

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

## New Schedule Announced for The Catholic Spirit Print Edition

**By Colleen Rowan**

**WEST VIRGINIA** — The Catholic Spirit is announcing a new schedule for its print edition. The publication is moving from 12 print issues a year to 10 print issues a year. The change will begin in May and is being implemented with the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's commitment to good financial stewardship.

The change to the print edition does not affect The Catholic Spirit's publication of the digital issues, which are published every Friday and delivered to subscribers and many others via e-mail. The digital edition is also viewable on the publication's website at [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org) where subscriptions to both the digital and

**See "Schedule" on Page 2**

## LOUDfence 'A Sign of Hope' Coming to the Diocese

**By Adam Marquart**

**WHEELING** — On Sunday, April 7, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will be the first diocese in the United States to host LOUDfence, a campaign of awareness and reconciliation for victims of abuse. Since 2020, Cumbria, England, native Antonia Sobocki has been organizing LOUDfence events across the U.K. and throughout the world. She began the movement "to work with churches to actively foster a culture which is pro-safeguarding and truth telling" and "to promote the much-needed Ministry of Survivor Care in the Church." The LOUDfence is a concrete way for

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## Faith in Jesus Christ Will Not Disappoint, Bishop Brennan Says on Easter



Ann Nester Photo

Easton Bridges receives the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Mark Brennan during the Easter Vigil at St. Matthew Church in Ravenswood March 30. Looking on is John Butler, a deacon candidate for the diocese.

**By Colleen Rowan**

**F**aith in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, will not disappoint, Bishop Mark Brennan said to those who filled the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling on Easter Sunday morning.

"God keeps his promises, including our sharing in Christ's resurrection. Dispel any sadness or doubt from your hearts this day. Rejoice in the victory of the one who loves us so much that he calls us into eternal friendship with him and with one another." The bishop shared these

words at the conclusion of his homily for the Mass he celebrated that morning. "My brothers and sisters, Christ is risen. He is truly risen," he said. "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

The Mass was televised live across the state through the sponsorship of the Welty Corporation. The celebration was also livestreamed on the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's website and Facebook page.

Earlier in his homily, the bishop said that

**See "Easter" on Page 4**

# Schedule...

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print editions can be obtained. A digital version of each print issue is included in the digital edition. Subscriptions to the digital edition can also be obtained by e-mailing requests to [crowan@dwc.org](mailto:crowan@dwc.org).

The new print schedule is actually a return to The Catholic Spirit's previous 10-issue print format. Under this publication schedule, each issue will not be published by date. Rather, issues throughout each year will be named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. However, digital issues will continue to publish by date.

The print schedule will change each year according to the Church's liturgical calendar. The new print schedule for each year will be published in the Christmas issue and all issues that follow, print as well as digital.

The new print schedule begins next month with the issue titled Ascension of the Lord. The feast day is May 12 and The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is May 10.

Below is a complete list of the upcoming print issues of The Catholic Spirit for the remainder of 2024. The list provides the name of each issue of The Catholic Spirit, the date of the feast day or celebration for which it is named, and the publication date.

# The Catholic Spirit's New Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

### Ascension of the Lord

Feast Day, May 12

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is May 10

### Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Month of June

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is June 21

### Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day, August 15

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2

### Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Feast Day, September 14

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6

### Our Lady of the Rosary

Memorial, October 7

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4

### Advent

First Sunday of Advent is December 1

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29

### Christmas

Feast Day, December 25

The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20

## Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Chil-

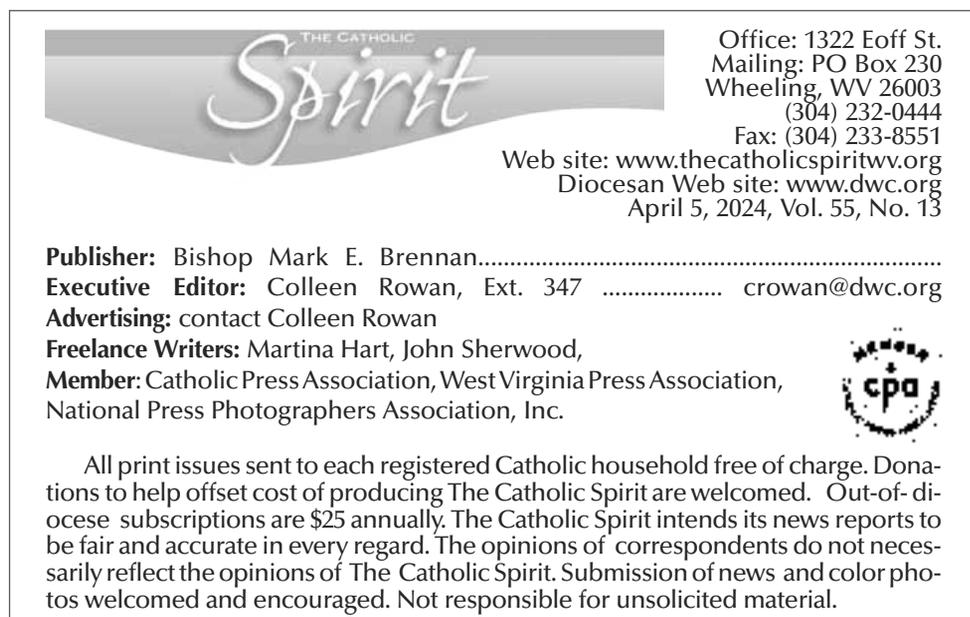


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with Fr. Chapin

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- 6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
- 6:30 WOWK CBS 13 Huntington-Charleston
- 8:00 WBOY NBC 12 Weston-Clarksburg-Fairmont
- 6:30 WOAY ABC 4 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 8:30 WVNS FOX 59 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 9:30 WVVA NBC 6 Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
- 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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# Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is Compliant with USCCB Charter for Protecting Children

**WHEELING**—The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is compliant with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, according to Stonebridge Business Partners, the third-party agency contracted to audit dioceses across America.

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's on-site portion of the Safe Environment audit occurred on March 12-13, 2024, with Stonebridge auditors traveling to Charleston.

The Charter, established in 2002, mandates a Safe Environment program for every diocese in the United States. Required components for every diocese include background checks for employees and volunteers who work directly or indirectly with minors, completion of awareness training, and receipt and review of a sex abuse policy. The Charter mandates an on-site Safe Environment audit for every diocese every three years. However, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Bishop Mark Brennan elects on-site Safe Environment audits on a yearly basis as opposed to every three years.

