

THE Cathedral Courier

Weekly Bulletin for the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, West Virginia



29 December 2024



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

HOLY MASS

SUNDAY

8:00 AM
10:30 AM

SATURDAY

9:00 AM
6:00 PM (Sunday Vigil)

WEEKDAYS (Monday-Friday)

12:05 PM

OUR PARISH

1218 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003
(304) 233-4121 | www.saintjosephcathedral.com

CLERGY

PASTOR

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

RECTOR

Rev. Penumaka "Pen" Manikyalarao
pmanikyalarao@dwc.org

VICE-RECTOR

Rev. John Soplinski
jsoplinski@dwc.org

Deacon Douglas Breiding
dbreiding@dwc.org

Deacon Jacob Manning
jmanning@dwc.org

STAFF

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Tyler J. Greenwood
tgreenwood@dwc.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Matthew S. Berher
mberher@dwc.org

SACRISTAN

Martin Imbroscio
mimbroscio@dwc.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30am to 4:30pm

Bulletin articles are due by 12 Noon on Monday (5 days prior to publication). Submitted bulletin content is subject to approval.

REGISTRATION

Registration forms can be obtained at www.saintjosephcathedral.com or through the parish office.

Please notify the parish of address changes.

From the Diocesan Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

*Saint Joseph Cathedral Parish is called to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a community.
We are committed: to our urban neighborhoods, to being the Cathedral of the Diocese,
and to fellowship, formation, sacrament, and prayer.*

SACRAMENTS

Confession

Friday: 11:15 am to 11:45 am
Saturday: 5:00 pm to 5:45 pm

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for a meeting with the priest as well as the necessary preparation.

Marriage

Engaged couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance to make an appointment with the priest.

Holy Orders

If you believe you are being called by God to serve the Church as a priest, deacon, or religious brother or sister, please contact Fr. Brian Crenwelge, the Diocesan Director of Vocations at bcrenwelge@dwc.org or (304) 337-9837.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

Priests and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are available to bring Holy Communion to parishioners confined to home. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements. Those who are seriously ill or who are preparing for surgery should request a priest for Anointing of the Sick.

Visit the Sacraments page at www.saintjosephcathedral.com for more information.



LIVE STREAMED MASSES

Our Sunday Masses are live-streamed and archived for later viewing at www.dwc.org/mass.
While this is a valuable resource for those unable to attend in person due to health or other serious reasons, please remember that live-streamed Masses are not a substitute for the in-person celebration.



STAY CONNECTED



www.saintjosephcathedral.com



@wheelingcathedral



@wheelingcathedral



cathedralofstjoseph1.flocknote.com

The Mother Church of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



Masses & Schedule

December 29, 2024 - January 5, 2025

SUN
29

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for + Albert Schubert
8:00 am Mass for + Stephen Pacewicz
10:30 am Opening Mass for the Jubilee Year

MON
30

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

12:05 pm Mass for + Katerina Bolcek

TUE
31

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity

12:05 pm Mass for + Violet Gossett
6:00 pm Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

WED
1

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 am Mass for the Parishioners

THU
2

Memorial of Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

12:05 pm Mass for + Joyce Early

FRI
3

Christmas Weekday Optional Memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus First Friday

11:15 am Confessions
12:05 pm Mass for + Patricia Felton
12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration Begins
4:00 pm Holy Hour of Reparation
5:00 pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

SAT
4

Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton First Saturday

9:00 am Mass for + Kristin Marie Sacco Smith
9:30 am Rosary
5:00 pm Confessions
6:00 pm Mass for + John Petrella
7:00 pm Epiphany Party (St. Alphonsus Hall)

SUN
5

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am Mass for + Tom Leonard
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners
3:00 pm Christmas & Epiphany Concert

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

This Sunday, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast reminds us of the beauty of family life lived with faith, love, and trust in God. The Holy Family is a model for all of us. Even in their challenges—like fleeing to Egypt or finding Jesus in the temple—they stayed united in faith and followed God's plan.

This Sunday also begins a special time for the Universal Church: the Jubilee of Hope. Hope is a gift from God that helps us trust in His goodness, even in hard times. Just as the Holy Family trusted God in their journey, we are invited to do the same in our lives. Let us open our hearts to this Jubilee, asking God to fill our families, our parish, and our world with hope.

As we approach the end of this year, it is good to pause and look back. What blessings has God given us in these past months? Perhaps He has helped us through difficult times, brought new friendships, or strengthened our families. Let us give thanks for His presence in our lives, even when we did not notice it. Gratitude helps us to see how much God has done for us and fills our hearts with peace.

