



# BASILICA OF THE CO-CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

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



## 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time-July 14, 2024

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

Rector: Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.E., V.F. - dhiggs@dwc.org  
Associate Rector: Rev. Rayappa Kurakula - rayappak@dwc.org  
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Michael A. Kawash



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.sacredheartcathedral.com](http://www.sacredheartcathedral.com)

### National Eucharistic Revival Prayer



Lord Jesus Christ, you give us your flesh and blood for the life of the world, and you desire that all people come to the Supper of the Sacrifice of the Lamb. Renew in your Church the truth, beauty, and goodness contained in the Most Blessed Eucharist.

Jesus living in the Eucharist, come and live in me.

Jesus healing in the Eucharist, come and heal me.

Jesus sacrificing yourself in the Eucharist, come and suffer in me.

Jesus rising in the Eucharist, come and rise to new life in me.

Jesus loving in the Eucharist, come and love in me.

Lord Jesus Christ, through the paschal mystery of your death and resurrection made present in every Holy Mass, pour out your healing love on your Church and on our world. Grant that as we lift you up during this time of Eucharistic Revival, your Holy Spirit may draw all people to join us at this Banquet of Life. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Eucharist, Pray for us. Amen.

### 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

### 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 Kerekas 342-8175  
email: skerekas@shccwv.us

### EDUCATION

**Director of OCIA:** Rev. Mr. Michael 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:** TBD 342-8175  
**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  
**St. John XXIII Pastoral Center** 342-0507  
**St. Joseph Men's Group:** Mike Tupta 541-5177  
Sean Whelan 859-457-2861  
**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

## The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Basilica 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time-July 14, 2024

07/13 Sat. 5:30 pm + Ms. Arduinne Wazelle  
07/14 Sun. 8:00 am + People of the Parish  
10:30 am + **Richard "Dickie" Sutler**  
5:00 pm + Rev. Charles H. Savage  
07/15 Mon. 8:15 am + Adele Bobinger  
07/16 Tues. 12:00 pm + Donald G. McKeny  
07/17 Wed. 12:00 pm + Mitchel Kawash  
07/18 Thur. 12:00 pm + Joseph & Josephine Chiari  
07/19 Fri. 8:15 am + **Charles "Ken" Surber**  
12:00 pm + Ruth Mullen  
07/20 Sat 8:15 am + Rev. John McGill  
07/21 Sat. 5:30 pm For the Intention of +Rudy Capece, his  
07/21 Sun. 8:00 am + Donald C. Supcoe, III  
10:30 am + People of the Parish  
5:00 pm + Rev. Ildephonse Roechkl, O.F.M., Cap.

### Ministry Schedule week of July 20/21

Lector Schedule  
5:30 PM-Joe Noronha  
8:00 AM-Mark French  
10:30 AM-Perry Ayoob  
5:00 PM-Jason Pizatella

### Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

5:30 PM-Patricia Noronha, John Willson, 4 volunteers  
8:00 AM-Jack Burke, Karen & Sam Gross, 3 volunteers  
10:30 AM-Antonetta Stevens, Maria & Mike Tupta, 3 volunteers  
5:00 PM-Debra Basham, Agnes Smith, Angelita Zamora, 3 Volunteers

### **The Pope's Monthly Intention** **July-For the pastoral care of the sick.**

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

### **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.

Please do not block the alley (Sadie Way) between the Church and Sacred Heart Grade School, it is a fire lane and must be kept accessible for emergencies. Thank you!

### **Sharing Our Treasure - 7/7/2024**

Regular Collection: \$13,259 Candles: \$103  
Smile (Sisters): \$776 Needy Student: \$506  
Social Concerns: \$130 Partners in Hope: \$415  
Air Conditioning: \$130 (\$2512) Human Dev.: \$275

**Thank you for your faithful generosity.**

## A note from the Rector...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord!

Greetings on this Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time!

This Tuesday, Sr. Ida will travel to Zimbabwe for her home visit. Sr. Ida will return in September. May she have safe travels and a beautiful time with her sisters and family. Please keep her in your prayers.