"We are pleased to report to the faithful in West Virginia that our Diocese has been designated as compliant with the Charter," said Bryan Minor, process administrator for Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. "In 2022, Bishop Brennan indicated his preference for the diocese to be on-site audited for Safe Environment on a yearly basis. We hope this reassures the faithful of the Bishop's level of commitment to fostering a culture of safety here."

Completion of the Safe Environment protocol is a condition of employment in the diocese. In addition, all volunteers who work directly or indirectly, with or around, or have access to children

must be compliant with Safe Environment. In addition to the background check, awareness training, and policy, the Diocese calls specific attention to its Code of Conduct and to the state of West Virginia's 24-hour reporting requirement for abuse.

"There are a whole host of other requirements and best practices that we engage in as a diocese to protect children and vulnerable adults," Minor said, "We are audited in that capacity as well. Stonebridge does a very thorough job of analyzing and verifying what we do here and how we do it."

For example, other Safe Environment requirements and best practices for which the diocese is on-site audited include but are not limited to:

—Parishes and schools display reporting posters in public places and regularly print reporting procedures in weekly parish bulletins.

—The Diocese maintains a web site with a section dedicated to Safe Environment protocol and reporting concerns.

—The Diocese offers multiple methods for reporting concerns.

—The Diocese's lay-led Review Board regularly meets and advises the Bishop on Safe Environment-related matters.

—The Diocese reports to and cooperates with civil authorities on Safe Environment-related matters where applicable.

—The Diocese promotes healing and transparency.

—The Diocese has established and adheres to a communications plan for Safe Environment-related matters.

—Compliance for volunteers and employees at parishes and schools is carried out at the local level and documented.

—In addition to background checks, fingerprinting is mandated for clergy and school personnel.

"Prior to the auditors arriving on site, we send them quite a bit of documentation from throughout the year so they can properly analyze our processes and determine our level of compliance," Minor said. "We work on collecting and preserving compliance documentation all year long. There is a very in-depth document, called an Audit Instrument, that Stonebridge requires us to complete each year, accompanied by the corresponding proof validating our efforts."

The yearly data collection portion of the audit process will be conducted from the end of April to the end of May. "The data collection protocol is where our parishes and schools report their numbers – numbers of compliant volunteers, employees, and children who have received awareness training," Minor said. "And we here at the Chancery report the number, if any, of allegations we have received during the past year and indicate how those allegations were handled."

For the past several years, auditors have recommended continuing awareness training in some form for employees and volunteers of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Presently, volunteers are not required to complete any continuing education relative to Safe Environment. Bishop Brennan supports this recommendation and has advised that the Diocese will be instituting a yearly Safe Environment awareness training requirement that will be implemented in phases. More information will follow in the coming weeks from the Bishop's Office and from the Office of Safe Environment at the Chancery regarding the implementation of continuing Safe Environment education.

## Hope...

Cont'd from Page 1

the church to invite survivors of abuse to share their own voice with the voices of support and prayer in the church. When Sobocki presented Pope Francis with a ribbon from LOUDfence in September of last year, he expressed it was "a sign of hope" and instructed her to spread it throughout the church.

The ceremony on April 7 will follow the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan and Bishop Paul Mason of England. Sobocki will present Bishop Brennan with a ribbon as she has done with other bishops who have hosted this movement.

Outside the church, ribbons with messages of support, prayer, and awareness will be tied to the gate of

the prayer garden. These ribbons are the voices of so many survivors of abuse. They are the voices of support and prayer from the people of God.

The LOUDfence coming to the diocese is a sign that these voices matter to the Church in West Virginia. It is a sign that we desire to listen to these voices so that real dialogue and real reconciliation may begin.

You may send in messages of support, encouragement, prayers, and witness of your own survival to Kelly Albers at the diocese's Office of Youth & Young Adult Discipleship by e-mail to [kalbers@dwc.org](mailto:kalbers@dwc.org) by Friday, April 5, at 4 p.m. Prayers may also be submitted by this deadline in the comments of an April 3 post about LOUDfence on the diocese's Facebook page. They will be printed, laminated, and brought to the ceremony.

St. Gregory the Great once said: "It is better that scandals arise than the

truth be suppressed." Glory to Jesus Christ that more of the truth of abuse in the Church has been revealed. Undiagnosed diseases become terminal without treatment. There can be no healing where there is no acceptance of pain. To heal, one must confront one's own wounds. The denial or neglect of the pain and of the problems causing it does not make any of it go away. When we neglect our wounds and try to run from them, the pain just gets worse. Henri Nouwen wrote: "I am convinced that healing is often

so difficult because we don't want to know the pain. Although this is true of all pain, it is especially true of the pain that comes from a broken heart." The LOUDfence is one way we as a church can face these wounds and begin to heal.

If you have been abused or know of any abuse, see Page 2 of this issue and every issue of The Catholic Spirit on how to report the abuse. Please pray for healing of survivors of abuse and for the repentance of their abusers.



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# An Easter Message from Bishop Brennan

Easter, 2024

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

After the storm the sun comes out. After his crucifixion and burial, the Son of God came out of his tomb. He, the Sun of Justice, will never go dark. He is the Light of the World which gives light to every human being. When we walk in his light, we avoid pitfalls, and we see our way clear to our destination: the fullness of eternal life with our God and all His saints.

As our Easter season begins, I hope that you find joy in the firm conviction that we follow the Lord who has overcome the worst that his enemies could

do to him and who holds out to us the promise of help now and glory later. Whatever our struggles and difficulties, the Lord Jesus walks with us, like the Good Shepherd who accompanies his sheep and leads them to good pasture.

We live in anxious times. It can seem as if the world is coming apart. We see division and conflict on all sides. We experience the tug-of-war inside ourselves between faith and doubt. Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead assures us that all will end well for us if we keep faith with the Lord. In this life, we have no greater enemy than death, but our Savior has overcome it and, true to his boundless generosity, he chooses to share

his new life with us, now by grace and later in eternity.

Rejoice, then, Christians, in your Lord's triumph over sin and death! He has done it for you. Stay close to him and have confidence in your own final victory over sin and death. Let the sunlight of Easter illuminate your spirit and give a sprightly lilt to your step!

Christ is risen, he is truly risen!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Mark E. Brennan*

+Mark E. Brennan

Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Courtesy Photo

Bishop Mark Brennan washes the feet of parishioners at the Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, at Holy Redeemer Parish in Spencer March 28.

## Easter...

Cont'd from Page 1

believing Jesus rose from the dead goes against human instinct.

"Yet if we allow the spiritual dimension, which is an integral part of reality, to speak it tells us that nothing is impossible for God," he said.

