

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Pope Returns to Vatican after Long Hospitalization



CNS photo/Vatican Media

Pope Francis greets well-wishers at Rome's Gemelli hospital before returning to the Vatican March 23 after 38 days of treatment at the hospital.

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Immediately before leaving Rome's Gemelli hospital after more than five weeks of treatment for breathing difficulties, double pneumonia and infections, Pope Francis greeted hundreds of people who gathered outside the hospital March 23.

With a very weak voice,

Pope Francis thanked the crowd, waving his hands and giving a thumbs up.

He also pointed to a woman carrying a yellow-wrapped bouquet of flowers and told the crowd, "She's good."

An aide had pushed Pope Francis in his wheelchair onto the balcony overlooking the square outside the hospital. Some 600

people had gathered at the hospital, including Rome's Mayor Roberto Gualtieri. Hundreds of people also gathered in front of video screens in St. Peter's Square to see the pope for the first time since he was hospitalized Feb. 14.

The pope left the hospital almost immediately after his appearance on the balcony.

The motorcycle police leading the pope's motorcade turned onto the street leading to the Vatican entrance closest to his residence and then turned around. Rather than go directly home, Pope Francis was driven through the center of Rome to the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he has prayed before and after every foreign trip and

after his two previous hospitalizations for abdominal surgery.

Pope Francis did not go into the church but left a bouquet of flowers to be placed on the altar under the Marian icon "Salus Populi Romani" or "Health of the Roman People."

Television footage of the pope, seated in the front

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Bishop Brennan's Schedule for Holy Week

Saturday, April 12: Palm Sunday Mass, 5:30 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Sunday, April 13: Palm Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Monday, April 14: Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston

Tuesday, April 15: Chrism Mass, 4:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Holy Thursday, April 17: 4:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 6:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, April 18: 3:00 p.m., St. Anne, Webster Springs; 5:00 p.m., Holy Family, Richwood

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 19: 8:00 p.m., St. Thomas, Gassaway

Easter Sunday, April 20: 10:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling

Pope ...

Cont'd from Page 1

seat of a white Fiat, showed he was using oxygen through a nasal tube.

Just before the 88-year-old pope had come out on the hospital balcony, the Vatican released a text he had prepared for the midday Angelus prayer.

The pope's message focused on the day's Gospel reading of the parable of the fig tree from Luke 13:1-9, in which a gardener asks a landowner to allow him to spare a fig tree that had not borne fruit for three years; the gardener asks to be given a year to fertilize and care for the tree in the hope that it would bear fruit in the future.

"The patient gardener is the Lord, who thoughtfully works the soil of our lives and waits confidently for our return to him," the pope wrote.

"In this long period of hospitalization, I have experienced the Lord's patience, which I also see reflected in the tireless solicitude of the doctors and health care workers, as well as in the attention and hopes of the family members of the sick," who also are in the Gemelli, he wrote.

"This trusting patience, anchored in God's love that does not fail, is indeed necessary in our lives, especially in facing when the most difficult and painful situations," Pope Francis wrote.

But, like the other messages he released from the hospital on Sundays, the pope also urged prayers for peace and commented on current events.

"I was saddened by the resumption of heavy Israeli shelling on the Gaza Strip, with so many dead and wounded," he said. Israel, citing an impasse in negotiations with Hamas militias, began launching aerial attacks on Gaza March 18, ending a ceasefire that had begun in January.

"I call for an immediate silencing of the weapons; and the cou-

rage to resume dialogue, for all hostages to be released and for a final ceasefire to be reached," the pope wrote. The humanitarian situation in Gaza "is once again very serious and requires urgent commitment from the conflicting parties and the international community."

Dr. Sergio Alfieri, head of the medical team treating the pope, had told reporters March 22 that in his rooms at the Domus Sanctae Marthae, the pope will continue using oxygen as needed through a nasal tube, will be taking medication to fight a lingering mycosis, a fungal infection, and will be continuing his physical therapy and respiratory therapy.

The doctors have prescribed two months of rest and recuperation and have urged the pope not to meet with large groups during that time. They also said his voice will require time to recover.

Dr. Luigi Carbone, the assistant director of the Vatican health service and a member of the medical team treating the pope at Gemelli hospital, said that other than an oxygen tank, no special equipment would be needed in the pope's room. He added, though, that the Vatican health service has a doctor and other personnel on duty 24 hours a day.

Even after the pope's return to the Vatican was announced, the rosary for him and for all the sick was continuing in St. Peter's Square each evening.

The crowd gathered to pray March 22 loudly applauded when Archbishop Giordano Piccinotti, president of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Holy See, began the recitation telling them, "The Holy Father is returning home. We give thanks to God and to the Virgin Mary for this great news."

The Vatican press office said that March 23 the rosary would continue and would be led by Cardinal Mauro Gambetti, archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica.

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 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. **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 Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504 or the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at www.dwc.org, under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at 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:** call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, at 304.559.6742. The Diocese partners with Navex Global to offer EthicsPoint to report other 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 WV. EthicsPoint can be accessed via 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.

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. 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; sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Training may be completed online or via live workshop. For information, go to www.dwc.org, click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2025

There are 10 print editions in 2025. Below are the names of the issues and the publishing dates. Please note, the publishing dates may or may not be on feast days. Digital issues are published every Friday, delivered by e-mail to subscribers, and posted on thecatholicspiritwv.org.

