

# THE Cathedral Courier

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

4 May 2025



*Third Sunday of Easter*

SCENE FROM TODAY'S GOSPEL • 1580 • CEILING OF THE VATICAN MUSEUMS

# 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](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.com)

### CLERGY

#### PASTOR

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan  
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

#### RECTOR

Rev. Pen (Penumaka Manikyalarao)  
[pmanikyalarao@dwc.org](mailto:pmanikyalarao@dwc.org)

#### VICE-RECTOR

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### STAFF

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### 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](http://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 incident 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](http://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: 11:00 am to 11:45 am  
Saturday: 11:00 am to 12 Noon  
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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.saintjosephcathedral.com)



@wheelingcathedral



@wheelingcathedral



[cathedralofstjoseph1.flocknote.com](https://cathedralofstjoseph1.flocknote.com)

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



# Masses & Schedule

May 4 - 11, 2025

## SUN 4 Third Sunday of Easter

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for + John Petrella  
8:00 am Mass for the Parishioners  
9:00 am Faith Sharing Book Club (*Rectory*)  
10:30 am Mass for + Jack & Evelyn Jochum  
May Crowning

## MON 5 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for + Nadine Greenwood

## TUE 6 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for + John Petrella  
6:00 pm St. Gianna Pro-Life Group (*St. Alphonsus*)  
7:30 pm Young Adult Bible Study (*Parish Office*)

## WED 7 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for + Samuel and Assunta DeFazio  
& Deceased Family Members  
7:00 pm St. Monica Prayer Group (*St. Alphonsus*)  
7:00 pm Sons of St. Joseph (*Chancery Cantina*)

## THU 8 Easter Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for + Wib Breiding

## FRI 9 Easter Weekday

11:00 am Confessions  
12:05 pm Mass for the Chapman/Owens Family

## SAT 10 Optional Memorials of St. John of Avila; St. Damien de Veuster

9:00 am Mass for + Carole Hendricks  
11:00 am Confessions  
5:00 pm Confessions  
6:00 pm Mass for + Martin Blanchette

## SUN 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Mass for + Theresa Shutler  
10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners  
Confirmation Mass

# RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

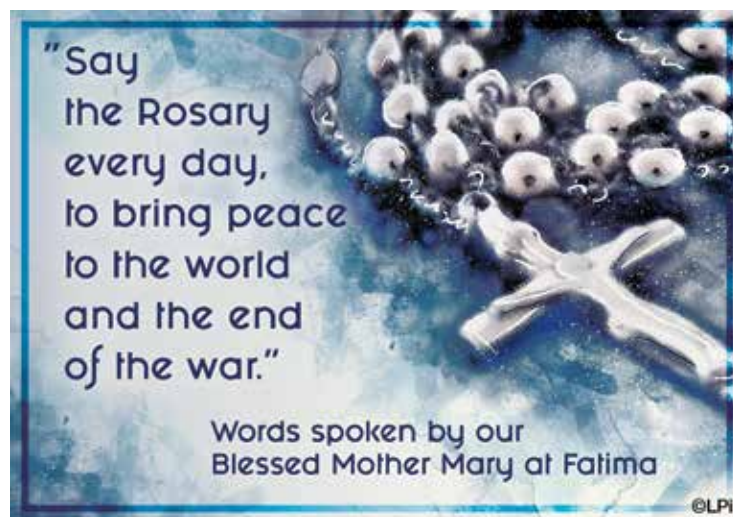
In today's powerful Gospel (John 21:1-19), the Risen Jesus appears to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. After a miraculous catch of fish, He shares a simple breakfast with them. Then, turning to Peter, Jesus asks him three times, "Do you love me?" With each response, Jesus entrusts Peter with a sacred mission: "Feed my lambs... tend my sheep... feed my sheep." This moment of healing and commissioning is deeply personal for Peter, and it is also the foundation of his role as shepherd of the Church.

