



# Palm Sunday

## Reminder of Our Christian Duty

Our Mass begins with great joy, as we hear Matthew’s Gospel about Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, but today we know, as our Gospel reading illustrates, Jesus had to suffer unimaginably to triumph over sin and death for us.

“As we carry palm branches in procession, may we also carry the message of Christ’s love and redemption to all those we encounter,” said St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Jesus knew his fate as he entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

The Crowd, waving palms and cheering “Hosanna,” praising him, believing in the triumph over the Romans by the sword was truly about to happen. They knew of miracles, teachings, and prophecies. But Jesus and his closest disciples knew the hard truth His triumph would be by His Passion - the cross.

Not long after many of those same people in the crowd went from shouting “Hosanna” to yelling out “Crucify him!” They didn’t know. They were just admirers. They were fans not faithful followers.

We know that before the palm branches were waved by those recognizing him as the Messiah, Christ our King, and mighty warrior; and before the same palms and cloaks were spread on the ground to line his procession, Jesus predicted his Passion in private to his closest disciples.

Matthew 16:21-23, tells us Jesus told them that He “must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.”

Then later as they were gathering in Galilee just before making their way to Jerusalem, Jesus said to the disciples again, “The Son of Man is

*continue...*



*Kristina Linton*



*Sunday Mass can’t be our only touchpoint with God. Beyond Sunday is a guide to living the Catholic faith more fully each day through expanding our awareness of Catholic media, podcasts, art, and gifts.*

Resources for you this week:

**CRUX** – an independent, online news outlet covering the Vatican, the Catholic Church, and global Catholicism. Founded by a Vatican analyst provides reporting on issues shaping Catholic life, focusing on the intersection of faith, politics, and culture: [CRUXNOW.COM](http://CRUXNOW.COM)



**ACHING FOR GREATNESS** – a six-part mini-series podcast with Tanner Kalina on how to find God’s love in our restless lives. Kalina is a Catholic evangelist known for being part of the National Eucharistic Congress. He has appeared in programs for youth through Ascension Press and short video messages on Ascension

### SPECIAL TRIDUUM EDITION

Your FaithInWV e-bulletin will publish on Holy Thursday, April 2nd, as a special Triduum edition.

to be handed over to men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day (Matthew 17:22-23).”

The disciples must have been distraught and overwhelmed with emotions and questions.

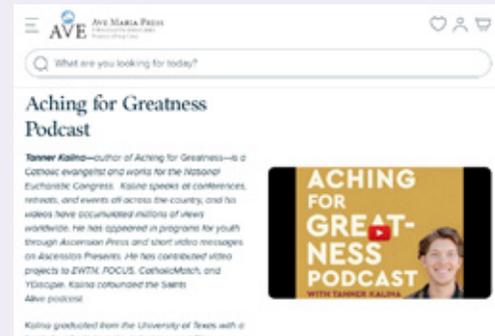
We can put ourselves among these followers of Jesus. Certainly, they had mixed emotions – Jesus was predicting a horrible death, yet as they entered Jerusalem, the crowds were joyfully shouting His praises. The people lining the way validated the love and devotion the disciples already had for Christ. Certainly, a glimpse of human relief may have come over them as they took in the victorious praise, thinking surely these jubilant people will not let such horrific events happen as Christ foretold.

Then joy shifts to the somber reading of the Passion (Matthew 26:14–27:66): the Last Supper, Judas’ betrayal, agony in the Gethsemane, trial, scourging at the pillar, crucifixion, death, and Matthew’s dramatic description of the moment of death, “the earth quaked, the temple torn in two, rocks split, tombs opened, and the Roman soldier confesses Jesus is the “Son of God.”

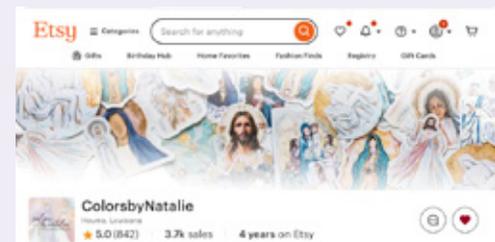
Let us enter this blessed time of Palm Sunday and Holy Week mindful of the ultimate sacrifice of Christ and recognize Him every moment of our lives as Christ our King. Let us run to Christ with all our needs and not turn against Him. Guard our faith!

*Editor’s note: the art of the young girl waiving palm is by Kristina Linton of Draper, Utah.*

Presents: [WWW.AVEMARIAPRESS.COM/PAGES/ACHING-FOR-GREATNESS-PODCAST](http://WWW.AVEMARIAPRESS.COM/PAGES/ACHING-FOR-GREATNESS-PODCAST)



**COLORS BY NATALIE** – Check out the Catholic collection of home accents by Natalie Haydel of Colors by Natalie on Etsy. One image she titled “Happy Birthday Mama” she said she “created this image while praying about how much Jesus loved his Mother. I thought about how excited he must have been to celebrate her and wondered what little ways He showed His love to her on her Birthday.” Find her shop at: [WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/COLORSBYNATALIE](http://WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/COLORSBYNATALIE)



## REFLECTION BEYOND SUNDAY

The painting, *Memories of The First Palm Sunday* (circa 1871) by Edith Courtauld, is a perfect after Mass reflection.

Courtauld’s image illustrates pilgrims picking up palm branches left strewn across the ground, left from the Sunday before Passover, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to joyous crowds.

However, prominent in the painting stands a woman, face in hands. This dark image exudes grief and shame. These uncontrollable emotions suggest to us that the scene could have been at dusk on the Sabbath (sunset on Good Friday), the moment she was overwhelmed with the realization of what transpired since the Sunday before Passover.

Jesus, the Son of God, went from being celebrated to being hated - arrested, mocked, tortured, and crucified.

As we step away from the painting, symbolically collect our palms and forever be witnesses of Christ, for His love and mercy endures forever.



# BUILDING SAINTS TOGETHER

## *Morgantown Youth Group Strengthening Faith and Friendship*

The Morgantown-area Catholic youth group, known as the JMJ Apostolate, reflects what many parish youth groups across West Virginia strive to be, a vibrant hub of faith, friendship, and formation for teens.

Housed at St. John University Parish, the high school group is rooted in a deep spiritual identity.



challenge kids to be saints and not to succumb to the temptations of this world.”

That mission is not just taught—it is lived.

The Peluchettes’ commitment to their ministry was on full display during the Mount 2000 retreat at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in February. Making the trip with the teen group was their newborn daughter, Gianna Goretti Peluchette, not yet a month old.

“Our Lord calls us to give our best no matter what... even if that means going above and beyond,” Jackie said.

Blake echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the importance of witness.

“We wanted the kids to see that being put into action,” he said. “Our Queen and St. Joseph made the trip to Bethlehem from Nazareth while our Blessed Mother was pregnant—if they can do that under those conditions, then we can do this and make the sacrifice to be there. Did it have challenges? Absolutely. But they were well worth it because this was for the Lord. Challenges in our life are beautiful opportunities to trust more in the Lord and surrender to His will.”

Just like we will hear at Church next week, when John the Apostle reminds us of the moment just before the Last Supper, when Christ washed the feet of the disciples saying, “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do (John 13:15).”

That witness matters—especially during the often “turbulent” high school years.

For junior Lucia Vargas-LaCasella, youth group has become a place not only of learning, but of belonging.

“I thought JMJ Apostolate would be like a classroom where you sit and listen to lectures,” she said. “But it was actually more fun than I thought. It’s not intimidating at all—you can ask questions, dive deeper into the faith, and connect with the community around you.”

Perhaps most surprising for her was the sense of shared identity.

“I had no idea there were so many Catholic kids my age, and it’s been really fun talking to all of them!”

Experiences like Mount 2000 helped deepen both her faith and those friendships.

“During Mass, everybody singing together felt so surreal,” she said. “It was beautiful to hear so many people praising our Lord.”

She also recalled a powerful moment during Eucharistic Adoration.

“When the priest turned the corner with the Eucharist and the spotlight fell on Him, everything looked so bright. My mind went totally blank, and I really began to focus on what was happening in front of me (Christ’s True Presence).”

### FAITH DRAWS TEENS CLOSER TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

Sophomore Luke Padula credits the Morgantown youth group for connecting him with Our Lady of Lourdes.

He said he attended Mount 2000 simply because the group was going. Trusting his leaders, he expected “a great way to grow closer to God and friends”—but found something more.

“My most moving moment was walking through the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and stopping at the outdoor chapel,” he said. “Taking in the silence and the view... that was most impressive.”

That balance of community and quiet reflection is part of what makes youth ministry so impactful.

“In our daily lives, it’s easy to get distracted by things that pale in comparison to God,” said junior Elijah Criste.

“JMJ Apostolate is a great way to get to know our Lord and His teachings more clearly.”

He emphasized that growing in faith alongside others is essential.

“It’s important to learn these things with other like-minded people (so together we) become better servants for Christ and bring His word into the world.”

In the quiet moments of faith, God meets us in our deepest joys and our heaviest crosses.

For Abigail Albin, a junior at St. John’s parish, the youth group has become far more than a weekly gathering.



“Through the JMJ Apostolate, I discovered a strong faith community that encourages one another to grow closer to Christ,” she said. “It has strengthened my prayer life and taught me so much about the Catholic faith.”

More than anything, she said, it has become a safe place. “It’s a supportive environment where you’re surrounded by others who are also trying to deepen their faith.”

In a world filled with noise, she has come to value something increasingly rare: silence.

“Those opportunities for quiet prayer and reflection are hard to find in our busy lives,” she said. “But they’re so important.”

At Mount 2000, that silence became deeply personal.

Just weeks before the retreat, Abigail lost her mother, Lorin Albin, a devoted youth minister from Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Princeton. In 2024, Lorin had helped organize a Mount 2000 trip



for more than 40 students across the Beckley Vicariate. That summer, Lorin attended the National Eucharistic Congress. Not long after the Albins learned Lorin, a beautiful mother of two girls, had cancer. God’s faithful servant passed away on January 18, 2026.

Even though only a month had gone by Abby chose to attend Mount 2000 with her JMJ Apostolate.

While there, she found time alone in the chapel.

“I truly felt the presence of God,” she said. “I had lost my mom only a few weeks before, and as I sat there, I felt a deep sense of peace.”

In that stillness, something shifted.

“My mind, heart, and body were finally still, and for the first time in a while, I simply sat with God and trusted Him with my brokenness.”

That moment, she said, was a reminder of something essential.

“In a world that moves so quickly, that quiet moment reminded me how important it is to slow down, be present with God, and keep showing up.”

Youth ministry is not just about activities or events. In the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston we are blessed with many stories of how our youth programs help our children encounter Christ in a real and lasting way.

“I believe it is so important for other parishes to have strong groups like this,” Abby Albin said. “They truly help teens grow in their faith and can have a lasting impact on their lives.”



# A VISIT TO MOUNT ST. MARY'S

Bishop Mark Brennan and Fr. John Soplinski, director of vocations, celebrated Mass with the seminary community of Mount St. Mary's on March 23rd.

Our seminarians Michael Aiello, Andrew Dean, Nathan Schmidt, and Bryan Tedeschi enjoyed the Lenten visit.

Let us continue to pray for our bishop, the work of Fr. Soplinski, the discernment of our seminarians, and for an increase in vocations. Join the Rosary Crusade for Vocations at: [DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE](http://DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE)

Editor's note: photos by Mount St. Mary's Seminary

Oh, my Jesus,  
listen to my prayer today.  
Bless more young people,  
more men, and more women,  
in West Virginia  
to say yes to your call  
to be religious brothers,  
sisters, and priests.

Bless my family  
and my Church family  
so, we can support them,  
and remain close to you.  
We ask Blessed Mary  
and St. Joseph to come to you  
in our need to build up the Church  
in the great Mountain State.

Amen.





# Saint Joseph High School Expands Campus for Fall 2026

MARTINSBURG, WV — Saint Joseph High School announced the purchase of a building near the current campus that would provide the high school's first stand-alone facility.



The diocese's total commitment of \$1.3 million will support the purchase of the building and help fund necessary upgrades. Saint Joseph School will contribute an additional \$400,000 toward renovations. Together, these investments are expected to bring the total project cost to approximately \$1.7 million, with the goal of welcoming students into the new facility for the 2026-27 school year.

Using a gradual growth model, the high school currently consists of ninth-grade students and will grow to incorporate grade 10 next year and subsequent grades each year thereafter.

"Under the talented leadership of our local clergy, school staff, and parishioners, Saint Joseph School has grown dramatically in recent years," said Bishop Mark Brennan. "Opening St. Joseph High School this year and moving to its first campus in 2026 reflects our diocesan commitment to the area, confirms our continued partnership with local school and parish leadership, and highlights our appreciation for local families who seek a quality Catholic education for their children. Not only will this building provide our high school students the opportunity to grow and thrive in a Christ-like setting, it also allows our grade school and middle school to expand to serve Catholic and non-Catholic families in the region."

The Rev. Thomas Gallagher, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and School said, "From the time in which I arrived at St Joseph Parish, many of the school parents asked me when we would be able to start a high school. To me, this feels like fulfillment of the many prayers of our school parents."

The building, located at 415 Wilson St. in Martinsburg, was formerly the site of the WVU Medicine Crisis Support and Recovery Center. Officials said the building offers immediate functionality, as well as the capacity for renovation and growth to house students in grades nine through 12. In August 2025, the high school welcomed its first freshman class since the original one closed in 1970.

"This property... is a definitive turning point for Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle," said Jennifer Hornyak, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "It is a joy to witness such vibrant growth in the

Eastern Panhandle and especially at St. Joseph, and we are profoundly grateful to Bishop Brennan for his providential support. He shares the vision of local leadership of having a Catholic high school in the Eastern Panhandle, and he has encouraged the school community to push forward to make this dream become a reality.

"By investing in this new home for our high school, the bishop is ensuring that our students have the specialized environment they need to excel academically and grow into the leaders our Church and world so greatly need," Hornyak added.

Saint Joseph School Principal Maria Byrd said moving to a dedicated campus is just one of several projects being planned for the upstart high school.

"With continued support from our loyal families and generous benefactors, we hope to complete three phases of renovations/additions on this site to transform it into the 'Home of the Crusaders,' a special place where we seek to provide a high-quality education, demonstrate service to others and form disciples of Christ," Byrd said.

"It is necessary for the future of the high school to have its own building," she said. "It tells our parents and the community at large that we and the diocese are committed to providing a high school Catholic education in the Eastern Panhandle and are here to stay."

Byrd said the new high school building will also allow its other grade levels to expand.

"Moving our high school program to its new location allows us to regroup our middle school program (grades six to eight) in our historical Queen Street building, and since our recent pre-K expansion, this opens up four more classrooms for our elementary school program," she said.

The new high school building offers convenient highway access for students' families and to nearby colleges and universities, with whom St. Joseph High School plans potential partnerships. The school and local churches are raising funds to purchase two buses to serve students traveling from regional Catholic parishes and to transport students for extracurricular activities and school liturgies.





DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

## Broadcast of Holy Week and Easter Masses

### MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday | April 2

6:00 p.m. - Live Stream

### PASSION OF THE LORD

Good Friday | April 3

3:00 p.m. - Live Stream

Closed Captioning Provided.

Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.



### EASTER MASS

Sunday | April 5

10:30 a.m.

Streamed & Broadcasted Live

WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle

All Live Streams at [www.dwc.org/Mass](http://www.dwc.org/Mass)

## AN IMPORANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH

Cathedral of Saint Joseph to Resume Normal  
Liturgical Schedule

WHEELING –The Cathedral of St. Joseph announced today that it will resume its normal liturgical schedule beginning Monday of Holy Week, March 30, 2026.

This includes the celebration of the 12:05 PM weekday Masses as well as Friday 11:00 AM Confessions, and Saturday 9:00 AM Masses. Weekend Masses had been unaffected by the schedule change that was necessary to complete extensive renovation work in the sanctuary of the church.

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# Sunday

Recent headlines from Beyond Sunday resources suggested to help live the Catholic faith more fully each day, expanding our awareness of Catholic media, podcasts, art, and gifts.

## ASCENSION



**Catholic Mass 101 - WATCH**

Ascension Presents' Fr. Mike Schmitz breaks down the Liturgy, walking through the "why" of the reverence, gestures, responses, music, readings, Eucharistic celebration, etc.

The Mass is "the closest we come to heaven on earth."

Watch:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS8NrJ0Y5O8>

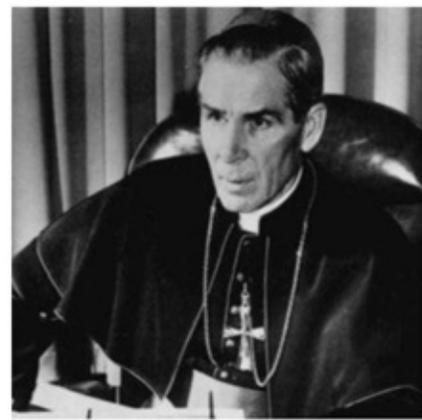
## VATICAN NEWS



**World Day of Prayer for Vocations - April 26**

Pope Leo XIV - "A vocation... unfolds much like life itself. Pause, listen, & entrust yourselves. The gift of your vocation will mature, bringing you happiness & yielding abundant fruit for the Church and the world. Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church."

## CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY



**Beatification - Sept. 24 for Fulton Sheen**

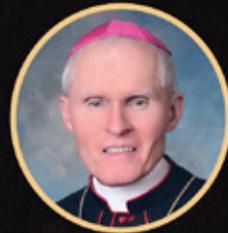
The Vatican announced Wednesday morning Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be beatified Sept. 24 in St. Louis. The late archbishop was a voice on the "The Catholic Hour" radio show and tv host for "Life is Worth Living" with 30 million viewers. He died on December 9, 1979, at the age of 84. It was Sheen who said, "Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday."



# The Seven Last Words of Christ

**GOOD FRIDAY  
3 APRIL 2026**

**12:45 PM**



Bishop Mark E. Brennan



Fr. Justin Golna



Fr. Daniel Heusel



Fr. Joseph Wiley



Fr. Carlos Melocoton



Fr. Pen Manlkylarao



Fr. John Soplinski

*Encounter the powerful words  
of Jesus from the Cross  
through music, prayer,  
and reflection.*



THE Cathedral of St. Joseph

1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 | 304-233-4121 | [www.saintjosephcathedral.com](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.com)

# Separated? Divorced? Where do I FIT IN?

The Olive Branch Ministry!  
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



**REGISTER NOW**



**KATHY BARTON**  
SOCIAL MINISTRIES  
DIRECTOR FOR THE DIOCESE



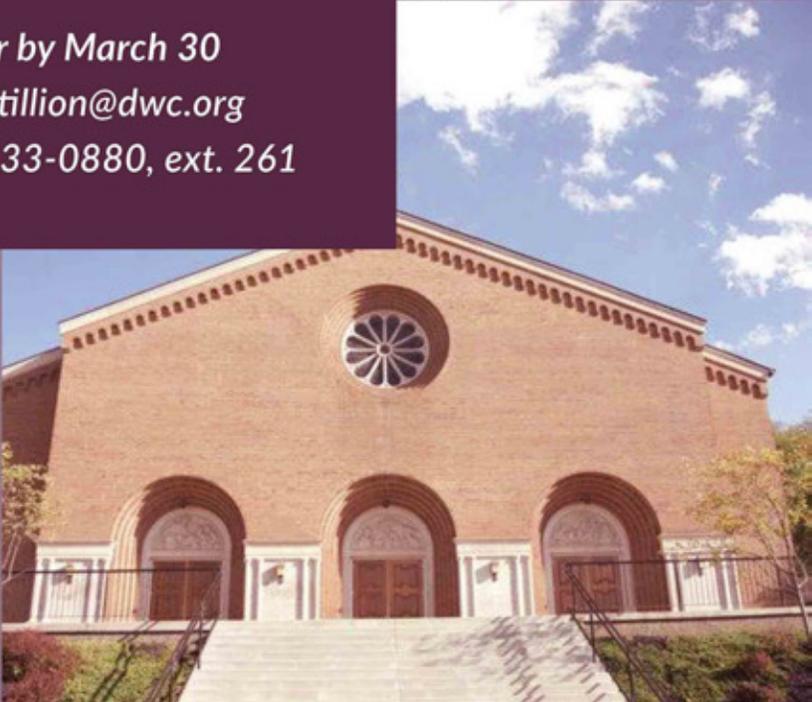
**VERY REV. DON HIGGS**  
ASSOC. VICAR OF CLERGY  
VICAR FORANE



**DONNA NIGGEMEYER**  
M.ED., LPC, OF CHRISTIAN  
COUNSELING ASSOCIATES



*Wheeling Area*  
**HOLY THURSDAY  
PILGRIMAGE**  
**APRIL 2, 2026**  
**6 ALTARS OF REPOSE AT  
6 CHURCHES ON  
1 HOLY NIGHT**  
**Bus departs from Cathedral  
at 9:00 p.m.**  
*Please register by March 30  
by e-mailing [kstillion@dwc.org](mailto:kstillion@dwc.org)  
or by calling 304-233-0880, ext. 261*



# WOMEN'S DAY OF RECOLLECTION



## MERCY AND TRUST- ENCOUNTERING OUR LORD IN DIVINE MERCY

Presented by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy  
(St. Faustina's Order)

*Mass, Talks, Adoration, Confession, Time for Personal Prayer  
and Spiritual Conversations with the Sisters*

Saturday, April

**18**  
2026

Mass and Rosary-8:30 AM

Check in- 9:30 AM

Day Ends at 3:00 PM

St. Joseph Catholic Church

Martinsburg, WV



**\$15-CDA Member \$20- Nonmember. Lunch is included. Tickets will be available starting the weekend of March 14th. Please call the St. Joseph Parish Office (304)267-4893 by Friday, April 10th.**

**Space is Limited**

*Sponsored by Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 392  
and the DWC Office of Faith Formation*



# Women's

## DISCERNMENT RETREAT

"CALLED & CHOSEN" MATTHEW 22:14

"Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given  
you for your own joy and sanctity"  
-Pope Benedict XVI

# MAY 8 - 10 2026

Starting on Saturday at 7pm

This Discernment Weekend is for any  
young adult women who are open to or  
discerning their vocation.



AGES 18-35

**REGISTER NOW**

For more info:  
[westvirginiamission@hmsp.org](mailto:westvirginiamission@hmsp.org)



**Priestfield Retreat center**

4030 Middleway Pike  
Kearneysville WV 25430  
United States



# QUO VADIS

*Where are you going?*

9TH-12TH GRADE BOYS'  
DISCERNMENT

# RETREAT



Priest Field Pastoral Center  
Kearneysville, WV

June 29 to July 2, 2026

Staffed by seminarians and priests of  
the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

**REGISTER NOW**



WVPriests.org



DIocese OF  
WHEELING-CHARLESTON

www.dwc.org  
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Director  
Seminarian Michael J. Tupta  
Pontifical North American College



## PALM SUNDAY

### First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Suffering Servant speaks with confidence and unwavering faith – God is my help; with Him I am not disgraced. I shall not be put to shame.

### Responsorial: Psalm 22

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

### Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Jesus emptied himself, and accepted death on a cross. Because of this at the name of Jesus every knee shall bend.

### Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Passion of Christ.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that Holy Week brings us deeper into our relationship with Christ and strengthens our faith as we are living examples that Jesus Christ is Lord, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For peace, reconciliation, and renewal for all in the Holy Land, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That all nations may recognize that human life is a gift from God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our Jewish brothers and sisters, who celebrate Passover later this week, that it may be meaningful and joyful, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our parish community, that, like Simon of Cyrene, we may assist others in carrying their crosses, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

## WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Keyser - coming soon	FM	98.9
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City -Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7
Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

~Listen on LoL Stream at [www.rdo.to/WLOL](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL)~  
Radio Luz de Vida streaming at [www.rdo.to/WLOL2](http://www.rdo.to/WLOL2)

### ENROLL TODAY

WV Catholic Schools

*Empowered  
by knowledge.  
Transformed  
by faith.*



Register today

[wvcatholicschools.org](http://wvcatholicschools.org)



## *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).