

THE CATHOLIC
Spirit

Pope Spent Pontificate Going to Peripheries; at Funeral, They Came to Him



OSV News photo/Vatican Media

Pallbearers carry the casket of Pope Francis into St. Peter's Basilica at the conclusion of his funeral Mass in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican April 26.

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Pope Francis was elected as the first Latin American pontiff, he said his brother cardinals went out

of their way to pick someone from the “ends of the earth.”

He spent the rest of his pontificate going back out to those peripheries, traveling to more than 65 nations, preferring those that were

poor, scarred by war, marginalized and forgotten. Then the peripheries came to him on the day of his funeral in St. Peter's Square.

More than 160 nations sent delegations April 26, headed by kings

and queens, presidents and prime ministers, government officials and ambassadors.

Several nations were geographically far-flung like the South Pacific
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Conclave to Elect Next Pope Will Begin May 7

By Justin McLellan, Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The 135 cardinals eligible to elect the next pope will enter the Sistine Chapel to begin the conclave May 7, the Vatican announced.

The cardinals will first celebrate the “Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff” in St. Peter's Basilica that morning before processing into the Sistine Chapel that evening.

The Vatican Museums announced that the Sistine Chapel would be closed to visitors beginning April 28 to allow preparations for the conclave to begin. The preparations include the installation of a stove to burn the cardinals' ballots and a chimney on the roof to signal the election results to the world.

The date for the conclave was set during the fifth general congregation meeting of cardinals

April 28, Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, told reporters at a briefing later that day. The general congregation meeting was the first after a two-day pause to allow cardinals to participate in the funeral rites for Pope Francis.

More than 180 cardinals attended the April 28 meeting, including over 100 cardinal
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Pope ...

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archipelago of Vanuatu, New Zealand, Australia and Japan.

Many were nations on the fringes of the world's attention, but where the pope never visited like Albania, Iceland, El Salvador, Angola, Gabon, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Qatar, Oman and Vietnam. All the countries the pope visited in his 12-year pontificate were represented except Kazakhstan and South Korea, according to the list of confirmed delegations the Vatican press office released late April 25.

The nations on the peripheries the pope visited that came to Rome to return the honor included: Timor-Leste, Cuba, Madagascar, Central African Republic, Congo, South Sudan, Kenya, Mozambique, Morocco, Mongolia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar, the Philippines, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Palestine and many others.

But of course, political elites and nations at the center of power were present, too: U.S. President Donald J. Trump and his wife Melania, French President Emmanuel Macron, Argentine President Javier Milei, Italian President Sergio Mattarella, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, King Abdullah II of Jordan, Britain's Prince William and Mary Simon, the governor-general of Canada.

Delegations also were present from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Sudan. However, Taiwan, not mainland China, was represented by Chen Chien-jen who served as vice president and premier of Taiwan. Only a dozen countries, including Vatican City State, officially recognize Taiwan as an independent sovereign state while China maintains its claim over the island. Vatican protocol for a papal funeral places cardinals, bishops and ecumenical delegates to the left of the casket and heads of state to the right.

Of the nearly 40 ecumenical delegates, there were Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; Russian Orthodox Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, head of external church relations for the Moscow Patriarchate; Catholicos Karekin II, the patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church; as well as representatives of the Anglican, Lutheran, Methodist and Evangelical communities.

Protocol also determines the seating arrangements within the VIP section for political leaders. The large delegations from Italy and Argentina, the

pope's home country, were in the front row, followed by royalty, then international leaders in order of political hierarchy and in alphabetical order of their country's name in French.

That meant U.S. President Trump was nowhere near Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Representing "États-Unis," Trump was invited to sit near Estonia, Finland and France.

However, world leaders had a chance to pray at the pope's closed casket in the basilica before the funeral started. Zelenskyy and Trump sat down briefly for a "very productive" talk, according to the White House. Zelenskyy said on Telegram it was a "good meeting. One-on-one, we managed to discuss a lot. We hope for a result from all the things that were said."

The "very symbolic meeting," he said, "has the potential to become historic if we achieve joint results. Thank you, President Donald Trump!" A photo of Zelenskyy, Trump, Macron and Starmer meeting and speaking together in the basilica was also published on social media.

Nonetheless, the complex seating arrangements for the funeral meant many traditional enemies and nations at war were not seated near each other.