We read in Psalm 107:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endures forever." I am very thankful for all those who have contributed their time, talent, and treasure over this past year to help build up our Cathedral parish. We have much to be grateful for in this past year and much to hope for in the New Year. Let us step into the new year with trust in God and hope in His promises.

Wishing you all a joyful and blessed Christmas season and a happy, healthy, and holy New Year, 2025!

In Christ Jesus,
Father Pen

Epiphany Home Blessing

For centuries, the Christmas season has been a time when Christians have their homes blessed.

A traditional way of doing this is by inscribing above the entrance door with blessed chalk:

20+CM+B+25

The numbers represent the new year (2025). The letters represent both the names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Bathasar) and the phrase "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which is Latin for "May Christ Bless the House."

If you would like to have your home blessed by one of our priests, please contact the parish offices.

Epiphany Party

Parishioners of the Cathedral and St. Alphonus are warmly invited to a festive catered dinner, followed by plenty of good cheer to bring a sparkling finish to the Christmas season!

Reservations are required and limited.

Please RSVP by December 27.

Drop a note in the collection basket, or call or email the parish office.



Saturday, January 4 | 7:00 p.m.
St. Alphonus Columbia Hall

Cathedral Maintenance Fund

Our beautiful Cathedral, rich in history and faith, is in need of some important repairs and upgrades to preserve its integrity for future generations. The Diocesan Office of Buildings and Properties and our Cathedral Finance Council has identified three critical maintenance projects that require attention:

Roof Repairs: A significant leak in the roof, especially problematic during strong winds, threatens further interior damage. The estimated repair is around \$145,000.

Wall Repairs: Cracked limestone near one of the transept windows needs urgent attention to prevent further deterioration. The estimated cost for this repair is \$9,680.

HVAC System Replacement: Our air conditioning system is aging, and the refrigerant it uses is now obsolete. The air handlers are nearing the end of their lifespan, with an estimated replacement cost of approximately \$250,000.

Your generous contributions will help us safeguard our Cathedral's future. Please consider making a donation towards these essential repairs. Every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



Eucharistic Adoration

This Friday, January 3 from 1:00pm-5pm

Eucharistic Adoration will begin immediately following the 12:05pm Mass and continue until our

Holy Hour of Reparation at 4:00pm, followed by Benediction. All are welcome to come and adore Our Lord!

• UPCOMING EVENTS •

December 28/29 - Blessing of Families, All Weekend Masses

December 29 - Opening Mass for Jubilee Year, 10:30am

January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 4 - Epiphany Party, 7:00pm, St. Alphonus Hall

January 5 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 5 - Epiphany Concert, 3pm

January 12 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

January 15 - Finance Council Meeting, 5pm

January 21 - Pastoral Council Meeting, 5pm

Parish Office Holiday Schedule

The parish offices will be closed December 23 through January 1, reopening on Thursday, January 2.

Thank you!

We are deeply grateful to everyone who helped decorate our church so beautifully this Christmas season. Your efforts have truly made our Cathedral a place of joy and reverence.

We also thank all who contributed to our Christmas Collections and Flower Donations. Your generosity has been a gift to our community, bringing warmth and beauty to our celebrations.

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly throughout the New Year!

Supporting Our Parish

Your Gift Makes a Difference

We are very grateful to those who are able to support the Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish. Your support allows us to continue our mission and provide vital ministries. Here are some simple ways to give:



Online: OSV Online Giving is a fast, secure, simple way to make your contributions. Visit www.saintjosephcathedral.com/giving



By Mail: Mail to Cathedral of St. Joseph 1218 Eoff Street, Wheeling, WV 26003



In Person: At Mass during the collection or dropped off at the parish offices.

COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE

December 22, 2024

Envelopes: \$1858 • Loose: \$1487 • Online: \$584

Total: \$3929

Christmas Flowers: \$2002

Maintenance Fund: \$2700

Attendance: 287

Thank you for your support!



SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of December 29

THIS SUNDAY

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14
Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
Colossians 3:12-21
Luke 2:41-52

MONDAY

1 John 2:12-17
Ps 96:7-8, 8-9, 10
Luke 2:36-40

TUESDAY

1 John 2:18-21
Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13
John 1:1-18

WEDNESDAY

Numbers 6:22-27
Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:16-21

THURSDAY

1 John 2:22-28
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4
John 1:19-28

FRIDAY

1 John 2:29—3:6
Ps 98:1, 3-4, 5-6
John 1:29-34

SATURDAY

1 John 3:7-10
Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9
John 1:35-42

NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

The readings are included each week so that those who are unable to join us for daily Mass will be able to consider and pray them in union with the whole Church.



