

THE CATHOLIC  
*Spirit*

# U.S. Bishops Urge Prayer as High Court Poised to Hear Cases on Pill Used in Abortion

**By Gina Christian, OSV News**

**(OSV News)** — As the Supreme Court prepares to take up two cases on access to pills commonly used for early abortions, U.S. Catholic bishops have issued a nationwide call to prayer to end abortion and protect

women and unborn children.

The invitation was issued March 14 by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for Military Services, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge

of Arlington, Virginia, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

The prayer campaign, which seeks the intercession of St. Joseph as the "Defender of Life," begins March 25, the day before the Supreme Court hears

oral arguments for Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine and Danco Laboratories v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine. Both cases center on the drug mifepristone and its widespread availability.

The start date also marks

the anniversary of the release of Pope St. John Paul II's 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"). The encyclical itself was published on that year's observance of the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, which in 2024

**See "Prayer" on Page 3**



## Students Join Catholic Daughters in Making Palm Crosses for Eastern Panhandle's Sick and Homebound

Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 392 worked with middle-schoolers at St. Joseph School in Martinsburg to make more than 250 palm crosses for distribution to the sick and homebound in the Eastern Panhandle. After they were made, they were blessed and boxed so they can be shared during this blessed Lenten season. Pictured, clockwise from left, are Maya Nguyen, Lorelei Oligmueller, Andrew Egress, Charlotte Carter and Chana Dinh. Courtesy Photo

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# LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

### Clarksburg Vicariate

St. Augustine's Grafton, March 22, 6:30 p.m.  
 Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg: March 23, 3-4 p.m., and March 27, 6-6:45 p.m.

### Martinsburg Vicariate

St. Bernadette's, Hedgesville, March 27, 4-5:45 p.m.; Mass at 6 p.m.

### Parkersburg Vicariate

St. John's, St. Marys, March 21, 6 p.m.

## 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 Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

## Diocesan Official Appointment

Bishop Mark Brennan has made public the following appointment:

After consultation with Very Rev. Joby John Edamuriyil, C.S.T., provincial superior of the St. Thomas Province of the Little Flower Congregation in Kerala, India, **Father Shinu Lukose, C.S.T.**, is appointed parochial vicar of SS. Peter & Paul Parish in Oak Hill with residence at the parish rectory, effective immediately.



The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops's teaching document on political engagement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year. (OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

[Click here to read the document](#)

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### *A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life*

Dearest St. Joseph,  
 at the word of an angel,  
 you lovingly took Mary into your home.  
 As God's humble servant, you guided  
 the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,  
 welcomed Jesus as your own son  
 in the shelter of a manger,  
 and fled far from your homeland  
 for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector,  
 you never hesitated to sacrifice  
 for those entrusted to you.  
 May your example inspire us also  
 to welcome, cherish, and safeguard  
 God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves  
 to the service and defense of human life  
 —especially where it is  
 vulnerable or threatened.  
 Obtain for us the grace  
 to do the will of God in all things.  
 Amen.

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 To order this card (English, #2115 / Spanish, #2116), call toll-free 866-582-0943. www.usccb.org/prolife



St. Joseph, defender of life,  
*pray for us!*

## Prayer...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

will be celebrated Monday, April 8.

The daily prayer for the campaign is shown above and available in English and Spanish at [respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](http://respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph).

"We ask Catholics to offer this prayer daily, from March 25 through June, when a decision is expected," wrote Archbishop Broglio and Bishop Burbidge.

First approved by the FDA in 2000, mifepristone blocks the hormone progesterone, which maintains proper conditions in the uterus during pregnancy. The drug is paired with misoprostol (initially created to treat gastric ulcers) as

part of a chemical regimen used in more than half of all U.S. abortions in 2020.

More recently, the same pill combination has also been prescribed to women who experience early pregnancy miscarriage in order to expel any fetal remains and residual pregnancy tissue from the womb. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists updated its protocols to recommend a combination of mifepristone and misoprostol as more effective than misoprostol alone for early miscarriage care based on research published since 2018.

Last year, the doctors and medical professionals represented by the Alliance for Hippocratic Medi-

cine challenged the FDA's greenlighting of mifepristone as unsafe.

While it struck down the alliance's request in August 2023, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did revoke the FDA's efforts to increase access to the drug. Nonetheless, an earlier stay issued by the nation's top court has maintained broad access to the drug.

The bishops acknowledged that the upcoming Supreme Court case "is not about ending chemical abortion," but still has the potential to "restore limitations that the FDA has overridden."

"When a Supreme Court decision is released, probably in June, we can expect a public and political reaction similar to the Dobbs deci-

sion that overturned Roe v. Wade," they wrote.

On March 11, Bishop Burbidge issued a statement expressing "great sorrow" after the body of a preterm baby was discovered in a pond in Leesburg, Virginia.

The bishop asked the faithful to pray "for the child's mother and for anyone involved in this incident" and offered burial services while highlighting diocesan resources for women in challenging pregnancies.

A link to the daily prayer campaign can be found here: <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph>

(Gina Christian is a multimedia reporter for OSV News.)

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**Place your ad here**

# SHOW UP FOR JESUS!

## Fill Our Last Spots for Our National Eucharistic Congress Trip

By Joyce Bibey

**W**e got a four-week extension which means it's not too late to join fellow Catholics from across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC), July 17 - July 21, 2024, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

We are able to accommodate an additional 25 spots. So, make sure someone from your parish will show up for Jesus for the NEC in Indy!

Bishop Mark Brennan wants a large delegation there with him from the diocese. Sending a member(s) from your parish/mission is an investment for the parish. Each person sent to the national congress will return to with revival energy, items to display and share, and ideas for all the faithful to grow in the local church.