For example, Zelenskyy, who is a head of state, was seated ahead of Russia's representative, Olga Lyubimova, who is the minister of culture.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohamed Mustafa was also seated far from Israel's ambassador to the Vatican, Yaron Sideman, who attended even though official representatives of Israel are normally prohibited from participating in formal activities on the Jewish Sabbath.

"In this case, an exception was granted because of its importance," Sideman told Ansa, the Italian wire service, April 24. "Israel attaches great importance to expressing its condolences and joining the Catholic world in mourning the passing of the pontiff."

Even though alphabetically close, Armenia and Azerbaijan, who are locked in an ethnic and territorial conflict over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, were seated far apart since Armenia sent its president and Azerbaijan sent the speaker of its national assembly.

Because he is not an active head of state, former U.S. President Joe Biden, a Catholic, was seated in a separate VIP section and not near Trump.

In another section, numerous representatives of other religions were present such as Buddhists, Hindus, Jains, Zoroastrians, Sikhs, Muslims and Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni, the chief rabbi of Rome.

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."

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:

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



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May 2, 2025
Vol. 56, No. 18

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thecatholicspiritwv.org
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Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule above). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

Thousands Line Streets of Rome to Bid Final Farewell to Pope Francis



CNS photo/Justin McLellan

Pope Francis' casket is driven past the Colosseum on its way toward his burial place in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome April 26.

By Junno Arocho Esteves, Justin McLellan, Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — The casket bearing the body of Pope Francis made its final journey through the streets of Rome accompanied by applause and shouts of gratitude from thousands of mourners.

After the funeral Mass April 26, pallbearers carried Pope Francis' coffin through St. Peter's Basilica, stopping briefly at the steps leading to St. Peter's tomb before placing it on a retrofitted popemobile parked outside.

Hundreds awaited outside and applauded as the vehicle, accompanied by four police officers on motorbikes, left the grounds of Vatican City for the last time.

According to the Vatican and Italian police, some 150,000 people watched the pope's casket

pass by.

Along the wide boulevard in front of Torre Argentina, where Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 B.C., tourists and bystanders packed the streets, some teetering on top of the stone walls around the ancient site. Residents were leaning out of their upper-story apartment windows, everyone camera-ready. When the motorcade passed, people clapped and cheered, some shouting "Grazie, Papa Francesco" ("Thank you, Pope Francis") and "Viva il papa." ("Long live the pope").

The cortège bearing the first Jesuit pope passed by the Gesu Church, the mother church of the Society of Jesus in Rome's historic center, where the body of the order's founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, is buried.

Among the tens of thousands of people hoping to

catch a glimpse of the papal casket outside Rome's famed Colosseum was a group of 50 young people from the Diocese of Verona who were in Rome for the Jubilee of Adolescents.

For 23-year-old Samuele Simoni, the death of Pope Francis, which happened while the group made their way to Rome for the Jubilee pilgrimage, was "unimaginable."

Speaking to Catholic News Service, Simoni said bidding the pope farewell along the route to his tomb

was a way for the group to witness "the strength of the church in such an important time of mourning."

Pope Francis was "an important and influential figure" in the lives of young people, and to join others in bidding farewell to the pontiff was "definitely a time in which they could also fully experience a bit of the Jubilee," he said.

"People often think of the Jubilee as seeing the pope in a different way. Yet, it is certainly an emotional moment of prayer that is

both strong and beautiful," Simoni told CNS. "For them, it will truly remain an indelible memory in their hearts."

When the casket arrived at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, pallbearers carried it in a solemn procession down the central nave.

Among the cardinals present for the burial were: Cardinals Giovanni Battista Re, dean of the College of Cardinals; Roger M. Mahony, retired archbishop of **See "Farewell" on Page 4**

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CNS photo/Lola Gomez

A light illuminates a replica of Pope Francis's pectoral cross over his tomb in the aisle of Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major early April 27.

Farewell ...

Cont'd from Page 3

Los Angeles, and ranking member of the order of cardinal priests; Dominique Mamberti, former prefect of the Apostolic Signature and ranking member of the order of cardinal deacons; Stanislaw Rylko, archpriest of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; Rolandas Makrickas, coadjutor archpriest of the basilica; Pietro Parolin, secretary of state under Pope Francis; Baldassare Reina, papal vicar of Rome; and Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner.