What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the Biblical background for the Jubilee Year?

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word *yobel*, which is a ram's horn. This wind instrument is blown to mark the start of a Jubilee Year in the Bible (Leviticus 25:9). In the Bible the Jubilee Year occurred every 50 years and involved the cancelling of debts, a period of rest for people and the earth, and land being restored to the landless. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus makes clear his own mission is to bring Jubilee. In the synagogue at Nazareth he reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming the year of the Lord's favour: "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4:18-19) After reading, Jesus announces: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus shows us what God's Kingdom of justice, compassion and freedom looks like. He invites us join him in making it a reality.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is *Pilgrims of Hope*. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on January 6, 2026. Bishops around the world are asked to celebrate the opening in their dioceses at their cathedrals on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

What do Catholics do during a Jubilee Year?

The Jubilee Year is an opportunity to respond to God's call to turn to him and to pursue justice. In the Jubilee Year of 2000 many Christians joined together to call for cancellation of debt owed by the world's poorest countries. Often people will go on pilgrimage during a Jubilee year, to Rome or another holy site. Pope Francis writes: "Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life." (*Spees non confundit*, #5)

What is a Holy Door?

A Holy Door is one of the usually sealed entrances that lead into the major basilicas of Rome. The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is only during a Jubilee Year that these doors are opened.

GROUPS & MINISTRIES

A Concert for Christmas & Epiphany

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025 AT 3PM

CATHEDRAL OF SAINT JOSEPH
1300 EOFF STREET, WHEELING, WV



Featuring

Cathedral Schola • St. Michael Parish Handbell Choir
Katie Shaffer, flute • Erin Marion, oboe
Chad Carter, handbells • Robert Troeger, organ
Deborah Podolski Breiding, piano • Amanda Sable, vocalist
Christie Greenwood, vocalist • Braden Mills, vocalist

Free Admission

Donations will be accepted for the Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center



Cathedral of St. Joseph



SONS of SAINT JOSEPH

We invite all men in the community to join us in building authentic friendships with Christ and each other so that we can walk together in becoming the men he has called us to be.

Our Men's Group wishes everyone a very Happy and Holy New Year!

FORMATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • SERVICE

St. Monica Prayer Group

Wednesday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Join the St. Monica Prayer Group as we unite in prayer for loved ones who have wandered from the Faith.

St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry

May you find Christ's divinity in every circumstance in the year ahead.

Join us for our next meeting:

Tuesday, Jan. 7th at St. Alphonsus

6:00 p.m. pro-life rosary in the church;

6:30 p.m. meeting in Columbia Hall.

Faith Sharing Book Club

Monday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. in Rectory

Our Faith Sharing Book Club meets monthly to explore inspiring books, fostering faith, fellowship, and meaningful discussion. We are currently reading Adrienne von Speyr's "John : The Word Becomes Flesh" pages 100-204.



January 4/5 Liturgical Ministers Schedule

	Greeter	Altar Server	Reader	EMHC
Saturday 6:00 pm	Judy M. Ginny S.	Martin I.	Rose Marie C. Deirdre B.	Judy R. Paul R.
Sunday 8:00 am	Paul R. Debbie R.	Sarah M. Julia S.	Adrienne M. Elizabeth M.	Tamora M. Julia S.
Sunday 10:30 am	Linda F. Cheryl J.	The Brown Family Martin I.	Amy M. Richard M.	Bill H. Catherine L.

LIVING OUR FAITH

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Blanche Kirkland Joyce Hehr Pat Edmon
Joe Bechtel Marsha Bartlett

We are renewing our parish prayer list to ensure it reflects those currently in need of our prayers. Several names have remained on the list for a long time, and we want to make sure we are praying for those who still need our support. **If you or someone you know would like to be included on the prayer list, please e-mail tgreenwood@dwc.org.** Each name will remain on the list for about a month unless you specify otherwise. Thank you.

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION

January: For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit and bless this new year with Your grace. Guide our hearts in faith, our hands in service, and our lives in love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



This Christmas Season, We are Remembering the Little Souls Lost to Miscarriage.

Please know of our thoughts and prayers for you as you mourn the loss of your baby. We are here to support you and invite you to reach out to us.