We had a deadline of March 15 to get our last spots for our travel package filled, but were able to extend that to April 17 (paid in full date).

Space is limited! We can accommodate and additional 25 seats/rooms for our WV delegation.

Our travel package includes motorcoaches from regional points in WV, priority hotel, shuttles to and from the events, special diocese event(s) in Indy, and more.

Advantages to consider that you may not

think about:

- The NEC isn't the only event going on in Indy that week.
- Hotels are being booked an hour out.
- The USCCB/NEC are not coordinating any shuttle service.
- Parking in the city will average \$25 a day or more.
- Parking lots considered close are as far as six city blocks away.

NOTE: These details have been shared as alerts with the bishops around the country by national congress organizers.

The diocesan NEC team emphasizes that our travel package through the Corporate Travel not only eliminates the burden of having to juggle all the logistics of planning the trip and details once in the city, but also lets our faithful enjoy fellowship with WV Catholics during this significant moment in the Church. Additionally, each person in our travel group will receive swag specially packaged for them, including items that can be shared with their local church.

### Dollars & Sense!

The package price may seem pricy, but break the cost down for transportation, hotel, hotel fees, hotel taxes, daily shuttle costs, driver gratuity, daily/weekly parking (lots as far as six blocks away), etc.

Want examples of packages for pilgrims from other dioceses? Comparison price per person based on double room occupancy – ours is \$1,119: Archdiocese of Milwaukee double occupancy costs \$1,150, Diocese of Grand Rapids Michigan \$1,299; and Diocese of Saginaw \$1,299.

Note: all three of these examples are not even traveling as far as our diocese!

Your diocesan team vetted the best package on your behalf.

To echo the importance for the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to attend and support those in your parish/mission attending, Bishop Mark Brennan said, "Your support makes a difference. Your parish could help (with package cost) by holding fundraisers, such as spaghetti dinners or fish fries, a special collection or seeking private donors. A parishioner attending the Congress is your parish's representative. I ask you to take this matter seriously. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A STRONG CONTINGENT OF WEST VIRGINIA CATHOLICS WITH ME IN INDIANAPOLIS. May our love for the Lord in the Eucharist grow more fervent and may this year's National Eucharistic Congress stimulate that love."

Register now at: <https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>



*Show up for Jesus!*  
**National Eucharistic Congress**  
**July 17-21, 2024**  
**Register now for the last spots available!**

[dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist](https://dwc.org/year-of-the-eucharist)




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Eucharistic  
Revival

**Click Here to Find out More**



**Catholic  
in Recovery**  
for the Mid-Ohio Valley

Weekly, general recovery meetings  
for all addictions, compulsions and unhealthy attachments  
starting Monday, April 15 at 7 pm  
St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church  
in the parish hall  
2500 Dudley Ave., Parkersburg  
CatholicInRecoveryMOV12@gmail.com \* (681) 229-7220  
<https://CatholicInRecovery.com/>

# Holy Thursday Pilgrimage to be Held Again in Wheeling

By Colleen Rowan

Catholic faithful are invited once again to join in a Holy Thursday Pilgrimage (March 28) visiting six churches in Wheeling “to pray and ‘keep watch’ before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose” in each church.

The pilgrimage will begin in the evening at the Cathedral of St. Joseph and then make visits to St. Alphonsus, Our Lady of Peace, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael’s, and Corpus Christi churches in Wheeling. Father Sateesh Narisetti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral, extended the invitation to all at the end of a recent livestreamed, Sunday Mass from the cathedral.

“In keeping with an ancient tradition in the church we are excited to be hosting a special pilgrimage on Holy Thursday night to visit multiple churches in the Wheeling area,” Father Narisetti said.

This is the second year the pilgrimage will be held, providing Catholics with the opportunity to spend quiet time with our Lord and begin the Triduum together.

“During the pilgrimage, the faithful will have the opportunity to visit six churches in the Wheeling area to pray before the Blessed Sacrament,” organizers said. “A special booklet has been created which allows the pilgrims to follow along the narrative of Jesus’ time in the Garden of Gethsemane as well as provide opportunities for personal prayer and meditation.”

Bus transportation will be provided, but faithful can also make the pilgrimage using their own transportation.