Before reaching the pope's final resting place, the pallbearers stopped in front of the chapel where Pope Francis often laid flowers and prayed before the icon of Mary. This time, two boys and two girls carried baskets of white flowers and set them before the altar under the Marian icon.

The pallbearers then made their way to Pope Francis' tomb, where Cardinal Farrell presided over the burial rite. Earlier in the week, Vat-

ican spokesman Matteo Bruni told journalists that the actual burial would not be broadcast live.

In a statement released April 24, the Vatican press office said "a group of the poor and needy will be present on the steps" leading to the papal basilica to welcome his casket.

Corriere della Sera also reported that five prisoners from Rome's Rebibbia prison were given special permission to be present at the basilica and attend the pope's burial.

The pope had a special affection for prisoners, celebrating Holy Thursday Mass almost every year at a prison or jail. On April 17, just four days before his death, Pope Francis visited Rome's Regina Coeli jail.

According to *Avvenire*, the newspaper of the Italian bishops' conference, Auxiliary Bishop Benoni Ambarus of Rome, who was charged with prison pastoral care for the diocese, revealed the late pope had recently made a personal donation of 200,000 euros (\$228,100) to a pasta factory run by

the prisoners of Rome's Casal del Marmo prison.

Saying the prisoners felt orphaned after the pope's death, Bishop Ambarus said he was "working so that (the pope's) favorite children can be at the funeral. We will see what we can do."

The Basilica of St. Mary Major was dear to Pope Francis throughout his pontificate as he would often go to pray before the icon "Salus Populi Romani" ("Health — or salvation — of the Roman people"), especially before and after his papal trips.

At a briefing with journalists outside the basilica April 26, Cardinal Makrickas said the pope, who was initially reluctant to be buried outside of St. Peter's Basilica, told him in May 2022 that the "Virgin Mary told me, 'Prepare the tomb.'"

The Vatican previewed an image of the tomb, which was created with marble from the northern Italian region of Liguria, the land of the late pope's grandparents, and inscribed with the Latin ver-

sion of his name: Franciscus. It also featured a large reproduction of his pectoral cross.

In his final testament, which was published by the Vatican shortly after his death April 21, the pope expressed his wish to be buried at the basilica dedicated to Mary to whom he had entrusted his "priestly and episcopal life and ministry."

The pope further explained his reasons in his autobiography, "Hope," which was published in January. In it, he said he would not be buried in St. Peter's Basilica because "the Vatican is the home of my last service, not my eternal home."

"I will go in the room where they now keep the candelabra close to the Regina della Pace (Queen of Peace) from whom I have always sought help, and whose embrace I have felt more than a hundred times during the course of my papacy," he wrote.

(Contributing to this story were Carol Glatz and Justin McLellan in Rome.)

Where and When to Watch for White Smoke

(OSV News) — The conclave is set to begin May 7, but the public only knows its end by iconic white smoke billowing out of the Sistine Chapel’s chimney.

Black smoke means the cardinals have not yet reached the two-thirds majority vote necessary to elect a new pope. The cardinals burn the ballots in a stove, adding chemicals to the fire to color the smoke.

The best place to watch for the smoke is in St. Peter’s Square itself, but the Vatican will also livestream the smoke on its YouTube channel, Vatican Media Live.

For smoke watchers, the best time to view the smoke on May 7, the conclave’s first day, is just after 7 p.m. (1 p.m. EDT). On the following days, look for it around 10:30 a.m. (4:30 a.m. EDT) and noon, and again at 5:30 p.m. and just after 7 p.m., according to Catholic News Service.

However, the times may vary depending on the cardinals’ prayers and discussions.

“On the second day of the conclave and moving forward, there can be four rounds of voting each day, but only two smoke signals,” according to Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Services’ editor-in-chief. “That is because if the first ballot of the morning or of the afternoon session does not result in an election, a second vote begins immediately, and the two ballots are burned together.”

Conclave ...

Cont’d from Page 1

electors. During the session, about 20 cardinals offered reflections on the state of the church, its mission in the world, the challenges it faces and the qualities needed in the next pope, Bruni said.

Topics addressed included evangelization, interfaith relations and the ongoing need to address clerical sexual abuse, he added.

Looking ahead to the next session, Bruni said the general congregation meeting April 29 would open with a reflection by Benedictine Father Donato Ogliari, abbot of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome and a member of the Dicastery for Bishops.

