

Faith IN WV

MAY 24, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



HOLY SPIRIT, WIND OF CHANGE

A Meditation for Pentecost

When we think we know the way to go
and believe we have our lives neatly arranged,
You come suddenly, the Wind of Change,
crashing our human order, displacing our plans,
You move at will, drawing us into wonderfully
limitless journey.
You rearrange our thoughts, our longings, and our
lives.
When we think we know how to secure our way to
Your kingdom,
we often build walls instead, arranging things only
to prevent change.
We become fixed, caught by anxiety and worry,
but You come suddenly, sweeping through,
transforming our routine into a process of
discovery.
Holy Spirit, Wind of Change!

You move at will to reshape our vision,
our priorities, and our souls.
Help us to lead by learning to follow You.
Bend our rigid arrogance.
Soften our words.
Temper our thoughts.
Wrap us knowingly in Your presence.
Use us to fulfill Your divine hope and vision.
Teach us to be like You,
suddenly revealing Your gifts to others for Your
glory.
Break our silence in order to do Your will,
Holy Spirit, Wind of Change!

*Meditation adapted from the book *Surprised by the Spirit* by the late Rev. Edward J. Farrell, S.T.L. and also from a prayer shared by Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS, Delegate for Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.*



Open Your Heart to the Holy Spirit

Celebrate Pentecost. Be inspired knowing we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit to enable us to get through anything life on earth brings our way with confidence and hope. The first Pentecost happened fifty days after the Resurrection. It was the moment the Catholic Church was born.

It was a week after the apostles had watched Jesus ascend into Heaven. On the day of Pentecost, they were gathered with Mary praying. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came in a powerful way: a sound “like the rush of a violent wind,” and “tongues . . . as of fire” settled on them. They were then filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages.

Remember this was the day devout Jews from every nation were in Jerusalem. When the apostles spoke, the people heard them “in the native language of each.” Some were amazed; others tried to dismiss what happened. Then Peter proclaimed what the event meant and called people to repentance and conversion. It was just as Jesus promised at the Last Supper, the Father would send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to give them wisdom, enabling them to go forth in mission to preach to all people.

The result of Peter’s message was immediate. Many were “cut to the heart,” asked what to do. The answer was repent and be baptized, so they could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. About three thousand did that day.

Pentecost is meant to produce a spiritual life. St. Paul reminds us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit dwell within each of us. He teaches that when we live by the Spirit, the Spirit produces tangible “fruit” in daily life. In his Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul lists what the Spirit brings: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. And he adds: “If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”

Holy Spirit Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray: O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Charles Town’s Donvito Cortese Earns Magna Cum Laude Honors at Josephinum

Congratulations are in order for diocesan seminarian Donvito Cortese of St. James the Greater in Charles Town.

Cortese graduated on Saturday, May 16th from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy degree, magna cum laude.

The Josephinum is America’s only national, pontifical seminary. Cortese was one of 26 graduating seminarians who are from the dioceses of Birmingham in Alabama, Columbus, Gaylord, Joliet, Kiyinda-Mityana (Uganda), Lugazi (Uganda), Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter, Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands, Steubenville, and Wheeling-Charleston.

He will continue on for an advanced degree in theology at the Josephinum in the Fall.

There are more than 1,000 Pontifical College Josephinum alumni serving the universal Church in nearly every U.S. state and in 18 countries around the world.





PRAYER DURING TRANSITION

O God most high

We praise you and thank you for sending us Your only Son,
the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Through Him You have established Your Church, scattered throughout the world, yet one, holy, catholic,
and apostolic.

In Your mercy, You have blessed this Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston with good shepherds throughout
its history.

You chose Mark E. Brennan as our Bishop, to lead us with kindness, humility, and pastoral care, to
teach us stewardship and a spirit of discernment, and to call us to Christ's abiding presence in the
Eucharist.

His ministry among us has been a sign of Your favor.

Pour out Your abundant blessings on him as he continues his
ministry as our Bishop Emeritus.

You have chosen Evelio Menjivar-Ayala to be the tenth shepherd of
Your faithful people in Wheeling-Charleston.

May he be a true shepherd of Your holy flock, a high priest
blameless in Your sight, and a faithful preacher of Your Kingdom.
Grant him a spirit of courage, right judgment, knowledge, and
love.

May he be pleasing to You by his gentleness and
purity of heart.

Through the Spirit Who gives the grace of high
priesthood, may he become ever more conformed
to Christ, seeking always to guide, to teach and
to bless, so that Your Church in Wheeling-
Charleston may be a light of salvation to those
in darkness.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever, Amen.



