Faith IN WV
NOVEMBER 1, 2026
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Christ's Roadmap to Sainthood

The Beatitudes and the Voices of the Saints

In today's Gospel Christ shares the roadmap to sainthood.

This mindset shared by Jesus was part of the Sermon on the Mount, the first major teaching Christ gave in his early ministry.

When we read Mathew 5:1-12a, hear Christ's voice telling us what he wants us to think and how we should live - humble, pure, and merciful.

On this All Saints Day, we bring you quotes from saints and blesseds who followed Christ's roadmap to Heaven:



Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"It is by making ourselves little that we become great…." Blessed Fluton Sheen



Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
"Our hearts are restless until they rest in You." St. Augustine.



Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
"Be meek, not because you are weak, but because you are strong. The meek person is like a rock in the sea; the waves beat against it, but they do not move it, and they break themselves upon it." St. John Chrysostom



Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
This hunger and thirst is not for physical food or worldly things, "but it desires to be satiated with the good food of righteousness and wants to be admitted to all the deepest mysteries and be filled with the Lord himself." Pope St. Leo the Great



Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
"Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all... May Your unfathomable mercy pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor." St. Faustina Kowalska.



Blessed are the clean in heart, for they will see God.
"Keep your heart pure. A pure heart is necessary to see God in each other. If you see God in each other, there is love for each other, then there is peace." St. Teresa of Calcutta



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
"Peace is a building that is constantly under construction. It is a work to be carried out continuously by everyone." Pope St. John Paul II



Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
"Jesus, I want to follow You at any cost... I will follow You in the midst of trials, I will follow You in the midst of persecutions…. "If you really want to love Jesus, first learn to suffer, because suffering teaches you to love." St. Gemma Galgani



Blessed are you when they insult and hate you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
"Do not fear what man can do to you, but trust in Him who has conquered the world." St. Thomas More

November 3

Feast Day of St. Martin de Porres

Patron of racial harmony, those of mixed race, social justice, and health workers.



His life teaches us to tune out the noise and any hatred toward us. Strive for holiness by loving God with all your heart.

In St. Martin we learn to not only focus on Christ, but also to be like Him - merciful and compassionate.

Saint Martin was born in Peru in 1579. His mother was a freed African slave, and his father was of Spanish nobility. Martin, his mother, and sister were abandoned by his father, forcing the family into poverty.

No matter the difficulty they faced St. Martin knew to honor God with is life. God was indeed St. Martin's Heavenly Father.

At the age of twelve, he took up the trade of barber, which also in that era included minor medical procedures and medicine/pharmacy roles, learning herbal medicines.

He said, "I cure them, but God heals them."

While he wanted to enter religious life, he was forbidden in Peru, because of his race. He persisted with his desire, and when he was 15, he was accepted as a volunteer for the Dominicans who assigned him the least favored tasks at the monastery – cleaning, laundry, and barbering. He did not complain, considering it an honor to serve God in this way, saying, "Everything, even sweeping, scraping vegetables, weeding a garden and waiting on the sick could be a prayer, if it were offered to God."

Eight years later, he took vows as a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic. That didn't mean life was easy for St. Martin, nor did it stop the racist and mean comments from some of his brother religious, who shamed him, called him degrading names, and mocked his presence.

Saint Martin kept his focus on his dream job as a religious brother and did so with God at the center of his life, refraining on slinging hate and ugly actions back at the men, who despite their offensive behaviors proclaimed they were too living in honor of God, but obviously conditional.