It is remarkable that the Christian movement has survived many forms of persecution, the bishop said, from the beginning to our own day enduring many hardships in bringing the gospel to the remotest parts of the earth and many scandals owing to the weakness and sins of some of its members. Yet, the people's faith sustains them through everything.

"Millions of our people can testify that their ability to endure suffering and hostility from others comes from the Lord Jesus..." he said. "By the grace the risen Christ gives to his people—our people, Christian people, have made this world a much better place."

The Catholic Church, he said, is the origin of the modern university and sponsors thousands of schools around the world at every level of education.

"Our people currently offer more than one quarter of all healthcare in the world," he added. "We have pantries and soup kitchens and parish groups that help the poor. In the United States our state Catholic

Charities agencies are the largest non-governmental provider of services to the needy. And on the spiritual level we offer the enlightenment of God's word and the sustenance of Christ's body and blood to his disciples, the forgiveness of their sins, the encouragement to pray, and the sane teachings that we have about human conduct."

None of this, he said, would be possible without the grace of the risen Christ.

Those who believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead have firm hope for eternal life, the bishop said, pointing to the words of St. Paul: "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory" (Col 3:1-4).

"You're one hope of overcoming death is the resurrection of Jesus Christ because he promised to share that with each of you," the bishop said. "The Lord will return to raise you to the new and eternal life that he enjoys now in his risen body, and that hope can sustain you in dark days."

Survivors of the Nazi death camps during World War II said that it was not the physically strongest or smartest who often survived, but those who had reasons to hope to see loved ones again, to resume a fulfilling career, to serve their God, Bishop Brennan said.

"In a nation with rising depression and suicide rates, especially among



Courtesy Photo

During the Veneration of the Cross at the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday at St. Michael Parish in Vienna (March 29), Ivy Maguire kisses the cross, which is held by Father John Gallagher, pastor (left), and Bishop Mark Brennan, who presided at the liturgy.

the young, and the push for assisted suicide for the old, hope in Christ's promise of eternal life is a source of strength and renewed appreciation for life," Bishop Brennan said. "If you believe that the Lord is truly risen then you have to live like it. Follow his teachings, even when it's hard. My mother said to me when I was a boy, 'It can sometimes be hard to live as a Catholic, but it would be good to die as one.'"

The bishop again emphasized the words of St. Paul: "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God," (Col 3:1-4).

"So, we have to die to our sinful tendencies so that Christ's grace may operate freely in our lives and we may, like him, go about doing good and freeing those in the grip of whatever evil engulfs them or threatens them," the bishop said.

A brilliant man who persecuted the early Christians had an experience of the risen Christ and he became a great apostle of the risen Lord and brought the Christian faith to many, Bishop Brennan said. Like St. Paul, another man several centuries later used his powerful intellect to mock the Christian faith, but he was converted to the Lord by the example of his devout mother and the wisdom of a holy bishop and later he used his mind and

rhetorical gifts to promote the faith he had once ridiculed, the bishop continued. And like St. Augustine, he added, a woman in our times who had lived, by her own testimony, a sinful life came into contact with a vibrant Christian social justice movement and eventually converted to the Catholic faith becoming a champion of the little people of the world. Dorothy Day, the bishop said, of our country may one day be one of the canonized American saints the faithful honor.

"We must, as St. Paul says, 'walk by faith and not by sight,'" the bishop said.

Bishop Brennan celebrated the Easter Vigil March 30 at St. Matthew Church in Ravenswood, where he brought nine people into full communion with the Catholic Church: Natasha Lemley, Paul Lemley, Dakota Mahood, Leslie Pauley, Sarah Rogers, and the Bridges family—Aaron and Heidi and their older children, Jace and Easton.

Bishop Brennan began the Easter Triduum in Spencer celebrating Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper, at Holy Redeemer Church in Spencer. He gathered with the people of St. Michael Church in Vienna on Good Friday, leading Stations of the Cross and then presiding at the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion.

# Vatican Announces April 8 Publication of Document on Human Dignity

**By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — The Vatican press office announced that the Dicastery for the Doctrine of Faith's declaration on human dignity, said to include a faith-based critique of "gender ideologies" and surrogacy, will be released April 8.

Cardinal Víctor Manuel Fernández, prefect of the dicastery, and Msgr. Armando Matteo, secretary of the doctrinal section of the dicastery, along with Dr. Paola Scarcella, a professor of medicine and director of catechesis for persons with disabilities with the Community of Sant'Egidio, will speak at a Vatican news conference, the press office announced April 2.

In an interview with the Spanish news agency EFE in January, Cardinal Fernández had said, "We are preparing a very important document on human dignity which includes not only social issues, but also a strong critique of moral issues such as sex change, surrogacy, gender

ideologies, etc." The social issues would include anything that impacts human dignity, such as immigration, poverty, war and environmental degradation. "As Christians, we must not tire of insisting on the primacy of the human person and the defense of his or her dignity beyond every

circumstance," Pope Francis told members of the doctrinal dicastery in late January. The pope said he hoped the new document "will help us, as a church, to always be close to all those who, without fanfare, in concrete daily life, fight and personally pay the price for defending the rights of those who do not count."

# War is 'Folly,' Pope Says as He Leads Prayers for Ukraine, Gaza

**By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Pope Francis held up a well-thumbed, camouflage-covered pocket edition of the New Testament and Psalms and a small fabric pouch containing a rosary.

He told people at his general audience April 3 that the Bible and rosary had belonged to 23-year-old Oleksandr, a Ukrainian soldier killed at Avdiivka. "He had his life ahead of him."

"Oleksandr read the New Testament and the Psalms and had underlined this from Psalm 129 (130): 'Out of the depths I call to you, Lord; Lord, hear my cry,'" the pope said.

Pope Francis asked the thousands of visitors and pilgrims in St. Peter's Square to observe a moment of silent prayer for "this young man and many others like him killed in this folly that is war. War always destroys. Let's think about

them and pray." The pope also spoke of his "profound sorrow" at the news that seven members of the humanitarian group World Central Kitchen were killed by Israeli strikes on their vehicles in Gaza April 2 "while they were working to distribute food aid."

World Central Kitchen said the seven killed included an Australian, a Pole, three British men working security, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada and a Palestinian. "Despite coordinating movements with the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces), the convoy was hit as it was leaving the Deir al-Balah warehouse, where the team had unloaded more than 100 tons of humanitarian food aid brought to Gaza on the maritime route," the organization said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised an investigation, describing the killings as a "tragic case of our forces unintentionally hitting innocent people."

Pope Francis, speaking at the end of his general audience, said, "Once again I renew my firm call for an immediate cease-fire" in Gaza.