2025 Print Issues and Dates:

Easter, April 18; Month of Mary, Mother of God, May 23; Month of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 13; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15; Triumph of the Cross, September 12; Month of the Rosary, October 3; Advent, November 21; Christmas, December 19

Pro-Life Movement Needs New Approach, Driven by All the Faithful, Dicastery Says

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life has published a pastoral framework to help dioceses begin a synodal process for strengthening and promoting the pastoral care of human life.

The aim is to help all Catholics defend, safeguard and promote all human life worldwide and in different cultural contexts at a time that is “marked by extremely serious violations of human dignity,” the dicastery said in a statement March 24, the eve of the 30th anniversary of St. John Paul II’s encyclical, “Evangelium Vitae” (“The Gospel of Life”).

Titled, “Life is always a good. Initiating Processes for a Pastoral Care of Human Life,” the 40-page framework seeks to reaffirm St. John Paul’s words as repeatedly emphasized by Pope Francis and to “draw the attention of all people of goodwill who wish to be at the service of communities to effectively defend and promote every human person’s life,” Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, dicastery prefect, wrote in its preface.

Many countries are afflicted by wars and all sorts

of violence, “especially against women, children before and after birth, adolescents, people with disabilities, the elderly, the poor and migrants,” he wrote.

“We must forge a genuine pastoral care of human life to put into practice what is also reiterated in the recent declaration, ‘Dignitas Infinita’ (‘Infinite Dignity’), of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith,” he added.

The principle that every person’s life should always be respected, safeguarded and defended, which is evident in church teaching and recognizable even by reason, must be “implemented in every country, village and household” with special emphasis on helping young people understand and welcome the value of life, the cardinal wrote.

However, he wrote, the framework does not provide local churches “with preset and ready-to-use ‘recipes.’ Instead, it offers ways to initiate ‘processes’ that involve the entire body of the Catholic Church, reflective of the synodal process begun in 2021.

Through dialogue, listening, prayer and discernment, all the faithful with

the guidance of the Holy Spirit can work “to create the conditions to welcome and accompany life anywhere and anytime,” Cardinal Farrell wrote.

According to the framework, the foundation of the pro-life mission is to move from a “logic of performing activities to achieve objectives” to a “logic of co-responsibility and transformative discipleship.” That is, where pastoral plans are no longer developed alone since they are not effective.

The church must build and tap into its “ecclesial intelligence,” where all members — active and aware of the reality on the ground — come together as disciples, not to have “a project,” but to respond to a call, like the Good Samaritan coming to the aid of a person in need, it said.

“In many countries, attention to life issues is kept high by pro-life movements, but many of them mainly focus on civil and political action,” the framework said.

“Pastoral care is an ecclesial action of the Christian community, laypeople and pastors together, which cannot be delegated and is called to address every situation in which human dignity is threatened, without confining it-

self to specific areas,” it said.

There is also a need to “look beyond beginning and end-of-life issues, which still remain a priority,” and include other serious violations of human life, it said.

“We need situational intelligence, empathy, intuition, and practical wisdom” to implement pastoral action, the framework said. “This is why the proposed planning model is formative and transformative not only in terms of results but also in terms of the people who plan.”

Bishop Dario Gervasi, adjunct secretary of the dicastery, said in a press release that the framework came out of an ongoing dialogue with the world’s bishops.

“The primary recipients of this pastoral framework are the bishops who, during their frequent ‘ad limina’ visits to the Holy See, have always emphasized the urgency of a renewed commitment to safeguard

and promote the life and dignity of every human being,” he said.

It is a way to support every diocese’s journey “so that they can invest the necessary resources for a more effective formation of the laity and raise awareness among younger generations about the value of human life,” Bishop Gervasi said.

The framework is available on the dicastery’s website at laityfamilylife.va in English, Portuguese and Italian, and Spanish and French versions will be available “soon,” the press release said.

Cardinal Farrell encouraged “every bishop, priest, religious man and woman and layperson to read this pastoral framework and strive to develop an organic and structured pastoral care of human life, which can provide workers, educators, teachers, parents, young people and children the right formation to respect the value of life.”

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Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry Promotes ‘Walking with Moms’ at Resource Fair

By Colleen Rowan

CLARKSBURG — The Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry joined with many community organizations to sponsor a resource fair to acquaint moms with available services to assist them with their needs. The event was held March 22 at the parish center offering information on food banks; access to bottles, diapers, formula, etc.; help with budgeting, resume writing and job interviewing; job opportunities; help with completing a GED; and many other topics.

At the fair, Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry promoted the Walking with Moms in Need program. This is a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops program that is nationwide and parish based. According to the program’s website (www.walkingwithmoms.com) the initiative aims to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need.

“It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support,” the site states.

Members of the Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry distributed information materials on the program which listed the ministry’s vision. This includes identifying help available to local women and families who are pregnant or parenting in diffi-



Courtesy photo

The March 22 resource fair for moms in need at Immaculate Conception Parish Center in Clarksburg is shown above. The Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry along with other community organizations sponsored the event.

cult circumstances and what types of support are missing. Determining how churches and community agencies can be part of strengthening the local support network for moms in need was also listed.

Among initiatives the ministry is taking include reaching out to grandparents raising children, foster moms, and others. Members are also helping those they serve with learning budgeting, maintaining a checking account, writing a résumé, job interviewing, how to obtain a GED, providing nutritious

meals on a limited budget, job and financial resources that are available, and information on food banks.

“In addition, we would like to eventually provide some perks for participants to help build confidence by doing something special just for them,” Parish Nurse Ministry officials said in information materials. “This might include some discussion support groups where we could provide babysitting so they could interact with other moms in their situation; provide some perks like gift card for a manicure, etc., a

few extra items for their children for Christmas, etc.”