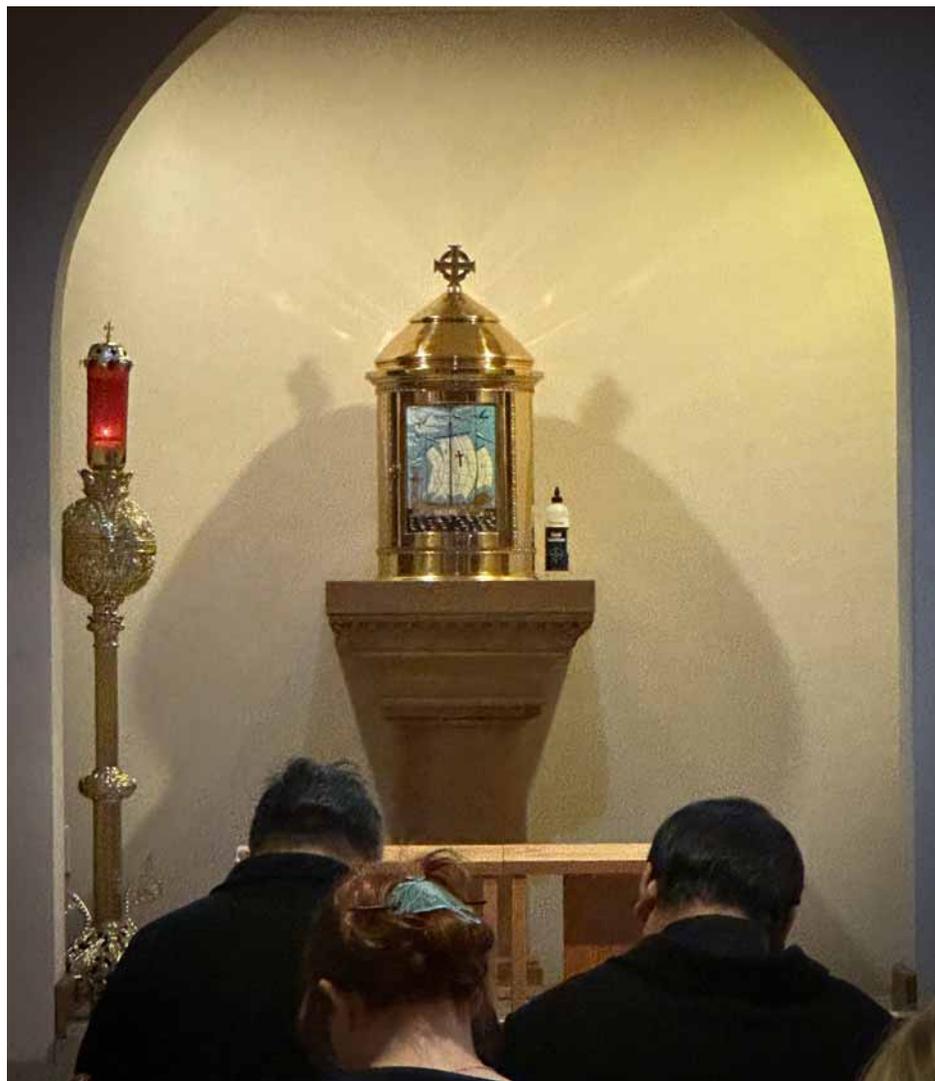
The pilgrimage includes two separate schedules for the evening with two separate buses. Those using their own transportation to visit the churches can follow behind one of the buses in their own vehicle or go on their own, organizers said. Bus #1 will depart from the cathedral at 8 p.m. and return at approximately 10:45 p.m. Bus #2 will depart from the cathedral at 9 p.m. and return at approximately 11:45 p.m.

Those interested in riding one of the buses, are asked to sign up by contacting Kim Stillion at (304) 233-0880, ext. 261, or by e-mailing [kstillion@dwc.org](mailto:kstillion@dwc.org) to reserve a seat by March 25 (please specify Bus #1 or Bus #2).

The full itineraries for the pilgrimage are:

**Bus # 1** departs from the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 8 p.m. Stop 1, (8:15 p.m.-8:30 p.m.) St. Alphonsus (2111 Market St., Wheeling); Stop 2, (8:45 p.m.-9 p.m.) Our Lady of Peace (690 Mount Olivet Road, Wheeling); Stop 3, (9:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.) St. Vincent de Paul (2244 Marshall Ave., Wheeling); Stop 4, (9:45p.m.-10 p.m.) St. Michael (1225 National Rd., Wheeling); Stop 5, (10:15 p.m.-10:30 p.m.) Corpus Christi (1518 Warwood Ave., Wheeling); Stop 6, (10:45 p.m.-midnight) Cathedral of St. Joseph (1300 Eoff St., Wheeling).

**Bus # 2** departs from the Cathedral of St. Joseph at 9 p.m. Stop 1, (9:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.) St. Alphonsus (2111 Market St., Wheeling); Stop 2, (9:45p.m.-10 p.m.) Our Lady of Peace (690 Mount Olivet Road, Wheeling); Stop 3, (10:15 p.m.-10:30 p.m.) St. Vincent de Paul (2244 Marshall Ave., Wheeling); Stop 4, (10:45 p.m.-11 p.m.) St. Michael (1225 National Rd., Wheeling); Stop 5, (11:15 p.m.-11:30 p.m.) Corpus Christi (1518 War-



Courtesy Photo

During last year’s Holy Thursday Pilgrimage, faithful pray before the Blessed Sacrament at Corpus Christi Church in Wheeling. The pilgrimage will make stops at the six churches in Wheeling.