Covenant Resources Miscarriage Ministry
P.O. Box 433, Greensburg, Indiana 47240
www.covenantresources.org
contactus@covenantresources.org
812 212 3463



Throughout the month of January, we give special honor to the Most Holy Name of Jesus. Saint Paul wrote to the Philippians: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:10-11). We hold the name of Jesus in special reverence. The very name of Jesus is a prayer.

A Way to Honor the Holy Name of Jesus

Adopt the pious practice (that used to be more widely practiced and is so meaningful and fitting) of bowing your head whenever you say or hear the name of Jesus (just as we should bow or genuflect before the Real Presence in the tabernacle or make a sign of the cross as we pass a Catholic Church). The Council of Lyons in 1274 stated: "Each should fulfill in himself that which is written for all, that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow; whenever that glorious Name is recalled, especially during the sacred Mysteries of the Mass, everyone should bow the knees of his heart, which he can do even by a bow of his head." This devotion also helps to make amends for blasphemous use of the Holy Name.

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 31 (Vigil)
6:00 PM

Wednesday, January 1
9:00 AM

Cathedral of St. Joseph



2024 Christmas Flowers


IN MEMORY OF

Dr. Joseph J. Agresta from Sara & Fred Risovich
Jane Altmeyer from Gene Jebbia
Steve Arnheim from Gene Jebbia
W. & F. Bala from Peter & Jo-Anne Bala
George & Margaret Batzer from Joseph Glorioso
Denzel & Jeri Bibey from Joyce & Lance Bibey
Maria Binst from Francis Goossens
The Boron Family from Paul & Kathy Boron
George & Mary Bridges from Diane & Thomas Fredericks
Chester & Virginia Bucon from Kenneth & Patricia Templeton
Walter & Viola Byrd from Br. John Byrd, FMS
Morrie Carlson from Amy Carlson Miesel
Hugh J. Carroll Family from Jim & Rose Marie Carroll
Mary Jane Clegg from Mary Ann Simmons
Gerard & Peg Cross from Susan Ehni
Tom & Bertha Cuffaro from Pete & Erin Cuffaro
The Davis Family from Clara & Jr. Weed
The DeBeni Family from Clara & Jr. Weed
The DeCicco Family from Rick & Jeanie Reddy
Noreen Ann Decker from TJ Decker
Lauren Michelle Decker from TJ Decker
Denzil & Helen Defibaugh from Libby & John Reasbeck
Dick Dei from Patti Dei
Monica Doodey from Rosella Gribben
Michael Doyle from Dan & Cindy Doyle
Elsie Elenri from Mike & Lynette Lemon
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Felton from Mr. & Mrs. Pat Felton
The Finke Family from Paul & Kathy Boron
Gene Franke from Charla Franke
Jack & Flo Glasgow from Charla Franke
John Glorioso from Joseph Glorioso
Joseph & Cecilia Glorioso from Joseph Glorioso
William & Sara Gompers from Tom & Lucille Gompers
Ludovicus Goossens from Francis Goossens
Nadine Greenwood from Tyler & Christie Greenwood
Tom Gribben from Rosella Gribben
Chris Gribben from Rosella Gribben
Francis Gust from Gregory Gust
George & Gladys Hersey from Donald Hersey
Harold & Joan Hill from Richard & Nannette Kennedy
The Jacovetty Family from Clara & Jr. Weed
Stephen Jasko, Sr. & Catherine Jasko from Steve & Karen Jasko
Eugen-Patricia Jebbia from Gene Jebbia
Jack & Evelyn Jochum from Todd & Patti Miller
Jack Jochum, Jr. from Todd & Patti Miller
Dick Jones from Cheryl Jones