The ministry also stated in materials that reaching out to other community organizations with resources to enhance the program is also a focus.

“The Parish Nurse Ministry is looking for ways to initiate this diocese-supported program,” ministry officials said. “We are hoping that we have some individuals or community organizations that have an interest in helping us. We are sure that many of you have knowledge of avail-

able resources and how to qualify for these resources that would be helpful to these moms.”

To get involved with the Immaculate Conception Parish Nurse Ministry efforts, call Theresa White at (304) 669-6063. For information on how to bring the Walking with Moms in Need program to one’s parish, contact Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries and interim director of Prison Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, at (304) 233-0880, ext. 289, or by e-mail to kbarton@dwc.org.

Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support.

To start this ministry in your parish, contact:

Kathleen Barton, Director of Social Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
(304) 3233-0880, Ext. 289; kbarton@dwc.org

Walking with
Moms in Need



Elkins Catholics Can Support Their Parish and the Environment at the Same Time

ELKINS — Parishioners of St. Brendan Parish in Elkins can generate money for their parish while recycling their scrap metal, including aluminum and steel cans.

Although Elkins no longer has a recycling center that takes various recyclables, Elkins Metal Recycling (EMR) at 1404 15th St., Elkins — formerly Elkins Iron and Metal — offers a per-pound payment for scrap metal brought in for recycling.

“EMR has an account where you can directly donate your payment to St. Brendan,” parish officials announced in St. Brendan’s bulletin. “All you need to do is thoroughly rinse the cans and lids and keep your metals separated — aluminum cans in one bag, steel cans in another. Once you get a large garbage bag full of cans, take them to EMR’s metal receiving/weighing facility located next to EMR’s office on 15th Street between Livingston Avenue and River Bend Park. Tell the workers you’d like your payment donated to St. Brendan Catholic Church. That’s it!”

EMR is open 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information, including a list of all metals accepted at EMR, is available online at <https://elkinsmetalrecycling.com> or by calling (304) 636-3456.

“As a reminder, recycling receptacles for aluminum cans are in the parish hall for empty cans from soft drinks consumed at church dinners,” parish officials announced. “Throwing away metal is throwing away money and resources — recycling helps the environment and everyone! Thank you!”

Lenten Retreat to be Held at Holy Rosary Parish in Buckhannon

BUCKHANNON—Holy Rosary Parish invites all to its Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

“Parishioner and Retreat Master Sue Smith will lead us in ‘The Journey Towards Hope and the Power of Hope in our Lives,’ as we gather to reflect on our own personal Lenten journey,” parish officials said.

Smith is an associate member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope and serves as a retreat and presenter across the United States.

“Join us on Saturday for a prayerful Lenten experience,” parish officials said.



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Advocating for Support for Mothers and Babies



Courtesy of the West Virginia Legislature/photo by Will Price
 Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries and interim director of Prison Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (fourth from left, fourth row from the bottom) is one of 50 participants of the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Support Program at the Capitol in Charleston March 19 advocating for funding of the program to be restored into the budget.



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Lenten Food 'Doesn't Mean Boring,' Says Catholic Chef

By Gina Christian, OSV News (OSV News) — While the season of Lent is marked by fasting and abstinence, cooking for a hungry family in this season of prayer and penance “doesn’t mean boring or ‘fish all the time,’” a Catholic chef told OSV News.

Catholics fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and forego meat on all the Fridays of Lent as well. In the Latin Catholic Church, those norms are obligatory for the faithful ages 18 through 59.

Members of the 23 Eastern Catholic churches observe their own particular restrictions during Lent, more commonly known among those churches as the Great Fast.

But discipline and deliciousness aren’t necessarily mutually exclusive, said certified executive chef Jim Churches, president of the American Culinary Federation’s Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association and a member of St. Patrick Parish in Brighton, Michigan.

Churches — who also offers culinary instruction through Home-school Connections, a national Catholic homeschooling course provider — said the key to Lenten cooking is to “plan ahead.”

“When you don’t think about it until it’s Friday, it’s a knee-jerk reaction of, ‘What do we have around the house?’” he said.

Instead, he advised, “take the time throughout the year to write a note” about family favorites — such as “mac and cheese, or pizza” — that can be enjoyed “without the meat component,” and cook the meatless versions on a regular basis.

“You can nail it down, and have the kids excited about it,” he said. “Get their input. And then they start to say, ‘This is really good.’”

Ditching meat — and dairy, and fish — all year long is something the nonprofit PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is hoping Christians and others will embrace.

PETA’s Christian outreach division, LAMBS (an acronym for “least among my brothers and sisters”), has issued a “40 Days of Lentils” challenge, inviting faithful to adopt a vegan lifestyle for both spiritual and ecological benefits.

The campaign includes vegan starter and creation care kits and cites numerous scriptural refer-

ences to animals — with the organization noting that while Jesus is recorded in the Gospels as eating fish (and likely lamb, at least during Passover), he “would be horrified by today’s factory-farming practices.”

Although he doesn’t eschew meat, Churches admitted, “My body tells me sometimes, ‘You’ve had too much meat,’ and you just don’t crave it; you want something light.”

For millions worldwide, going meatless and eating light aren’t choices, but necessities — something Catholic Relief Services, the official humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic bishops, highlights in its annual Lenten Rice Bowl initiative.

Now in its 50th year, the campaign invites participants to prayerfully eat simple, meatless meals and donate savings toward CRS’s humanitarian and development projects, with 25% of the funds benefiting local hunger relief efforts and 75% assisting those in a number of low-income nations.