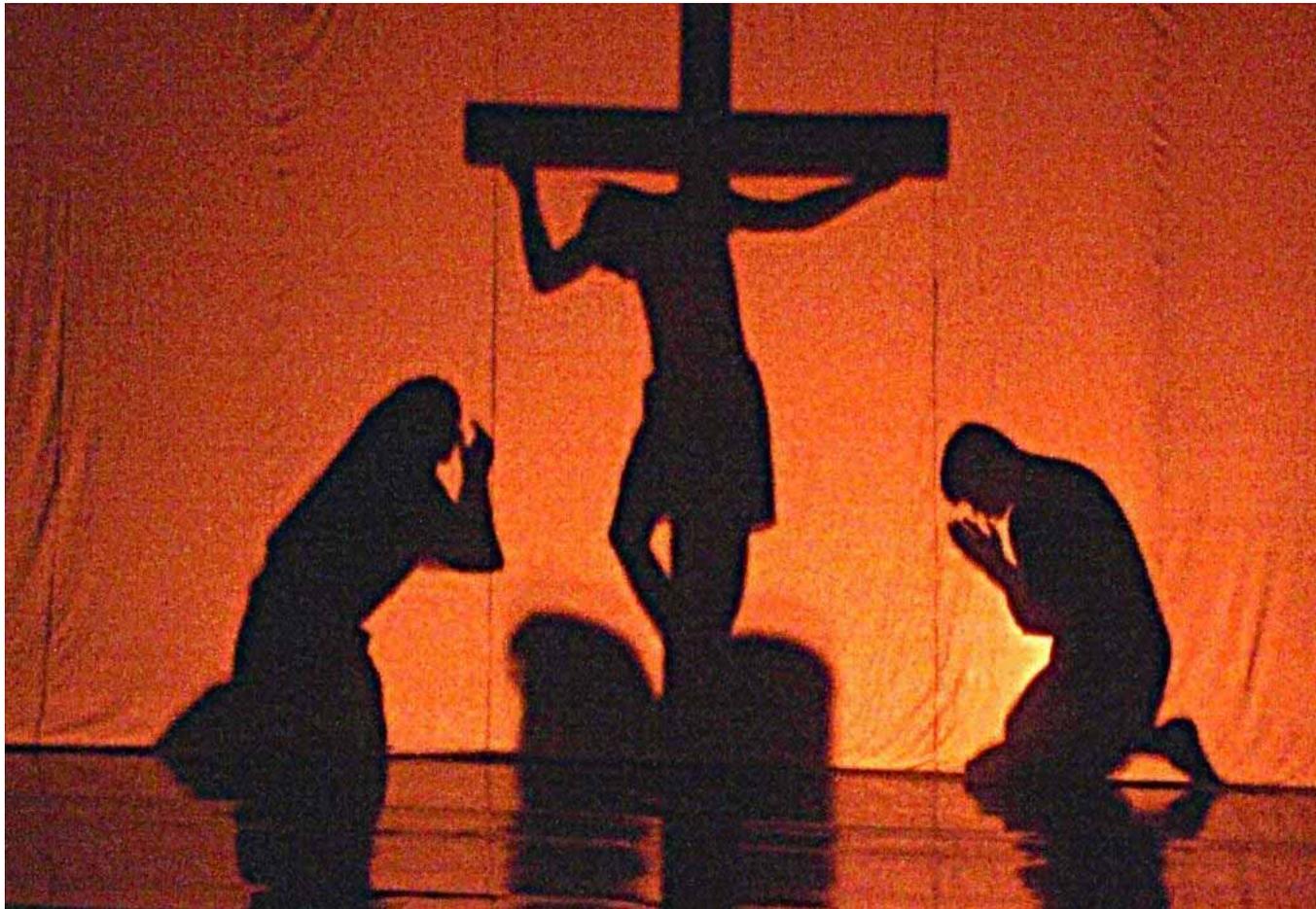
wood Ave., Wheeling); Stop 6, (11:45 p.m.-midnight) Cathedral of St. Joseph (1300 Eoff St., Wheeling). See the ad below for more information on the pilgrimage.

  
 Wheeling Area  
**HOLY THURSDAY PILGRIMAGE**  
**MARCH 28, 2024**  
*Transportation departing from the Cathedral:*  
**Bus 1: 8:00 pm - Midnight**  
**Bus 2: 9:00 pm - Midnight**  
 Please register by March 25 by e-mailing [kstillion@dwc.org](mailto:kstillion@dwc.org) or by calling 304-233-0880, ext. 261

The Catholic Youth Group of  
Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Oak Hill

Presents

# **The Living Stations of the Cross In Silhouette**



*Photo by Steve Pino*

**Palm Sunday, March 24th**

**7:00 pm**

**Good Friday, March 29th**

**2:00pm**

**SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Oak Hill**

**All are welcome!**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.**

**Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

# DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON



## Broadcast of Holy Week and Easter Masses

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - Holy Thursday**

March 28 at 6:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

**PASSION OF THE LORD - Good Friday**

March 29 at 3:00 p.m. - *Live Stream*

**EASTER MASS - Sunday, March 31**

*Live Stream and Broadcasted*

**10:30 a.m.** - WVNS/FOX - Beckley/Bluefield

WOWK/CBS - Charleston/Huntington

WBOY/ABC - Clarksburg/Fairmont/Morgantown

WTRF/ABC - Wheeling/Northern Panhandle

*Live Stream at [www.dwc.org/Mass](http://www.dwc.org/Mass)*

Closed Captioning Provided.



Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

# New Playground Opens at Wheeling's St. Michael Parish School

**WHEELING**—Bishop Mark Brennan blessed and dedicated the new playground at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling March 15.

The project was generously funded by the Hoffman Foundation, the Fitzsimmons Foundation, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, and Cast & Baker. In thanking all of them, Father Carlos L. Melocoton, pastor of the school, said: "I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude as we gather to open this beautiful playground. This moment marks a significant milestone made possible by the generous support of our sponsors, whose unwavering commitment to our children's well-being has turned dreams into reality."

Following the blessing, the ribbon was cut by the students, and the playground was officially open. Also present for the blessing and dedication were St. Michael Parish School Principal Adrienne Manning, representatives of the funding organizations, members of the Parish Leadership Council, and the church and school community. They all joined in the celebration of collaboration, generosity, and happiness.

Father Melocoton, who is also pastor of St. Michael Parish, and Manning anticipate immense joy from seeing children playing on the recently installed playground. Hearing the laughter and witnessing the camaraderie will reflect the essence of a vibrant and joyful community.



Courtesy Photos

Clockwise from top left: Bishop Mark Brennan blesses the new playground at St. Michael Parish School in Wheeling March 15; preschoolers Gwen and Kate Birch enjoy the sliding board; students cut the ribbon to officially open the playground; students enjoy climbing and sliding; and kindergartner Declan Manning takes a moment from the fun for a picture with his mom, Adrienne Manning, who is principal of the school.



# Plan to attend



## What is LOUDfence?

An international organization that started out of compassion to support faithful Christians who had been abused, as well as the faithful who care and pray for healing, hope, and change.

LOUDfence is a way to bring a hushed and taboo topic into a healthy conversation and act of solidarity as a step forward.