As cardinals entered the Vatican for the morning’s session, Cardinal Anders Arborelius of Stockholm was asked by reporters if he expected a long conclave. “I think it will be,” he said, “because up to now we don’t know each other.”

Meanwhile, Cardinal Walter Kasper, former president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity who is past the age limit to vote in the conclave, told the Italian newspaper La Repubblica that he hopes the cardinal-electors “come to a consensus on the next pope very soon, in the footsteps of Francis.”

Conclave Prayer Campaign for Cardinals Seeks to Put ‘Faith into Action’

By Gina Christian, OSV News

(OSV News) — Ahead of the May 7 start of the papal conclave, the Pontifical Missions Societies USA is inviting faithful to pray — not only for the assembly as a whole, but for a specific cardinal elector who will help to choose the next successor of St. Peter, following Pope Francis’ death April 21 at the age of 88.

“As Catholics, we believe in the transformative power of prayer, and now is the moment to put that faith into action,” said Msgr. Roger Landry, the societies’ national director, in an April 28 statement announcing the launch of the campaign, which will continue until the election of the new pope.

Participants can enroll by visiting the societies’ website at pontificalmissions.org and entering their email address to learn which cardinal they’ve been assigned to pray for.

On the submission confirmation page, an image of a given cardinal appears, with his name, birthday and birthplace displayed, along with the short prayer: “Heavenly Father, guide the cardinals in wisdom and love as they may lead your Church. May your will be their compass. Amen.”

On April 28, the Vatican announced the start date of the conclave, which will see 135 cardinal electors — those eligible to vote for the next pontiff — begin their deliberations May 7 with a “Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff” in St. Peter’s Basilica. That evening, the group will process into the Sistine Chapel, where they will

begin voting under strict seclusion.

The progress of the conclave will be publicly indicated by the burning of the ballots, with white smoke indicating a new pope has been selected, and black smoke signaling the need for another vote.

In his statement, Msgr. Landry described the pope as the Catholic Church’s “chief missionary, the one who leads us to the peripheries of the world to share the Gospel.”

“We now pray together for someone to lead the Church’s worldwide fishing expedition that began when Jesus told St. Peter he was making him a fisher of men,” said Msgr. Landry.

The Pontifical Missions Societies’ worldwide network, which operates at the service of the pope, consists of four mission societies designated as pontifical by Pope Pius XI in 1922.

The Society of the Propagation of the Faith supports the evangelization efforts of the local church; the Missionary Childhood Association educates children about their role in the church’s missionary outreach; the Society of St. Peter the Apostle trains the next generation of missionary clergy and consecrated religious; and the Missionary Union focuses on forming clergy, religious and pastoral leaders more deeply in their role as evangelizers.

For more information, visit <https://www.pontificalmissions.org/pray-for-the-next-pope/>

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



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May, the Month Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mother of God and Spiritual Mother of All

Catholic News Agency, ACI Prensa Staff

The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and spiritual mother of all. In the plan of salvation, the Blessed Virgin Mary holds a special place. By virtue of her role to be the mother of the Son of God by divine elec-



tion, she was conceived immaculately — i.e., without the stain of original sin — and by fidelity to her son has been crowned queen of heaven and earth.

Everything Mary said and did leads to Christ. Who knows a child better than a mother? And what good and loving child does not know his or her mother and love her with all of his or her heart?

Mary knew and loved Jesus like no one else on earth — and she loves each of her children, human beings, with similar affection and tenderness.

The Church, in its wisdom, asks its children to be especially devoted to Mother Mary during the month of May and to be particularly grateful for all of her care.

A model for every Christian

Mary, the most humble of all women, is a model for everyone, today, in the here and now. She is a model in a particular way for every woman, as expressed by Pope Francis:

“There is only one model for you, Mary: the woman of fidelity, the one who did not understand what was happening to her but obeyed. The one who, as soon as she knew what her cousin needed took off [to help her], the Virgin of Promptness. The one who escaped as a refugee in a foreign country to save the life of her son,” Pope Francis said during an April 2014 message to 20,000 young people gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a regional youth day.

The first disciple

Years later, during an Aug. 24, 2021, catechesis, Pope Francis called Mary “the first disciple of Jesus” and reminded us that “Mary is there, praying for us, praying for those who do not pray. Why? Because she is our mother.”

