:30 am + Gerald Cooperman
5:00 pm + Walter Edwards

Ministry Schedule-Week of May 27/28

Lector Schedule

5:30 PM-Kerri Grant
8:00 AM-1 Rushworth
10:30 AM-Perry Ayooob
5:00 PM-Debra Basham

Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM-Debra Murphy, Matt Higgs, Patricia Noronha,
3 volunteers
8:00 AM-Greg Bolles, Mary Agnes & Rex Kern,
3 Volunteers
10:30 AM-Maria Rendingell Tupta, Mike Tupta, Andrew &
Heather Workman, 3 Volunteers
5:00 PM-Debra Basham, Agnes Smith, 4 Volunteers

The Pope's Monthly Intention

May-For church movements and groups

We pray that Church movements and groups may
rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing
their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

**FYI... Fr. Roy is making his homilies available in
print for those interested in following along at Mass.
Copies are located in the vestibule on the table.**

A note from the Rector...

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings on the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord!

It was with joy that we celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation at last Saturday's evening Mass. Bishop Brennan confirmed twenty-four young adults. Please check out the photos in this bulletin.

This week is a special time for the senior class of Charleston Catholic High School. We will celebrate the Baccalaureate Mass on Thursday and the Class of 2023 will Graduate on Friday. Please keep them in your prayers as they enjoy these important moments. May the Lord bless and guide them.

I would encourage you to prayerfully consider attending our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress set on June 2nd and 3rd at the Basilica. Please read our Bishop's invitation in this bulletin. Invite others to attend with you.

May you have a blessed week. I remain,

In Christ,
Fr. Don



Feast of the Sacred Heart-June 16

Mark your calendars! The Feast of the Sacred Heart is on Friday, June 16, and as part of our 125th Anniversary, we are planning a special day to commemorate our parish feast day.

Our devotions will include Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00 am until 5:30 pm, followed by a special mass at 6:00 pm, and concluding with a reception after Mass. We will pray the rosary at 1:00 pm, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm, and the Litany of the Sacred Heart at 5:45 pm.

We will have a sign-up sheet for adoration, and are also asking the various ministerial committees and organizations associated with our parish to sponsor an hour of adoration during the day. If your group would like to be involved, please contact John Willson at johnhwillson@me.com.

Religious Education News...

The school year is coming to an end, we thank the Lord for his guidance, protection and the many blessings we received throughout the year, and we congratulate our second graders who received their First Eucharist. May they always feast on the Lord's Holy Sacrament.

We give thanks to the parents and grandparents for teaching the children at home and bringing them to RE. We especially thank our Catechists for the wonderful work you do, we really appreciate your commitment to our parish and your dedication to our children.


Registration forms for 2023-24 are available on our website: sacredheartcocathedral.com or in the vestibule of the Church.

May the Lord bless us all. Have a wonderful summer break.



With joy
we announce that
Annabelle Wallace received her
First Eucharist last weekend,
May 14th.


**May she always feast on
the Lord's Holy Sacrament.**



DONATE TODAY!

Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart


RENEWING OUR PRESENT SECURING OUR FUTURE



Scan the
QR Code to
make a
donation
with your
smartphone

\$3,000,000

Our Goal



100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%

**Total
Pledged
\$2,003,000**

As part of our **Renewing our Present, Securing our Future Campaign** please join us for an informational meeting on **Planned Giving**. We will discuss ways to give that fit in with your financial and estate plans.

Our **Planned Giving** meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 31st at 6:30 pm in the Cordis Center. Light refreshments will be served. Please call the rectory to let us know you are interested in attending, 304-342-8175.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY-Sacred Heart Basilica is looking for a full-time semi skilled maintenance person. Starting pay is \$14 an hour, must have a valid driver's license and pass a background check. If interested, please send your resume to John Blake at: jblake@shccwv.us.

Now Hiring-Sacred Heart Grade School is in need of 3 WV certified teachers, one each for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade, beginning this fall for the 2023-24 school year. To apply send resume to Anne Davis at: adavis@sacredheartgradeschool.org



Rosary to be Prayed before Weekend Masses in May. In Catholic tradition, the month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In keeping with this tradition, we will pray the Rosary before each of the weekend masses in May, starting 30 minutes before each mass. Please come and join us as we honor our Blessed Mother.