## Ceremony after Mass?

Faithful will tie ribbons to represent prayers, hope, and healing for victims of abuse in Christian churches. Inspired by the gospel, LOUDfence works with churches around the world to actively foster a culture for safeguarding and truth telling. Being a safeguarder is being one to stand at the foot of the cross, helping others to literally live out the values of the gospel.

## Mass & LOUDfence Ceremony

**10:30 am, April 7**  
**Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling**

**Celebrants**  
**Bishop Mark Brennan of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston & Bishop Paul Mason of England**

**SOLIDARITY**

**COMPASSION**

**SUPPORT**

# We Can Learn a Lot from St. Joseph, Bishop Brennan Says on Feast of Diocese's Patron

By Colleen Rowan

**W**e can learn a lot from St. Joseph, Bishop Mark Brennan said. He was not only a just man, but a righteous one. The bishop shared these thoughts in his homily at the noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling for the Feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. This was one of three Masses the bishop celebrated that day; the first was that morning at the cathedral for the students of Central Catholic High School in Wheeling.

The noon Mass was celebrated for the cathedral parishioners, chancery employees, and area faithful. In reflecting on St. Joseph, who is also patron saint of the universal church as well as the cathedral, Bishop Brennan said, "We think of Joseph's great virtues, his obedience to God's will even when it was not clear."

Like St. Joseph, the bishop said, we must obey God's will even when it's not easy or understandable.

"We need to pray for the strength to obey the Lord regardless, and he will give us the strength to do the right thing," the bishop said.

He spoke of St. Joseph's protection of Mary and Jesus, his work as a craftsman, and support of the Holy Family. We can learn from St. Joseph's commitment to work hard, the bishop said. He worked hard at his craft for Mary and Jesus, and for people in Nazareth as well.

"So, we should work hard also to serve those who need us, whether that's for our family or for our neighbor," the bishop said.

"Through his word and through the sacraments, God gives us the strength to live as Joseph lived," the bishop said. He is a hero to all of us, the bishop added, and can help us, in turn, by how we live "to be heroes to the young who can imitate us as we strive to imitate St. Joseph."

At the end of the Mass, Bishop Brennan thanked the priests who concelebrated—Msgr. Joseph L. Peterson, V.G.; Father Sateesh Nariseti, HGN, J.C.L., vice rector of the cathedral; and Father Praveen Kumar Mallela, HGN, parochial vicar at St. Michael Parish in Wheeling. The bishop also thanked Deacon Paul Lim, vice president for Mission Integration at WVU Medicine Wheeling Hospital, for serving as deacon; and Central Catholic



Colleen Rowan Photo

The statue of St. Joseph at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling is pictured on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19.

students who participated in the choir and as altar servers for the Mass. He also thanked the Bell Choir from St. Michael's for helping to provide music.

Later in the day, Bishop Bren-

nan visited the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph at Mount St. Joseph in Wheeling. He celebrated the feast day Mass for them in the chapel and then joined them for a dinner that followed.



Colleen Rowan Photos

At Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling, from left: altar servers offer each other the sign of peace; Bishop Brennan accepts the gifts from Rena Bowman (left) and Patty Purpura; and the Bell Choir from St. Michael Parish in Wheeling offers music for the Mass.

# Catholic Financial Seminar to be Held in Clarksburg

**CLARKSBURG**—On Monday, March 25, all Catholic men and their spouses are invited to Knights of Columbus Council 872 home at 334 East Pike Street in Clarksburg for a Catholic Financial Seminar.

“We will serve you and your family a dinner, and you will get information on financial products that are vetted and in line with the Catholic faith and values,” council members said.

“You do not need to be a member of the Knights of Columbus to attend,” they added.

Text or call (304) 629-6677 to reserve a place at this seminar.

# Handmade Religious Articles Exposition and Sale Coming up at Wheeling Parish

*Articles Made by Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent (Belarus)*

**WHEELING**—St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Wheeling invites all to see and purchase handmade religious articles made by the Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent (Belarus). The exposition will take place April 16, 17 and 18 after the Masses.

Sisterhood of St. Elisabeth was founded in 1996. The missionary began in a national mental hospital located not far from the convent. Sisters take care of mentally challenged children and adults. Life of the child with diagnoses such as Down syndrome, birth traumas or congenital physical defects may be quite short and it is painful to see them suffering. Also, the adult patients need constant support owing to the fact that their illnesses make it impossible for them to adapt socially.

In the recent years a shelter and house of labor for former drug and alcohol addicted people was organized 20 miles away from the convent. A lot of homeless, struggling and lost people get a chance for new start in life to find God.

In order to help these people, some workshops were organized on the premises of the convent where vulnerable people have a possibility to express themselves in art for God working together with nuns and sisters and making icons (including hand painted), crosses, crucifixes, wood carvings, embroidered and ceramic gifts, rosaries and vestments.

“All these goods made with love and prayer bring blessings to their owners. We are happy and thanking God for the opportunity to introduce and offer them to you. With Love in Christ,” Sisters of St. Elisabeth Convent.

# Weston Parishioners Enjoy Fun and Fellowship at St. Patrick’s Day Dinner



Members of St. Patrick Parish in Weston enjoy fun and fellowship at the parish’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Dinner March 17. Courtesy Photo



# SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR THE FAITHFUL: SPIRITUAL WARFARE FOR TODAY’S TIMES

Presenter: Fr. Joe Freedy  
Date: Wednesday, April 3  
Time: 6:15 pm  
Location: St. Michael Parish, 1225 National Rd, Wheeling

*The evening is hosted by the St. Michael Parish’s Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Christian Women*

*Social immediately following. All are welcome!*

Father Joe Freedy is from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. He is nationally known as the Quarterback priest and shared the viral story of “The Power of One Hail Mary.” He was also a keynote presenter and break out leader at our Diocesan Eucharistic Congresses last year in both Charles Town and Charleston.