As part of Rice Bowl, CRS provides meatless recipes from the areas it serves, among them egg sauce with boiled yams from Nigeria, black bean soup from Guatemala, dahl (a lentil-based dish) from Bangladesh and crispy pancakes from Vietnam.

Churches told OSV News that some of his Lenten favorites are Polish pierogi — boiled or fried unleavened dough dumplings filled with vegetables (and, outside of Lent, meat) — as well as “really creative salads” with “strawberries, goat cheese and candied nuts.”

He describes his cooking style as “very cheese-forward and butter-forward,” heavily incorporating dairy in the style of classic French cuisine.

But even on a tight budget with limited room for dairy, Lenten meals can be flavorful and interesting, Churches said.

“You can buy dried gnocchi (Italian dumplings made of flour or potato starch), which is very inexpensive but very filling,” he explained. “You can make that with a white or red sauce ... keep some of the pasta water to help thicken up your sauce a little bit, and throw your vegetables in there.”

Of course, fish and seafood are still staples of Lent, said Churches,

noting the fish fry he started at his parish five years ago.

“One of our top sellers is the bang-bang shrimp,” he said, describing a popular recipe for fried shrimp in a spicy, sweet chili sauce with a mayonnaise base.

That recipe and Churches’ other signature Lenten dishes are a far cry from those listed in a late-19th century “Cookery Book for Fasting and Abstinence Days” by an author simply known as “P.O.P.”

The volume — released in London by Burns and Oates, and in the U.S. by the New York Catholic Pub-

lication Society — features instructions for eel soups and pie, as well as anchovy toast and imitation mutton broth, dishes the author hoped would offset the “monotony” of faithful’s Lenten fare.

Yet the main ingredient for Lenten cooking isn’t something found in a grocery store, said Churches.

“When you gather around the table, it’s a nourishing experience; a family-driven thing,” he said. “It’s all about family connection.”

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

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

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Ss. Peter and Paul Students Learn about the Importance of Oral Health

OAK HILL—Hygienists from Klenk, Lockhart and Hughes Family Dentistry talk about the importance of oral health with pre-K through third-grade students at Ss. Peter and Paul School in Oak Hill March 14. The students got to enjoy the “Tooth Book” by Dr. Seuss, proper brushing techniques with Duddly the Dinosaur, and nutritional education/sugar bug activities with tooth magnets. The hygienists said, “We hope the kids enjoyed their day as much as we did!”

Courtesy photo

Daily *Living*
with Fr. Chapin

Sunday Mornings

6:30 WTOV FOX 9 Wheeling-Steubenville
 7:30 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)
 11:00 WDVM 25 Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

Plus watch online at - www.mydailyliving.com and YouTube

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Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Confirmation Schedule, Spring 2025 Bishop Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

- Friday, April 4:** St. Augustine, Grafton; 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 28:** St. John University, Morgantown; 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 30:** Sacred Heart, Chester; 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 4:** Our Lady of Fatima, Huntington, and St. Stephen, Ona, at Our Lady of Fatima; 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 6:** St. Joseph, Huntington; 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 7:** St. Francis de Sales, Morgantown; 5:15 p.m.
- Sunday, May 11:** Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling; 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday, May 11:** St. Mary, Star City; 4:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 12:** St. Michael, Wheeling; 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 14:** St. Michael, Vienna; 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 16:** St. Joseph, Martinsburg; 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. James, Charles Town; 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 17:** St. Leo, Inwood; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Bernadette, Hedgesville; 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, May 18:** St. Vincent de Paul, Berkeley Springs; 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 21:** St. Joseph the Worker, Weirton; 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 22:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Thomas; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 25:** St. Paul, Weirton; 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 28:** St. Patrick, Weston; 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 31:** Annunciation of Our Lord, Fort Ashby; 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, June 1:** St. Luke the Evangelist, Cheat Lake; 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, June 7:** St. Francis of Assisi, St. Albans; 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, June 8:** St. Francis de Sales, Beckley; 11:00 a.m.
- Sunday, June 8:** Sacred Heart, Bluefield, 4:30 p.m.



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20/20 Vision Series for 2025 A CLOSER LOOK AT THE APPALACHIAN PASTORAL LETTERS

"THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME" (1975)
"AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE" (1995)
"THE TELLING TAKES US HOME" (2015)