Sacred Heart Gift Shop is opened after each mass and is generally opened prior to the 10:30 mass. We have gifts for Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and Graduation. In addition to gifts, we also now have hand-made greeting cards and prints for these occasions. We keep in stock a variety of rosaries, medals, automobile visor medals as well as bike medals and holy cards. Children's books and coloring books are also available. If you can't find what you are looking for, we can order it for you.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

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

May 20-21, 2023 Pulpit Announcement:

As part of our National Eucharistic Revival, the Diocese is sponsoring last of three regional Eucharistic Congresses in Charleston on June 2-3 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Hundreds of faithful from across the state participated in the first two Congresses held in April in Charles Town and Wheeling. The Charleston event begins at 7pm Friday, June 2, with a Taize Service followed by a light reception. On Saturday, June 3, check-in/coffee & donuts begin at 9am followed by a reflective morning prayer, procession of the vicariates, an inspiring keynote speaker, lunch, inspirational breakout sessions, Adoration, Eucharistic Miracles exhibit, and much more. The day's events conclude with Mass at 5:30 pm with Bishop Brennan.

This Congress offers an opportunity for all of us - young and old - to be the Body of Christ by offering many opportunities for quiet prayer, informative presentations, and interpersonal contacts.

You can participate in the entire event or come for only a portion. The music and atmosphere will be engaging. There will be something for the whole family. The event is free (including lunch on Saturday), we just ask that you register by May 29th at the DWC website or by calling the chancery, so we can accommodate for your materials, lunch, and refreshments.

This is OUR MOMENT! Let it re-invigorate us, so that we may become fully alive as One Body in Christ. I will look forward to being with you as we let the Holy Spirit intensify in us a true devotion to the Lord who offered his life for ours on the cross and now offers himself to us in the Eucharist.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

Blessings and congratulations to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, May 13, 2023.



Aidan Anton, Barrett Brown, Jemma Boyd, Colin Bown, Jacob Brown, Jaicee Craffey, Luca DiCocco, Jorgie Lorea, Sawyer Mclwain, Rylee Morris, Matthew Mullen, Tucker Mullen, Zara O'Donoghue, Mary Rushworth, Dominic Southern, Reagan Stapleton, Olivia Rose Staun, Mateen Summers, Sophia Sweeney, Christine Umehan, Molly Weber, Madison White, Mara Winter, Vance Wriston

Thank you to the parents, sponsors and confirmandi for another great year. I cannot thank the members of our confirmation team enough. Thank you to Mark Sadd, Mary Collins, Maria Rendinell Tupta, Dawn Hernandez, Traci Strickland, and to Sr. Ida, Fr. Don and Fr. Ray. I could not do this without you! Also a special thank you to Angie for being our secretary. A special thank you to Dawn for the delicious cupcakes celebrating our confirmation. Mark Haas and the choir, as always, did a great job.



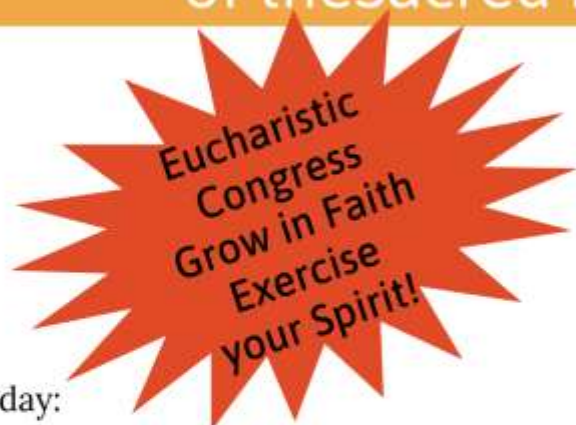
NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Christ is Present! Will you be?