# Wheeling University Professor Younkens Presenter at Economics Research Conference

**WHEELING** — Dr. Edward Younkens, professor of Accountancy and Business at Wheeling University, gave the opening lecture at the Mises Institute's Austrian Economics Research Conference on March 21 in Auburn, Alabama.

Dr. Younkens, Wheeling class of 1970, presented the Henry Hazlitt Memorial Lecture at the conference titled, "Ayn Rand and the Austrian Economists." The Austrian Economics Research Conference is the international, interdisciplinary meeting of the Austrian school, bringing together leading scholars doing research in this vibrant and influential intellectual tradition.

"I am excited to give this talk on Carl Menger, Ludwig von Mises, and Murray Rothbard, and how

their ideas may be complementary to the essential ideas of Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism," Younkens said before the event. "This is quite an honor to deliver this lecture, which I hope those attending the conference, will find insightful and educational."

He discussed some of Menger's key ideas while comparing them with those of Ayn Rand. He then repeated this process with the fundamental ideas of Mises and Rothbard. His conclusion offered an overall assessment with respect to the potential compatibility Austrian economics and Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism.

Younkens, who has taught at Wheeling for more than 50 years, is also the executive director of In-

stitute for the Study of Capitalism and Morality, and the founder of the university's undergraduate major in Political and Economic Philosophy. Additionally, he is the founding director of the school's Master of Business (MBA) and Master of Science in Accountancy (MSA) programs. He earned a Ph.D. in Accountancy from the University of Mississippi. Dr. Younkens also received the Outstanding Educator Award in 1997 from the West Virginia Society of CPAs. The author of numerous articles in accounting and business journals, Younkens has authored or edited a dozen books including his trilogy of books on freedom and flourishing: *Capitalism and Commerce*, *Champions of a Free Society*, and *Flourishing*



Courtesy Photo  
Dr. Edward Younkens, professor of Accountancy and Business at Wheeling University, is pictured.

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## St. George Camporee

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*Catholic Committee on Scouting*

The St. George Camporee will be held at Camp Mountaineer located outside of Morgantown, WV. **All Troops and Crews in Scouts BSA are welcome and encouraged to attend.** The camporee will feature the following activities: climbing, shooting sports, service, and Mass.

**When:** Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, 2024

**Where:** Camp Mountaineer, Morgantown, WV

**Cost:** \$12 | \$25 after April 5

**Includes:** Saturday dinner, patch, and materials. All early-bird registrants will also receive a t-shirt, while supplies last.



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Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/615-71430>

**Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – Spring 2024  
Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant**

<b>Sunday, March 17:</b> St. Margaret Mary, Parkersburg; 2:00 p.m.	Conception, New Cumberland; 8:30 a.m.
<b>Saturday, April 6:</b> St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.	<b>Monday, May 13:</b> St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, April 10:</b> Our Lady of Peace, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday, May 19:</b> St. Agnes, Charleston; 10:30 a.m.
<b>Thursday, April 11:</b> St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 7:00 p.m.	<b>Wednesday, May 22:</b> Immaculate Conception, Clarksburg; 6:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, April 14:</b> SS Peter and Paul, Oak Hill; 10:30 a.m.	<b>Saturday, May 25:</b> St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
<b>Monday, April 15:</b> Corpus Christi, Wheeling; 6:00 p.m.	<b>Saturday, May 25:</b> St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, April 20:</b> St. Sebastian, Kingwood; 6:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday, May 26:</b> St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 4:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, April 21:</b> Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Stonewood; 10:00 a.m.	<b>Saturday, June 1:</b> St. Francis Xavier, Moundsville; 4:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, April 28:</b> St. Jude, Glen Dale; 9:00 a.m.	<b>Saturday, June 8:</b> Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston; 5:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 5:</b> St. Brendan, Elkins; 11:00 a.m.	<b>Sunday, June 9:</b> Sacred Heart, Princeton; 11:00 a.m.
<b>Saturday, May 11:</b> St. John the Evangelist, Wellsburg; 11:00 a.m.	<b>Saturday, June 15:</b> St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 5:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday, May 11:</b> St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling; 5:00 p.m.	<b>Sunday, June 16:</b> St. John the Evangelist, Summersville; 9:00 a.m.
<b>Sunday, May 12:</b> Immaculate	



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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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## St. Joseph School, Martinsburg, Seeking PK Director

St. Joseph School (SJS) in Martinsburg is seeking a pre-K director. The ideal candidate will be a team player, confident to work independently and manage preschool daily operations, while complying with state and local requirements, and willing to receive direction from the administration.

SJS educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity. The ideal candidate would be one who embraces the SJS mission and who is looking for a place in which to be appreciated, respected and supported.

The full-time position offers a salary of \$42,000 to \$52,000.

**Essential responsibilities:**

Oversees the daily operations of the preschool program; Collaborates with the administration and peers in upholding the school mission, policies and school procedures; Ensures successful implementation of approved preschool curriculum by providing and maintaining quality educational programs according to school mission; Recruits, hires and trains preschool staff; Assists with the after-school program; Promotes and retains enrollment and markets the preschool program; Continually seeks ways to manage and reduce expenses without sacrificing quality or service; balances profitability with priorities related to staff, children and families; Applies state and local guidelines and ensures compliance according to licensing requirements; Maintains accurate files and records for staff, children and activities required by state licensing board

**Requirements:**

Outstanding communication skills; a bachelor's degree in science of early childhood education, or proven leadership in early childcare facility with an associate degree in early childhood education, or a bachelor's degree in related field and a total of two years of relevant work experience; or a bachelor's degree in business, management or administration field with credit hours in early childhood development or experience with young children

**Benefits:**

Full-time employees qualify for medical, vision and dental insurance. Free cafeteria lunch provided.