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

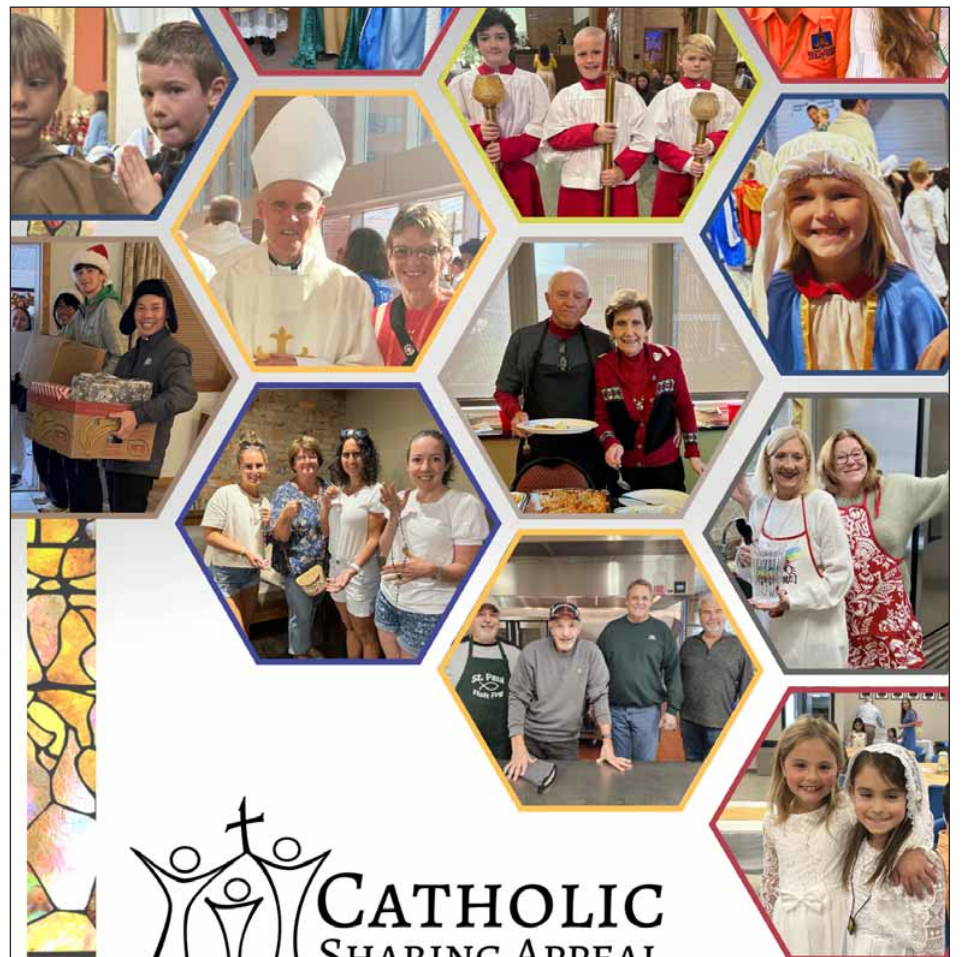
- January 27 OUR HOME, OUR HISTORY – Bishop Mark Brennan
- February 24 THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART I – Tom Breiding
- March 31 THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART II
- April 28 THIS LAND IS HOME TO ME, PART III
- May 19 AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART I – Beth Collins
- June 23 AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
- July 28 AT HOME IN THE WEB OF LIFE, PART III
- August 25 THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART I – Rodica Stoicoiu
- September 22 THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART II
- October 27 THE TELLING TAKES US HOME, PART III
- November 24 AN EVENING OF APPALACHIAN MUSIC – Tom Breiding
- December 15 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? – Bishop Mark Brennan

(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



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SCAN ME



El Papa regresa al Vaticano tras una larga hospitalización

Por Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

ROMA (CNS) — Inmediatamente antes de salir del hospital Gemelli de Roma tras más de cinco semanas de tratamiento por dificultades respiratorias, neumonía bilateral e infecciones, el Papa Francisco saludó a cientos de personas que se reunieron afuera del hospital el 23 de marzo.

Con voz muy débil, el Papa Francisco dio las gracias a la multitud, agitando las manos y levantando los pulgares.

"Gracias a todos", dijo el Santo Padre. También señaló a una mujer que llevaba un ramo de flores amarillas y dijo a la multitud: "Es buena".

Un ayudante había empujado al Papa Francisco en su silla de ruedas hasta el balcón que da a la plaza exterior del hospital. Unas 600 personas se habían congregado en el hospital, entre ellas el alcalde de Roma, Roberto Gualtieri. Cientos de personas también se reunieron frente a las pantallas de vídeo en la Plaza de San Pedro para ver al Papa por primera vez desde que fue hospitalizado el 14 de febrero.

El Papa salió del hospital casi inmediatamente después de su aparición en el balcón.

La policía en motocicleta que conducía la comitiva del Papa giró hacia la calle que conduce a la entrada del Vaticano más cercana a su residencia y luego dio la vuelta. En lugar de ir directamente a su residencia, el Papa Francisco fue conducido por el centro de Roma hasta la Basílica de Santa María la Mayor, donde ha rezado antes y después de cada viaje al extranjero y después de sus dos hospitalizaciones anteriores por cirugía abdominal.

El Papa Francisco no entró en la iglesia, pero dejó un ramo de flores para que se colocara en el altar bajo el icono mariano "Salus Populi Romani" o "Salud del pueblo romano".

Imágenes de televisión del Papa, sentado en el asiento delantero de un Fiat blanco, mostraron que estaba usando oxígeno a través de una cánula nasal.

Poco antes de que el Papa, de 88 años, saliera al balcón del hospital, el Vaticano hizo público un texto que había preparado para la oración del Ángelus del mediodía.

El mensaje del Papa se centraba en la lectura del Evangelio del día de la parábola de la higuera de Lucas 13,1-9, en la que el dueño del viñedo le dice a un jardinero que corte una higuera que no había dado fruto durante tres años; el jardinero pide que se le conceda un año para abonar y cuidar el árbol con la esperanza de que dé fruto en el futuro.

El agricultor paciente "es el Señor, que trabaja con esmero el suelo de nuestras vidas y espera confiado nuestro regreso a Él", escribió el Papa. "La parábola que encontramos en el Evangelio de hoy nos habla de la paciencia de Dios, que nos impulsa a hacer de nuestra vida un tiempo de conversión".

"En este largo tiempo de hospitalización, he experimentado la paciencia del Señor, que también veo reflejada en los incansables cuidados de los médicos y del personal sanitario, así como en las atenciones y esperanzas de los familiares de los enfermos", que también se encuentran en el Gemelli, escribió.

"Esta paciencia confiada, anclada en el amor indefectible de Dios, es realmente necesaria en nuestra vida, especialmente para afrontar las situaciones más difíciles y dolorosas", escribió el Papa Francisco.

