

# Faith IN WV

APRIL 12, 2026  
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



## TURN TO THE DIVINE MERCY

“Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to Divine Mercy.” - Jesus Christ to St. Faustina

On February 22, 1931, Jesus appeared to a humble Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska. It would be the first of many visions she would have over the course of four years. Each would stem from his intended message to share with the world, a message of hope, healing, and forgiveness not of judgment.

Through her diary and with the help of her spiritual director, Blessed Fr. Michael Sopoćko, the devotion of the Divine Mercy began to take shape. A devotion centered on trust in Jesus, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and a powerful image bearing the words: *“Jesus, I trust in You.”*

She recorded in her diary that Jesus said, “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet (Diary of St. Faustina, 699).”

Jesus asked St. Faustina to have an image painted of him standing with two rays coming from his chest, with the words, “Jesus, I trust in You” underneath. The rays represented the blood and water that poured out when he was pierced by the lance after his crucifixion. Jesus

instructed St. Faustina that this image would be a reminder to all mankind of God’s endless mercy. Jesus said it should also be a reminder to us that we are called to show God’s love and mercy to others as well.

Jesus said, “I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first by deed, the second by word, the third by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me (Diary, p742).”

It took three years for St. Faustina and Blessed Fr. Michael to get someone to paint the image of Jesus as the Divine Mercy. And almost 70 years for the Sunday after Easter to be dedicated to the Divine Mercy as Jesus asked. Divine Mercy Sunday was added to the Church calendar in 2000 by Saint Pope John Paul II.

Today, this devotion continues to remind us that no one is beyond God’s love especially through Confession and the Eucharist where we receive abundant grace.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, Catholics of all ages are invited to pause, pray, and trust more deeply. Whether by praying the Chaplet, going to Confession, or simply whispering, *“Jesus, I trust in You,”* we open our hearts to the endless mercy of God.

The original image of Divine Mercy, once only a request in St. Faustina’s diary, now hangs in Vilnius, Lithuania. It is a lasting sign that God’s mercy is real, present, and meant for each of us.



# Historic Celebration for the Diocese and Cathedral Apostolic Nuncio to Preside at Centennial Mass

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston joyfully commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, marking a century of faith, devotion, and sacred beauty at the heart of diocesan life.

This historic milestone will be celebrated at the Centennial Mass on Tuesday, April 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, the diocese is especially honored that His Eminence Cardinal



Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will serve as principal celebrant and homilist. As

the personal representative of Pope Leo XIV, the Cardinal's presence is a profound sign of communion with the Holy Father and brings special distinction to our celebration. Visiting bishops will join priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful from across the diocese for this joyful occasion. The last Mass attended by an apostolic nuncio was Sept. 12, 2008, when Archbishop Pietro Sambi celebrated Bishop Bernard William Schmitt's 20th episcopal consecration anniversary.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph, consecrated on April 21, 1926, is the second to stand on this site. Its predecessor, originally St. James Church, was built in 1847 under Bishop Richard Vincent Whelan and became the cathedral when the Diocese of Wheeling was established in 1850. In 1872, Bishop Whelan

entrusted the diocese to St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer.



After the original cathedral was in disrepair following a 1923 fire, Bishop John J. Swint led the construction of a new cathedral intended to endure as a lasting expression of faith. Designed by architect Edward J. Weber in the Lombard-Romanesque style, the cathedral's cruciform plan, limestone exterior, and richly adorned interior reflect both artistic excellence and deep theological meaning.



Its sacred art, including murals and stained glass, serves as a visual catechesis, drawing the faithful into

the mysteries of Christ. Every detail was crafted to proclaim the glory of God, making the cathedral truly a "sermon in stone."



For one hundred years, the Cathedral of St. Joseph has remained a visible sign of faith and a place of encounter with the living God. As we celebrate this centennial anniversary, we give thanks for the generations who have worshiped within its walls and look forward with hope as it continues to serve as the spiritual heart of our Diocese for years to come.



Read more about the history of the Cathedral in the FaithInWV e-bulletin's Triduum edition available to download at: [FAITHINWV.ORG/E-BULLETINS/](https://www.faitinwv.org/e-bulletins/)



# OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

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## OLIVE BRANCH PROGRAM OFFERS HEALING AND HOPE FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS

Those navigating the challenges of separation or divorce are invited to attend the Olive Branch program on April 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston.