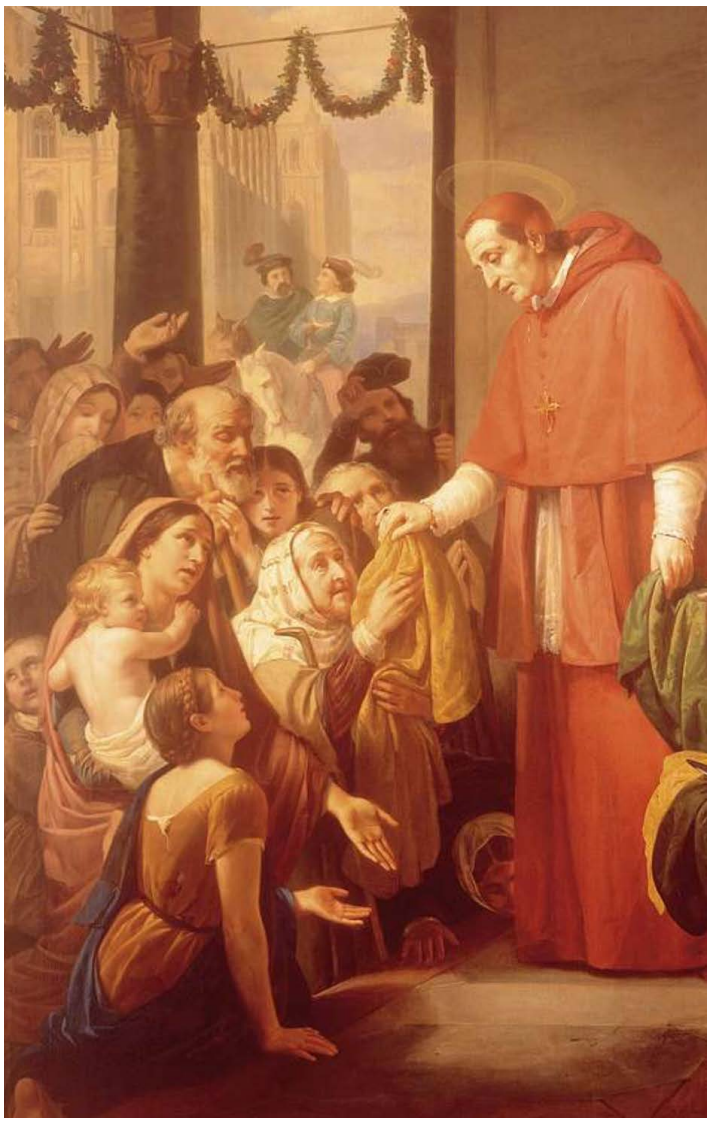
He was assigned to care for the sick, diseased, and dying. He cared for them with great love and compassion – seeing Christ's creation in their very being. It is recorded that he had extraordinary abilities and truly miraculous knowledge.

His life on earth was the epitome of one living out Christ's mission. He was friends with St. Rose of Lima, who was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic, and Dominican friar, St. Juan Macias. Many miracles have been attributed to him both after his life and during it. He died in 1639

Twenty-five years after his death his body was exhumed and was completely intact and reportedly a beautiful fragrance filled the air around those viewing the incorrupt body.

He was canonized a saint in 1962.

Honor St. Charles Borromeo by the way you live.



Saint Charles Borromeo was one who worked toward educating seminarians, reforming the Catholic Church, and creating the first catechism of the Church.

If he were of our world today, he may be mocked for nepotism. After receiving a degree in both theology and law by the age of 22, he was summoned by the pope – who happened to be his maternal uncle. Pope Pius IV made Charles a Cardinal. The young man was known for his organizational skills and ability to relate to all people. As Cardinal he served over several countries and religious orders before he helped organize the Council of Trent in 1562.

Despite his position of privilege, St. Charles remained focused in his positions, actions, and reforms to reflect Christ's love for the faithful. He wanted them to know that they are the Church and God listens to them – all of them not just the people of power.

In 1566, he was able to return to Milan to serve among the people of the Church and the streets. When the people were suffering from a devastating plague, he sold his possessions and even the curtains of his palace in order for the poor to have proper medicine.

"Charity knows no distinction. . . we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord," he said.

He was known for not only preaching but living out his faith with his loving heart and strong will to please God, bringing Christ alive within us.

He said, "Be sure that you first preach by the way you live."



Liturgical Music Composers and Young Voices

Enrich PACE Conference Closing Mass

The closing Mass of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's 2026 PACE, professional development conference, brought together young singers, local musicians, and three Catholic liturgical composers including Fr. Ricky Manalo, CSP, Stephen Pishner, and Tami Alexander.

Bishop Evelio Menjívar celebrated the Mass at the John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, that was truly an extraordinarily rare moment as the three composers present shared their gift and love of music with the children and conference attendees, who represented parishes and schools in all six vicariates in the diocese.

The fourth and fifth grade choir and handbell ensemble from Sacred Heart Grade School were led by Rosemary Severn, the school's choir director and director of music at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. Her sons, Caleb and Levi, also sang with the choir.

The children performed a bilingual Responsorial Psalm arrangement based on Psalm 96, composed by Tami Alexander, pastoral associate for liturgy and music at St. Mary's Parish in Morgantown. Alexander wrote the arrangement for Bishop Menjívar's installation Mass.

The choir also sang two hymns by Father Ricky Manalo, CSP: "Spirit and Grace" during Communion and "With One Voice" as the recessional. Father Ricky was the keynote speaker for the conference and was able to meet with the students after the Mass.

Stephen Pishner, director of music and liturgy at All Saints Catholic Church in Bridgeport, accompanied the Mass on piano, and worked with the students and Severn during rehearsal.