The Virgin, through Jesus, has brought heaven closer to us and her life is the best proof that it is possible to reach it. Pope Francis said it best: “She shows us that heaven is within reach, if we too do not give in to sin, we praise God with humility, and we serve others with generosity” (Pope Francis, Angelus address on the solemnity of the Assumption, Aug. 15, 2022).

A statue of Our Lady stands at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Wheeling after a procession through downtown Wheeling on the Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima May 13, 2024.

Colleen Rowan Photo



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Special Rosary Devotions Set at White Sulphur Springs Catholic Cemetery Sundays in May

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS — The Mount Loretta Cemetery, adjunct to St. Charles Borromeo Church on US 60 West in White Sulphur Springs, will be the site for special recitations of the Rosary on Sunday evenings May 4, 11, 18, and 25.

The cemetery was established in the early 1890s, years before the original church, built on site, was constructed.

The congregation of the church invites members of the families of those interred in the cemetery to join them for the Rosary recitations on the four Sunday evenings at 6 p.m.

In case of rain, the Rosary recitations will be in the church.

For further information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley (304) 536-1813.

First Saturday Activities to be Held at Historic Williamsburg Church

WILLIAMSBURG — The oldest Catholic church building in Greenbrier County, the Chapel of Mary Immaculate near Williamsburg, will be the site of First Saturday activities beginning May 3 and continuing monthly on the first Saturday of June, July, August, September, and October.

Activities will include each month special devotions at 10:30 a.m. followed by daily Mass at 11 a.m. and a covered-dish lunch on the grounds following the Mass.

The public is invited. The church is located on Catholic Church Road off the Frankford/Williamsburg Road, 4 ½ miles from US 219 in Frankford.

For further information, telephone the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley (304) 645-1373.

Opened in 1901, the chapel is the third building in the history of the community. The first was built near the church cemetery and accidentally burned as did the second church, built at the intersection of the Catholic Church Road and the Frankford/Williamsburg Road.

During times when there was no local church, the Catholic population would meet at midnight on Saturday night and walk the 18 miles into Lewisburg to early Mass at Immaculate Conception Church which was located at the intersection of Church Street and US 60 near downtown Lewisburg. That church no longer exists and the site is now a flower garden on Academy Park.

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Memorial Mass for Babies Who Died before Birth to be Celebrated May 16

WEIRTON—The Fertility Care™ Center of the Upper Ohio Valley, Inc. & the Weirton Catholic Pro-Life Group will be sponsoring a Memorial Mass for Babies Who Died before Birth whether by miscarriage, abortion, ectopic (tubal) pregnancy (no distinction will be made) and whether occurring recently or years ago.

The Mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 16, at 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart of Mary Church, 200 Preston Avenue, Weirton. Confession will be available at 5:30 p.m.

“So that we may best honor your child, please call (304) 723-0478 or (304) 748-0688 to RSVP,” organization officials said.

All family members and friends are welcome.

Introductory Session on Natural Family Planning Method in Weirton May 8

WEIRTON—“Do you want a natural and effective way to plan your family? Are you experiencing infertility or other women’s health issues and tired of not getting a proper diagnosis or actual treatment of the underlying issues? Are you tired of being told birth control pills are your only option?”

If so, then the Creighton Model Fertility-Care™ System and NaProTechnology® can help (and we are blessed to have in the area an OB/Gyn specially trained in NaPro-Technology!) An introductory session will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Weirton.

The Catholic Church supports the methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) because they respect God’s design for married love. In fact, NFP represents the only authentic approach to family planning available to husbands and wives because these methods can be used to both attempt or avoid pregnancy.

Reservations are necessary. For more information or to register for the introductory session, contact Kathy Hirkala at (304) 723-0478.

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ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

Prayer Event Friday, May 9th – Sunday, May 11th

Month of Mary

Mother’s Day Weekend



This is an international effort to have **1,000,000 Rosaries** said for the following intention:

**For the protection of unborn
human persons and true
respect for life from the
moment of conception through natural death**



We are attempting to sponsor **1000** rosaries with this special intention. **Will you help?** Pass this on to everyone you know! This is an international event started by Saint Michael The Archangel Organization. Please help spread the word!