This week, we are living the meaning of this Gospel in a profound way. On Wednesday, the Papal Conclave will begin, as the College of Cardinals gathers to choose a new Successor of St. Peter. We continue to pray for the soul of Pope Francis, who served the Church with humility and strength. Now, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide the Cardinals in selecting a new pope—one who will love Christ deeply and shepherd His flock with courage, wisdom, and mercy. Let us unite our prayers with the whole Church in these important days.

We also have just begun the Month of May, traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary. At the conclusion of our 10:30 a.m. Mass this weekend, we will celebrate our May Crowning, honoring Mary as Queen of Heaven and Mother of the Church. Mary always leads us closer to her Son, and we ask for her prayers especially during this time of transition in the Church.

This Easter season reminds us that the Lord is risen, present, and calling us—just as He called Peter—to love Him and to follow Him. Let us listen to His voice, remain faithful in prayer, and trust in His promise to be with His Church always.

In the Risen Lord,  
*Father Pen*



**During the month of May, the Holy Rosary will be prayed Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Join us in honoring Our Blessed Mother through this powerful devotion.**



## Investiture Weekend with the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre

It was a tremendous honor for our Cathedral to host the Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for their Investiture Weekend on April 25 and 26. We witnessed a beautiful expression of faith, devotion, and commitment to the Church and the Holy Land. We are grateful for the opportunity to welcome the Knights, Dames, and guests, and we continue to pray for them as they carry out their noble mission!



**We Reached Our Goal!  
Now Every Gift Comes Back to Us!**

**Thanks to your generosity, our Cathedral has met its \$16,400 goal for the Catholic Sharing Appeal!** But there's still every reason to give—from this point forward, every dollar donated comes directly back to support our parish. Your continued support will help us fund important projects and ministries right here at home. You can give securely using the QR code below, place your pledge card in the collection basket, or mail it in. Thank you for helping us grow in faith and service!



**To make a secure online donation in support of the Catholic Sharing Appeal, please scan this QR code using the camera on your smartphone or device.**

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

- May 6** - Pastoral Council Meeting, 5pm
- May 6** - St. Gianna Pro-Life Group, 6pm
- May 7** - St. Monica Prayer Group, 6pm
- May 8** - Invite One Back Meeting, 2pm
- May 11** - Confirmation Mass, 10:30am
- May 11** - Mother's Day Lunch, 12 Noon
- May 13** - Rosary Procession, 7pm
- May 27** - Finance Council Meeting, 5pm
- June 1** - Ascension of the Lord
- June 8** - Pentecost Sunday

## Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process through which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church through prayer, study, and community. Whether you're unbaptized, baptized in another Christian tradition, or simply curious about the Catholic faith, OCIA is a grace-filled journey of discovery and conversion. **If you or someone you know is interested in learning more, please contact the parish office at 304-233-4121 or e-mail [tgreenwood@dwc.org](mailto:tgreenwood@dwc.org).** We'd be honored to walk with you on this path of faith.

## Support Our Music Ministry

**Next weekend, a special collection will be taken to benefit the Cathedral's Music program.** Music plays a vital role in lifting our hearts to God and enhancing the beauty and reverence of our liturgies—especially here at the Cathedral, where sacred music is an essential part of our worship and spiritual identity. Your generous support helps us continue this important ministry. Thank you for your support.

## 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](http://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

**April 27, 2025**

Envelopes: \$1709 • Loose: \$1159 • Online: \$788 • Total: \$3656  
Maintenance Fund \$5250

Attendance: 243

**Thank you for your generous support!**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Week of May 4

#### THIS SUNDAY

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41  
Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

#### MONDAY

Acts 6:8-15  
Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30  
John 6:22-29

#### TUESDAY

Acts 7:51—8:1  
Ps 31:3-4, 6, 7, 17, 21  
John 6:30-35

#### WEDNESDAY

Acts 8:1-8  
Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7  
John 6:35-40

#### THURSDAY

Acts 8:25-40  
Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20  
John 6:44-51