Please send a letter of introduction and résumé to Principal Maria Byrd at [mbyrd@sjsvw.org](mailto:mbyrd@sjsvw.org).

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES NEEDED

The Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart located in Charleston, West Virginia is looking for a pastoral musician. Responsibilities include overseeing the selection of music for liturgies, substituting for our organist, directing the choir, cantoring when necessary, preparing worship aids and expanding our current music program. Candidates should have a BA degree or higher in a music field, or other field, if musically trained, excellent organ/keyboards/choral conducting skills and vocal technique and be familiar with music notation software. A practicing Catholic is preferred but not required; candidates must be of the Christian faith with willingness to learn about and genuinely support others in their Catholic faith. Conversant with a variety of liturgical styles including contemporary, classical, and traditional. Must demonstrate a commitment to use a blended approach to liturgical music that encourages the assembly to sing. Working hours are flexible and include weekends and some evenings. Complete job description available upon request. Please send résumés to: Bernadette McMasters Kime, Office of Worship and Sacraments, PO. Box 230, Wheeling, WV 26003 or email [bkime@dwc.org](mailto:bkime@dwc.org)

## JOB OPENINGS

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has the following job openings at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston:

**Evening Housekeeper**—The Evening Housekeeper at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Evening Housekeeper is responsible for cleaning and preparing the facility, laundry and guest relations.

Works evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen when needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.

**Maintenance Worker**—The Maintenance Worker position at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ and offering hospitality to our guests.

The Maintenance position is responsible for assisting in tasks related to the general maintenance of the Center buildings (interior and exterior), grounds, equipment and vehicles.

Usually works Monday-Friday day shift. Occasional evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed. Helps in kitchen when needed.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or [gwright@dwc.org](mailto:gwright@dwc.org) to schedule an interview or for more information.

### 20/20 VISION SERIES

## A YEAR WITH THE SAINTS

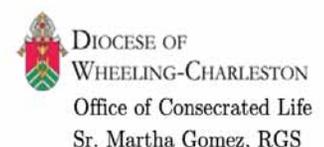
Join us as we journey throughout the year focusing on various Saints and their legacies, presented by those among us who live out these legacies in their lives and in their communities.

Note: Each session will begin at 7 pm and will be presented via Zoom.

January 29	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Sr. Mary Clark, SC
February 26	St. Brigid of Kildare - Sr. Karen Kirby, CSJ
<b>DATE CHANGE!</b> → <b>March 25</b>	<b>St. Joseph - Sr. Kathleen Durkin, CSJ</b>
April 29	St. Mary Euphrasia - Sr. Martha Gomez, R.G.S.
May 20	Blessed Virgin Mary - TBD
June 24	Marcellin Champagnat - Brother John Byrd, FMS
July 29 August	St. Ignatius of Loyola - Lou Volpe
26 September	St. Dominic - Sr. Ellen Dunn, OP
30 October 28	St. Lorenzo Ruiz - Fr. Carlos Melocoton
November 18	Jesuit Martyrs - TBD
December 16	Servant of God Dorothy Day - Kate Marshall St. Stephan - Deacon John Yaquinta

(Series originated by Ms. Shirley Carter, B.A., M.A.A.T.)

Cost for complete series: \$120.00 Or \$15.00 per session.  
RSVP - Anna Marie Troiani: [atroiani@csjoseph.org](mailto:atroiani@csjoseph.org)



## Lead Summer Camp Pre-K Teachers Needed at St. Joseph School, Martinsburg

St. Joseph School (SJS) in Martinsburg educates in the spirit of the Gospel, inspiring Catholic values, academic excellence, global awareness and service to those in need. We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

We are seeking two enthusiastic and responsible individuals to join our team as lead summer camp pre-K teachers. As a lead teacher, you will play a vital role in creating a safe and engaging environment in which children can learn and have fun. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of young campers.

**Responsibilities:**

Supervise and ensure the safety of campers at all times; Plan and lead age-appropriate activities, games and crafts; Assist with the implementation of daily schedules and routines; Provide guidance and support to campers in their social interactions; Foster a positive and inclusive environment for all campers; Collaborate with other staff members to create a cohesive team; Communicate effectively with campers, parents and fellow staff members.

**Requirements:**

At least two years of experience working with children in a regulated child care setting, classroom or similar environment; Knowledge of childhood development and early intervention techniques; Strong verbal and written communication skills; Ability to adapt to different learning styles and individual needs; Patience, empathy and the ability to connect with children; Basic math skills for activity planning and supervision; Knowledge of child welfare and special education is a plus; CPR and first aid certification preferred (or willingness to obtain); Willingness to support the school mission statement; Willingness to meet state qualifications for early child care educators.

The salary is \$13 to \$15 per hour. The shift is Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a 45-minute break.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Katie MacKinnon at [kmackinnon@sjswv.org](mailto:kmackinnon@sjswv.org).

## SCHOOL NURSE NEEDED

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston is looking to fill the position of School Nurse for its School Based Health Program. This is a Full Time position requiring 40 Hours per week for 40 Weeks. The position is located at St. Paul School and St. Joseph the Worker School (with reach out to Madonna High School as needed) in Weirton, WV.

The school nurse is responsible for planning, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating school health services within the context of the School Based Health Program. The nurse serves in the roles of program manager, case manager, direct care provider, collaborator, advocate, educator and counselor to students, parents, faculty, and the community as appropriate.