"I renew my appeal that access to humanitarian aid be allowed to reach the exhausted and suffering civil population," he said, "and that the hostages immediately be released" by Hamas, which kid-

napped them from Israel in October. "Any irresponsible attempts to widen the conflict in the region must be avoided," the pope said, and efforts must be made to end the fighting as soon as possible. "Let us pray and work without tiring so that the weapons may be silenced, and peace may reign again," he said.

*"Jesus, I trust in You." St. Faustina*

## Feast of Divine Mercy

**Sunday, April 7th**

You are cordially invited to join us for Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration at Holy Redeemer at Spencer.

**Divine Mercy Chaplet at Shrine 4:45pm**  
**Mass at Church at 5:00pm**

The Most Rev. Bishop Mark Brannen will be presiding with several priests.  
 Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Spencer, WV

### Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

*October 14 - 25, 2024*

**Join Father Don Higgs** on a pilgrimage to beautiful Italy. A pilgrimage is defined as a journey to a sacred place to deepen our faith through prayer and experience. Pilgrimages lead us closer to God. We will visit Florence, Assisi, Pompeii, Sorrento, and Rome. We will pray and celebrate the Eucharist as we visit Basilicas such as St. Francis and St. Peter. There will be ample opportunity to taste many Italian delicacies. Our pilgrimage will be a blend of religious experiences and cultural richness. It will be a time to pray and be immersed in our faith. It will be an opportunity to learn, relax, feast, and shop. It is a chance to be surrounded by the beauty of Italy and all it has to offer.

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# Catholic Charities West Virginia Announces Inaugural Charity in Action Awards Luncheon in Huntington

**HUNTINGTON** — Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa) will present its inaugural Charity in Action Awards Luncheon in Huntington May 6 at St. Mary's Center for Education. The event will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m.

The Charity in Action Award will be present-

ed to local individuals and groups for their exemplary community service in the Huntington area.

The 2024 Charity in Action Award honorees are Carol Bailey, Rory Chapman, and Teresa and Jim Jeffrey.

To purchase tickets or to become a sponsor

for the luncheon, call (304) 905-9860.

Proceeds from the event directly support CCWVa's mission in 15 counties in the Western Region, including Huntington, Charleston and surrounding areas.

"Together, we are creating lasting and meaningful change," CCWVa officials said.

## Multinational Rosary For Unborn Babies Set for Mother's Day Weekend

It is hoped that at least one million rosaries will be prayed Mother's Day weekend, May 10-12, as part of the annual One Million Rosaries For Unborn Babies Campaign.

This annual pro-life prayer event is coordinated by the St. Michael the Archangel Organization. All that is required to participate is to pray the rosary for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons Mother's Day weekend.

So that your participation is counted towards the Million total, please register online at [saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org](http://saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org) or send an email to [rosaries4theunborn@yahoo.com](mailto:rosaries4theunborn@yahoo.com).

St. Michael the Archangel Organization has been coordinating a multinational Rosary Campaign Mother's Day weekend for the past 15 years in the attempt to have a million rosaries prayed for the intention of "an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons."

"We have never come near the million goal, but with (and only with) your help, we can do it!" organization officials said. "Every rosary prayed has a positive impact!"

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# Sacred Art is Inspired by the Holy Spirit

*Through the Eyes of West Virginia's Christopher Santer*

By Joyce Bibey

**H**is art will not only captivate you, but it will also bring you to your knees as your mind wraps around the sacred image that is before you. The longer you peer into the painting the more enthralled you become, noticing more – words, scripture, subtle background images. Christopher Santer's art invites you to grow deeper in faith.

Santer grew up in the Parkersburg area, and his family has been members of St. Margaret Mary Parish for more than 50 years.

Attending Catholic school was a priority for Andrea Santer and the late Dr. Michael Santer, Jr. They sent all four of their children to Parkersburg Catholic schools.

A graduate of the PCHS Class of 1985, Chris Santer was blessed with remarkable artistic ability at an early age.

"I was able to draw what I was looking at fairly accurately even often seeing the linear perspective even when I didn't really understand it," he said.

It would be a safe bet of his siblings and classmates that Santer would be the likely winner of any poster or art contest just like he was for the annual Mountwood Nature Festival Art Show at Mountwood State Park from third through seventh grade.

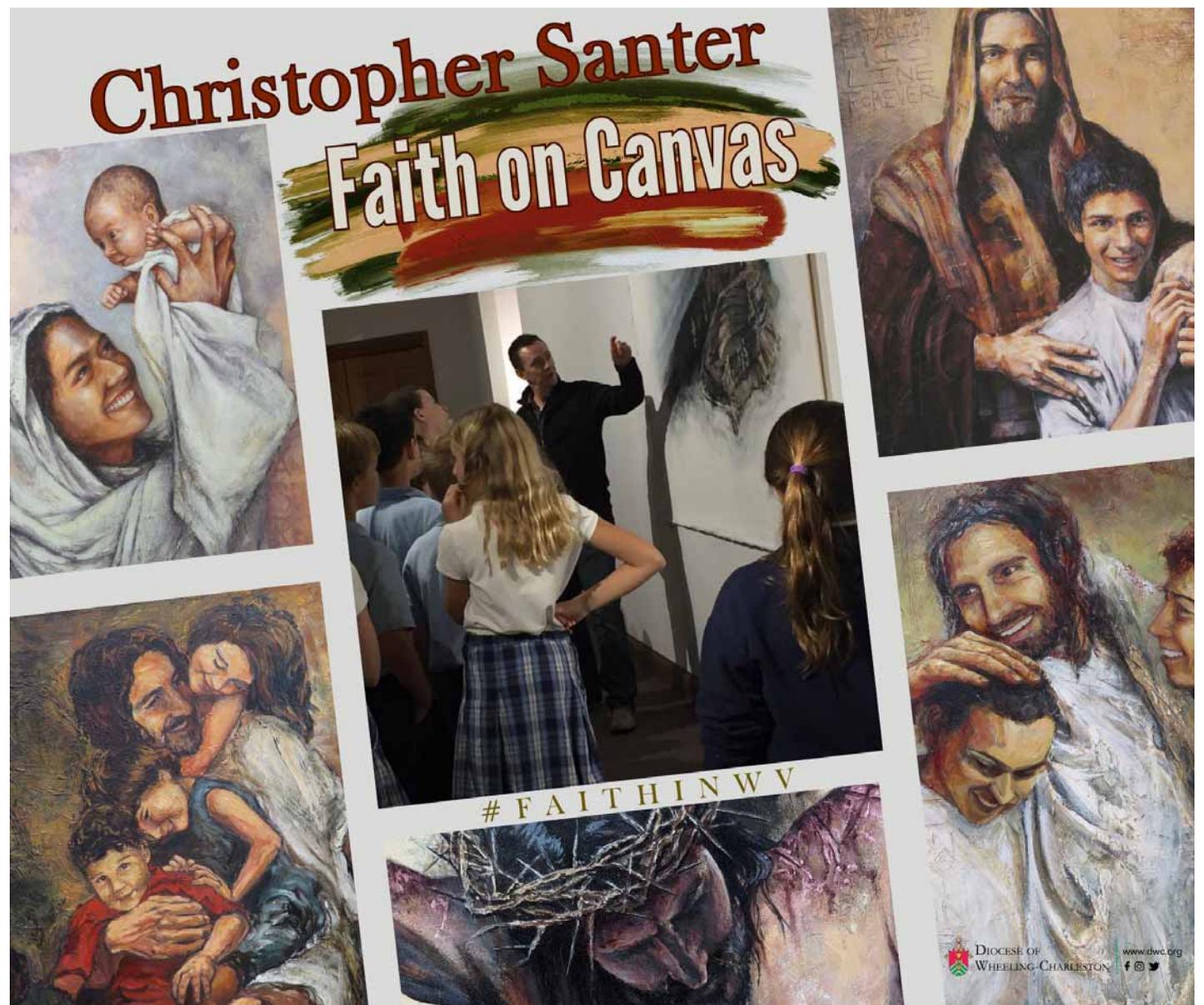
When he was a junior in high school, he started realizing that he could make a career out of his love for art. He began working on projects for a college portfolio.