#### FRIDAY

Acts 9:1-20  
Ps 117:1, 2  
John 6:52-59

#### SATURDAY

Acts 9:31-42  
Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17  
John 6:60-69

#### NEXT SUNDAY

Acts 13:14, 43-52  
Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5  
Revelation 7:9, 14-17  
John 10:27-30

*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.*

# Homily on the Dedication of the Cathedral

Given by Fr. John Soplinski, Vice-Rector on Monday, April 28, 2025

We celebrate, a week onward, the 99th Anniversary of the Dedication of this magnificent Cathedral of St. Joseph. It is truly humbling to be able to celebrate Mass here on a regular basis.

In the last 11 months, it has hosted the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, has seen baptisms, weddings—beautiful liturgies marking the Incarnation, Nativity, Passion, death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ—and has bid farewell to two faithful priests and to a number of her faithful parishioners.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph was built to, in the words of Archbishop John J. Swint, “be symbolic of all the Catholic Church stands for in the state of West Virginia.” It has continued to stand as a beacon in downtown Wheeling. It is always in need of maintenance, as so many of you have generously donated to the projects, then and now, that allow this impeccable structure to continue to gleam.

When I was ordained here, a half a dozen of my classmates, hailing from D.C., Baltimore, and Peoria—seeing it for the first time, were left in awe at her beauty. This emotion was echoed by the many travelers who came for the Eucharistic procession, and, who

saw the Cathedral on television or the internet and made a pilgrimage to our Cathedral. The Jubilee year of Hope, that Pope Francis inaugurated in December, our Cathedral being an official pilgrimage site, has seen more visitors, including this past weekend when the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem held their investiture here in Wheeling, who have made a point to find Fr. Pen or myself to praise the beauty of Edward Weber’s design. We have had many tours, many led by Deacon Jacob Manning, which captivated Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

In short, Archbishop Swint’s vision, that the Cathedral was not for 100 years, which we will celebrate next year, but was to be for many generations of Catholics in our State, the beacon of the Church founded upon Christ and promulgated by the Apostles, it is to be our home. May we, who are blessed to worship here regularly, never take for granted her beauty. And may we always praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who looks down on us from the apse, with arms widespread...for providentially caring for His Church in West Virginia.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

## In Memoriam: Fr. Mario Claro (1940–2025)

We are saddened to share the news of the passing of Fr. Mario Richard Claro, who faithfully served as Rector of the Cathedral of Saint Joseph from 1996 to 2001. Fr. Claro died on April 23, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, and ordained a priest for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in 1972, Fr. Claro served the Church with joy and dedication for over five decades. His priestly ministry included many parish assignments throughout the diocese, as well as a time of missionary service in Belize. During his tenure as Rector of our Cathedral, he was known for his warm pastoral presence and reverence for the liturgy.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 29 in Staunton, Virginia.



A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral near the end of May. Details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Let us give thanks for the gift of Fr. Mario’s priesthood and for his service to our Cathedral as we pray for the blessed repose of his soul.

# GROUPS & MINISTRIES



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.

**Formation Evening**  
7:00 p.m. in Chancery Cantina

FORMATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • SERVICE

## Adult Faith Formation



*Hearts on Fire* is our adult faith formation series, created to spark a deeper love for Christ and His Church through engaging study and meaningful conversation.

**We are currently working our way through a three-week series focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Through art, global perspectives, and cultural insights, we'll explore her powerful role in the life of the Church and in the hearts of the faithful around the world.

Stay tuned for information on our next course!

## Young Adults Bible Study



**Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. | Parish Offices**

Join our Young Adults Bible Study for inspiring discussions, meaningful fellowship, and an opportunity to grow in faith!

## St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry



**You're Invited!**  
Join us for the finale of our spiritual adoption prayer ministry!

You've been praying a baby safely to birth since September. Now, our baby shower will gift local pregnancy ministries!