Hosted by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, this faith-based initiative offers compassionate support, practical guidance, and spiritual renewal for individuals seeking to better understand their place in the Church during a difficult time. Open to both Catholics and non-Catholics, the program is not couples counseling, but rather a day of reflection, encouragement, and growth rooted in the mercy and love of Christ.

Organized by Director of Social Ministries for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Kathy Barton, the Olive Branch program reminds participants that they are not alone, and that healing and renewal are possible through faith. Drawing on the biblical symbol of the olive branch as a sign of hope after the storm, the program seeks to renew faith and restore a sense of belonging in the Church.

The day will include presentations from Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Associate V.E., V.F., on remaining active in the life of the Church, and professional counselor Donna L. Niggemeyer on understanding the path forward after separation or divorce. The program will conclude with

reflections on forgiveness and trust in God's plan.

This free event is part of a growing diocesan initiative to extend compassion and support to those experiencing separation or divorce. Registration is required.

To learn more or register, visit:

[DWC.ORG/THE-OLIVE-BRANCH/](http://DWC.ORG/THE-OLIVE-BRANCH/)



# Hold on

God will never leave you  
during separation & divorce

The Olive Branch Ministry is  
your resource, helping you  
to remain steadfast in faith  
and hope.



## OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

Helping individuals separated or divorced

April 25th  
8:30 am - 4 pm

Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center  
100 Hodges Road  
Charleston, WV 25314



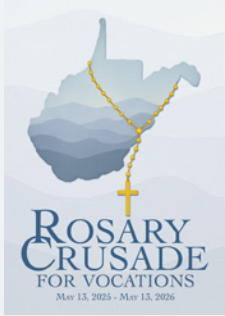
DIOCESE OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON



REGISTER NOW @ [DWC.org](http://DWC.org)

# Prayer Builds the Church

*Join the Rosary Crusade – Make Your Pledge by May 13th*



The Rosary changes hearts, strengthens the Church, and brings forth vocations, and your prayers are needed now.

As the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Rosary Crusade for Vocations approaches its conclusion on May 13, 2026, there is still time to take part in this powerful, grace-filled effort.

Faithful across the Mountain State are invited to pledge Rosaries for an increase in Catholic vocations for more priests, deacons, consecrated religious, and holy marriages. This diocesan-wide effort has united parishioners of all ages in a shared mission to pray intentionally for the future of the Church in West Virginia.

The diocesan Rosary Crusade builds on the extraordinary success of the 2023 Rosary for Vocations Campaign, when more than 200,000 Rosaries were pledged online by faithful in WV and their friends around the world, including the Philippines, India, Europe, and Mexico. Bishop Mark E. Brennan called for the Rosary Crusade to again unite us through this year-long intentional crusade of prayer. He prompts our participation by saying, now is the time to "step up

"The Rosary is a perfect devotional tool for an increase in vocations," said Sister Martha Gomez, R.G.S., Delegate for Consecrated Life. "Remember, each priest, consecrated person, deacon, and Catholic marriage is truly a result

of strong and intense prayer. Be that grandmother, grandfather, mother, father, friend, or parishioner who faithfully prays for them."

The Crusade fittingly began last year on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, recalling the Blessed Mother's call to pray the Rosary daily.

This rhythmic meditative prayer has long been cherished as a powerful means of intercession. As St. Padre Pio reminded the faithful, it is a "weapon against the evils of the world," and through it, Our Blessed Mother brings our intentions directly to her Son. Likewise, Sr. Lucia of Fatima emphasized that there is no difficulty that cannot be aided through the Rosary.

So, this call is for everyone, young and old, the Rosary Crusade is a simple yet profound way to support vocations. Know without a doubt that every Rosary prayed at home, in parish groups, or during Eucharistic adoration, strengthens the foundation of our Diocese.

Therefore, as the Crusade draws to a close, all are encouraged to make a pledge on or before May 13th.

Together, let us "go all out for Jesus and the Church," entrusting our needs to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, Sr. Martha encourages.