The successful candidate will possess a current valid WV Nursing License with a BSN. Pediatric, adolescent or public health experience is desired. The individual must be able to function independently within scope of practice. Interested persons should submit a resume to Erin McFarland, School Based Health Coordinator, at [emcfarland@weirtonstpauls.org](mailto:emcfarland@weirtonstpauls.org).

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Benwood-McMechen: 214 Marshall Street, McMechen, WV, 304-232-1710  
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# Obispos de EE.UU. instan a orar mientras la Corte Suprema se prepara para escuchar casos sobre píldoras abortivas

Por Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News) —

Mientras la Corte Suprema se prepara para abordar dos casos sobre el acceso a píldoras comúnmente utilizadas para abortos tempranos, los obispos católicos de EE.UU. han emitido un llamado a la oración a nivel nacional para poner fin al aborto y proteger a mujeres y los niños no nacidos.

La invitación fue emitida el 14 de marzo por el arzobispo Timothy P. Broglio de la Arquidiócesis de los Servicios Militares de los Estados Unidos, presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos, y el obispo Michael F. Burbidge de Arlington, Virginia, presidente del Comité de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB.

La campaña de oración, que busca la intercesión de San José como "Defensor de la vida", comienza el 25 de marzo, en la víspera del día que la Corte Suprema escuche los argumentos orales para los casos de Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine y Danco Laboratories v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine. Ambos casos se centran en la droga mifepristona y su amplia disponibilidad.

La fecha de inicio también marca el aniversario de la publicación de la encíclica "Evangelium Vitae" ("El Evangelio de la vida") del Papa San Juan Pablo II de 1995. La encíclica en sí se publicó en la celebración de ese año de la fiesta de la Anunciación del Señor, que en el año 2024 se celebrará el lunes 8 de

abril.

La oración diaria por la campaña está disponible en español e inglés en [respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph](https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph).

"Pedimos a los católicos que recen esta oración diariamente, desde el 25 de marzo hasta junio, cuando se espera una decisión", escribieron el arzobispo Broglio y el obispo Burbidge.

Aprobada por primera vez por la FDA en 2000, la mifepristona bloquea la hormona progesterona, que mantiene las condiciones adecuadas en el útero durante el embarazo. El medicamento se combina con misoprostol (inicialmente creado para tratar las úlceras gástricas) como parte de un régimen químico utilizado en más de la mitad de todos los abortos en EE.UU. en 2020.

Más recientemente, también se ha recetado la misma combinación de pastillas a mujeres que sufren un aborto espontáneo en las primeras etapas del embarazo para expulsar del útero cualquier resto fetal y tejido residual del embarazo. El Colegio Estadounidense de Obstetras y Ginecólogos actualizó sus protocolos para recomendar una combinación de mifepristona y misoprostol como más eficaz que el misoprostol solo para la atención temprana del aborto espontáneo, según una investigación publicada desde 2018.

El año pasado, los médicos y profesionales médicos representados por la Alianza para la Medicina Hipocrática cuestionaron la apro-

bación por parte de la FDA de la mifepristona como insegura.

Si bien anuló la solicitud de la alianza en agosto de 2023, la Corte de Apelaciones del Quinto Circuito de EE.UU. revocó los esfuerzos de la FDA para aumentar el acceso al medicamento. No obstante, una suspensión anterior emitida por el tribunal superior del país ha mantenido un amplio acceso a la droga.

Los obispos reconocieron que el próximo caso de la Corte Suprema "no trata de poner fin al aborto químico", pero aún tiene el potencial de "restaurar las limitaciones que la FDA ha anulado".

"Cuando se publique una decisión de la Corte Suprema, probablemente en junio, podemos esperar una reacción pública y política similar a la decisión Dobbs que anuló Roe v. Wade", escribieron.

El 11 de marzo, el obispo Burbidge emitió una declaración expresando "gran dolor" después de que se descubriera el cuerpo de un bebé prematuro en un estanque en Leesburg, Virginia.

El obispo pidió a los fieles que oraran "por la madre del niño y por cualquiera involucrado en este incidente", y ofreció servicios de entierro al tiempo que destacó los recursos diocesanos para mujeres en embarazos difíciles.

Puede encontrar un enlace a la campaña de oración diaria aquí: <https://www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph>

(Gina Christian es reportera multimedia de OSV News.)



¡San José, defensor de la vida, ruega por nosotros!

## Oración a san José, defensor de la vida

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Como humilde siervo de Dios,  
guiaste a la Sagrada Familia  
por el camino hacia Belén,  
acogiste a Jesús como tu hijo  
en el refugio de un pesebre,  
y huiste lejos de tu patria para  
la seguridad de la Madre y el Hijo.

Alabamos a Dios porque tú,  
siendo su fiel protector,  
nunca dudaste sacrificarte  
por quienes fueron  
encomendados a ti.  
Que tu ejemplo nos inspire  
también para acoger, atesorar y proteger  
el más preciado don de la vida  
que nos regala Dios.

Ayúdanos a comprometernos con fidelidad  
para servir y defender la vida humana  
—en especial donde es  
vulnerable o esté amenazada.  
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Dios en todas las cosas.

Amén.

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(Solo se habla inglés.) [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife) (solo en inglés)

**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 varían 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 eclesiales 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.

# Seminarians from the Nation's Capital Visit St. James in Charles Town



Courtesy Photo

St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town was visited by 15 seminarians from St. John Paul II Seminary along with Father Benjamin Petty, vice rector, who various work projects during their spring break.

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The WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program is the only program in West Virginia that offers eight specialized, structural heart procedures and is one of the few programs in the United States (and the only one in West Virginia) offering cerebral embolic protection during transcatheter aortic valve replacement (Protected TAVR) and transcatheter mitral valve replacement.

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