Pero, al igual que en los otros mensajes que se difundieron los domingos desde el hospital, el Papa también instó a rezar por la paz y comentó la actualidad.

"Me entristeció la reanudación de los intensos bombardeos israelíes sobre la Franja de Gaza, con numerosos muertos y heridos", dijo. Israel, alegando un punto muerto en las negociaciones con las milicias de Hamás, comenzó a lanzar ataques aéreos sobre Gaza el 18 de marzo, poniendo fin a un alto el fuego que había comenzado en enero.

"Pido el cese inmediato de las armas y que se tenga la valentía para reanudar el diálogo, liberar a todos los rehenes y alcanzar un alto el fuego definitivo", escribió el Papa. La situación humanitaria en Gaza "vuelve a ser muy grave y requiere el compromiso urgente de las partes beligerantes y de la comunidad internacional".

El Dr. Sergio Alfieri, jefe del equipo médico que atiende al Papa, había declarado a los periodistas el 22 de marzo que, en sus habitaciones de la Domus Sanctae Marthae, el Papa seguirá utilizando el oxígeno que necesite a través de una cánula nasal, tomará medicación para combatir una micosis persistente, una infección, y continuará con su fisioterapia y terapia respiratoria.

Los médicos le han prescrito dos meses de reposo y recuperación y han instado al Papa a no reunirse con grandes grupos durante ese tiempo. También han dicho que su voz necesitará tiempo para recuperarse.

El Dr. Luigi Carbone, subdirector del servicio de salud del Vaticano y miembro del equipo médico que atiende al Papa en el hospital Gemelli, dijo que, aparte de un tanque de oxígeno, no se necesitaría ningún equipo especial en la habitación del Papa. Añadió, sin embargo, que el servicio de salud del Vaticano tiene un médico y otro personal de guardia las 24 horas del día.

Incluso después de que se anunciara el regreso del Papa al Vaticano, el rosario por él y por todos los enfermos continuaba en la Plaza de San Pedro cada tarde.

La multitud reunida para rezar el 22 de marzo aplaudió ruidosamente cuando el arzobispo Giordano Piccinotti, presidente de la Administración del Patrimonio de la Santa Sede, comenzó el rezo diciéndoles: "El Santo Padre vuelve a casa. Damos gracias a Dios y a la Virgen María por esta gran noticia".

La oficina de prensa del Vaticano dijo que el 23 de marzo el rosario continuaría y sería dirigido por el cardenal Mauro Gambetti, arcipreste de la Basílica de San Pedro.

Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de menores:

La diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston te exhorta a denunciar cualquier delito ante las autoridades civiles. Para realizar una denuncia en contra de cualquier obispo en todos los Estados Unidos, favor de reportarlo en la página web www.repostbishopabuse.org. Y si, además, existen motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido alguna conducta sexual inapropiada favor de comunicarse con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y también puede realizar un reporte en la página web antes mencionada.

Para informar a las autoridades civiles: comuníquese con la policía local; los números varían según su ubicación.

Si considera que alguien está en peligro inmediato, favor de llamar al 911.

Para informar de forma confidencial sobre cualquier sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, favor de comunicarse con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia, llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 1-800.352.6513.

Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas: La diócesis exhorta a informar primeramente a las autoridades civiles correspondientes, cuando la denuncia incluye un delito, y también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesásticas correspondientes.

Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de menores por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, comuníquese directamente con la diócesis a los teléfonos 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880 para hablar con cualquiera de las siguientes personas asignadas: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; y si desea hablar en español con Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264.

También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de la diócesis al 304.230.1504 o a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la diócesis al

833.230.5656.

Los formularios de quejas están disponibles en línea en la página web www.dwc.org, favor de hacer clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", en "Ambiente seguro" y en "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede enviar por correo en Estados Unidos a: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:

Favor de llamar a Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742. Además de las vías mencionadas anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la diócesis se ha asociado con la compañía Navex Global que ofrece la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar cualquier inquietud adicional, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diacono, religioso, o empleado laico de la diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de la página web www.dwc.org, en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381.

EthicsPoint es una herramienta de denuncia confidencial y anónima, ellos se encargarán de transmitir su denuncia directamente a las autoridades civiles y a las autoridades diocesanas correspondientes, y lo más importante al denunciador a través de ellos, la identidad de la persona que denuncia está 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 a menores: 304-293-6400.

Employment Opportunities

Executive Assistant Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa)

At Catholic Charities West Virginia (CCWVa), we have a culture deeply rooted in Catholic social teaching and respect all Catholic beliefs and practices.

The Executive Assistant schedules appointments, meetings and handles conference arrangements, agendas, notifications, etc., gives information to callers and otherwise relieves the Chief Executive Officer of clerical work and minor administrative duties and details.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Types correspondence, records, and reports; Answers telephone, gives information to callers, or routes calls to appropriate person; Maintains files, records, and correspondence; Coordinates and schedules Catholic Charities Board meetings, committee meetings and other meetings as directed by the Chief Executive Officer; Records, transcribes and disseminates minutes of Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and other Committee meetings; and Coordinates and schedules Maintenance Worker and duties for the Main building.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES: Orders and purchases materials and supplies for office; Add/delete/make changes to Diocesan Directory; Contacts Diocesan Building & Properties for building issues; and Performs other job-related duties as assigned.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervises Maintenance worker at Main office.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily, demonstrating initiative and responsibility. The requirements are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required: Ability to type 60 WPM; Good interpersonal skills; Ability to follow directions and work well with others; Ability to maintain a high degree of confidentiality; Proficient in Microsoft Office and basic office procedures preferred; and Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS: The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. While performing the duties of this job, the employee is regularly required to sit. The employee frequently is required to talk or hear. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, use hands to finger, handle, or feel objects, tools, or controls and reach with hands and arms. The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 20 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate.

