

Faith IN WV

OCTOBER 25, 2026

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



LIVING THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives us the greatest commandment that continues to shape the Church in West Virginia.

What is the greatest command?

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, all your soul, and with all your mind.... (and second) You shall love your neighbor as yourself." – Jesus

We hear this in today's Gospel, Matthew 22:34-40.

The are inseparable right?

Jesus says so.

It is our responsibility to express that love in how we pray, how we serve others, and how we share our love of God to all people.

Thanks be to God for our 175 plus years as a diocese in the state of West Virginia, we have seen this love take many forms.

It is that love that energized missionary priests to travel our hills and valleys and then for Bishop Richard Vincent Whelan despite hardships and anti-Catholic hostility to remain confident in that love and build up the Church.

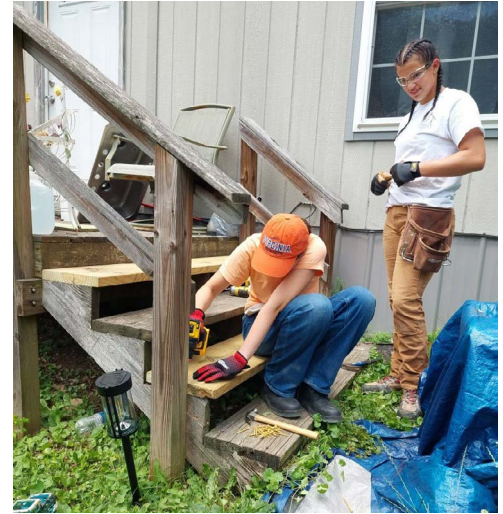
Throughout the challenges we have faced for generations we have stood strong knowing we are united by Christ, called to praise God, and to carry His love into the lives of others.

Our love for Him and our neighbor is evident in our schools, hospitals, nursing homes, food pantries, and parish outreach programs.

Each act of love, whether offered through our ministries or a simple kindness, makes the Gospel fully alive in our communities.

Inspired by those who came before us, we are called to love God with our whole lives and to serve our neighbors with courage, generosity, and hope. When we step forward to help, welcome, and encourage one another, we carry Christ's light into our towns and valleys—and keep building a Church rooted in love.

May that love make us unstoppable like our first bishop, Bishop Richard Whelan, and may it carry us on our journey to walk with all people as a light of Christ as our tenth bishop, Bishop Evelio Menjivar inspires us to do.



Signs to reflect upon Christ's face on a cloth, and a saw in hand.

On October 28, celebrate the Feast Day of Saints Jude and Simon, brothers called by Christ to follow Him.

Saint Jude is best known as the saint to call upon when you're praying for a seemingly hopeless cause; and known as "Jude Thaddeus" to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot the betrayer.

Simon was often called "Simon the Zealot" so not to be confused with Simon Peter. A zealot was considered an activist super confident in his belief of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

They were martyred in Persia for preaching Christianity and the love of Christ.