It is important to know the number of Rosaries that will be said over the three days. **Please write your pledge quantity on the signup sheets in the Narthex during signups or on the bulletin boards.**

Or register online at: <https://dwc.org/rosaries-for-life/>.



St. Francis de Sales Fifth Graders Meet One of the Beckley Police Department's K-9 Teams

BECKLEY — St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley thanked Patrolman First Class Daniel Cline of the Beckley Police Department who stopped by to visit the fifth grade on April 23. Officer Cline was joined by his partner, K-9 Officer Vito, a Belgian Malinois.

Officer Cline and Officer Vito are one of the department's three K-9 teams. The students learned about the K-9s' training and watched demonstrations by the team. They learned that the K-9s are certified in locating narcotics, tracking human scent,

evidence recovery, and patrol aspects.

"Thank you for taking the time to educate students on Vito's job and training!" school officials posted to Facebook.

Above: Fifth graders at St. Francis de Sales School in Beckley watch a presentation by Patrolman First Class Daniel Cline of the Beckley Police Department and his partner, K-9 Officer Vito, a Belgian Malinois. Right: Officer Cline and Officer Vito give a demonstration to students.

Courtesy photos



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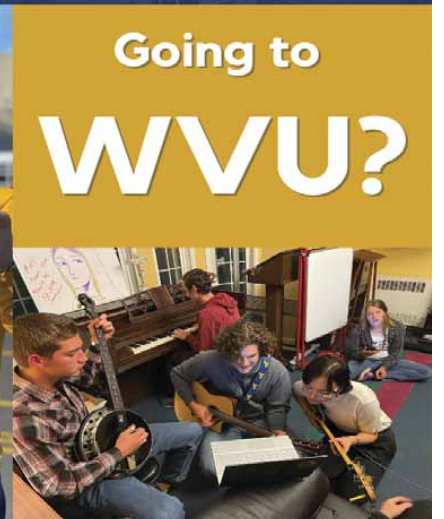
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A Light in the Darkness for Leigh

A woman named Leigh came to our Catholic Charities West Virginia office in Romney carrying a heavy burden — a high electricity termination notice that threatened her comfort and stability. But behind that one bill was a much deeper story of perseverance and hope.

Leigh had recently returned to work after being seriously injured in a car accident. During her recovery, she faced the emotional and financial challenges of being out of work, all while trying to maintain a warm and safe environment to heal — often needing to keep the heat turned up higher than usual due to limited mobility.

Despite falling behind on bills during her recovery, Leigh worked hard to keep herself afloat. And when she was finally able to return to work, she felt hopeful again

— but that looming electric bill remained a major hurdle. She had hoped for assistance from LIEAP, but when that didn't come through, she turned to us.

While the amount due was beyond what Catholic Charities could cover alone, we reached out through our trusted partnership network in Keyser. Together — with a little input from Leigh and a lot of compassion from our community — we were able to bridge the gap. Her power stayed on, her stress lifted, and she could finally focus



on healing and building her future with peace of mind.

Now with a steady income, Leigh is standing strong. And we are reminded once again: when we come together, guided by God's

love, we can bring light into the darkest moments.

We are grateful for the partnerships and supporters who make stories like Leigh's possible. You are helping us serve with love, compassion, and hope — every single day.

Join in Our Mission to Reduce Poverty in West Virginia

Please give and support in our mission, as we look forward to extending our reach and making a lasting difference in the lives of those con-

fronting adversity. Scan to make a donation:



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

- 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.

A message from the West Virginia Knights of Columbus State Council

Deep within the heart of every man is a call to live with purpose and meaning; a call to lead, to protect, to serve and to defend.

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The **Knights of Columbus** is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

When the world says men should step aside, Knights of Columbus step up.

We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to discover the man God calls you to be.

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6:30 WOAY ABC 4	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 WVVA NBC 6	Beckley-Bluefield-Oak Hill (Lewisburg)
9:30 DC News Now	Hagerstown-Washington D.C.

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

El Papa pasó su pontificado yendo a las periferias; en su funeral, las periferias vinieron a él

Por Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS)—Cuando el Papa Francisco fue elegido como el primer pontífice latinoamericano, dijo que sus hermanos cardenales se desviaron de su camino para elegir a alguien del "fin del mundo".