He enrolled at the University of Dayton. Initially he directed his studies toward becoming an illustrator for commercial design. During this third year at the university, he had the opportunity to work full-time at an ad agency. He went ahead and took a semester off to give it a go.

However, the experience "revealed that maybe that was not the area of arts and creativity I really wanted to be in."

So, Santer made the most of the situation. He continued to work at the agency not only to save money to continue on at DU, but also to afford him the chance to study in Europe for nearly four months.

Studying abroad "was life-changing, and it really pulled me towards fine arts, having been immersed in the great cultures of Eu-



**Native West Virginian, Christopher Santer, has been graced with truly awesome artistic talents. His sacred art has been seen around the world and original works are featured in several parishes around the state, as well as his alma mater Parkersburg Catholic Schools and a local hospital. In the center photo above, he visits with Parkersburg Catholic Elementary students in 2015. Also pictured are some of Santer's works. Clockwise from top right: St. Joseph and Jesus (at St. Joseph Hospital, Parkersburg), The Good Shepherd (at Parkersburg Catholic High School); The Crucifixion (commissioned 11ft tall); Christ with Children (at Parkersburg Catholic School); and The Magnificat (at St. Joseph Hospital, Parkersburg).**

rope, and devouring all the art history, architecture, and beauty found there."

After graduation, Santer moved to Chicago, working as a freelance artist for two years. When he finally landed the job, he had hoped for at a Chicago design studio that specialized in architectural rendering, something in him was pulling him away. He turned it down.

He chose to head back to school and earn a Master of Fine Arts degree from Ohio University. God was definitely redirecting Santer's steps.

The summer before moving to Chicago began a sort of season of conversion, he said. It was a moment in his life where God was calling him to dive headfirst into his faith.

"That season ends up being a true marker in my life, a before and after point that transformed my path," he said. "The Lord led me in steps of deeper conversion and trust."

He felt called to work for the Church through NET Ministries, a Catholic youth missionary organization.

"I thought at that point, it was likely the last transition period in my life where I would be able to give a full year as a missionary (for NET Ministries)," he said.

As God would have it, Santer worked for NET Ministries for four years, culminating in a position for them at their headquarters in Minnesota.

Saint Paul's letter to the Romans (8:28) emphasizes that God has great plans for those who love him and cooperate with His grace for greater good, so we can grow in faith, hope, and charity as we go deeper with Him and bring Him to others. Santer witnessed that in his own life and strives toward that daily.

"The desire to serve had been put on my heart," he said. "My life had been transformed by the grace of God, simply by my turning to the Lord with my whole heart and surrendering my life to Jesus, finally abandoning the thought that I was in control and knew the path of my life. It was in this abandonment that I first learned to truly trust God and to listen. As a result, I wanted to

share what God had done in my life with others, and particularly the youth, hoping I could be a part of what led them to such a discovery but maybe sooner than I had gotten there."

NET Ministries is a great cure from stage fright and fear of public speaking, Santer said with tongue in cheek.

"While serving with NET I had to be upfront either giving a talk, leading a retreat, or performing in some way almost every day for nine months with a new group of teens every day," he said, adding, "That will have an effect on you!"

In all seriousness the number one gift traveling with NET was "that it solidified my trust in God in a different way. I found myself often arriving at a prayer that I still use to this day, and that is: 'Dear God, I trust that you are at work here, through me, and I pray only that which is truly from you be remembered.'"

No matter where the road took him, Santer was never far from his charcoals and paints. His first

**See "Art" on Page 9**

# Art...

Cont'd from Page 8

commissioned art was for Father John Lester in 1987. It was a detailed pen drawing of the interior of St. Francis Xavier's Catholic Church in Parkersburg.

While the majority of his work in the '90s and 2000s would be contemporary art for gallery exhibitions, once the faithful laid eyes on his paintings for the Church things began to shift.

In graduate school, Santer served on the building committee at St. Margaret Mary for the parish's addition. He used his education and passion for art to help his home parish.

"It was providential that my graduate work would bring me back closer to Parkersburg and I really enjoyed working with Father Edward Bell on that committee," he said.

Santer was involved in planning the patterns of the old stained glass into the newer designs. It was also during that time, he would be challenged to create a piece of sacred art that would stir joyful emotions across generations. Father Bell commissioned the 26-year-old Santer to paint Christ with children (1993) for the new cry room.

It was a 3x5 ft painting and parishioners were soon asking for print copies so they could display it in their homes.

That led to Parkersburg Catholic High School's commissioning of Christ with teenage youth "The Good Shepherd" in (1998).

It was there on those canvases that not only Santer could share his love for Christ and his faith, but through those canvases the faith and hope of others would grow.

In 1999, Santer painted the Magnificat for St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Parkersburg, and in 2000 a portrait of St. Joseph and Jesus. By then Santer launched pacemstudio.com, a website with prints available of the four aforementioned paintings.