Margaret Kreitzer from Elizabeth Burris
Albert Kreitzer from Elizabeth Burris
The LaFlam Family from Catherine LaFlam
Victoria Lemon from Mike & Lynette Lemon
Stanley & Marie Listuon from Tom & Lucille Gompers
Emme Gene Long from Pete & Erin Cuffaro
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Malek from Rita Malek
Barbara Maynard from Dan & Cindy Doyle
Barbara McGarvey from Diane & Thomas Fredericks
Chris Miller from Judy Miller
Harold & Idalu Miller from Todd & Patti Miller
William & Joan Miller Family from Paula Hill
Susan & Herbert Mize from Sara & Fred Risovich
Stefan & Lola Mosica from Jolanta Mosica
Patricia Oglinsky from Bob Oglinsky
Stanley Pacewicz from Rita Malek
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pasden from Mr. & Mrs. Pat Felton
Frank & Helen Pasden from Frank Pasden
The Rayman & Nickerson Families
Margaret Reasbeck from Libby & John Reasbeck
The Reddy Family from Rick & Jeanie Reddy
Mildred & Fred Risovich from Sara & Fred Risovich
Elizabeth Lynn Rowe from Joyce & Lance Bibey
Helen C. Rozanski from Br. John Byrd, FMS
Cora Ruftenberg from Gene Jebbia
John Ruggiero Family from Jim & Rose Marie Carroll
Nicholas Colin Sanders from Diane & Thomas Fredericks
John & Shirley Sheets from Julia Sheets
Terry Sheets from Julia Sheets
The Skrzypek Family from Rich & Fran Skrzypek
Roger Smith from Joyce & Lance Bibey
Jill Smith from Joyce & Lance Bibey
The Speaker Family from Catherine LaFlam
John Spiga, Jr. from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Powell & Family
The Spiga & Pabin Families from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Powell & Family
Charles & Penny Vance from Pete & Erin Cuffaro
Nancy L. Waller from Bill Waller
The Weed Family from Clara & Jr. Weed
Tom Witzberger from Gene Jebbia
Amy Woodard from Barbara Lohr
Don & Toby Woodland from Bethany Wayble
Craig Woodland from Bethany Wayble
Lindsay Nicole Yochum from Mr. & Mrs. Pete Yochum
John Zohn from Rosella Gribben

IN HONOR OF

The Wedding of Thomas Minor & Daisy Reasbeck
from Bryan & Maria Minor



*Thank you to everyone who donated the Christmas flowers
which adorn our Cathedral this holy season.*



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIocese of WHEELING-CHARLESTON

1311 BYRON STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 230
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003

Christmas Message, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we all have memories of Christmas: presents we eagerly opened as children, traveling to see relatives out of state, decorating the Christmas tree, going to and maybe serving Christmas Masses. But the most important memory surely is the child lying in the manger.

Whether we see him in a small creche in our home or a larger one in our parish church, the Christ Child reminds us of the true meaning of our Christmas celebrations: the Son of God was sent by the Father to become man, being “born of the Virgin Mary” (the Apostles’ Creed).

As we sing in the carol “Silent Night,” Christ’s birth was “the dawn of redeeming grace,” for he would free us from sin by his sacrifice on the cross. But he was born for more: as Charles Wesley, who wrote “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” put it, Christ was “born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.” He rose from death to enable all men and women to inherit the fullness of eternal life through their resurrection from the dead.

Christmas, then, points to Good Friday and Easter. We rejoice when a baby is born but this baby was different. He came into the world to save us from the enemies we cannot defeat on our own: sin and death. Let’s not sentimentalize Christmas. The baby whose arms stretched out to embrace Mary and Joseph and welcome the shepherds would later be stretched out on the cross to embrace the whole world. He was born that we might die to sin; he died that we might rise to new life; he rose to restore a renewed creation to his Father.

Rejoice not so much that Christ was born, as you were. Rejoice that he was born to do what you could never do. Rejoice that you have a Savior who loves you so much that he would humble himself to be born in humility, suffer for us all and open for us the path to heaven. As you “toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow” (“It Came upon a Midnight Clear”), remember what the angels sang at his birth: “Peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests.” His favor rests on you! Merry Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,

+Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston



Christmas

AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

Choral Prelude at 5:30 p.m.

VIGIL MASS OF CHRISTMAS

6:00 p.m.

Choral Prelude at 11:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Sunday, December 29

Masses: 6:00 p.m. (Saturday) and 8:00 a.m.

OPENING MASS OF THE JUBILEE YEAR: 10:30 A.M.

Blessing of Families at all Masses

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, January 1

Vigil Mass at 6:00 p.m. (Tuesday, December 31)

Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Day of Obligation

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 5

Masses: 6:00 p.m. (Saturday), 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Epiphany Party: Saturday at 7:00 p.m. (St. Alphonsus Hall)

Concert: Sunday at 3:00 p.m. (Cathedral)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Sunday, January 12

Masses: 6:00 p.m. (Saturday), 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Revival



Monica prayed for Augustine. Ambrose accompanied him. Who will you walk with?

Everyone is called to evangelize, and it's not as hard as you might think. *Walk With One* is your opportunity to be God's instrument in the life of another person—someone whom Jesus longs to bring into relationship with himself and his Church.

Learn more about this initiative, access resources, and receive prayer support at eucharisticrevival.org/walk-with-one.

Scan the QR code to get started!