Pasó el resto de su pontificado volviendo a esas periferias, viajando a más de 65 naciones, prefiriendo aquellas que eran pobres, marcadas por la guerra, marginadas y olvidadas. Las periferias acudieron a él el día de su funeral en la Plaza de San Pedro.

Más de 160 naciones enviaron delegaciones el 26 de abril, encabezadas por reyes y reinas, presidentes y primeros ministros, funcionarios gubernamentales y embajadores.

Varias naciones estaban geográficamente muy alejadas, como el archipiélago de Vanuatu, en el Pacífico Sur, Nueva Zelanda, Australia y Japón.

Muchas eran naciones al margen de la atención mundial, pero que el Papa nunca había visitado, como Albania, Islandia, El Salvador, Angola, Gabón, Burundi, Sierra Leona, Togo, Zimbabue, Guinea Ecuatorial, Eswatini, Qatar, Omán y Vietnam.

Todos los países que el Papa ha visitado en sus 12 años de pontificado estaban representados, excepto Kazajstán y Corea del Sur, según la lista de delegaciones confirmadas que la oficina de prensa del Vaticano hizo pública a finales del 25 de abril.

Entre las naciones de la periferia que visitó el Papa y que acudieron a Roma para devolver el honor figuran: Timor Oriental, Cuba, Madagascar, República Centroafricana, Congo, Sudán del Sur, Kenia, Mozambique, Marruecos, Mongolia, Indonesia, Papua Nueva Guinea, Myanmar, Filipinas, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, Bahréin, Palestina y muchos otros.

Naturalmente, las élites políticas y las naciones en el centro del poder también estuvieron presentes: El presidente estadounidense Donald J. Trump y su esposa Melania, el presidente francés Emmanuel Macron, el presidente argentino Javier Milei, el presidente italiano Sergio Mattarella, la primera ministra italiana Giorgia Meloni, el primer ministro británico Keir Starmer, el secretario general de la ONU António Guterres, el rey Abdalá II de Jordania, el príncipe Guillermo de Gran Bretaña y Mary Simon, gobernadora general de Canadá.

También estuvieron presentes delegaciones de Arabia Saudí, Irak, Irán, Siria y Sudán. Sin embargo,



Foto CNS/Lola Gomez

Los portadores del féretro llevan el ataúd del Papa Francisco a la Basílica de Santa María la Mayor en Roma el 26 de abril de 2025, antes de su entierro. El Papa pidió ser enterrado en la basílica mariana tras su Misa de exequias en el Vaticano.

Taiwán, no China continental, estuvo representada por Chen Chien-jen, quien fue vicepresidente y primer ministro de Taiwán. Sólo una docena de países, entre ellos el Estado de la Ciudad del Vaticano, reconocen oficialmente a Taiwán como Estado soberano independiente, mientras que China dice que la isla le pertenece.

El protocolo vaticano para los funerales papales sitúa a los cardenales, obispos y delegados ecuménicos a la izquierda del féretro y a los jefes de Estado a la derecha.

Entre los casi 40 delegados ecuménicos, se encontraban el patriarca ecuménico ortodoxo Bartolomé de Constantinopla; el metropolitano ortodoxo ruso Antonio de Volokolamsk, responsable de rela-

ciones eclesiásticas exteriores del Patriarcado de Moscú; el Católico Karekin II, patriarca de la Iglesia Apostólica Armenia; así como representantes de las comunidades anglicana, luterana, metodista y evangélica.

El protocolo también determina la disposición de los asientos dentro de la sección VIP para los líderes políticos. Las grandes delegaciones de Italia y Argentina, país de origen del Papa, estaban en primera fila, seguidas de la realeza y, a continuación, los líderes internacionales por orden de jerarquía política y por orden alfabético del nombre de su país en francés.

Eso significaba que el presidente de Estados Unidos, Trump, no estaba cerca del presidente de Ucrania, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. En rep-

resentación de "États-Unis", Trump fue invitado a sentarse cerca de Estonia, Finlandia y Francia.

Los líderes mundiales también tuvieron la oportunidad de rezar ante el féretro cerrado del Papa en la basílica antes de que comenzara el funeral. Zelenskyy y Trump se sentaron brevemente para mantener una charla "muy productiva", según la Casa Blanca. Zelenskyy dijo en Telegram que fue una "buena reunión. De tú a tú, conseguimos hablar de muchas cosas. Esperamos resultados en todo lo que abordamos".