Santer would eventually complete a 10x10 ft painting for St. Maron's Maronite Catholic Church in Minneapolis, a 12-ft painting for the Providence Academy Chapel in Plymouth, Minn., and a series of saints' portraits in charcoal for NET by 2006. Two years later, Saint Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, had Santer begin work on a larger series of saints which now boasts of more than 100 portraits – all showcased on his website.

His largest work is in West Virginia, a mural painted on the flood wall in Parkersburg, at Point Park measures 400-feet wide and 25-feet high.

If you ask Santer, "Who inspires your art", he won't hesitate in saying, "First and foremost it's the Holy Spirit. I've always been able to visualize ideas quite well and I sense the Holy Spirit guiding me as those images come together in my mind."

His most recent painting, The Crucifixion, 11 feet tall, was without a doubt the doing of the Spirit.

"It's been on my heart for a few decades to paint the crucifixion, and I was getting closer to starting one on a smaller scale, just for me," he said, but it came to be after he was approached to tackle it professionally on a grand scale.

"I painted the body of Christ almost exactly as I have seen it in my head for nearly 30 years," he said. "I ended up handling the background without it being the landscape but rather filling all of the space with rays that emanate from the cross containing 54 of the names of God from scripture.



Courtesy Photo

Christopher Santer stands beside his 11ft-tall piece **The Crucifixion**.

This was a solution to the background that came right around the time that I made the proposal, and it became 100% clear that that's what I was to do with the painting, to complete the vision that started 30 years ago."

While the color and layering of Rembrandt and the loose brush stroke of John Singer Sargent have fascinated Santer, he is most influenced by his best friend from graduate school and native West Virginian, Paul Mullins.

"His relentless drive and investigation in art has

always motivated me," he said.

Parishes across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are blessed to feature Santer's work, including St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Martinsburg. In 2015, the artist completed two large panels for the sanctuary – one of Mary, the Mother of God, and the other of St. Joseph the Worker.

While family, friends, and fellow faithful in West Virginia would love for Santer to return to West Virginia for good, he said he is filling his bucket in Minnesota.

For the last 21 years, Santer has been teaching art to children in kindergarten through 12th grade at Providence Academy in Plymouth.

"Providence Academy is such a great environment, dedicated to building faith, knowledge, and virtue (our motto) but also has, from the very beginning, placed the arts as a very high priority, which is a true Catholic tradition, and at the same time that many schools are losing their arts," he said. "I've also been continually enriched by my students, who inspire me with their energy and creativity. Being a practicing artist and a teacher is essentially like working two jobs, but the balance of the two is an arrangement in which I have truly thrived. The interaction with my students and colleagues pulls me out of myself and the isolation that the studio alone can be. The fact that I get to talk about art, look at art, and help students create every school day is a real gift, and at the same time, being a part of encouraging these students in their faith lives brings me much joy."

May we all be captivated through the messages the Holy Spirit is sending each one of us through Santer's sacred images, each one filling us with hope – the same hope he receives from his favorite bible verse - Lamentations 3:22-24:

*The favors of the Lord are not all past, every morning, they are renewed, great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord," says my soul, and so, I will hope in him.*



Courtesy Photo

Christopher Santer works on his chapel painting in the studio in 2005.

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# Stepping Out of Comfort Zone to Build Church and Community

*Young Adult Group at St. Michael Parish a Great Example*

By Joyce Bibey

We all need a little nudge sometimes to step out of our comfort zone, but when we do the rewards can yield endless blessings.

That is exactly what Emma Romanek, a life-long parishioner at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling, is experiencing.

Romanek, a sixth-grade teacher at Triadelphia Middle School in Wheeling, was instrumental in starting the Saint Michael Parish Young Adult Faith Formation Group.

"It's a long sort of fancy title for a group of people in our 20s and 30s, who are also Catholic and are having a good time getting together."

Faith has always been a priority for Romanek and her family. She attended St. Michael Parish School from preschool to fifth grade, and then the parish school of religion when she attended public middle and high schools. As a student at West Liberty University, Romanek took advantage of fun and inspiring activities, speaker presentations, book clubs, a bible study and more that were planned by Campus Minister Shirley Carter.

It is during those years of your life when you enter your 20s, when you feel pretty independent, and your choices steer your journey in faith, Romanek said.

"Some choose to leave their faith, others live it," she said. "Regardless of whether that decision is made daily or long term, God is always there."

She is grateful for her upbringing to know that. However, she never really thought about being the one to step up to be in a position to



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Photo Illustration by Joyce Bibey/Courtesy Photos

steer her peers on a faith journey.

Three events inspired Romanek to initiate a young adult group at her parish and Catholic peers from other area parishes: first, the isolation and void of Covid; second, the Synod listening sessions, reflecting on how to be a better Church; and third, a nudge from older adults at St. Michael's who encouraged her to try and make a casual, fun, and motivating young Catholic adult group a reality.

"It's obvious in every parish that we need something for young adults," she said. "There are a number of strong youth ministry groups, but those of us in our 20s and 30s are too old for that and many of our age group think they're too young or because of our jobs are too busy for other groups."

Through word of mouth and announcements at Mass and in the bulletin, the group began meeting in May for so-

cialized with a purpose.

Whether a half a dozen or 30 people show up, the gatherings are successful and filling a great need to build up the Church and help young adults see that diving deeper in their faith does not have to be intimidating or unnatural, she said, adding, "We get together and have fun, pray with and for each other, and appreciate spending time with like-minded people. The world can get crazy and so negative, why not choose to get together with your peers and pick each other up while growing in faith at the same time?"

She hopes the St. Michael's group can spark other parishes and groups of parishes to do the same.

"We have to take ownership of our faith," she said. "If all we are doing is going to Mass and then home with no other focus on learning or

growing or how we can strengthen our circles then it's our own fault if our Catholic faith is boring."

Wholeheartedly agreeing with Romanek, Nick Chancey the director of youth and young adult discipleship for the diocese, said, "The need to have groups for young adults is crucial for the Church. We all say we want younger people to stay Catholic and be involved, but we have to be there to support, encourage, and help jump start programs and activities for them."

Having a group to be part of is huge, Chancey said. "It doesn't have to be some formal, stuffy affair with a lot of pressure on just one person to organize. It doesn't even have to be an absolute grand slam with every seat filled."

However, it does take a little effort, a warm welcome, and personal invitations, aka nudges, but that is what Chancey's office has been established to support.

He said group's like the one Romanek has helped initiate are a great example of evangelization in the most casual and natural way, "getting together with your peers, making friends, sharing, and of course strengthen each other's faith

in the process."