This Wednesday, Fr. Roy, Sr. Placida, and Sr. Placexedece will travel to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress. They will join many from our Diocese and 80,000 others from across our nation from July 17th until the 21st. One of the four Eucharistic Pilgrimages heading to Indianapolis passed through our Diocese in the Northern Panhandle. Please read Michael Tupta's note about this historic procession (with pictures) in this bulletin. Let us pray for those attending the Eucharistic Congress, may they receive many graces from this wonderful gathering.

I am happy to report on two maintenance projects financed by the interest money from our "Renewing Our Present Securing Our Future" Capital Campaign Endowment Fund. We have sealed and lined our main parking lot and will soon replace the carpet in our Msgr. Sadie Gathering Space and sacristy. Thank you for your faithful support of our campaign.

May you have a blessed and cool week. I remain,

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Don

## A Pilgrimage to Catholic Italy with Fr. Don

### DEADLINE APPROACHING, SPACE IS LIMITED

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.

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.

## ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS AT SACRED HEART BASILICA & SCHOOLS

Starting this year, yearly Safe Environment continuing education will be required of all diocesan employees and volunteers. This will entail completion of a yearly module and monthly bulletins for all employees and volunteers.

Keeping this matter in the forefront of our minds is critical to maintaining a safe environment for the young and for vulnerable adults where they worship, study, recreate and camp. More information will be sent to you from either the Office of Safe Environment or from your parish office, regarding the timeline and details for completing this yearly training.

We expect to implement this continuing education in phases and will rely primarily on our existing awareness training provider, VIRTUS. With an electronic platform and a built-in tracking mechanism, VIRTUS makes it convenient and easy to complete and document training. Look for more specific information and direction in the coming weeks.



Our Knights council has the opportunity to host a Silver Rose prayer service promoting the dignity of all human life and honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. The dates for this service will be Thursday/Friday, July 25/26, 2024.

Each year, from early March through mid-December, Silver Roses are stewarded by Knights of Columbus councils along routes from Canada to Mexico. This will be a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Religious Education News...

Parents can pick up registration forms for 2024-25 in the vestibule of the Church or go to the parish website, [www.sacredheartcathedral.com](http://www.sacredheartcathedral.com) and print one out. RE will begin again in September.

## 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/keyboard/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](mailto:bkime@dwc.org)



## “For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink” John 6:55

Dear Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral Parishioners,

On Sunday June 23, I got to participate in a small part of a 65-day Eucharistic pilgrimage starting in New Haven, Connecticut on May 18th and concluding on July 17th as our Eucharistic Lord arrives in Indianapolis, IN. Catholics from the whole country will be gathering from July 17-21 for a Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts. There are FOUR of these National processions happening- one from each corner of the country! It is all directed at increasing a revival of the reality of Jesus’ True Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

This leg of the procession was on a sternwheeler down the Ohio river from Steubenville, OH to Bellaire, OH, which is just south of Wheeling. The procession took just over five hours and was an amazingly powerful experience. At various points, there were planned spots where onlookers on the shore would be to receive a blessing (benediction) from the Holy Eucharist. Bishop Brennan blessed the West Virginia side of the river (Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston) and Bishop Lohse blessed the Ohio side (Diocese of Steubenville).

The photo below was taken by a reporter and I love it! Think about it: the deacon, priest, or in this case Bishop Brennan, wears the cope and humeral veil to hide the human identity of the man holding the monstrance when he performs the blessing. In this case, the man is literally invisible and Jesus is the only visible person! And then there’s me smirking as I fail to hold down the bishop's cope from the wind! Haha



The procession eventually continued to the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling and then all-night adoration was held, concluding with Holy Mass on Monday and a procession through Wheeling to St. Alphonsus Church. As Catholics, we are commissioned to bring the the Gospel, or in the original Greek: Ευαγγέλιο, meaning Good News, out into the world and let the life-giving grace that God bestows on us in the sacramental life be observed by those around us.

Christ dwells on our altar during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and in our tabernacles at all times. Eucharistic processions are one of the rare times when we bring Christ to dwell on our streets in the Blessed Sacrament. All of this effort and planning serves two purposes: to glorify God and to make Jesus’ Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist known to everyone. Christ died for every person. He desires intimacy with us all. So we, His faithful, ought to bring Christ out to where the people are as a witness of our belief and to let God work conversions in their hearts.