To make your pledge and access Rosary resources, including prayer guides and materials for children and families, visit: [DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE/](http://DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE/)

Dear Faithful and Friends of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston,

I would like to express my most sincere thankfulness to all those who faithfully participated and are participating in the Rosary Crusade for Vocations. It is a joy to know we also have friends and relatives here and abroad who join us in this beautiful endeavor.

We pray the rosary asking the Lord to touch the hearts of young people to consider serving the church as priests, sisters, brothers, or consecrated virgins.

Our Rosary campaign has given us hope, as we have witnessed more young people discerning in Seminary and the possibility of, and young women discerning their vocation by attending vocational discernment retreats and participating more in their parish youth groups.

Be assured that **ALL THIS IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOUR PRAYERS**, Sr. Martha emphasized.

And to all who are opening their hearts and minds to God's whisper call to serve the Church, approach a priest, deacon, or sister. Talk to them and seek advice. Go to retreats offered and find out more about the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. We thank you in advance for listening to God's call.

Accompanying you in prayer, especially through the Holy Rosary,

Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.  
Delegate for Consecrated Life



# RENEWED IN BEAUTY TO STRENGTHEN THE FAITHFUL

## ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MARTINSBURG UNVEILS RENOVATIONS

*Editor's note: this feature story was written by Meg Partington, of St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, and photos are by Brian Kaltenbaugh*

When congregants arrived on Palm Sunday weekend at St. Joseph Parish to mark Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem mere days before his crucifixion, they were greeted with new sacred imagery in the windows and a soothing historic palette on the walls.

Parishioners, clergy, and staff made their own joyful entrance March 28 into the sanctuary, which closed Jan. 5th to prepare for a major renovation that included replacing seven stained-glass windows, repainting the worship space, sanding and refinishing the wood flooring under the pews and replacing the ceramic tile in the narthex and baptistery with porcelain. In the interim, weekend Masses were held in the Saint Joseph School cafeteria at 110 E. Stephen St. in Martinsburg and weekday Masses were said at the chapel inside Mary's Refuge, a nearby maternity home.

The nearly \$730,000 worth of work was done by general contractor Worcester Eisenbrandt Inc., based in Baltimore; Georgia-based King Richard's Liturgical Design & Contracting; Colorsmith Stained Glass Studio of Riverside, IL; and Brackens Painting LLC of Martinsburg.

The ornate glass restored from St. Wendelin Church in South Pittsburgh, which closed in late 2023 and was demolished in June 2024, brought joy and a sense of peace to many.

"My favorite part of the renovation project is definitely the windows," said Linda Abrahamian, a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish for more than 40 years and its current youth ministry leader. "They are absolutely beautiful and totally speak to the glory of God. They create a space of reverence and

sacredness in honor of Christ in the Eucharist. Sacred art connects us to heaven while on earth, sort of a window to heaven."

For Lisa Ceravalo, a member of the parish for six decades and regent of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 392 in Martinsburg, there are many things to love about the changes, including the two shades of green on the walls.

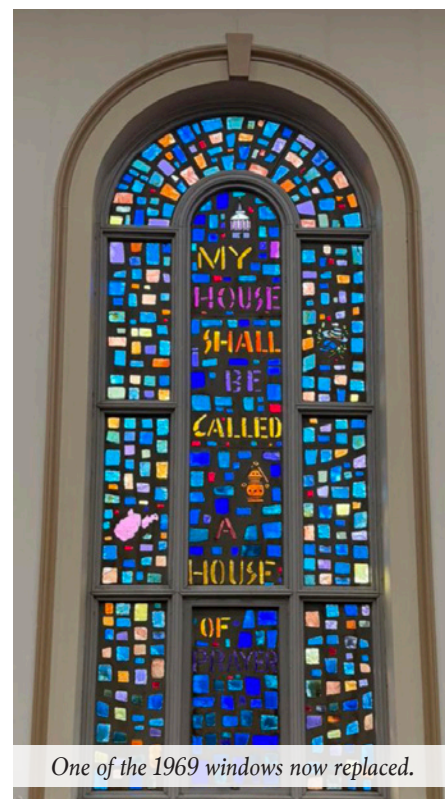
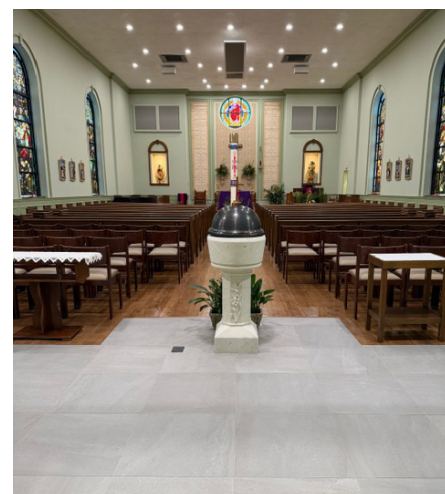
"It is hard to choose just one (favorite) aspect of the renovation project - there are so many: the beautiful windows, which are more in style with the architectural history of the building; the new, fresh paint color brings light and openness. It also blends with the new windows and the Stations of the Cross, which had been replaced a few years ago," Ceravalo said. "When I first entered, my eyes were drawn to the statues that now stand on each side of the altar."