Talking to pastors, Catholic groups, and campus ministers across the state Chancey shares, "Data tells us that young people, now more than ever, need authentic Christian friendships and mentors. We need less 'programs' and more leaders in our communities who are willing to go out... and be the hands and feet of Christ for them. Pope Francis said it best, 'Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are disciples and missionaries, but rather that we are always missionary disciples.'"

For more information on the young adult group at St. Michael's contact Romanek at: [ecromanek@westliberty.edu](mailto:ecromanek@westliberty.edu).

For more information on supporting a young adult group in your parish contact Chancey at [nchancey@dwc.org](mailto:nchancey@dwc.org) or (304)-233-0880.

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# Thousands Mourn Slain NYPD Officer at Catholic Funeral

By Tina Dennelly, CNA

Thousands of mourners lined the streets of the New York suburb of Massapequa on Long Island on Holy Saturday for the Catholic funeral of NYPD Officer Jonathan Diller, who was killed while on duty during a traffic stop March 25.

The 31-year-old officer left behind his wife, Stephanie, and 1-year-old son, Ryan.

“The city is mourning a cop. The tens of thousands of police officers outside are mourning a brother in arms. But Stephanie and Ryan are mourning their everything,” said Father Michael Duffy, who presided over the marriage of the Dillers in 2019, in his homily for the funeral service, held at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church.

Coverage of the officer’s death dominated local news throughout Holy Week. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul ordered flags throughout the state to be flown at half-staff in the officer’s honor. Parishes throughout Long Island remembered Diller in their Prayers of the Faithful at Masses.

Diller, a three-year veteran police officer, was killed as he and his partner investigated an illegally parked car. After refusing to exit the car at Diller’s request, a passenger in the car, 34-year-old Guy Rivera of Queens, allegedly opened

fire, striking Diller in the stomach just below his bullet-proof vest. He died later at a local hospital. Diller’s partner returned fire and wounded the suspect, who was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

Rivera has been charged with first-degree murder, CBS News reported. According to New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Rivera had more than 20 prior arrests.

“Everything about this Church, about our faith, about our prayers today is a reminder that we believe that death is not an end,” Father Duffy continued in his homily. “The fact that we find ourselves gathered here today on Holy Saturday having just gone through Good Friday awaiting Easter Sunday is a reminder of why we can be here together today at all.”

In his Easter Sunday homily at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City, Cardinal Timothy Dolan observed that “last week here in New York City [we] seemed to have two Good Fridays.”

“Of course, the one two days ago as we somberly bowed our heads recalling the death of Jesus on the cross on that hill called Calvary, on that Friday strangely called good,” the cardinal said, “but also last Monday in the murder of New York police officer, now detective, Jona-



Michael M. Santiago/Getty Images

A man holds a cross outside the funeral of NYPD officer Jonathan Diller at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church on Holy Saturday, March 30, in Massapequa, New York.

than Diller in the line of duty, we had a second Good Friday.”

“He wasn’t the type to sugarcoat anything, so I won’t sugarcoat this,” Stephanie Diller, choking back tears, said of her husband during the eulogy she delivered at his funeral. “This is devastating. It’s a devastating and tragic loss.”

Several politicians also attended the funeral, including New York

City Mayor Eric Adams, who also spoke. New York City Police Commissioner Edward Caban promoted Diller to detective posthumously during the service.

Former President Donald Trump was invited by the family to attend the officer’s wake on Holy Thursday, NBC News reported. Trump was reported to have prayed an Our Father with the family at the wake.

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# Eclipse Seen as a Way to Pray, ‘Engage with the Work of God’s Hands’

**By Mike Latona, OSV News**  
**ROCHESTER, N.Y. (OSV News)** — An astronomy buff since childhood, Father Robert Schrader anticipates quite a birthday present when he turns 75 April 8.

It's a gift in which hundreds of thousands of people will share: the first total solar eclipse in the Rochester/Finger Lakes area in nearly a century.

On that Monday afternoon, the moon will pass directly between the Earth and the sun. More than half of the Rochester Diocese is situated in the eclipse's 115-mile-wide "path of totality." That's where the moon will completely block the face of the sun, resulting in a short period of rare daytime darkness.

Since the path of totality is so narrow, up to half a million visitors are expected to travel to this region, according to Monroe County's website. Many will take part in social and scientific events. Yet Father Schrader said the eclipse offers spiritual enlightenment for viewers as well.

"The universe is very ordered. You just have quite an experience of God's creation of the universe and how the sun, the moon and the Earth are working together that day to make for an eclipse," said Father Schrader, a senior diocesan priest.

"It's a way to pray — it's a way to engage with God's creation, the work of God's hands," agreed Michelle Francl-Donnay, who will give an eclipse-themed retreat, "The Heavens Declare the Glory of God," April 5-6 at Canandaigua's Notre Dame Retreat House. Francl-Donnay is an adjunct scholar with the Vatican Observatory, which specializes in astronomy-related research and education and is supported by the Holy See.

According to the Rochester Museum and Science Center's eclipse website, the last total solar eclipse to be visible locally was in 1925, and the next one won't be until 2144 — some 120 years from now. The website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration notes that the most recent North American total solar eclipse was in 2017, with the next due to occur in 2044.

"Total eclipses are not all that rare. It's just most of the time they happen over oceans, where nobody is," Francl-Donnay noted.

On April 8, the eclipse's path of totality will enter this country in Texas, curving northeast and crossing most of the Rochester Diocese's 12 counties before exiting the U.S. in Maine.

NASA's interactive online map shows that the city of Rochester will experience the eclipse from 2:07 to 4:33 p.m., with totality occurring for

3 minutes and 42 seconds beginning at 3:20 p.m.

NASA noted that other notable phenomena during totality will be a drop in air temperature of approximately 10 degrees; confusion among wildlife as nocturnal animals wake up and others think it's time to go to sleep; a darkened sky even if the day already is quite cloudy; and visibility of stars and planets if the sky is clear.

NASA emphasized that while protective eyewear may safely be removed during the period of totality, it should be used for all other stages of the eclipse.

Its location on the path of totality makes Monroe and surrounding counties prime viewing territory for observers from all over the northeastern U.S. As such, a full slate of festivals, concerts, lectures and parties are scheduled across the region.

Meanwhile, area officials have issued advisories regarding traffic, parking and crowds. All local schools — and many workplaces — will be closed April 8.

Father Schrader said he's excited for the total solar eclipse to make local history, having been present for an annular eclipse in Utah in October 2023 during which the moon

covered all but a small portion of the sun's view. He also attended a faith and astronomy workshop at the Vatican Observatory's Arizona facility in 2016.