June 2-3 at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral
of the Sacred Heart, Charleston



Friday:

7 pm - Taizé Prayer Service & Reception

Saturday:

9 am - Registration/Coffee and Donuts

10 am - Morning Prayer Service

- Keynote Address (immediately following prayer service)
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins (concludes before closing Mass)
- Tours of the church
- Lunch and Q/A session with Keynote

Afternoon - Two Breakout Presentations (10-12 sessions to choose from all to inspire our recognition of Christ's Presence in the Eucharist and our lives)

5:30 pm Closing Mass with Bishop Mark Brennan as president

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Fr. Joe Freedy



DIOCESE OF
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org



RSVP & more info:





Sacred Heart Grade School News...

We are about to start the final full week of our school year. It's amazing how fast the year has gone. This week, Preschool released the butterflies they have had in their classrooms. Look for them out in the garden as that is where they were released to start a new life! Kindergarten joined grades 1-5 at Mass on Friday for the first time. It will be so wonderful to have them with us all next year when they are in first grade. Each day this month, a fourth grader has led us in our afternoon prayer-The Hail Mary. It really is a wonderful way to end our day! *Anne Davis, Principal*

From our music director...

A Joyful Psalm #88: Psalm 47

Have you ever pondered the end of the world? This question has been wrestled with for thousands of years. Many predictions have been made, with little success – *obviously*. The Watchtower Society (the authoritative body of Jehovah's Witnesses) has mistakenly predicted the end-times on several occasions. Most notably in 1889, 1891, 1894, 1916, 1918, 1923, 1925, 1939. In 1941 stating: "Armageddon is surely near...soon...within a few years." And again in 1968.

In the First Reading this weekend, Jesus reminds us that, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority." (Acts 1:7) As Catholics, we know that Jesus is indeed with us *right now* in the Holy Eucharist. If the world seems broken with problems, war, famine, terror, we know that the Lord is with us *now*. G.K. Chesterton puts it nicely, "How would Christ solve modern problems if He were on earth today? For those of my faith there is only one answer. Christ *is* on earth today, alive on a thousand altars."

Don't worry about tomorrow. Let's live for today and "sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise." (Psalm 47:7)

Mark Haas, Director of Music

Music Ministries Wanted! Please consider contributing your time and talent to our parish in one of the following capacities:

- 1.) The Sacred Heart Choir:** The Choir serves each 10:30am Mass as well as Diocesan events. We need voices! Highschool through adult ages.
- 2.) Cantors:** The role of the cantor is to lead the assembly in song, especially in the absence of a choir. Our parish is in need of enthusiastic voices to take on the role of cantor.
- 3.) The Hand Bell Choir:** The handbell choir rings for various Masses throughout the year. The schedule is easy on you, and your addition would be much appreciated! All ages welcome.
- 4.) The Children's Choir:** The Children's Choir will sing about once/month. Encourage your children and grandchildren to share their own musical talents with the parish.
- 5.) Livestreaming:** We are need of people to run our livestream for the 10:30am Mass. All ages welcome.



Knights of Columbus News

Memorial Day weekend is the annual Vandalia Gathering, a West Virginia Traditional Music Festival held on the Capitol Grounds. Our Knights of Columbus will be one of the food vendors. The outdoor part of Vandalia will be during the day Saturday and Sunday. As in past years we will feature Roasted Corn and Mild Italian Sausage locally sourced from Buzz Foods along with optional peppers, onions and marinara sauce. This is one of the ways that we raise money for charitable works.

This is an excellent family friendly festival featuring traditional music with Fiddle, Banjo and Dulcimer contests as well as the Sunday Liar's Contest. There will be a number of food and craft vendors from around the state of West Virginia. One of the delights of this festival is wandering the grounds and listening to the various groups that assemble to play music who are not part of the organized evening concerts.

Please consider attending this event and supporting Knights of Columbus Council 12630.

Father Thien Nguyen, who provides both spiritual guidance and much hands on work for the Risen Lord Food Pantry, has sent along a very kind letter thanking Father Don, all of the members of Knights of Columbus Council 12630, the parish staff and especially all of the parishioners of Sacred Heart Co Cathedral for the 40 cans for lent food drive. The drive this spring resulted in \$4890 in donations as well as a good quantity of food that was donated and taken up to Clay County. Your support makes our charity reach more people in need.