Click here to apply.

St. Joseph High School Biology Teacher, Martinsburg

St. Joseph High School is a newly established Catholic high school opening in August 2025, dedicated to providing a rigorous academic education and character formation in a faith-based environment. Our mission is to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking and moral integrity, preparing students for success in higher education and beyond. We seek educators who are passionate about their subject areas and committed to creating an engaging and supportive learning experience.

We are seeking a qualified and enthusiastic high school biology teacher to join our founding faculty. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in science education, be skilled in creating engaging and challenging lesson plans, and be willing to be part of a collaborative and mission-driven school community. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a new school and contribute to building a dynamic and inspiring learning environment.

Responsibilities:

- Teach biology courses to high school students, incorporating hands-on labs, experiments and interactive learning experiences.
- Develop and implement a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum aligned with national and collegiate-level science standards.
- Foster a positive, inclusive and engaging classroom environment that encourages inquiry, collaboration and academic excellence to support student growth.
- Integrate ethical discussions and a values-based approach into scientific topics, where appropriate.
- Collaborate with fellow faculty and administration to build a strong academic foundation for the school.
- Participate in school-wide activities, faculty meetings and professional development.
- Communicate effectively with students, parents and colleagues to support student success.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in biology, science education or a related field
- Hold valid teaching certification or be actively pursuing certification/licensure
- Strong classroom management, communication and curriculum development skills
- Willingness to support the mission and values of a Catholic educational institution
- Experience teaching high school science is preferred.

SJHS 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 position will begin in August 2025 (contractually) and continue through July 2026 with a salary of \$40,000 to \$50,000, depending on level of education and experience.

Please email a résumé, cover letter and three professional references to Deacon Patrick Michel, Ed.D, head of school, at deaconpat@stjosephwv.org.

St. Joseph School Pre-Kindergarten Aid, Martinsburg

Saint Joseph School is seeking someone to work as a prekindergarten aide and after-school care worker. The hours are 12:30 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Successful candidates may also substitute in PK for additional hours.

The aides assist teachers and clock students in and out of after-school care. Must be comfortable working on a computer and operating hand-held radios. Classroom management skills are preferred.

We are an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity.

Job requirements include: Must be at least 21 years old and have a high school diploma; 2 years experience in regulated child care or relatable experience; ability to meet state licensing requirements.

Scheduling flexibility.

Please email a letter of introduction and résumé to PK Director Abby Hjort-Michel at ahjort@sjswv.org.

Cook

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

The Cook is responsible for the preparation, service, clean-up and storage of all meals, snacks and food service for special functions.

Assures the kitchen/dining room/dish room areas are clean and in good order at the end of a shift or function.

Oversees and assists kitchen aides in the preparation, service and storage of food and cleanliness of the kitchen/dining area.

Works early mornings, days, evenings, weekends and holidays/holydays as needed.

Prefer a minimum of one year experience in food service.

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Housekeeper

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

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

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Employment Opportunities

Director of the Diocesan Summer Youth Camps for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Are you passionate about fostering the faith and spiritual growth of young people? Do you have experience in youth ministry, outdoor adventure education, and the desire to make a lasting impact in the lives of youth and young adults? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you to lead, inspire, and serve as the Director of the Diocesan Summer Youth Camps for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston!

Essential Duties:

- Assist in all aspects of Camp Carlo's intentionally Catholic, fun, prayerful, and catechetical adventure summer camp programming, providing ongoing conversion experiences that connect young people to the heart of Christ and His church.
- Hire, train, schedule, minister to and lead adult and young-adult staff as effective, professional, faithful youth ministers, including preparing them and guiding them through leading a successful and distinct ministry program
- Take special responsibility in supporting the direct as it pertains to oversight, administration, and safe implementation of specialized activities as designed by the American Camp Association
- Oversee the off-season development of Camp Carlo, including the design of new adventure catechesis experiences for next summer.
- Market summer-camp program through a wide variety of advertising approaches
- Communicate with pastors, youth ministers, schools, parish leaders, and parents to register young people in summer youth camps, supporting the needs of each individual, and helping them to maximize the impact of the young person's experience.
- Minister to the residential young-adult camp staff including supporting them, coaching them in healthy community life that includes strong relationships, and guiding them in personal and spiritual growth.

Additional Duties:

- Works early mornings, weekends, long hours, holidays/holydays as needed.
- Attends and participates in regular meetings with the Director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Discipleship
- Travel throughout the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in the promotion of the Summer Camp program, the recruitment of young adults to work in said program, and the on-site visiting of camp properties as potential places to host future summer camps.
- Performs other job related duties as assigned by the Office Director

Please send resume and cover letter to Debbie Turziano; dturziano@dwc.org

Camp Carlo Summer Camp Counselor

The office of Catechesis and Evangelization is seeking summer camp counselors. The camp counselor will: Teach and model our Catholic faith; facilitate adventure learning activities; provide & care for campers; become certified in/lead or facilitate specialized activities (i.e. aquatics, mountain biking, ropes course, etc.) as assigned by the camping director; demonstrate consistent maturity and solid judgment in leading young people in activities; understanding and carrying out the emergency procedures of the Catholic Youth Camps; be present with campers, constantly managing behavior & building camp culture.