On Sunday, July 7th, I completed my eight-week summer assignment at St. Joseph’s parish in Huntington with Msgr. Dean Borgmeyer. I now have time to make final preparations for my travels to begin my four years of theological studies at the Pontifical North American College, departing on Tuesday, July 23. I learned a lot in my time with Msgr. Dean and again have an increased desire to give my life to Christ and His Church as a spiritual father in the Sacred Priesthood for the salvation of souls of West Virginia.

I ask for your prayers for myself, my brother seminarians and for an increase in the number of men willing to follow Christ with an undivided heart. **A huge thank you to all the Sacred Heart parishioners for all your prayerful support of our own parish’s three seminarians!** The Lord seems to be calling a sufficient number of men. However, we need to foster an atmosphere that is conducive to young men discerning the Lord calling them to seminary.

**Last thing:** I implore you to let Christ into your heart in a more profound way. I encourage you to just take the next small step to living your Catholic faith more. Here’s my quick rule of thumb: daily prayer, weekly Holy Mass and monthly participation in the sacrament of Confession. God does not ask us to be successful, but just to be faithful. God bless you all and I hope to see you soon and if not, then in Wheeling four years from now for my ordination. Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever!

To Jesus through Mary, Michael J. Tupta  
Seminarian, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
mjtufta@gmail.com  
wvpriests.org

Pontifical North American College Address: PNAC  
Address: Servizio del Transito Merci  
City: Vatican City, Country: Italy, Zip Code: 00120





## MARSHALL CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

Marshall University  
Huntington, WV

Dear Friend in Christ,

My name is Daniel Long, and I am the Catholic Campus Minister at Marshall University. Today I am reaching out to seek your support in getting FOCUS missionaries onto Marshall University's campus starting the Fall semester of 2025 to help us grow the ministry and bring more students to Christ and His Church.

What is FOCUS, you ask? FOCUS stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students. FOCUS sends out 4 young adult missionaries (2 men and 2 women) who seek to go out onto college campuses to help grow the Catholic community. These missionaries help in seeking out students to come to Christ and grow in a relationship with Him. Their mission is simple: "Make disciples for Christ. First, we invite people into a relationship with Jesus in the Catholic Church. Then, we accompany them along their journey. Finally, we equip them to share the Faith with others too." - focus.org

We currently have a good Catholic community on campus, but we would love to see it grow! My goal is to have a noticeable presence on the main campus grounds, while also being able to keep the Newman Center open regularly. Unfortunately, I cannot be in two places at once. This is where the FOCUS missionaries would come in! They can be a constant presence on the campus grounds, helping to bring students to the Newman Center and finding a strong Catholic Community.

FOCUS keeps their mission going through donations, with missionaries themselves raising their own salaries. We are only asked to cover a portion of the cost of supporting the FOCUS missionaries as a Campus that would be benefitting from their ministry. We have recently been granted a \$36,000 matching grant by the WV Catholic Foundation so your gift will be doubled automatically! This makes our goal of \$72,000 a real possibility when also considering our intentions of other fundraisers and Parish outreaches. Today I am asking for both your financial support as well as your prayers for this endeavor. Please consider a donation, if you are able, to help bring the Catholic Faith to more students on Marshall University's campus. As mentioned, we intend to hold other fundraisers and do more Parish outreach to assist in this endeavor.

After having corresponded with Bishop Mark Brennan, we do have his endorsement for this undertaking, and I am very grateful. If you are interested in learning more about what FOCUS is and what they do, you can visit their website at [focus.org](http://focus.org). If you have any questions or would like to talk further about donating, please contact me by telephone or email. You can also make a secure donation online at <https://marshallcatholic.com>.