The Origins of the Hail Mary Prayer
Michael Kawash, Candidate for Deacon, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

The “Hail Mary” has been one of the most well-known prayers in the Catholic Church’s history and culture. Second only to the Our Father, it might be the most recited prayer by Catholics throughout the entire world. Even our non-Catholic brothers and sisters have incorporated it in the culture-at-large in one form or another, despite not knowing how to recite it. Most commonly, we hear its secular employment as part of football parlance as a play designed to produce a miraculous result for a team whose outlook in a game is bleak and marked by desperation.

It might come as a surprise to many Catholics, however, to learn that what we recite today, asking for our Blessed Mother’s intercession, does not go back very far in terms of Church history. When we speak of the Church and her history of 2000 years, a few centuries may be considered but a few years in the lives of most individuals.

As a prayer, the Hail Mary was not composed by any one individual, saint or pope and given to the faithful to recite as part of his or her basic Catholic prayers. Rather, the prayer has evolved into what has come to be known as one of the most familiar and comforting invocations. Its history is fascinating and possesses catechetical value in learning Mary’s role in our salvation.

In its earliest stages, the Hail Mary was an angelic salutation, a term to which it is still referred today. It actually consisted of two salutations, one angelic and the other evangelic, and both were rooted in sacred scripture. Today we know the first part of this prayer as follows:

Hail, Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

The first salutation is that of the Angel Gabriel, who appeared to Mary, saying “Hail, favored one, the Lord is with you.” (Lk. 1:28) An angel who is a representative of God, telling a human being that she is a “favored one” was interpreted by the Church Fathers as another way of saying she is full of grace. Of course the phrase “the Lord is with you” is a reference to what Gabriel was about to tell her, specifically, that she would be carrying the Christ child, the Savior of the world.

The second salutation is delivered by Mary’s kinswoman Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Gabriel had told Mary that Elizabeth was expecting, and Mary went in haste to see her cousin, who, when she saw Mary, excitedly proclaimed “Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Lk. 1:42)

These two salutations came together as early as the sixth century and constituted the offertory prayer of the Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. It is believed that in the thirteenth century, Jesus’ name was added to cap the prayer and of course, to name with specificity the “fruit of [Mary’s] womb.” For several centuries, this dual greeting of homage, which is what we know today as only the prayer’s first half, constituted its entirety. The conflation of several events pushed the evolution of what we know today as the prayer’s second half.

By the early sixteenth century, the breviaries of some religious orders, including most notably, Camaldolese monks, began including forms of intercession highlighting Mary’s role (and the Church’s dogma) as Mother of God, our human nature as sinners and imploring her help when death is near. In fact, one of the more common pleas was seeking Mary’s help, not only in the present moment, but also at the hour of one’s death, since the world was in the wake of the Black Death plague which had taken the lives of anywhere from 75 to 200 million people less than two centuries before.

The Protestant revolt in the sixteenth century also played a role in pushing the Church to add an intercessory dimension to the prayer. Martin Luther and his like-minded companions criticized faithful Catholics who prayed the Hail Mary, maintaining that absent a petition, it was not really a prayer, but merely a greeting. In response, those who prayed this prayer would add a sentence or two seeking Mary’s intercession for various and sundry needs, including prayers for the time of one’s death. The Council of Trent was called to reiterate Catholic doctrine against the Protestant reformers, and one of its most efficacious products was the publishing of the Church’s first universal catechism in 1566. The *Catechism of the Council of Trent*, or shortly known as *The Roman Catechism*, included the Hail Mary’s first part of praise and encouraged the faithful to add a second part of invocation for our needs. Two years later, the Roman Breviary of 1568 included the prayer in its entirety as we know it today. The second part, consisting of petition/intercession, is as follows:

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.

Although by this time the Hail Mary prayer consisted of both greeting and invocation, it took a few more centuries for this second half to universally catch on. One example of this slow-paced movement is that in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was common for some Catholics receiving the recitation of Hail Mary’s as a penance to ask the priest if they were also required to say the “Holy Mary’s” as well.

Most importantly, the Hail Mary prayer is focused on Jesus. When examining this prayer, it is indeed Jesus’ Holy Name that is the hinge, holding together the two parts that comprise it. This is appropriate since the prayer is about Him. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “Beginning with Mary’s unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the [East and West] Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the person of Christ manifested in his mysteries.” (CCC 2675, in part)

May we all look to Mary in this great prayer of the Church in giving praise to Jesus.