Amid all the hoopla surrounding April 8, Francl-Donnay — who said she's never witnessed a total solar eclipse — plans "not only to enjoy the eclipse just as a scientific phenomenon, but also to sort of enjoy the beauty of the kind of celestial mechanics that lead to this, and to kind of appreciate God's role in setting the universe in play."

Francl-Donnay, a Catholic who resides in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, also is a chemistry professor at Bryn Mawr College. Although many people currently think faith is incompatible with science, she said she believes that "they're linked together in very strong ways," with the April 8 eclipse serving as a vivid reminder.

"I think we sometimes underestimate our need for experiences that disquiet us in some ways, that get us thinking, get us moving, get us wondering about God at work in the world," she said.

(Mike Latona is senior staff writer at the Catholic Courier, newspaper of the Diocese of Rochester.)

## Obituary Sister Mary Grace Barile, S.A.C.

Sister Mary Grace Barile, S.A.C., died April 1, 2024 after battling ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). She was the daughter of the late Salvatore and Minnie A. Puccio Barile. She was the oldest of three children. She is survived by her two beloved brothers, Salvatore P. Barile of Milton, W.Va. and Philip C. (and Cheryl) Barile of Arnold, Md., and Logan Barile, her nephew.



Sister Mary Grace entered the Pallottine Missionary Sisters on September 7, 1964, when the Sisters had their novitiate on McCoy Road. She took her first vows on August 15, 1967 at St. Mary's Hospital Chapel and her final vows on August 15, 1973 in Florissant, Mo.

When the novitiate moved from McCoy Road to Missouri, Sister Mary Grace was one of the founding sisters of Pallottine Formation and Renewal Center, Florissant, Mo. She was transferred back to Huntington in 1969, where she was employed at St. Mary's Hospital doing bookkeeping. She received her BS/BA at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan and returned to be Chief Cashier at St. Mary's Hospital in 1988.

In 2017 Sister Mary Grace was elected Provincial of Pallottine Missionary Sisters and was made President of Pallottine Health Services, Inc. With the selling of St. Mary's Medical Center to Cabell Huntington Hospital, Sister Mary Grace, as Vice President of Mission Integration, was a strategic member of the St. Mary's team that helped staff and employees during this transition.

Sister Mary Grace had served the Pallottines and their ministries in the following ways: Board of Trustees for St. Mary's Medical Center; Board of Trustees of Mountain Health Network; Board Chair for Pallottine Foundation of Huntington, Inc.; Board Chair for Pallottine Foundation of Buckhannon, Inc.; Board of Trustees for Pallottine Renewal Center; and Board of Trustees for St. Vincent Pallotti High School.

Sister Mary Grace's church family was the parishioners at St. Stephen's Parish in Ona, W.Va. She had served on the parish council and was a member of the church choir.

Visitation will be at the Sisters' Chapel in St. Mary's Medical Center from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Friday, April 5. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. by Father Anthony Benedict. St. Stephen's choir will be facilitating the music. Rite of Committal will be at Spring Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Pallottine Missionary Sisters Retirement Fund.

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## Students Present Program for Their Parish on Palm Sunday



Courtesy Photo

Tracy Murphy worked with her Sunday Class at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon to present a program after Mass on Palm Sunday. The students acted out the words to the song, "An Easter Hallelujah" that was recorded on YouTube and sung by Cassandra and Callahan Star. The children, in kindergarten through second grade, practiced the skit for three weeks. Participating in the skit were Kennedy, Roselyn, Kae Ella, Daniel, Isaiah, JoJo, Abbey and Haisten.

## Hinton's Loaves and Fishes Center Provides Special Food Pantry Distribution for Easter



Courtesy Photo

### Loaves and Fishes Outreach Center, Hinton

**HINTON**—On March 22, Catholic Charities West Virginia's (CCWVa) Loaves and Fishes Outreach Center in Hinton provided a special food pantry distribution for those in need. Hams and

other sides for the Easter holiday were provided.

The Loaves and Fishes Outreach Center in Hinton serves low-income individuals, providing emergency financial assistance and a food pantry.

The center also operates a thrift shop with clothing and household items for the community.

For more information or to help support the facility's efforts, call (304) 466-2110.

## Cathedral to Host Free Organ Concert by Guest Organist Sean Maxwell

**WHEELING**—The Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling invites all to a free organ concert given by guest organist Sean Maxwell in joyful celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection on the Octave Day of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7, at 6 p.m.

Maxwell, a native of West Virginia, has been active as an organist and harpsichordist in Austria since 2015. He has held positions in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as well as with the Orchestra of the St. Cecilia Guild of Sacred Music Steyr (Austria), Baumgartenberg Monastery (Austria) and the Coro Litúrgico Universi-tário (Portugal). Maxwell has performed throughout Austria, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States.



Sean Maxwell

## St. Anthony All-School Reunion to be Held in Follansbee

**FOLLANSBEE**—St. Anthony All-School Reunion will be an event of Saturday, June 22, in Follansbee Centre. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at 4 p.m. in St. Anthony Church followed by a banquet at 6 p.m. at St. Francis, Hooverson Heights.

While honoring the Class of 1964, the final graduating class of St. Anthony High School on their 60th anniversary, this reunion is intended for all students and their guests who attended or graduated from the former St. Anthony grade and high schools. Special memorial ceremonies and tributes are earmarked for the deceased members of the Sisters of the Poor Child Jesus of Holland who staffed both schools and also for deceased members of all classes.

For further information or reservations please contact Father Joe D'Aurora at josephdaurora1@gmail.com or (434) 906-1183 or Vickey Sciarretti Ross at aross174@comcast.net or (304) 527-3235.

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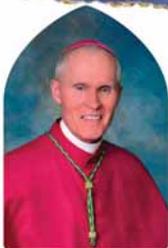
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**Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:** La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Muy Reverendo Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la Diócesis al

304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

# Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule; Bishop Brennan, Celebrant

**Saturday, April 6:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 10:** Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday, April 11:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 14:** SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.

**Monday, April 15:** Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20:** St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, April 21:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, April 28:** St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 5:** St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 11:** St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 11:** St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 12:** Immaculate Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.

**Monday, May 13:** St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 19:** St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, May 22:** Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 25:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 25:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 26:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 1:** St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.

**Saturday, June 8:** Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, June 9:** Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, June 15:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, June 16:** St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.



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## St. John the Evangelist Parish 100<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration

You are officially invited to St. John the Evangelist Parish's annual Parish Picnic and All School Reunion to commemorate 100 years at our current location and 170 years serving Wellsburg and the surrounding residents. This event will be held on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, beginning at 12 p.m.

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