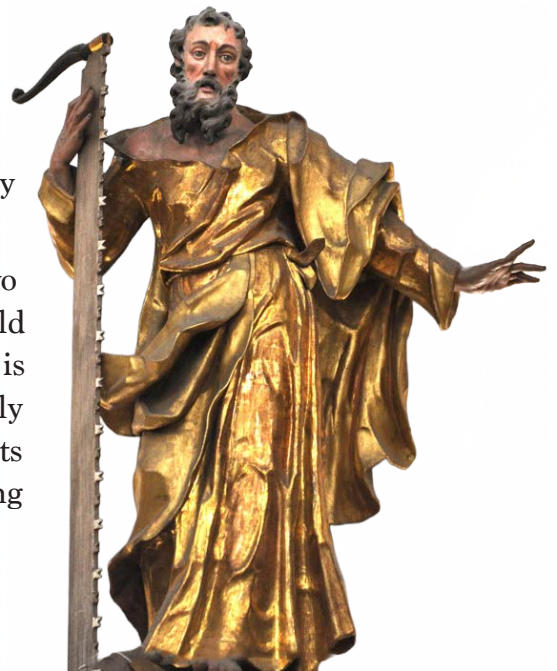


In art, St. Jude is often portrayed holding up a cloth with the face of Jesus on it or having a large circular medallion featuring Christ. Tradition explains it's the legend of the Image of Edessa. At the time of Christ, King Abgar V was dying. He heard of the miracles of Jesus, so he summoned for Him. Jesus could not go, so he pressed his face into a cloth, and told St. Jude to take it to the king. Saint Jude eventually made his way to Edessa. He opened the cloth in front of King Abgar and the image of Christ appeared. Saint Jude gave the sacred cloth to the king. King Abgar took was moved to tears, revealing his strong belief. He was cured. This legend was passed down from generation to generation, and artists shared the story by featuring a medallion or cloth with Jesus' face on it with St. Jude.

In art, paintings and statues, St. Simon is depicted with a saw for a most gruesome reason. Church history tells us that Simon, brother of Jude, was martyred by being sawn in half. . . lengthwise.

He is frequently shown wearing gold garments for a two possible or rather two purposeful reasons: the first is the gold is to symbolize the divine light of heaven, and the second is serve as a sign of victory – for St. Simon, who was humbly dressed on earth as a missionary will forever wear garments of royal victory over the golden pagan temples his preaching dismantled.

Saints Jude and Simon, pray for us.





She Was Just 18, *but Her Courage* Still Inspires

— She is a patron of youth and athletes. —

Celebrate the life of Blessed Chiara Badano Oct 29, her birthday.

Her short life left a powerful message, we can get through anything with God!

At a very young age it was evident that Bl. Chiara Badano had a heart of gold and understood the suffering of the Forsaken Christ was to save us all.

Blessed Chiara was born on Oct. 29, 1971, in Italy, to Ruggero and Maria Teresa Badano. She was their only child. They prayed for more than 11 years to have a child. When she was born, they knew they had been blessed, and thanked God for her, acknowledging that she indeed was a gift from heaven.

They described their daughter as outgoing and full of joy. At four her mother told her they should give a few of her old toys to charity, but young Chiara made a pile of her new toys to give. She was cute, athletic, loved her faith, and was a good friend with a compassionate heart. Like her peers, typical teenage girls, she had heartaches, anxiety, and some tough failures, but she was different in how she accepted suffering, because of them.

Her mother, Maria Teresa Badano, was frequently told, “You have a daughter who is not of this world,” because of the extraordinary, genuine kindness she showed.

The ultimate testimony Bl. Chiara would give would be in her late teenage years.

The summer when she was 17 years old, sudden shoulder pain forced her to stop playing tennis. Her doctor thought it was a broken rib, so they treated her for that, but the pain did not subside. Upon further examination it was discovered she had osteogenic sarcoma with metastases – a

painful and debilitating bone cancer that was spreading. During her first chemo sessions she lost the use of her legs.

Her pain was within her body but also overwhelming the minds and hearts of her parents for the two years she fought the progressive cancer.

Her father said, “Certainly she offered this pain to Jesus. . . . What always helped us in those years was the presence of Jesus among us, trying to offer Him this suffering, the only way we knew how, the three of us together, and each of us on our own: so that He would give us the strength.”

When she was forced by the cancer to stay in bed she said, “At this point I have nothing left, but I still have my heart and with that I can always love.”

Towards the end of her life Bl. Chiara refused pain relievers, because if she took them, she would be lethargic and not fully present. In her words she accepted the suffering, “for you Jesus. If you want it, I want it too!” The Badanos said they would come up to the door of her room and hear her singing. While they knew she was in immense pain, she still found it in her heart to get through it by focusing on her faith and all that was good.

She was an inspiration for her family, friends, and religious who visited with her.

Her mother wrote that on the day she died Bl. Chiara was able to receive Holy Communion – her food for her heavenly journey.

She passed away on Oct. 7, 1990, just three weeks shy of her 19th birthday.



HALLOWTIDE



HALLOWS' EVE

OCT. 31

ALL SAINTS DAY

NOV. 1

ALL SOULS DAY

NOV. 2

KNOW AND CELEBRATE THE THREE DAYS OF HALLOWTIDE OCT. 31-NOV 2.

Happy Hallowtide, the triduum of All Hallows' Eve (Halloween); All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day. It is three days leading to a month to pray for the dead.

The name Halloween comes from All Hallow's Eve, the eve or rather Vigil of the Solemnity of All Saints' Day. On that holy day we celebrate all named and unnamed saints – many of whom are martyrs of the Church.

On Nov. 1, All Saints' Day we rejoice in the lives of the saints (named and unnamed) – our role models for hope, mercy, and living a life for Christ. It is a holy day of obligation to acknowledge the men and women that the Church have recognized as our elite Catholic role models.

To make All Saints Day extra meaningful, create a personalized Litany of Saints. List of your patron saints – the saints whose names are shared in our families, schools, and parishes; your confirmation saint; patron saints of our work, desires, or struggles; and saints who we feel connected to and respect their life story (get a template at: FAITHINWV.ORG/RESOURCES).

On Nov. 2, All Souls' Day and throughout the month of November the Catholic Church remembers and prays for the dead.

Remember and celebrate the souls who have had a

great impact on our lives, the ones we love dearly, and all the souls in purgatory. It is our prayers that will help get them to heaven (and oh, by the way, in heaven they are praying for us)!

All of these souls become part of our "Cloud of Witnesses!"

Saint Paul reminds us in his letter to the Hebrews (12:1), "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us...."

This great disciple is telling us that we need to have confidence as we run our race on earth, because we are surrounded everyday by great prophets and saints who are cheering us on and are there in spirit to pick us up, when we stumble.

Thank God for all the souls who have deepened your faith whether through their good example or their bad. God put them in your life for a reason.

Bible verses to read then then reflect on as you remember the souls who have strengthened your faith:

"I thank my God every time I remember you!" - Philippians 1:3

"I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day." - 2 Timothy 1:3

THE STORY OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO

and Others to Inspire Habitual Prayers for Souls in Purgatory

Purgatory isn't a subject that is easily talked about or for that matter explained when we're asked about it.

So, what do we really know about Purgatory? In simple terms, we believe without a doubt that those who die in God's grace are assured of Heaven, but we also must be certain that God lovingly completes the healing and purification we still need through Purgatory.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a state of final purification for souls who die in God's grace and friendship but are not yet completely free from human imperfection (CCC 1030 and 1031).

The practice of prayer for the dead is mentioned in Sacred Scripture. From its beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God (CCC 1032).

Praying for the dead is crucial. We have St. Nicholas of Tolentino's witness to emphasize this vital intention.

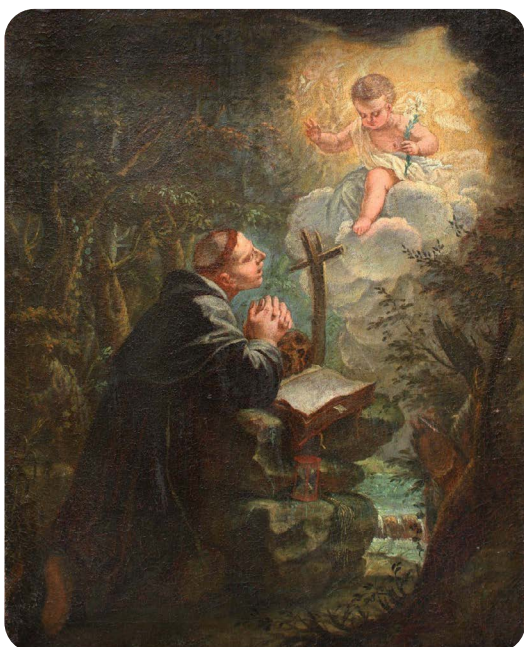
The reported vision notes that the soul of a friar named Peregrinus that St. Nicholas was friends with appeared to him. The late friar asked him to offer Mass for him and the countless souls in Purgatory.

Saint Nicholas of Tolentino, whose feast day was celebrated by the Church on Sept. 10, and was born in 1245 in central Italy, entered the Augustinian order in Tolentino at the age of 10 or 11. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1270 at the age of 24.

According to St. Nicholas' account, the soul his friend, Brother Peregrinus, appeared to him and asked him to offer Mass for him and for the many souls in Purgatory so they could be released to Heaven. Out of love for his friend, St. Nicholas offered Mass daily for a week and prayed day and night for the souls in Purgatory. Peregrinus appeared to him again, thanking him and let him know that because of his sincere dedication and God's mercy, he and many souls were now with God in Heaven.