The Rev. Thomas Gallagher, pastor, said the statues of Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph with the child Jesus are temporary and will be replaced by permanent representations of the church's patron saint and the Blessed Mother.

Kathy Kerns, a parishioner for 13 years, found her spirits raised by the new wall colors.

"That green really lifts me up," Kerns said.

"I think that my favorite part of the renovation project is that it integrates harmoniously our beautiful and timeless Catholic tradition with a clean and airy aesthetic that feels neither forced nor contrived," said Fran Inman, who has been attending Masses at St. Joseph Parish since 1997 and serves as the Children's Faith Formation coordinator. "It is a space that enhances, rather than distracts from, the worship of our Lord."



*One of the 1969 windows now replaced.*

*continue...*

The windows from St. Wendelin Church depict the wedding at Cana, Jesus in the temple, St. Anne with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the annunciation, the ascension, the Last Supper and Jesus presenting to St. Peter the keys to the kingdom. In 2021, it was reported that the windows at St. Joseph Parish - installed in 1969 at the 225 S. Queen St. church - were leaking badly, said Deacon Patrick Michel, pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish. Church leaders were told that the wooden frames around the windows were rotting, the polymer holding the glass together was deteriorating and that the structures would become dangerous within five years.

The committee members who researched the options for replacing the multihued glass are Clarence E. Martin III, Brian Kaltenbaugh, Robin Warren, Enid Roman-de Jesus, Lorraine Javorsky, Roger Shallis, Brian Byrne, Molly Kaltenbaugh, Jason Mills and Richard Dale, now deceased.

Brian Kaltenbaugh, who also serves as director of music ministries for the parish, said new windows were installed in the Martinsburg church in 1969. The original glass was sold, but one bearing the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary was given back to the church and has been in storage ever since. As part of the window project, that piece was restored and placed in the sacristy.

He said the radiance reflected in the renovations is significant in ways that are more than visual.

“The Catholic Church has always prized beauty in its churches as a way of honoring God, the creator of all things beautiful,” Kaltenbaugh said. “I think that any time you make a dramatic change like the one we’ve implemented, it will serve to help our faithful better focus on God as the center of our faith. The interior elements (windows, statues, etc) are visible reminders of Christ at work in our lives. They help to elevate our thoughts to a higher plane and help us to enter more deeply into Christ’s sacrifice at the altar.”