TWO ORDINATIONS ON ONE SPECIAL DAY

MAY 30, THE EVE OF THE VISITATION

On Saturday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m., at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will celebrate a joyful moment in our diocese. Bishop Mark E. Brennan will ordain Deacon Clifton Mastran as a holy priest. During the same Mass seminarian Michael Aiello will be ordained to the transitional diaconate.

These ordinations call upon the faithful in our local Church to unite in prayer. Holy Orders are vital in the life of the Church, and as many of the faithful as possible are to take part in this Eucharistic liturgy. Those unable to be in Wheeling for the Mass will be able to watch it livestreamed from our diocesan website (dwc.org) and our Facebook page.

This week, keep Deacon Clifton and seminarian Michael Aiello in your prayers as they begin a mission entrusted to them for the good of God's people.

Because this celebration comes on the eve of the Visitation, it is fitting to ask for the grace that moved Mary to bring Christ to others. Just as Christ visited his people in joy and mercy, so too will God send these newly ordained men forth to serve with humility and charity.



"Please pray that I will always be a happy, humble, and holy priest, a Good Shepherd, a Good Steward of Souls, His Good Instrument, and a loving Spiritual Father, always loving and serving the will of God the way He wants, when He wants, and how He wants, with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength!"

Deacon Clifton Mastran



"(I ask) the people of God to pray that I always stay close to Our Lady - because if I do, she always will keep me close to the will of her Son!"

Michael Aiello

Deacon Clifton is 47. He entered seminary at the age of 40 after an 18-year career in the Department of Defense as a Federal Civilian. He was born and raised Catholic. He is the son of David and Martha Mastran. He was born in Youngstown and grew up in Clearwater, FL.

Mastran will be vested during the Mass by a trio of priests: Fr. Andy Gonzalo (Archdiocese of Washington), Msgr. William Fay (Pope St. John XXIII Seminary), and Fr. Sebastian Devasya our Co-Vicar of Clergy and pastor of St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg.

His first assignment will be announced at the ordination. He will celebrate his first Mass as a diocesan priest at 11 am, Sunday, May 31, at St. Joseph the Worker in Weirton.

Aiello, 35, is a member of the Basilica of the Co-cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. He is the son of Susan Aiello and the late Louis Aiello.

Aiello will be vested with a stole and dalmatic worn by deacons at liturgies by his uncle and godfather, Deacon Michael Kawash.

Aiello will be presented with the Book of the Gospels by Bishop Mark, and vow to proclaim the Good News and model his life after Christ. Bishop Mark will recite, "Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach."

His summer assignment will be at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling.

May God bless the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, strengthen both Mastran and Aiello as they serve the faithful of WV.

SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Our Lady Help of Christians – May 24



Saint John Chrysostom was the first to describe the Virgin Mary with the title, Mary Help of Christians, in 345 AD, referring to the Blessed Mother as “helper”. He said Mary as the “most powerful help of God” for humanity.

During the Middle Ages, popes and world leaders invoked Mary’s “help” to secure victory over anti-Christian armies in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

Saint Don Bosco also promoted this title and Marian devotion. Mary Help of Christians is the principal patroness of the Salesians, the religious congregation that St. Don Bosco founded in 1859, namely under the protection of St. Francis de Sales, in the northern Italian city of Turin, to serve and educate youth.

The Turin’s Basilica of Mary Help of Christians was built under the direction of St. Don Bosco himself, remains the heart of the Salesians of Don Bosco.

Editor’s note: the painting of Mary Help of Christians is by Thommaso Andrea Lorenzone (1867), commissioned by St. Don Bosco, is in the Turin basilica.

Mary Mother of the Church – Monday after Pentecost



Pope Francis added the Memorial of Mary Mother of the Church to the Catholic Church calendar in 2018. The late Holy Father did so, writing that Mary “standing beneath the cross (cf. Jn 19:25), accepted her Son’s testament of love and welcomed all people in the person of the beloved disciple as sons and daughters to be reborn unto life eternal. She thus became the tender Mother of the Church which Christ begot on the cross handing on the Spirit. Christ, in turn, in the beloved disciple, chose all disciples as ministers of his love towards his Mother, entrusting her to them so that they might welcome her with filial affection.”

The title is not a new one. It dates back to the 4th century and St. Ambrose, who referred to Mary as such. Significantly, Pope Saint Paul VI, on the conclusion of the third Session of the Second Vatican Council (Nov. 21, 1964) declared Mary as the “Mother of the Church” to affirm the ancient title.

“It is therefore with a soul full of trust and filial love that we raise our glance to her, despite our unworthiness and weakness. She, who has given us in Jesus the fountainhead of grace, will not fail to succor (help) the Church, now flourishing through the abundance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and setting herself with new zeal to the fulfillment of its mission of salvation,” Pope St. Paul VI wrote. (His feast day is May 29th.)