God bless,  
Daniel Long  
Campus Minister, Marshall University  
(304)840-2021 / [dlong@dwc.org](mailto:dlong@dwc.org)



Scan with phone to find donation link on the Marshall Catholic webpage

1609 5th Avenue Huntington, WV 25703 | 304.840.2021 | [marshallcatholic.com](http://marshallcatholic.com)

### FAMILY FULLY ALIVE - JULY - WITNESSING TO THE FAITH

Because families play an indispensable role in the new evangelization, we want to share our faith with other families and those who are far away from God.

Breaking Open the Theme Everyone — no matter their role or station in life — is called to holiness. Holiness in the family is a response of love to the graces God lavishes upon them every day through the sacrament of marriage. "A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God's grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful. ... The gift of God's love poured out upon the spouses is also a summons to constant growth in grace."



#### Meditation - From Pope Benedict XVI's Address to the Pontifical Council for the Family

The new evangelization depends largely on the Domestic Church (cf. *ibid.* [Familiaris Consortio], n. 65). In our time, as in times past, the eclipse of God, the spread of ideologies contrary to the family and the degradation of sexual ethics are connected. And just as the eclipse of God and the crisis of the family are linked, so the new evangelization is inseparable from the Christian family. The family is indeed the way of the Church because it is the "human space" of our encounter with Christ.

1. How can we as a family better communicate Christ's presence to others in word and action, thereby becoming a "saving community" that shares the love of Christ?

2. Remembering that the "new evangelization" is not new in content but "new in ardor, methods and expression," what are some ways we as a family can evangelize, and what truths might we express?

3. Why is family such an effective voice for addressing important issues?

Scripture Readings — Psalm 148:1-6, 11-13 - A song of praise to the Lord

Family Project: Invite a family member, friend or acquaintance to Mass, adoration or a faith-forming event with you. Also, write down ideas for small sacrifices and offerings on individual pieces of paper. Place these in a small bowl. Every day, have each member of the family randomly select one piece of paper to offer the sacrifice listed for the intentions of a relative or friend. At the end of the month, each family member might send a note to the person for whom they made the offering, telling him or her about their prayers and sacrifices.

## A Letter to West Virginians on Gun Ownership and Use

My fellow believers and citizens,

For some time, I have been reflecting on the tragic phenomenon of deaths by firearms, both murders and suicides, in our state I previously addressed the need to ban assault-style weapons. It is in the spirit of concern for my fellow West Virginians regarding handgun violence that I write to you.

I will limit myself in this letter to asking this question: does possession of a firearm actually make you safer? Or does the widespread possession of firearms contribute to gun violence?

To put this topic in a wider context, consider that there are actually more guns in civilian hands in the United States than there are people in the country: about 101 per 100 persons. The next highest nations are Serbia with 58.2 and Yemen with 54.8 per 100 inhabitants (World Atlas, 2024).

What is the result of widespread gun ownership? In 2019, the United States had 12.1 firearm-related deaths per 100,000 persons, while nearby Canada had 4.1 per 100,000 persons. The US rate for gun homicides was 2.5 times higher than for similar high-income nations (American Journal of Criminal Justice, 2023, 48 (1), pp. 21-50). There are few gun deaths from homicides, suicides and accidents in the United Kingdom, Australia, Japan and Norway, where civilian gun ownership is rare. In our country, the states with the highest rates of gun violence, like Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, Wyoming and Montana, **"tend to have high gun ownership rates. In comparison, states with low gun violence per capita, like Massachusetts, Hawaii, New Jersey and New York, have lower rates of gun ownership and stricter gun regulations"** (2021 World Population Review).

What about West Virginia? According to a CBS news report of April, 2022, 58.5% of West Virginians had guns in their homes, among the highest rates in the nation. There are 17.3 gun deaths in West Virginia per 100,000 persons for an average of 320 deaths per year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 17, 2024). The number of homicides from gun use in our state rose 83% between 2013 and 2022 (CDC). Seventy percent of gun fatalities here are suicides. As a West Virginian, active in suicide prevention, whose relative killed himself with a gun, said, **"If firearms aren't accessible, it's rare that someone searches for another means to end their life."** But guns are easily available in West Virginia.