Fr. Sadie's "Cogitationes" 304-546-4330

Charleston and its Gift of National Diversity

People who know me know that I have a great love for Charleston where I have ministered as a Catholic priest since the summer of 1969. The reasons for my love affair vary: the people, schools, healthcare, recreation opportunities, ease in getting around the city, city services and amenities, restaurants, theaters, shopping areas, etc., etc. But one reason stands out that I think should be better publicized and celebrated: the beautiful gift of several cultures, nationalities, races and religious faiths.

I grew up in Parkersburg in an ethnic culture; my mother's family and father were immigrants from Syria. While most of my friends were white, Anglo-Saxon, no strong ethnic background, my closest friends were first generation Syrians and Italians. My two priests were German and Irish born. My highly educated teachers were nuns born in Germany and Austria. There was a small Italian lodge and a small Syrian lodge but no national churches or schools; a small Jewish synagogue with a small number of Jewish immigrants and first-generation Jews.

Charleston in 1969 was and, to some extent, still is very different, permeated with different cultures, immigrants with first and second generation children very much aware of their national backgrounds, and all aware of their religious heritage: I have personally met people here from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Columbia, England, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Iran, Israel, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Palestine, Pakistan, Persia, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey, Latin America and the list goes on and on in a city of 48,864 people. I don't think our health system could survive without our international specialists. What a blessing.

Worth noting, I believe, while there are four ethnic Churches, 1 Jewish, one Greek, 1 Lebanese, 1 Egyptian, no Churches here have established national schools.

In the mid and late 19th century, American Catholic Bishops were divided how best to care for the spiritual needs of millions of Catholic immigrants arriving in the United States. Some were opposed to the erection of Catholic schools, wanting the foreign cultures, identities, and particular customs to be completely submersed into an Americanized Catholicism. Happily, in my view, then Bishop John J. Swint, D.D. of the Diocese of Wheeling, did not agree and built a Catholic school in many of our parishes. These schools now educate children of all and of no religious backgrounds.

In January 2003, the Bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter, "Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope," calling both countries to change their immigration policies and to provide a path to citizenship for the undocumented. Twenty years later, the immigration issue is still polarized by:

1. Lack of political leadership and statesmanship: politicians pandering to their political base.
2. Citizens' apathy: too many people not interested in basic rights for immigrants; we all profit from cheap labor.
3. Fear: that immigration reform will further divide country; further divide us culturally.

But factually, immigration reform will benefit America. First because it is the right thing to do, to recognize the dignity of every human being. Practically, even selfishly, it benefits us: it drives business creation, fuels innovation, fills essential work force needs, enables creative and skilled people from around the world to fulfill their dreams and benefit all of us.

Sacred Heart parish has flags of over one hundred countries. I'm certain, Fr. Higgs would lend them to the City or any local organization to host an effort to celebrate Charleston's rich gift of ethnic diversity. National Immigration Day, October 28, 2023, would be ideal.

Catholic Relief Services Collection-May 28th

The Catholic Relief Services Collection supports Catholic Church organizations that carry out international relief and solidarity efforts. Programs include relief and resettlement for victims of persecution, war, and natural disasters; development projects to improve living conditions for the poor; legal and support services for poor immigrants; peace and reconciliation work for people suffering from violence; and advocacy on behalf of the powerless.

Where Do Funds from The Catholic Relief Services Go?

Contributions to The Catholic Relief Services Collection are distributed to these six organizations: Catholic Relief Services for international relief and development, Migration and Refugee Services for refugee resettlement, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) for immigration legal services, Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development for advocacy, Holy Father's Relief Fund for emergency relief. Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church for evangelization and ministry.