When: immediately after 10:30 mass, Sunday, May 18th.  
Where: Cathedral courtyard (rain location: Chancery)  
Ushers will collect baby goods during the offering!

**Join us this Tuesday, May 6 at St. Alphonsus.  
Rosary at 6:00 p.m. followed by 6:30 p.m. meeting.**

## Faith Sharing Book Club



**Sunday, May 4 at 9:00 a.m. | Rectory**

Our book club provides a unique opportunity for parishioners to come together and explore the richness of Catholic literature and spiritual writings.

*Save the Date!*

# FATHER'S DAY STEAK FRY

Celebrating all the Fathers, Sons and Brothers of our Parish!

Saturday, June 14, 2025  
Cathedral of Saint Joseph Courtyard

More information coming soon!

GRACE

## St. Monica Prayer Group

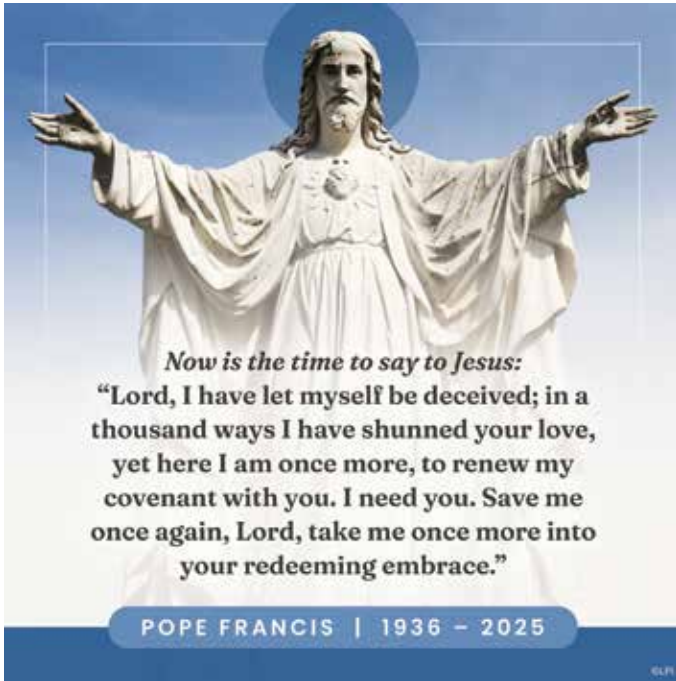
**Wednesday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. | St. Alphonsus Hall**

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

## May 10/11 Liturgical Ministers Schedule

	Greeter	Altar Server	Reader	EMHC
<b>Saturday 8:30 pm</b>	Br. John B. Jennifer W.	Martin I. Stephen L.	Charla F. Br. John B.	Paul R. Judy R.
<b>Sunday 8:00 am</b>	Paul B. Kathleen B.	Tamora M. Julia S.	Mark B. Philippa S.	Julia S. Philippa S.
<b>Sunday 10:30 am</b>	Sarah C. Catherine L.	The Brown Family Liam G. Martin I.	Confirmandi	Debbie T. Nick T.
<b>Collection Counters for this Week</b>		Leslie M., Deb. Y.		

# LIVING OUR FAITH



The month of May is the “month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady,” and it is the occasion for a “moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God’s mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance” (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).

This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion.

The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

## Ways to Honor Our Lady

- Learn or pray a new Marian devotion (Regina Caeli, Litany of Loreto, Novenas to Our Lady, etc.)
- Decorate a statue of Our Lady with flowers
- Imitate Mary’s deep humility, obedience, and faith

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord, Eternal Shepherd, watch over Your Church as the Cardinals prepare to elect a new Pope. Grant them wisdom, courage, and unity, that they may choose a holy man after Your own Heart. May this new Shepherd lead us ever closer to You.

### *Please remember in your prayers:*

Blanche Kirkland	Maria Workman	Pete Cuffaro
Joe Bechtel	Marsha Bartlett	Our Homebound
Joyce Hehr	Millie Kirkpatrick	Parishioners
Laine Castello	Pat Edmon	Pope Francis

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St. Nunzio Sulprizio (1817-1836)

*Feast Day: May 5*

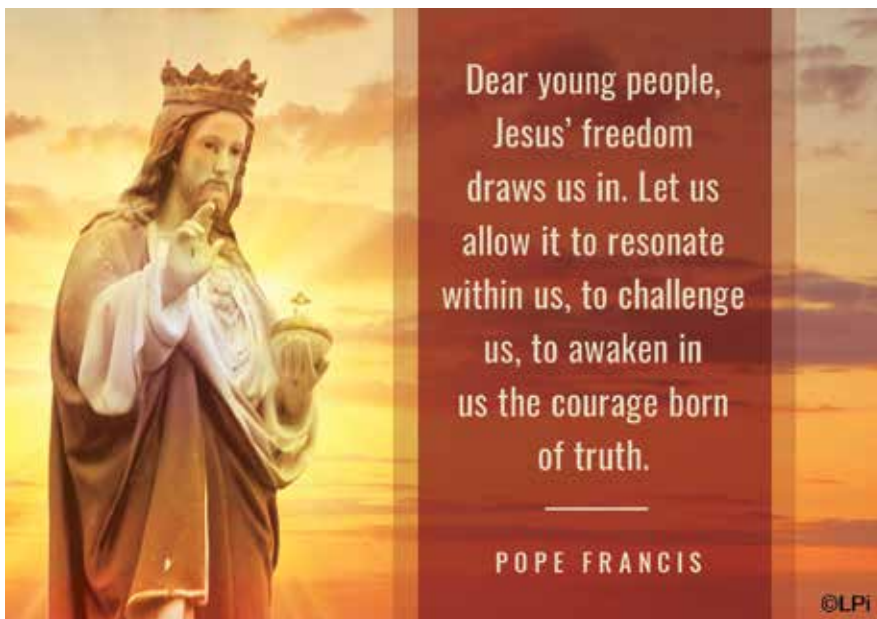
Saint Nunzio Sulprizio was an Italian layman known for his deep faith and patient endurance of suffering. Born on April 13, 1817, in Pescosansonesco, Italy, Nunzio faced hardships early in life. Orphaned by the age of six, he was taken in by his maternal uncle, a blacksmith who subjected him to harsh labor and mistreatment. The strenuous work led to a severe leg injury, later diagnosed as gangrene, causing him immense pain.



Despite his suffering, Nunzio remained devoted to God, often praying and offering his pain for the conversion of sinners. He was eventually hospitalized in Naples, where he continued to inspire others with his serenity and faith. Nunzio died on May 5, 1836, at the age of 19.

Recognized for his virtuous life, he was beatified by Pope Paul VI on December 1, 1963, and canonized by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018. His feast day is celebrated on May 5. Saint Nunzio Sulprizio is the patron saint of the disabled, workers, and blacksmiths.

Let us look to Saint Nunzio as a model of youthful holiness and trust in God amidst adversity. Saint Nunzio Sulprizio, pray for us!



## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

### Catholic Life Explained:

*Responding to God*

#### Question:

I feel a nudge from God to something out of the ordinary. How do I respond?

#### Answer:

You're in good company! Abraham was asked to leave all he knew and loved for a strange land, with only abstract divine assurance that such a sacrifice would be worth it. Plenty of prophets protested against God's call, whether it was claiming they were too young (Jeremiah) or running away entirely, only to end up in a whale's belly (Jonah). St. Joseph was asked to do something very strange. He was asked to believe — on the word of an angelic appearance in a dream — that his betrothed was pregnant not from another man, but by a miraculous intervention of God. Then he was called to marry her.

Author Flannery O'Connor once wrote, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you odd." Sometimes God's invitation might seem strange or challenging. It might require sacrifices we never expected to make. Our life might look different than we had always imagined. But as we all know, life throws its own curveballs, regardless of whether or not we're listening for God's will. Better, one would think, to be open to the promptings of God and to follow along the strange trails that they lead. We have the assurance that, eventually, we will find green pastures.