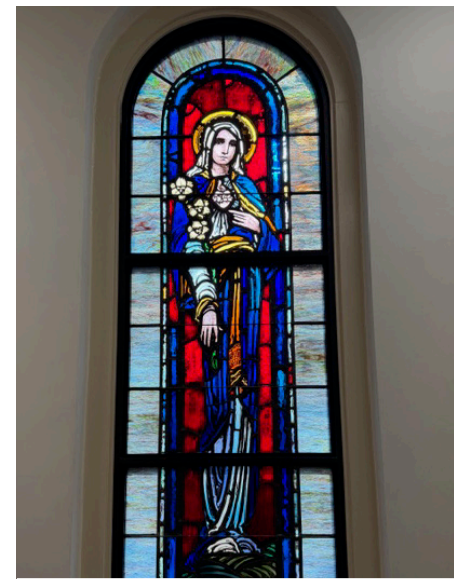
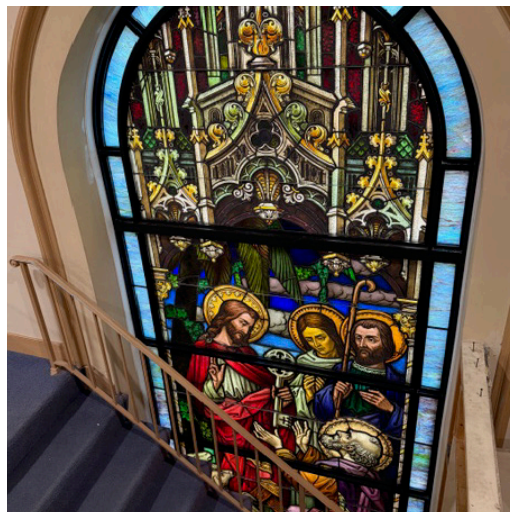
The funds for the major undertaking were raised through donations, some of which reflected the value of portions of a window, while others were worth as much as the estimated \$57,000 per-window cost. That generosity is noteworthy, Brian Kaltenbaugh said.

“I am more acutely aware of the sacrifice and dedication of so many parishioners to make a project like this possible,” he said. “Not only this project, but in the history of this church and the generations before that have brought us to this point. It’s amazing to think of all this community has and can accomplish when it’s united in a mission.”

Gallagher marveled at how well the multiple elements involved in the project complement each other.

“Everything came together,” Gallagher said. “I love it when that happens. It is my hope that as we continue to become more acquainted with the renovations that we may grow in our sense of the sacred, that our imagination may be engaged so as to live the Mass. As we recall the Sacred Mysteries, we experience them in ‘real’ time. This is what it is to be a liturgical people - we remember because we are there.

“The greatest joy I have had is seeing the reactions of the parishioners and other faithful who have come to see the renovations or have been with us at Mass. When I am in the church, I feel more at home and at peace. I think it has become more inviting, to come away, rest awhile, as Jesus invites us to do.”



*Taken out of storage, church’s original Mary window prominently placed.*



# A Glimpse of our Catholic Sharing Appeal Receptions from across the state.

The CSA helps us focus on how deeply we are connected as one family of faith across West Virginia. Though our parishes may differ in size, location, and circumstance, we are united in our call to proclaim the Gospel, serve those in need, and hand on the faith to future generations.

The CSA receptions are hosted as a way to express Bishop Mark Brennan's gratitude to the faithful who support our essential ministries to continue Christ's work in the Mountain State - an act of stewardship rooted in faith and trust that God will multiply our gifts and use them for His greater glory.



# SUMMER VOCATIONAL CAMP FOR GIRLS

*Formation, friendship and fun for the glory of Christ.*



## *Mount of Joy Convivences*

*June 23-26, 2026 - for girls 12-17*

*with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus  
700 Lovers Lane, Steubenville, OH 43952  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: (740) 346-2625*



*Mass & Prayer, Formation in virtues, Activities & Crafts,  
Vocational awareness, Sisters' testimonies*



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

### First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

The disciples listen to the teachings of the apostles, pray, and break bread.

### Responsorial: Psalm 118

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love is everlasting.”

### Second Reading: 1Peter 1:3-9

God has given us new birth – “an indescribable and glorious joy.”

### Gospel: John 20:19-31

Jesus appears to the apostles saying, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Thomas who had doubted the ones who had seen the risen Lord, declared he had to see Christ’s great wounds before he believed. Upon seeing Jesus, he affirmed saying, “My Lord, and my God!” And Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may be reinvigorated during this joyous season of Easter, devoting ourselves to the teaching of the apostles, prayer, and breaking bread together, much as the first disciples, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the leaders of the world may find ways to respond to the cries of the poor so that even the poorest of the poor may have their basic needs satisfied, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For young people, that they may listen for the Holy Spirit’s call and be confident in their faith sharing it with others and inviting them to Mass and into the Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all of us and our families, that our faith may be strengthened in our joining together to pray, worship, and break bread, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
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## *Liturgy of the Hours*

# LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



## MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG).