

# Faith IN WV

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026  
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



## Welcome the latecomers!

*Praise, God When  
Someone Serves Him*



Throughout the Gospel of Matthew Jesus teaches us the generous and merciful ways of God's kingdom where comparison and resentment are absent and gratitude and love prevail.

As we choose grace and compassion, we are showing Christ our trust in Him and our strength to be above the chaos. Be steadfast in our faith, trusting God's plan and choosing grace over anger and jealousy.

Just last weekend at Mass we sang out the responsorial Psalm, Psalm 103, "The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion."

In last week's Gospel, Jesus shares the parable of the unforgiving servant, emphasizing our responsibility to forgive if we ever expect to be forgiven by God. Last Sunday, Jesus taught us that those who have been forgiven must also forgive.

This Sunday, He challenges us with another way to receive God's grace, letting envy go, when God seems generous to someone else.

Trust Him and have hearts to serve not sever.

When we read or listen to Sunday's Gospel Matthew 20:1-16, even

## September 21 is the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle and Great Evangelist.

Can you imagine the faces of Christ's followers when Jesus himself called Matthew? He was a tax collector – a position most despised by Jews for they were dishonest, greedy, and mean! What was Jesus thinking? Maybe we should say what was Christ's lesson in this significant move? Most would assume that he would mock our Lord and ignore his invitation, but Matthew shocked all and immediately got up, left his post and wealth to follow Christ. Jesus teaches us even those we think are the worst among us can turn to God and follow Him. Further, Jesus called Matthew. He is calling each one of us each day to do His will.

Matthew's Gospel is called "the Gospel of the fulfillment," because it relates all the prophecies of the Old Testament to Jesus: He is of the house of David (1:6); born of a virgin, to fulfill what Isaiah foretold (1:22-23); and dwells among us to help us get to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Matthew also shares the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus gives us the beatitudes (5:3-11), our outline of Christian life. The apostle gives us Christ's genealogy, ministry, Passion, and Resurrection. Many artists' renditions of him include an angel near his



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though we know the vineyard is not just a field it is the kingdom of God, our human nature makes it easy to be quick to side with the disgruntled workers who put in a full day's work watch as the ones who only put in a fraction of the day get the same pay.

But we have to stop right there. This entire passage is a long quote from Jesus, penned by Matthew the Apostle. There is no mincing of words. Reread it.

He questions us: "I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

The vineyard owner had not cheated them. He paid them exactly what he had promised. Their problem was not that they received too little, but that someone else received generously.

*Put his teaching into action now:*

*Choose humility over envy.  
Celebrate others' successes.*

*Be grateful. Thank God for each gift in your life great or small instead of instinctively comparing and complaining.*

*Stop keeping score. Trust God and His plan. His generosity toward another does not diminish His love for you.*

*Serve with integrity as if working for God. God does not ask us to deny the good we have done, but to recognize and embrace our gift of our ability to serve.*

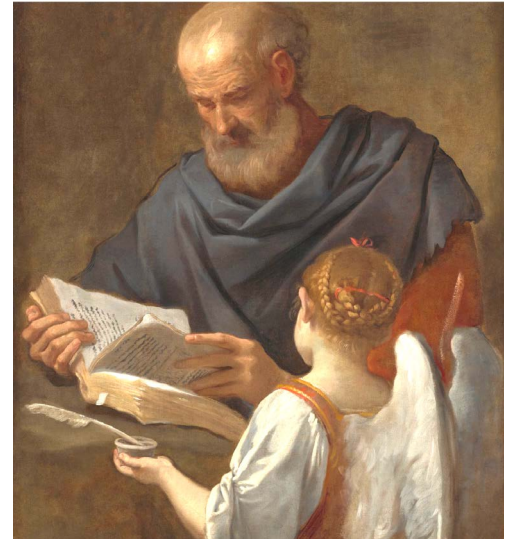
*Welcome the latecomers! Praise, God when someone turns toward Him, returns to the Church!*

The latecomers in this parable were not taking advantage of the other workers.

They had been left waiting in the marketplace for work.

They hung on to hope. God saw that and invited them to work in the vineyard. Receiving the daily wage was an exclamation point on God's compassion and generosity.

Be kind and merciful.



Lord God, Master of the Vineyard,

How wonderful that you have invited us  
who labor by the sweat of our brow  
to be workers in the vineyard  
and assist your work  
to shape the world around us.

As we seek to respond to this call,  
make us attentive to those who seek work  
but cannot find it.

Help us listen to the struggles of those  
who work hard to provide for their families  
but still have trouble making ends meet.

Open our eyes to the struggles of those exploited  
and help us speak for just wages and safe conditions,  
the freedom to organize, and time for renewal.  
For work was made for humankind  
and not humankind for work.  
Let it not be a vehicle for exploitation  
but a radiant expression of our human dignity.

Give all who labor listening hearts  
that we may pause from our work  
to receive your gift of rest.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit  
that you might work through us to let your justice reign.  
Amen.

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# A Life Rooted in the Presence of Jesus

As the Church honors Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen this week, consider making at least one holy hour with Jesus in thanksgiving for all that his life of heroic virtue continues to teach and inspire.

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be beatified on September 24, at The Dome of America's Center, St. Louis, MO, with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, as principal celebrant. He will be the first American-born bishop to be beatified.

More than 80 bishops and cardinals are expected to attend, including Bishop Evelio Menjívar, and a crowd of tens of thousands of faithful.

Venerable Archbishop Sheen is internationally known for his television show *Life is Worth Living*, his *The Catholic Hour* radio show, and his many books, pamphlets, and guides to living virtuously in a troubled world.

However, when asked what may have been most fruitful was his dedication to spending time with Jesus, specifically a daily holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

His sermons were influenced by his appreciation of St. Thomas Aquinas. Venerable Archbishop Sheen never missed a moment to preach the Gospel by his words and his actions, illustrating how it applied to personal moral decisions and the great social issues of our time.

He was declared venerable for heroically exemplifying the seven virtues gifted to us by God: Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance.

*Life is Worth Living* airs at 2pm daily on Relevant Radio and new episodes are released for on demand viewing and listening each Friday at: [PLUS.RELEVANTRADIO.COM/FULTON-SHEEN-SERIES](http://PLUS.RELEVANTRADIO.COM/FULTON-SHEEN-SERIES)

He brought the teachings of the Church alive while handling difficult questions about our real everyday human experience, tackling decisions, habits, temptations, relationships, and struggles of ordinary life, including subjects that are deeply personal decades later.

Father Mike Schmitz, popular from *Ascension Presents* and *Bible in a Year*, said Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen changed his life after reading his book *Treasure in Clay* (autobiography), giving him the insight on the archbishop's heroic virtue and prayer life.



He said the archbishop's message centers around the guidance that how we think about everything is united on how we think about Jesus. He credited him for the conversion of his grandfather, a Lutheran, who was basically evangelized and catechized by *Life is Worth Living*.

Venerable Archbishop Sheen's message engrained in viewers, listeners, and readers that we must always love every person with charity, humility, and grace. Addressing the truth - humans are flawed, we fail, and we are all prone to error. Therefore, we must separate the person and the act - hate the sin and love the sinner:

*"I will love the sinner but hate the sin; love the thief but hate the robbery; love the Communists, but hate Communism. The Church, therefore, will always accept the heretic back into the treasury of her souls, but never the heresy into the treasury of her wisdom."*

Venerable Archbishop Sheen wanted all to know Christ, work for His good, find hope, and accept suffering as a cross to bear, knowing it is not in vain.

In what is reported to be his last Good Friday sermon he said,

"Show me your hands. Have you a scar from giving? A scar of sacrificing yourself for another? Show me your feet. Have you gone about doing good? Were you wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?"

**VENERABLE ARCHBISHOP FULTON SHEEN,  
PRAY FOR US!**

# Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen

**Born:** May 8, 1895

**Parents:** Newt and Delia Sheen

**Hometown:** El Paso, Illinois

**High School:** Spalding Institute, Peoria

**College:** St. Viator College, IL

**Seminary:** St. Paul Seminary, MN

**Ordained:** Sept. 20, 1919

**Post Seminary:** The Catholic University of America (CUA), Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.

**First Assignment:** Assistant Pastor, St. Patrick's, Peoria

**Sent to Serve in DC:** 1926, teacher at CUA

**Teacher Tenure:** 23 years

**Made Monsignor:** 1934 (age 39)

**First Broadcasting Experience:** 1926, radio Lenten sermon series

**Weekly Radio:** 1930-1950, The Catholic Hour radio show

**Published:** 66 books (34 while at CUA and 32 after)

**First Catholic Service on TV:** Easter, March 24, 1940

**Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith:** 1950

**Consecrated Bishop:** June 11, 1951

**Life is Worth Living (weekly TV show):** Fall 1951

**Estimated Viewers of Show:** 30 million

**Archbishop of Titular See of Newport, Wales:** 1969

**Died (on the floor of his private chapel):** Dec. 9, 1979

**Cause for Canonization:** Opened 2002

**Proclaimed Venerable:** June 28, 2012

**Important Notation:** Archbishop Sheen was to have been originally beatified on Dec. 21, 2019, at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria, Illinois, the church he was ordained a priest on Sept. 20, 1919. He is entombed in a marble vault next to the altar where he was ordained.

However, it was delayed by the Vatican just weeks before at the request of Bishop Salvatore Matano, Bishop of Rochester, and other US bishops for further clarification of the archbishop's tenure in that diocese (1966-1969). The bishops were exercising due diligence on behalf of the Church for the archbishop be publicly cleared of any complaints or insinuations of personal misconduct or mishandling of any abuse allegations in the dioceses in New York as part of a statewide legal review being investigated at that time.

The archbishop was posthumously exonerated and found entirely without fault.





# CELEBRATING FAITH, BELONGING, & HISPANIC CATHOLIC HERITAGE

*An “Unforgettable Day” at the Cathedral of St. Joseph*

Joy filled the Cathedral as Bishop Evelio celebrated Mass in Spanish—and announced that the celebration will now return every month.

On Sunday two days before the start to National Hispanic Heritage Month, Bishop Evelio Menjivar announced that Wheeling will now offer a monthly Spanish Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 2:30 pm on the second Sunday of each month with all welcome and

encouraged to attend, participate, and experience.

On September 13, the Cathedral of St. Joseph became a joyful sign of welcome and unity as Bishop Evelio celebrated a Spanish-language Mass for the Hispanic Catholic community in Wheeling. With hearts lifted in song

“We were not merely present, we were overjoyed to be there.”

and fellowship, the faithful experienced a celebration many described as truly “unforgettable”.

“We were not merely present, we were overjoyed to be there,” said Sr. Martha Gomez, Delegate for Consecrated Life.

“*People seemed to realize that they were witnessing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.*”

“People seemed to realize that they were witnessing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and in response a deep sense of belonging that made them reach out to one another with genuine love,” she said and added, “The Holy Spirit was rejoicing!

“You could even witness the pure joy in Bishop Evelio, seeing all the people who had been waiting and ready for this Mass. They filled up half of the Cathedral. The music was heavenly and the people present sang the responses with all our hearts. It was a great moment for each of us, Bishop, and the Wheeling area.”

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston’s Hispanic community is spread across

the state with significant communities in the Eastern Panhandle, Clarksburg, Morgantown, Charleston, and Beckley.

Many Hispanic families in our diocese work with Catholic Charities West Virginia ([WWW.CCWVA.ORG/PROGRAMS/WEST-VIRGINIA-IMMIGRATION-REFUGEE-RESETTLEMENT-SERVICES](http://WWW.CCWVA.ORG/PROGRAMS/WEST-VIRGINIA-IMMIGRATION-REFUGEE-RESETTLEMENT-SERVICES)) and the Office for Hispanic Ministry ([DWC.ORG/OFCINAHISPANA](http://DWC.ORG/OFCINAHISPANA)) as they become part of our communities. These entities offer resources such as English-as-a-Second-Language classes, legal aid, faith formation, and other services.

Additionally, Enid Roman-De Jesus, who has led the Hispanic ministry for eight years in the diocese assists local parishes with bilingual resources, events, and more.