The works of the composers and musicians, together with the children's singing and handbells, were an integral part of the Mass's prayer and a fitting expression of hope and unity.



Women of the Way Takes Its First Steps

Uniting, Empowering, & Building Connections for Women to Serve God Where They Are

Across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, women are already serving their parishes and communities in many ways. Women of the Way hopes to help that service grow by connecting women, supporting existing ministries, and helping parishes establish women's groups where they are needed.

Women of the Way is a diocesan initiative that walks alongside women and parishes as they renew existing women's groups or establish new ones. The initiative grew out of conversations Bishop Emeritus Mark Brennan and Sr. Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life, have had during their travels with Catholic women across West Virginia, listening to their concerns and their hopes for strengthening the women's groups in their parishes, resurrecting ones that no longer exist, or not knowing how to start one. Bishop Evelio Menjívar has affirmed his support for Women of the Way, meeting with Sr. Martha Gomez and Gina Boggess, a member of the initiative's leadership team.

How can your parish take part? Women of the Way is ready to listen and walk with you.

- **Connect!** Invite us to your parish, in person or virtually.
- **Let's Talk!** Share your goals, strengths, challenges, and hopes.
- **Get Inspired!** Explore fresh ideas to renew or establish a women's group.
- **Grow Together!** Discover resources, encouragement, and opportunities to serve.
- **Be Heard!** Share women's needs and hopes with diocesan leadership.

What Is Women of the Way?

Women of the Way is a diocesan initiative dedicated to **strengthening and renewing existing parish women's groups and helping establish new ones.** Women of the Way was established as one step to walking with and helping from women and women's groups around the diocese.

Through faith, fellowship, and collaboration, we empower Catholic women to grow spiritually, share their gifts, support one another, and serve Christ in their parishes and communities.

Curious about how Women of the Way can guide women in your parish? Whether you're hoping to start a women's group or simply want to learn more, contact **Gina Boggess at gina@sacredheartprinceton.org.**

"Women of every age, vocation, background, and season of life have something to offer," Sr. Martha said. "Whether through prayer, healthcare, retreats, works of mercy, prison or homebound ministry, Hispanic ministry, parish activities, or evangelization, every gift can serve Christ."

Women of the Way wants to help our parishes celebrate women whose faithful service has built our local Church, while welcoming new voices, fresh ideas, and untapped talents.

Boggess said it is important to clarify that the charge of Women of the Way is not to ask more of those who already do so much, but to renew their spirit and invite more women to share in the joy of parish life.

By connecting women across parishes and regions, we can share ideas, resources, and successes, learn from one another, and discover fresh ways to strengthen faith, fellowship, and service, she said.

What works in one parish may inspire something wonderful in another, Sr. Martha said.



At the recent PACE professional development conference for parish and school staff members and volunteers, Boggess spoke with women and pastors from parishes within all six vicariates (Beckley, Charleston, Clarksburg, Martinsburg, Parkersburg, and Wheeling).

We were encouraged (at PACE) by the conversations and opportunity to share what we hope to build throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charlston," she said. "It's exciting to hear about successful women's ministries already taking place in our diocese, and at the same time encourage other parishes to tap into their talents to fulfill our Catholic mission."

Boggess shared her notes from her conference talks:

- Sarah McNeely from Clarksburg shared how a women's group began in her parish and has grown to include more than 50 women. Her experience demonstrated the potential for women to come together in faith, fellowship, and service.
- Sharon Duda from Weirton introduced *Walking with Purpose*, a national Catholic women's Bible study program. Her presentation highlighted the value of structured faith formation and the opportunities available to parishes interested in bringing this program to their communities.
- Kim Enders, of Huntington, shared information about a women's retreat connected with the Catholic Cursillo movement. The retreat will be held in February.
- Enid De Jesus, of St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg, and serves as the Hispanic Ministry Director for the diocese, discussed opportunities to support parishes interested in establishing Hispanic women's groups and strengthening Hispanic ministry.

"These help illustrate that women's ministry can take many forms," Boggess said. "Each parish has its own culture, gifts, resources, and needs, and we want to encourage ministries that reflect those unique circumstances."

In conversations across the diocese, Boggess said, she heard from women in parishes that have men's groups but no women's group. Women of the Way hopes to help those parishes and explore what a women's group could look like.



"Women of the Way is not intended to replace or compete with ministries already flourishing in our parishes and diocese," she said. "Rather, we hope to connect, support, and strengthen them under a shared diocesan vision."