In 1980, Saint John Paul II, invited the faithful to venerate Mary as Mother of the Church.

Just as Mary offered Jesus and the disciples her prayers and motherly love, she offers us the same through her intercessions.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi – May 25



Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (1556-1607) was a Carmelite nun and mystic from Italy. She had a special devotion to the Eucharist and certainty that Christ provides everything we need through the Blessed Sacrament.

“All graces are contained in you oh Jesus in the Eucharist, our celestial food. A soul can wish for nothing more when it possesses the one who contains everything. If one wishes for charity, they possess the perfection of charity, and the same holds true for faith, hope, purity, patience, humility, and meekness. Christ forms all virtues in our soul when he gives us the grace of this food, leaving nothing more to want or desire since all virtues, graces, and gifts longed for are found within.”

Editor's note: the painting is by Pedro de Moya (approx. 1640) illustrating a vision St. Mary Magdalene had of Jesus bestowing on her the crown of thorns with Mary holding her.

Saint Bede – May 25



In today's language, St. Bede's advice could be summed up in one line: Put God first and enjoy the ride!

On May 25th we honor St. Bede the Venerable, who lived in the 7th and 8th century. He was a Benedictine monk and priest and an early Doctor of the Church for his many writings, translations, and homilies.

Of his writings, two quotes stand out to help us today as we renew the Holy Spirit in us. “I was no longer the center of my life, and therefore, I could see God in everything,” he wrote. And giving advice to all the faithful he penned, “Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will.”

Editor's note: the painting “The Last Chapter (ca. 1902) is by J. Doyle Penrose, of St. Bede on his deathbed translating the Gospel of John to a young scribe.

Saint Philip Neri – Mar 26



Known for his sense of humor, attention grabbing quotes, and pretty much a spectacle he commanded attention, Saint Philip Neri (1515-1595) was a priest and founder of the Oratorians (priests and lay brothers).

He raised eyebrows for sure, wearing goofy clothes, shoes, or even sporting a half shaven beard to get attention so he could teach lessons in humility and the importance of not taking yourself too seriously.

A few quotes from the book *Maxims and Sayings of Philip Neri*:

- “There is no surer or clearer proof of the love of God than adversity.”
- “He who continues in anger, strife, and a bitter spirit, has a taste of the air of hell.”
- “Our enemy the devil, who fights with us in order to vanquish us, seeks to disunite us in our houses, and to breed quarrels, dislikes, contests, and rivalries, because while we are fighting with each other, he comes and conquers us, and makes us more securely his own.”

Editor's note: The photo with this post was taken in Rome in March, when Bishop Mark Brennan and Fr. John Soplinski celebrated Mass at the altar of St. Philip Neri in Chiesa Nuova with diocesan seminarians Michael J. Tupta and Joseph Derico.

St. Augustine of Canterbury – May 27



Called the “Apostle to the English” it was St. Augustine of Canterbury that is credited with spreading Christianity throughout England in the late sixth century. Pope Gregory knew he was the man for the job. Young Augustine was humble and rather shy but was certain that the new monk with the help of his 40 brother monks could convert the pagans there to Christianity. Their efforts were not carried out by force or sorcery as the pagans stereotyped all Christian conversions. Instead, they earned respect with genuine compassion preaching on the life of Christ, while honoring the local customs. It didn’t happen overnight and Augustine logged many failures but did not give up. Within ten years after the St. Augustine of Canterbury’s death, the supermajority of England was Christian.

St. Joan of Arc – May 30



“Fear nothing. Trust in God; all will be well.”

These wise words are from a teenager more than 600 years ago, Saint Joan of Arc. She answered God’s call to stand up for her country during the “Hundred Years’ War” between France and England to bring unity to her homeland.

She demonstrated extraordinary strength and courage despite facing rejection from the royal court due to her youth and gender. With her persistence she eventually earned their trust and led soldiers into battle armed with unwavering faith.

Betrayed and martyred at only 19, her journey from a simple life to becoming a celebrated patron saint serves as a testament to the profound impact of conviction and courage.

She did not back down to her haters for she knew she was ultimately being sent by God.

Saint Joan of Arc was canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV. She is the patron of France, captives, and soldiers. Her feast day is May 30.

Editor’s note: The photo is St. Thérèse of Lisieux dressed as St. Joan of Arc 25 years before Joan was declared a saint. It is the first known photo of a saint dressed up as another saint.

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Sunday

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 Catholic media, podcasts, art, gifts, and trusted voices from the church to help nourish our own prayer, reflection, and mission.