La "reunión muy simbólica", dijo, tiene el potencial de "convertirse en histórica si logramos resultados conjuntos. Gracias, Presidente Donald Trump". También se publicó en las redes sociales una foto de Zelenskyy, Trump, Macron y Starmer reunidos y hablando juntos en la basílica.

No obstante, la compleja disposición de los asientos para el funeral hizo que muchos enemigos tradicionales y naciones en guerra no estuvieran sentados cerca unos de otros.

Por ejemplo, Zelenskyy, que es jefe de Estado, se sentó delante de la representante de Rusia, Olga Lyubimova, que es ministra de Cultura.

El Primer Ministro palestino, Mohamed Mustafá, también estaba sentado lejos del embajador de Israel en el Vaticano, Yaron Sideman, que asistió a pesar de que normalmente se prohíbe a los representantes oficiales de Israel participar en actividades oficiales en el Sabbat judío.

"En este caso, se concedió una excepción debido a su importancia", dijo Sideman a Ansa, el servicio de noticias italiano, el 24 de abril. "Israel concede gran importancia a expresar sus condolencias y unirse al mundo católico en el duelo por el fallecimiento del pontífice".

Aunque alfabéticamente próximos, Armenia y Azerbaiyán, que mantienen un conflicto étnico y territorial por la región de Nagorno-Karabaj, se sentaron muy separados, ya que Armenia envió a su presidente y Azerbaiyán al presidente de su asamblea nacional.

Al no ser un jefe de Estado en activo, el ex presidente estadounidense Joe Biden, católico, estaba sentado en una sección VIP separada y no cerca de Trump.

En otra sección estaban presentes numerosos representantes de otras religiones, como budistas, hindúes, jainistas, zoroastrianos, sijs, musulmanes y el rabino Riccardo Di Segni, rabino jefe de Roma.

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Fin de semana del día de la Madre



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Por favor, regístrese solo una vez por familia para evitar duplicar los recuentos totales.

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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 denunciar 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

Part-Time Teaching Positions at St. Vincent de Paul Parish School, Wheeling, W.Va.

We are currently hiring for the following part-time positions for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Middle School Math Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Middle School Science Teacher (Grades 6-8)
- Music Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Art Teacher for PK through 8th Grade
- Technology Teacher for Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- 8th Grade Spanish Teacher

These part-time positions may be combined to create a full-time role, depending on qualifications and availability.

Bachelor's Degree / Certification in Education required.

Please contact the school or email jperoni@stvincentschool.org for more information.

Human Resources Generalist

The Human Resources Generalist as a member of Diocesan Services, is committed to advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, consistent with the core purpose and Gospel values enunciated in the Diocesan Services' Mission Statement. The Human Resources Generalist will work as part of the HR team with a focus on supporting the Catholic Schools throughout the Diocese and serve to drive the onboarding process within the Diocese.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: Performs all onboarding for Diocese, including schools and parishes; Works directly with school administration and staff to ensure accuracy and proper use of entire HRIS system; Supports person for Family Medical Leave and Short Term Disability; Ensures all ACA reporting and maintains file accuracy in the payroll system; Assists with open enrollment for all benefit platforms; Helps maintain organizational guidelines; Maintain employee files and records electronically; Monitors HR Help Desk; Backup for Diocesan Pension Plans.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school graduate. Bachelor's Degree in Human Resources or Business; Five(5) years' experience in human resources; Firm knowledge and understanding of human resources best practices; Knowledge and experience working with payroll and HRIS applications. Labor relations and policy experience a plus; Ability to maintain confidentiality; Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment; Qualified candidates should forward a cover letter and current resume to: Debbie Turziano, Director of Human Resources at dturziano@dwc.org.

DWC is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. [Click here to apply.](#)

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.

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Dr. Judy's interest and expertise in early childhood brain development was reflected in her professional work at the local, state, and national levels. She was a national speaker for the American Academy of Pediatrics on the science of early brain development and continues to serve the Governor of Ohio on the Ohio Early Childhood Advisory Council. She is currently interested in how the principles of brain health are applicable across the life span and how research is ushering in a new paradigm for all ages.

Reserve your spot today:
 Contact Anna Marie Troiani
 Phone: 304-907-0171
 Email: atroiani@csjoseph.org

DATE: Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, & 23
TIME: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
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