*If you have a question you'd like answered, please email [tgreenwood@dwc.org](mailto:tgreenwood@dwc.org).*

## ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES

Prayer Event Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>

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/>.**



## CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE FUND

Our beautiful Cathedral, rich in history and faith, needs essential repairs to preserve it for future generations. Three critical projects have been identified:

**Roof Repairs:** A major leak threatens interior damage — estimated at \$145,000

**Wall Repairs:** Cracked limestone near a transept window needs urgent repair — \$9,680

**HVAC Replacement:** Our aging system and obsolete refrigerant require full replacement — \$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.

**So far we have received \$25,348 in donations. Thank you for your support!**

# Awaiting a New Pope

## *A Time of Prayer and Hope*

The election of a new Supreme Pontiff is a moment of profound significance for the Church and the world, reminding us of Christ's enduring promise to guide His Church through the successors of Peter. As the Conclave begins this Wednesday, May 7, Cardinals from around the world will enter the Sistine Chapel and begin the sacred task of electing the next Vicar of Christ. In complete seclusion and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Cardinal electors will cast their votes in secrecy until one man receives a two-thirds majority. Once a new Pope is chosen, he will step out onto the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and be introduced to the world with the joyful words *Habemus Papam*—"We have a Pope!"

As Catholics, we are invited to enter into this moment with sincere prayer and hopeful anticipation. Let us pray fervently during these days, asking the Holy Spirit to inspire and guide the Cardinals in unity and wisdom. May the man who emerges from the Conclave embrace the heart of a shepherd and lead the Church with fidelity, humility, and courage. Together, we join our voices with the universal Church in this time of transition, echoing a prayer that rises from hearts around the world: *Come, Holy Spirit!*

## A Prayer for the Conclave

Heavenly Father,  
we pray in union with the whole Church  
for the descent of the Holy Spirit  
upon the Cardinals.  
May the Princes of the Church  
listen attentively to Your Spirit  
during the conclave.

Almighty God,  
we pray that the conclave brings us a  
Pope who pleases You by guiding Your  
Church to grow in faithfulness to You.  
We pray together with the intercession  
of our Mother Mary and all the Saints.  
Please Lord, protect and guide your  
Church during this time of transition.  
Amen.

# Inside the Conclave

The world watches with interest as cardinals gather in conclave - literally under lock and key - to elect the next pope. The rarity of the event, the ceremony and secrecy add to the intrigue.

## Sistine Chapel

The centuries-old chapel adorned with Michaelangelo's frescoes has been the site of every papal election since 1878.

Its Marble floor is covered with wood. The windows and doors are shut as the Master of Papal Liturgical Ceremonies exclaims, "Extra omnes!" ("Everybody else, out!")

A sweep is performed for electronic devices, even on the electors.

## Cardinal Electors

Placing a hand on the Gospels, each one swears to uphold the rules and secrecy of the conclave. Any communication with people outside is forbidden. They may not receive messages or news.

Cardinals under the age of 80 when the see became vacant may vote in the conclave. There are 135 eligible cardinals at this time.

## Ballots and Voting

Votes are handwritten and cast individually into special urns. The top of the ballot reads "Eligo in Summun Pontificem" ("I elect as the Supreme Pontiff").

Ballots are counted by three "scrutineers." The work is checked by three "revisers." The ballot counters and verifiers are chosen by lot at the start of the conclave.

One round of voting is expected the first day. Each day after, two votes are taken in the morning and two votes in the afternoon until a successful vote. Should the conclave extend longer than 4 days, the electors will spend additional time in prayer and discussion before voting resumes.

A two-thirds majority is required to elect the new pope.