HEADLINES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



POPE LEO TELLS GRADUATING VILLANOVANS TO UPHOLD AUGUSTINIAN VALUES, RECALL US GUIDING PRINCIPLES

OUR SUNDAY VISITOR (OSV) – May 20, 2026: Pope Leo’s message to graduates, “The world beyond. . . is waiting for you, sometimes with open arms, and sometimes with truly dangerous intent. . . Carry with you those Augustinian values Veritas (truth), Unitas (unity), Caritas (charity).” WWW.OSVNEWS.COM/CATEGORY/US-CHURCH

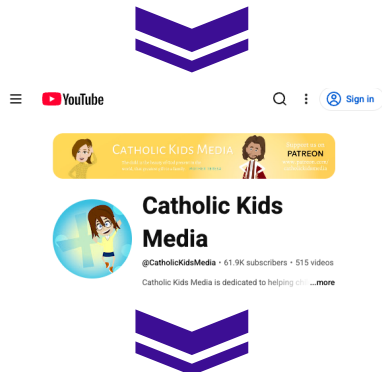
VATICAN NEWS - An exhibition in Rome tells the story of the war on Gaza through the eyes of children by Martina Accettola - “There are places where childhood does not simply unfold: it endures. In Gaza, amid rubble and expectations that have been placed on hold, children continue to imagine a possible future, suspended between normality and trauma.”

YOUTU.BE/2KOPA16NCY?SI=Q737DPFH-NBN1CXK



NEWS – Catholic Kids Media - Catholic Kids Media on YouTube is dedicated to helping children engage with the faith, Sunday Mass, the Bible, and prayer. Videos address big questions like “What is the Eucharist?” and “What is the Trinity?”, making the mysteries of the faith accessible and inspiring.

WWW.PATREON.COM/CW/CATHOLICKIDSMEDIA



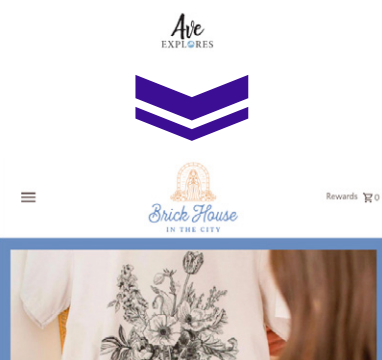
RADIO/ONLINE RESOURCE – AVE EXPLORES – Hosted by Katie McGrady Ave Explores is a podcast series created to help examine the Catholic faith in our daily life in a fresh, engaging, and practical way.

WWW.AVEMARIAPRESS.COM/PAGES/AVEEXPLORES-SERIES



HOME ACCENTS – BRICK HOUSE IN THE CITY – from t-shirts you wear to boldly live your faith, to gifts crafted to inspire joy and devotion, each piece is thoughtfully designed with care and purpose by Pittsburgh’s Lauren Winter, a Catholic wife, mother, and small business owner.

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The Archdiocese of Washington invites members of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to a Eucharistic Procession for Immigrants. The procession, scheduled prior to Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala's appointment as the bishop of Wheeling-Charleston, is hosted by the archdiocese's Secretariat of Evangelization and Synodal Renewal in collaboration with Season of Faithful Witness, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., and the Jesuit Refugee Services and Network Lobby.



Feast of Corpus Christi

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION FOR IMMIGRANTS

"We are the body of Christ caring for the wounds of the world"

Sunday, June 7, 2026

12 Noon – 4:00 p.m. ET

Mass

12:00 noon

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

3211 Sacred Heart Way NW

Washington, DC

Bishop Evelio Menjivar

Auxiliary Bishop of Washington

Principal Celebrant

Procession

1:30 p.m.

**From Shrine of the Sacred Heart to the
Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle**

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW

Washington, DC 20036

For more information, contact Antonio Cube in the Office of Justice and Peace at (301) 853-4416 or cubea@adw.org.

Hosted by the Secretariat of Evangelization and Synodal Renewal in collaboration with Season of Faithful Witness, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc, Jesuit Refugee Service and Network Lobby.

For ASL interpretation, contact deafcatholic@adw.org four weeks in advance.



The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Washington

PENTECOST

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

As on Sinai, the Lord descends in fire and wind.

Responsorial: Psalm 104

“Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

The Spirit calls the baptized to ministry for the common good.

Gospel: John 20:19-23

On the first day of the week the risen Christ imparts the Holy Spirit.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may proclaim a message of love, mercy, and redemption in every tongue in every land, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the peace the Holy Spirit brings may reign in the heart of every man, woman, and child, breaking down the barriers that divide us, resolving the differences that lead to enmity among us, and making hate and prejudice inconceivable, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For Deacon Clifton Mastran as he prepares for his ordination to the priesthood and Seminarian Michael Aiello, preparing for his ordination to the transitional diaconate, may they may be ever renewed in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That those graduating this spring may they listen closely for the Holy Spirit and use their gifts to strengthen their faith, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
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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

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ENROLL TODAY

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

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.