With the help of Rob Wickham, diocesan director of website development Spanish Mass times, locations, and events are posted on [DWC.ORG/SPANISH-MINISTRY](http://DWC.ORG/SPANISH-MINISTRY). In fact, all diocesan developed websites are provided in both English and Spanish.

## MISA EN ESPAÑOL WHEELING

*Catedral de San José*  
*Segundo domingo de cada mes*

*2:30 p.m.*

*Todos son bienvenidos.*





# NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

National Hispanic Heritage Month continues from now until October 15. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops published “Missionary Disciples Going Forth with Joy” - a national pastoral plan calling the Church to recognize the Hispanic/Latino Catholic community as a vital gift and to strengthen its participation and leadership in the Church’s mission.

The plan calls dioceses and parishes to form and accompany Hispanic and Latino Catholics, share the Gospel, and together help build a more missionary, culturally diverse Church (read it at: [USCCB.ORG/COMMITTEES/HISPANICLATINO-AFFAIRS](https://USCCB.ORG/COMMITTEES/HISPANICLATINO-AFFAIRS)).

***Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
Mother of the Americas, pray for us!***

## Bishop Evelio to Attend Beatification of Georgia Martyrs

The Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes, Bishop of Savannah, has announced in April that the beatification of the Venerable Servants of God Pedro de Corpa and his companions, known as the Georgia Martyr, will take place on October 31, 2026, in Savannah, Georgia.

Bishop Evelio Menjívar-Ayala will attend the beatification liturgy. Cardinal Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, will preside over the ceremony as the representative of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.

This will be the first beatification celebrated in Georgia.

“The year is also noteworthy, as these Franciscan friars will be declared ‘Blessed’ while the Catholic Church honors the 800th anniversary of the death of their order’s founder, St. Francis of Assisi, in 1226,” said Bishop Parkes in a statement to the faithful.

On January 27, 2025, Pope Francis authorized the decree declaring Pedro de Corpa, Blas Rodríguez, Miguel de Añón, Antonio de Badajoz, and Francisco de Veráscola true martyrs for Christ. They were killed out of hatred for the faith along the present-day Georgia coast in September 1597.



# Ubi Petrus, ibi ergo Ecclesia

*(Where Peter is, there is the Church)*

A Special **FaithInWV** Feature Column  
by Seminarian Joe Derico



PRAY  
SUPPORT  
ENCOURAGE  
VOCATIONS



On an exceedingly warm Sunday afternoon three weeks ago, the new seminarians of the Pontifical North American College in Rome and the second-year men serving as the orientation team had the unique opportunity for a private audience with His Holiness, Leo XIV. We walked through the ancient and beautifully ornamented corridors of the Apostolic Palace to the Sala Clementina where we waited for the Holy Father to make his entrance.

Upon arrival, he spoke a few words to us about the gift of life in Rome at the heart of the Church and expressed some well-wishes for our time of formation here. Then one-by-one we each had an opportunity to greet him personally. By ancient tradition, the customary manner of greeting the Holy Father, and indeed any bishop, is to genuflect on the left knee, and to kiss the ring which he wears as a sign of his wedding to the Church which he serves. The Holy Father wears a particular ring known as the “ring of the fisherman”, which signifies his unique role as successor of the holy apostle Peter. Far from antiquated, this custom of greeting the Holy Father serves as a reminder to the one greeting him that God, through the college of Cardinals, has chosen this man to serve His Church through his ministry as the “Servant of the servants of God”. This ancient sign of deference reminds the one making it, and indeed, affirms to the Holy Father personally, the submission of the subject to the Supreme Pontiff of Christ’s Church on Earth. That is why the simple gesture of kissing the ring carries such weight. It is not an act of homage to the man, but a visible act of communion with the See of Peter itself—a bodily “yes” to the unity Christ willed for His Church. In bending to kiss the Fisherman’s Ring, one touches, in a small and humble way, the very rock upon which the Church stands.