By supporting The Catholic Relief Services Collection, you help these organizations build richer lives for faithful around the world.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection is promoted by staff of the Committee on National Collections. Collection funds are administered by the USCCB Administrative Committee.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD



Empower Us

Almighty God,
you empowered the apostles
to bring others to faith
through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Help us continue their mission
in our families, schools, neighborhoods,
workplaces, and parish.
Gift us with the courage to witness
our faith.
Inspire us to show the world our belief
with our words, actions, and gestures.
Use us as instruments of your grace
through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Sunday, May 21, 2023
You Will Be My Witnesses

Today's readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 1:17–23; Matthew 28:16–20. Our Scripture readings for almost every day of the Easter season have taken us progressively through the Acts of the Apostles. In this book, Luke pens with broad strokes the Church's development from the resurrection of Jesus to the apostle Paul's first incarceration.

Today we flip back to the very beginning of Acts. In the opening scene, Luke sets the stage for the foundation of the Christian community, the Church. In just a few short lines of Scripture, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples and witness his ascension to the Father. Jesus promises the disciples,

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you," and proclaims, "You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Thus launches the subsequent twenty-eight chapters in which we hear the dramatic details about the experiences of the disciples, the powerful role of the Holy Spirit in the formation of the Christian community, and the spread of the Word of God.

It is often said that the most remarkable miracle of all those attributed to Jesus is the wildfire-like spread of the Gospel and the supersonic growth of the number of new Christians baptized. The Acts of the Apostles relates this miraculous emergence of the Church against all odds.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 22 Eternally Bound

Jesus prepares his disciples for times when they will be scattered and feel alone. He assures them again that though they may be separated, they will never be abandoned. Their bonds, permanently forged in the Holy Spirit, will bring them peace in the midst of challenges. So it is for us today. We are bound together with an invisible thread in the community of faith. *Today's readings: Acts 19:1-8; Psalm 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab; John 16:29-33.*

Tuesday, May 23 Remain Close

Jesus affirms God's desire to be close to us in his heartfelt prayer on behalf of his disciples the night before he died. From today through Thursday, we hear this prayer in its entirety in the Gospel readings. Jesus ardently prays that we remember his teachings, stay close to one another, and remain close to God the Father. Sometimes we struggle to believe that God wants this loving relationship with us. Read John 17 in one sitting with this in mind. It is a powerful antidote to doubt. *Today's readings: Acts 20:17-27; Psalm 68:10-11, 20-21; John 17:1-11a.*

Wednesday, May 24 Farewell

Take note of the parallel scenes between today's reading from Acts and the Gospel reading from John 17. Paul speaks to the community at Ephesus as he departs on his journey to death. Jesus speaks his prayer-filled goodbyes to his disciples on the eve of his arrest. Both Paul and Jesus insist that their strength in resisting the Evil One is rooted in the Holy Spirit. So it is with us to this day. The Holy Spirit serves as our armor and source of unity for the life of the world. *Today's readings: Acts 20:28-38; Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab; John 17:11b-19.*

Thursday, May 25 Show Me the Path of Life

At the heart of today's readings, we pray Psalm 16:11, "You will show me the path of life." This prayer reflects St. Paul's experience throughout his ministry. At every turn he receives the Lord's guidance to show him where to go, what to say, and how to invite new believers to faith. This verse is also at the heart of Jesus' ardent prayer to the Father on behalf of his beloved disciples. Make it the heart of your daily prayer as well. *Today's readings: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; John 17:20-26.*

Friday, May 26 Feed My Lambs

The last resurrection appearance in John's Gospel offers a perfect opportunity for the prayer practice called *Ignatian contemplation*. In your imagination, place yourself on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias with the disciples in their final conversation with Jesus. Notice the details: the sunrise, waves lapping on the shore, salty scent of the sea and caught fish, smoke of the charcoal fire, the disciples crowding close to hear Jesus speak. Jesus has powerful words for us to hear today: I love you. Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me. *Today's readings: Acts 25:13b-21; Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; John 21:15-19.*

Saturday, May 27 Stay Focused

John's Gospel ends with Jesus' command to Peter to focus on following him. When Peter looks sideways to ask about a fellow disciple, Jesus replies, "What concern is it of yours?" (John 21:22). God's concern is not rooted in comparing disciple to disciple. It is part of the human condition to get distracted by what others are doing and to measure ourselves against our perceptions of others. Jesus' final words strongly counteract that temptation—stay focused! *Today's readings: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7; John 21:20-25.*





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On the third Sunday of each month following the rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be recited.

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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.



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