Women of the Way can help establish a strong sisterhood – a network to allow us to learn from one another and make resources, ideas, and opportunities more accessible, she said.

Women of the Way is establishing a parish outreach team, so representatives can go out and visit parishes, offer spiritual retreats, introduce the vision of Women of the Way, and provide practical guidance for establishing a women's group.



In doing so Women of the Way needs to hear from the local parishes to learn where support is needed.

Sharing information about events and retreats offered by parish women's groups to others in neighboring parishes or even statewide. It is that kind of effort and that kind of thinking that unites us and strengthens our sisterhood, Boggess said.

Boggess said her recent conversations with women and priests across the diocese has helped identify areas of interest for women's groups across the state:

- **Evangelization** — Reaching the disenfranchised, reconnecting with non-practicing Catholics, and sharing the Gospel.
- **Wellness** — Supporting the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of women, including caregivers.
- **Support for Religious Life** — Encouraging and supporting religious life through retreats, conferences, and opportunities for connection.
- **Diversity and Inclusion** — Fostering awareness, empathy, belonging, and meaningful inclusion of women across our diverse communities.
- **Communication** — Strengthening administration, networking, outreach, grant writing, and communication about the purpose and opportunities of Women of the Way.
- **Faith Formation/Spiritual Development** — Supporting catechesis, Bible studies, and opportunities to deepen knowledge of the Catholic faith; as well as, providing opportunities for retreats, conferences, centering prayer, spiritual direction, and the development of a strong spiritual sisterhood.
- **Social Concerns** — Encouraging outreach and service through prison ministry, addiction care, Catholic Charities, caregiver support, and other works of mercy.

"Women of the Way is not here to replace ministries already flourishing in our parishes, but to connect and strengthen them," said. "We hope to build a sisterhood where women share ideas, resources, and opportunities to serve."

She concluded, "Our work will grow in thoughtful phases, guided by prayer and the needs of our parishes. Above all, we want women to feel welcomed, valued, and supported—and to recognize the gifts they can share in the life of the Church.

"The women who came before us — Mary, Mary Magdalene, the women of Scripture, and the saints — showed the way through faith, courage, and service. We hope to follow their example, one step at a time, trusting that with God, all things are possible."

The diocesan wide leadership for the group includes Boggess, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Princeton and Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council member; Sr. Paula Ude, SJS, Professor at Concord University; Carol Cofer of Sacred Heart, Princeton; Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS, Delegate of Consecrated Life (based in Wheeling); and Fr. Sebastian Devasya of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Parkersburg, and Vicar of Clergy for the diocese serves as the spiritual director for the group.





SoulCollage® Retreat
Cultivating Presence & Personal Growth

Date: November 13 – 15, 2026

We will gather for dinner at 5:00 p.m.
and end after lunch on Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

Location: St. Joseph Retreat Center
Wheeling, WV

Cost: On site residence – $360
Commuter Cost – $260
Limited housing available / partial scholarships available

Come create, reflect, and grow—one card at a time.

Facilitator: Gerri Wright

Gerri is the Director of Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston WV. She has a Masters of Pastoral Ministry degree from Duquesne University and is a certified spiritual director.

Step into a creative and reflective journey designed to deepen your awareness of the present moment and support your spiritual and personal growth. Through the intuitive process of SoulCollage®, you'll create meaningful collage cards that give voice to your inner wisdom, illuminate the movements of your heart, and help you discern where and how God may be calling you in this season of your life. As we slow down, become present, and listen deeply, we create space to recognize God's presence in our everyday experiences and discover new insights about our gifts, desires, and purpose. No artistic experience is necessary—only an open heart and a willingness to explore.

Join us for a nurturing experience of creativity, reflection, and prayerful discernment as we seek to become more fully aware, more deeply connected, and more responsive to God's invitation to grow into our authentic selves.

St. Joseph
RETREAT CENTER

RSVP

Anna Marie Troiani
Phone: 304-907-0171
Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

The saints – from every nation, race, people, and tongue - rejoice in the heavenly liturgy.

Responsorial: Psalm 24

"Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face."

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

The love the Father gave us is Christ. Let us be the children of God live like Christ taught and trust his plan not yet revealed to us.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus taught what our mindset should be to earn the kingdom of Heaven - the beatitudes.

CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT

PRAYER INTENTIONS



For the Church, that we freely extend the blessings of all the Beatitudes as a sign of the kingdom breaking into the world, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That leaders of nations work together as peacemakers and end persecution for their religious beliefs, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who seek peace, and those who labor for Almighty God, that their efforts bear fruit they can see, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our patron saints and all the souls who have strengthened our faith, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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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.