St. Ambrose is quoted as having said, “Ubi Petrus, ibi ergo Ecclesia”—Where Peter is, there, therefore is the Church. In an age filled with so many distractions and competing opinions about what good the Holy Father is or isn’t doing, it was particularly poignant in his presence, to hear from him about the gift of being at the heart of the Church here in Rome. Unique opportunity indeed, I sleep each night within eyesight of the Holy Father’s window and more obviously, the dome of St. Peter’s Basilica. Here in the shadow of those great landmarks, I get to renew and grow each day, my love for the Holy Father and his ministry to his flock throughout the world. May we all continue to pray fervently for the health, safety, and intentions of our Holy Father, and unite ourselves to our brothers and sisters throughout the world in wishing him “Ad Multos Annos” (to many years), as our group did by singing the anthem at the end of our audience with him.

# Catechetical Sunday

## God Bless All Who Strengthen Our Relationship with Christ

“When we teach the faith, we do not merely give instructions, but we place the word of life in hearts, so that it may bear the fruits of a good life.” Pope Leo XIV.

This weekend in the Church we celebrate Catechetical Sunday to recognize the importance of our catechists - those among us who not only teach the faith but fill the hearts of young and old with a great love for Jesus Christ.

These men and women are spiritual guides helping us get to Heaven.

The ministry of a catechist in our parishes and schools is to help us to be fully alive in His Church.

Together, let us ask God to bless our catechists who lovingly share the beauty of their faith through significant lessons they learned and cherished along their own journey.

“As you instruct others in the faith, keep in mind the importance of teaching them to cultivate a relationship with Jesus,” Pope Leo said to catechists. “May his love revive in all of us the hope that does not disappoint.”



# HONOR ST. PIUS PIETRELCINA, PADRE PIO, ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23.

*"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.*

*"Bear in mind that the more the enemy assaults you, the closer God is to your soul. Fear nothing because God is with you." – Padre Pio*

Throughout the world his relics travel for veneration, but there are three shrines/chapels to note if you want to make a pilgrimage in our region of the US.

## NEW YORK

There is a Shrine of Padre Pio, located in Saint John the Baptist Church in the heart of New York City, including relics of Padre Pio - one of his brown fingerless woolen gloves and white linen sock, both with his blood stains from his stigmata. Other reliquaries are displayed on his feast day and other special occasions at the parish, including his crystal cruets, a fountain pen with a photo of Padre Pio writing with it, the backside of a Christmas Greeting written in his hand, and a cloth used to absorb the blood from the sacred stigmata, which still bears the stain.

According to the parish, these relics "came to St. John's through Mary Pile, a friend and secretary for Padre Pio. The relics were given to Fr. Armand Dasseville, OFM. It was the vision and grace that St. John's Church served by the Capuchin Franciscans should be a center for devotion to Saint Pio of Pietrelcina."

Shrine website: [WWW.PADREPIOSHRINE.COM](http://WWW.PADREPIOSHRINE.COM)

## PENNSYLVANIA

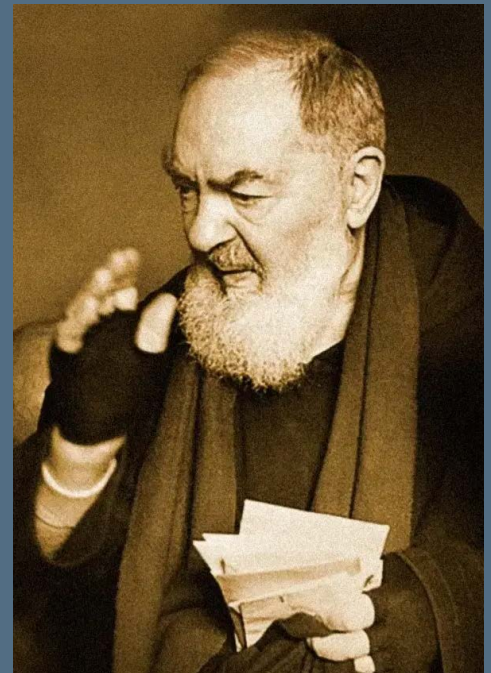
The Chapel of Saint Pio will be consecrated on Wednesday, September 23, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 410 East Simpson Street, Mechanicsburg, PA, in the Diocese of Harrisburg. The Mass in honor of Saint Pio, will be held that day at 6:30 pm, celebrated by Most Reverend Timothy Senior, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg with pastor pastor, Father John Bateman. Those attending will be the first to venerate the first-class relic of Saint Pio in the chapel until 8:30 pm.

## OHIO

Located inside St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 168 E. Lincoln Street, Columbus, St. Padre Pio Chapel will be inaugurated on Sunday, October 11 at 11 am with a Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Bernardito C. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio to the European Union. This is in coordination with the Saint Pio Foundation, and the chapel will house a permanent local relic for prayer and intercession.

For more information go to: [SAINTPIOOFPIETRELCINA.ORG](http://SAINTPIOOFPIETRELCINA.ORG)

## PADRE PIO'S LIFE TRULY FASCINATING



**His Full Name:** St. Pius Pietrelcina, affectionately called "Padre Pio."

**Feast Day:** September 23

**Life:** 1887 to 1968.

**Frequent Quote Themes:** the Eucharist, the Rosary, and his guardian angel

**Stigmata:** Sept. 20, 1918. He is the only priest in history to have the wounds of Christ to his hands, feet, and side.

**Ordained/Assigned:** 1910 and in 1916 was assigned to San Giovanni Rotondo in Apulia, Italy, where he would be for 52 years.

**Reconciliations:** He was so popular he would spend up to 12 hours a day hearing confessions of Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

He celebrated Mass with "extraordinary devotion," leaving no doubt that the Eucharist was the Real Presence of Christ.

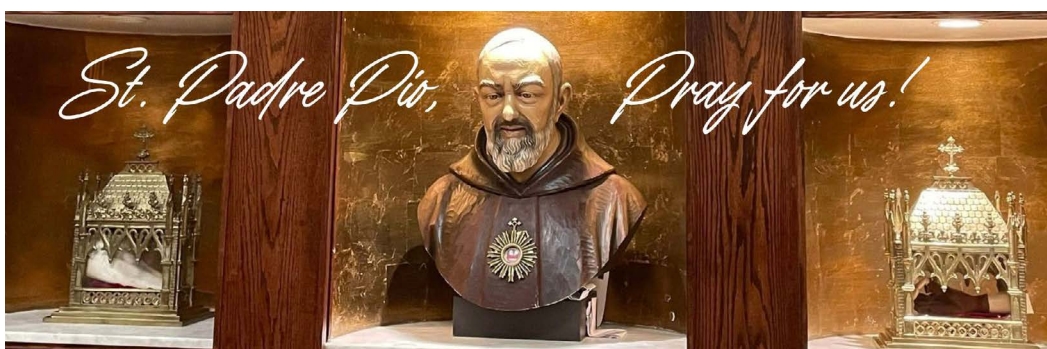
**Hide his wounds:** Padre Pio often hid his wounds on his hands with gloves. His wounds brought pain and bled day after day.

**Died:** Sept. 23, 1968, at the age of 81, with a rosary in his hands

**Lasting quote:** "After my death I will do more. My real mission will begin after my death."

*Let St. Padre Pio enter our hearts and minds, stirring within us a true humility and sincere love of prayer, the rosary, and the sacraments.*

**PADRE PIO, PRAY FOR US!**



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# NCYC

National Catholic Youth Conference

**Bring your parish or school  
to NCYC 2027!**

**Join our Zoom info session:**



**Thursday, September 24  
4:30 pm**

**RSVP/more info:  
Contact - Greg Gust  
email: [GGust@dwc.org](mailto:GGust@dwc.org)**



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9**

Our God is generous in forgiving.

**Responsorial: Psalm 145**

"The Lord is near to all who call upon him."

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27**

Conduct yourself in a way worthy of eternal life with Christ.

**Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

"The last will be first, and the first will be last."

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the special intentions of Pope Leo XIV, Bishop Evelio Menjivar, and Bishop Emeritus Mark Brennan, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who labor in the fields and farms of our nation, may they be blessed by our loving God for their hard work and treated respectfully as they are providing a harvest for us to enjoy, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our Jewish brothers and sisters, who celebrate Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year, this week, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all those who teach the Catholic faith in schools, religious education and OCIA classes, and other programs to strengthen Christ's Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

*Lord hear our prayer*

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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).