Qualification Requirements: Must be 18 years of age; practicing Catholic with an active faith life; love ministering with and to young people; ability to follow direction and maintain confidentiality; work collaboratively in a team environment.

Interested applicants please send resume to Greg Gust at ggust@dwc.org

Full job description upon request.

Finance Director

Central Catholic High School, a Catholic co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the administrative position of Finance Director. Job Type: Full-time, 12 month employee.

Qualifications: Central Catholic High School is seeking an experienced and dynamic Finance Director who is responsible for the daily management of financial and administrative functions. This position involves overseeing all financial aspects of the school including accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, reconciliations, and financial reporting. The Finance Director will also be the liaison to the Diocesan Human Resource Office, ensuring the school follows best practices in hiring, onboarding, compensation, benefits, policy implementation, conflict resolution, corrective action, and compliance with all employment laws and diocesan policies. Additionally, the role involves collaborating with the Principal, Finance Council, and other stakeholders to determine the annual budget, manage benefit programs, and supervise school employees.

The Finance Director is a key con-

tributor to the continuing culture of excellence of Central Catholic High School.

A qualified candidate should have:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree with 3-5 years of comparable experience
- Understanding and ability to uphold the CCHS Catholic school mission.
- General understanding of accounting principles and preparation of financial statements
- Human resources experience preferred
- Exceptional leadership and communication abilities
- Skilled in collaboration
- Comfort with systems in general (QuickBooks, Excel, Word, etc.)
- Excellent analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Ability to meet deadlines and interact collaboratively with both internal and external constituents
- Process confidential and sensitive information with discretion and professionalism

To apply, please forward a cover letter along with a resume to Sarah Petry at spetry@cchsknights.org.

Head Volleyball Coach

Central Catholic High School, a co-educational college preparatory Catholic high school in Wheeling, W.Va., is accepting applications for the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach. CCHS is a member school of the WVSSAC and competes in Class AA and a member school of the OVAC in Class 3A. Job Type: Seasonal. Job Overview: CCHS is looking for a dynamic, knowledgeable coach who will embrace the CCHS mission and values. The Head Volleyball Coach is responsible for the overall vision, strategy and direction of the high school volleyball program. A successful candidate should be able to:

- Lead and manage the girls' volleyball team during the season.
- Develop training programs and strategies to enhance team performance.
- Communicate effectively with students, staff, and parents.
- Foster a positive team culture that promotes commitment and hard work.
- Integrate the school's mission and values into coaching and team management.

Qualifications:

- Previous head high school

coaching experience is preferred.

- Must be 21 or older.
- Candidates must complete a background check, Virtus training and currently possess or be able to meet all WVSSAC coaching requirements.

To apply, please forward a resume to Seth Staskey, Athletic Director, at staskey@cchsknights.org. For more information you can contact him at 304-233-6237.

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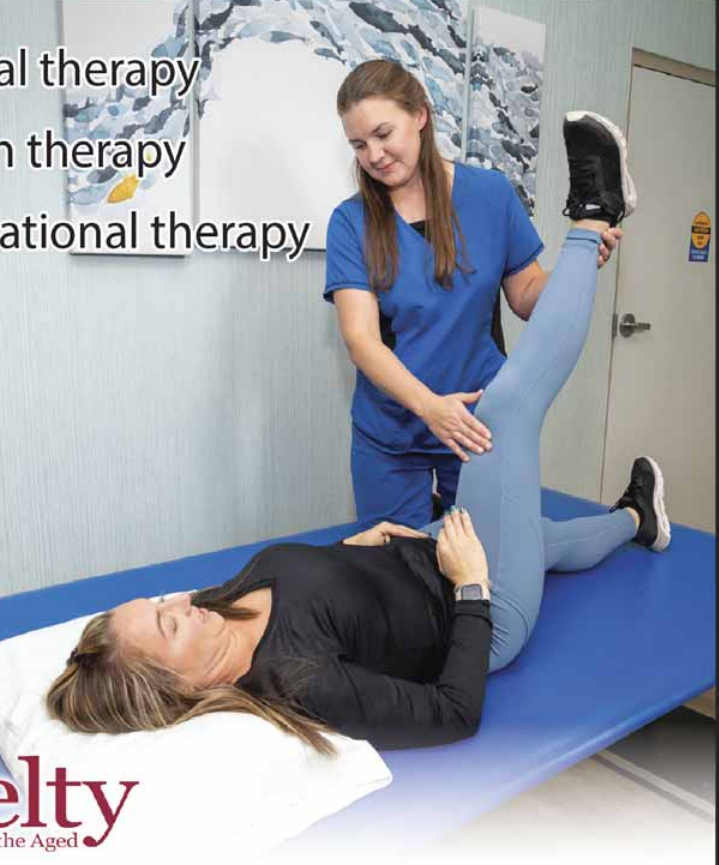


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The nation-leading cardiologists and surgeons of the WVU Heart and Vascular Institute Structural Heart Program at Wheeling specialize in problems with the heart's valves, walls, or chambers.

We have a multidisciplinary team of experts, including interventional cardiologists, **cardiac and vascular surgeons, dedicated nursing staff, and other specialists**, to ensure our patients receive the most comprehensive care available for common and complex structural heart conditions.


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.

Our expert team uses the latest catheter-based techniques to treat all forms of structural heart disease, including aortic, mitral, and tricuspid valve diseases and conditions and congenital defects.


OUR TEAM



David Michael Campsey MD
Interventional Cardiology



Deepak Hooda MD
Interventional Cardiology



Sushant Sharma MD
Cardiology