Why do many West Virginians own guns? Apart from hunting, in which rifles rather than handguns are usually used, gun owners believe they and their families are safer because a gun is available to defend against an intruder in their home or someone assaulting them on the street. **Is that true? One study says: "Victims who use guns defensively are less likely to be harmed than those using other forms of self-protection"** (Rand Corporation, March, 2018). **Another says: "There are no statistically significant benefits to a would-be victim during a criminal confrontation" who uses a gun in self-defense; running away or calling the police would be more effective** (J T Chan School of Public Health, 2022, Harvard University, David Hemenway). It is simply difficult to know how effective possessing a gun is in deterring crime and protecting intended victims.

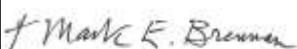
What we do know, as I cited above, is that guns are used with regularity in West Virginia to commit homicides and suicides. **If there is no clear evidence that possessing a gun makes us safer and much evidence that it results in the death of a significant number of our neighbors, why do we hold on to this relic of the frontier days? It seems to be another instance of that exaggerated American individualism that shouts "My body, my choice" or "I can change my gender if I feel like it" or "No one can tell me or my children to get vaccinated."**

In Catholic thinking the freedom of the individual person, a great value, must be balanced by respect for the common good, which is also a great value. You have the personal freedom to drive a car, but you must first have the requisite age and pass a driver's test to obtain a license and then you must obey the traffic laws. The restrictions on your freedom reflect a concern for the common good: the safety of drivers and pedestrians. So, I ask: does not the widespread ownership of handguns tip the balance too far in the direction of personal freedom in disregard of the common good?

**What can be done? I ask gun owners to seriously consider whether owning a gun to protect oneself or one's family actually provides that protection.** If there is conflicting evidence about the matter, why keep a gun handy when the widespread possession of firearms puts all West Virginians at risk? I trust that many gun owners store their guns in locked safes or drawers and store ammunition separately. But how safe is this? The key is kept someplace and that can hardly be kept a secret in most homes. The problem is solved if no gun is available. While the Second Amendment allows us to possess guns, it does not require that we own them or use them. My concern is that the broad possession of handguns in our state poses a clear danger to everyone who lives here. God has commanded us: You shall not kill. That applies both to killing others and to killing oneself. Life is a precious gift which we should respect and cultivate in ourselves and others. **If the easy availability of firearms puts our people's lives in danger, which I believe it does, then prudence should lead us to reduce their number and availability and take other measures to ensure public safety.** I ask you to pray and think about this matter. May the Holy Spirit guide you as you do.

**As we approach our nation's birthday, may God grant you much peace and joy in your faith and in your love of God and neighbor**

Sincerely in Christ,



+Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



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

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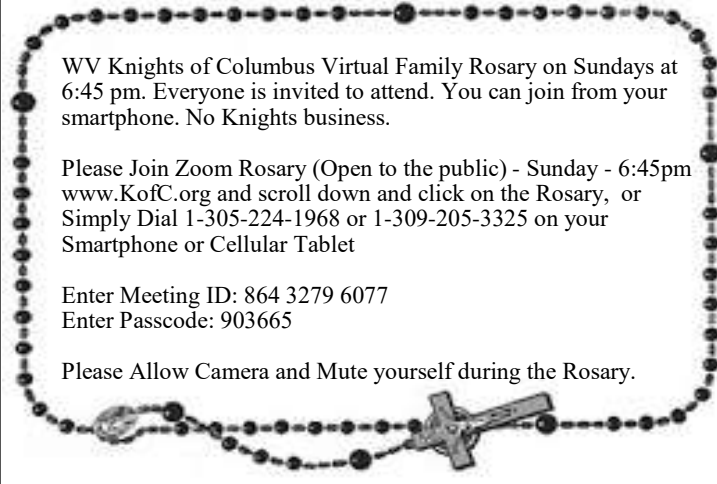
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WV Knights of Columbus Virtual Family Rosary on Sundays at 6:45 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. You can join from your smartphone. No Knights business.

Please Join Zoom Rosary (Open to the public) - Sunday - 6:45pm  
[www.KofC.org](http://www.KofC.org) and scroll down and click on the Rosary, or  
 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**  
**Is An Organization That Encourages Vocations. Why Not Join Us?**  
**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.

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.

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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.

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