Our prayer for (the souls in Purgatory) is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective (CCC 958).

Once in Heaven they intercede for us.



Those who have preceded us into the kingdom... share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives... and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise Him, and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their Master, they were 'put in charge of many things.' Their intercession is their most exalted service to God's plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world (CCC 2683).

Several saints are associated with stories of souls appearing to them or moments when they were shown souls in Purgatory. There are quite a few, but here are three.

The Life of Saint Malachy of Armagh written by St. Bernard of Clairvaux recounts the story when St. Malachy who prayed intently and offered Masses for his sister after her death. He fell out of that habit for a month. Then his sister appeared to him wearing a dark hooded garment and sad. He immediately went back to praying for her and having Mass said in her name. He continued to have visions of her. They were visions of her progression to Heaven.

P.A.C.E. 2026 Parish Administration & Collaborative Education

We are One in Christ!

All six vicariates around the state were well represented at the 2026 PACE conference, our diocesan Pastoral Administration and Collaborative Education professional development program for our school and parish employees and volunteers throughout the diocese.

Held at the Pope St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, we walked inspired to be the best version of ourselves to serve the Church, our parishes, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

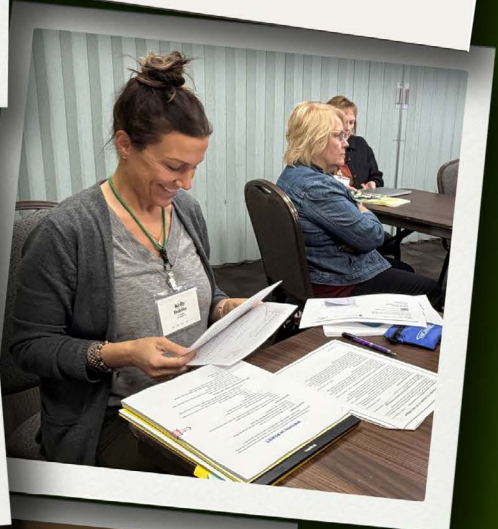
The theme for the 2026 PACE Conference, "With One Voice: One Faith, One Spirit".

Bishop Evelio Menjívar and the Chancery staff thank all who were present.

Your devotion, energy, and voices of faith bring the love, hope, and light of Christ to our communities.

Let us continue to embrace God's call in our lives.







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.



RSVP

Anna Marie Troiani
Phone: 304-907-0171

Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

THIRTIETH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

God hears the cry of the oppressed. He calls upon the Chosen People to love God and their neighbor as themselves.

Responsorial: Psalm 18

"I love you, Lord, my strength."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

Be a model of the love of God. Be a believer that imitates the love of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

The greatest law is the law of love. Love God and love your neighbor. He loves us unconditionally.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, may we never tire of being God's love in the world by the way we care for all our neighbors in need and the ones we take for granted, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For legislators at every level of government, that they may carefully consider the effects of their work on all of us, especially those on the margins, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who are suffering without the love and support of a parent or spouse, that they may be held warmly in the compassionate embrace of God and of loved ones, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That our parishes and schools be models for all believers in the way we see and serve Christ in all who are in need, 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~

Radio Luz de Vida streaming at www.rdo.to/WLOL2

ENROLL TODAY

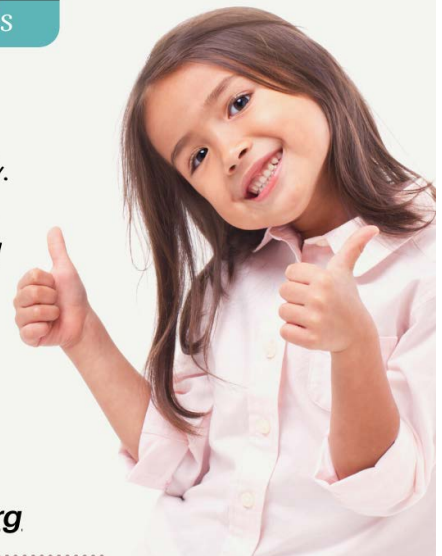
WV Catholic Schools

Empowered
by knowledge.
Transformed
by faith.



Register today

wvcatholicschools.org



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.