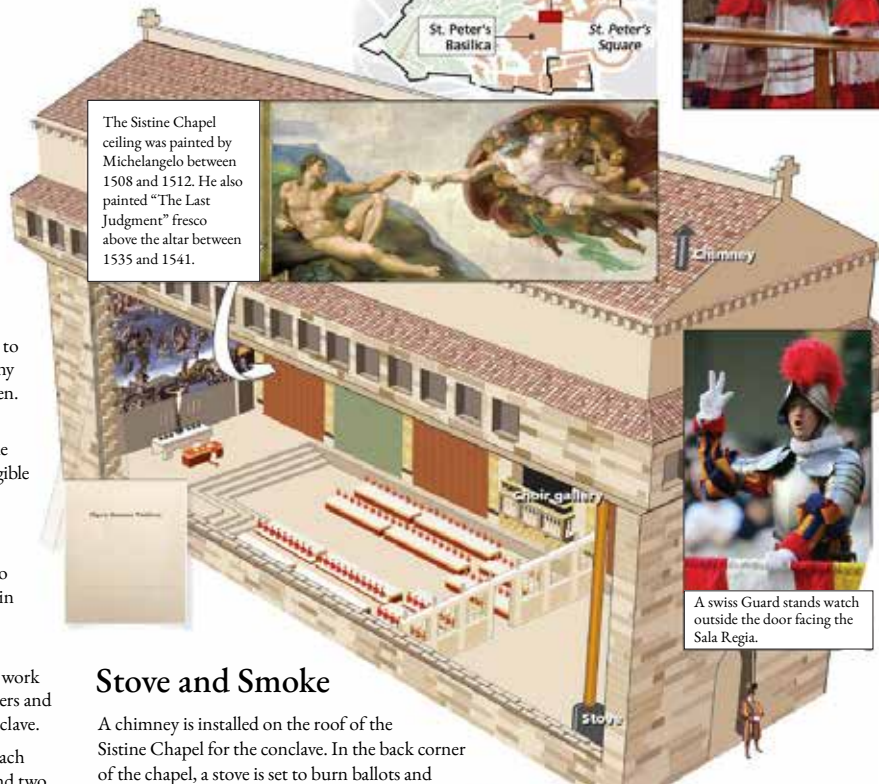
United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops



Catholic  
News  
Service



The Sistine Chapel ceiling was painted by Michelangelo between 1508 and 1512. He also painted "The Last Judgment" fresco above the altar between 1535 and 1541.



During the conclave, cardinals stay in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, a guesthouse on the edge of Vatican City. They take short bus rides or walk to their sessions.



A Swiss Guard stands watch outside the door facing the Sala Regia.

## How Long Will It Last?

The last seven conclaves lasted only a few days.

Pope	Days	Ballots
Francis	2	5
Benedict XVI	2	4
John Paul II	2	8
John Paul I	1	4
Paul VI	2	6
John XXIII	3	11
Pius XII	1	3

## Stove and Smoke

A chimney is installed on the roof of the Sistine Chapel for the conclave. In the back corner of the chapel, a stove is set to burn ballots and related papers, including notes taken by the electors, each morning and afternoon.

If balloting is not successful, the smoke burns black with the help of an added chemical.

If balloting is successful, a chemical is added to produce the celebratory white smoke - the signal that the Church has a new pope.



## "Habemus Papam"

The one who is elected is asked if he accepts the election as pope. If he accepts, he chooses the name he will take. From the central balcony of St. Peter's basilica, the senior cardinal deacon proclaims, "Habemus papam!" ("We have a pope!"), and announces his name. The new pontiff appears on the balcony and imparts his first papal blessing.



# Rosary Procession

Join us in prayer as we honor  
Our Lady of Fatima with a  
Rosary Procession for our Church,  
our world, and our families.

*Tuesday, May 13*

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

*7:00 pm*

**Begins at  
ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH**

**Ends with Holy Mass at the  
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH**

**SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE**

Runs from the Cathedral to St. Alphonsus (6:15 - 6:50 pm)  
and returns after Mass.



**OFFICIAL KICKOFF**

**Rosary Crusade for Vocations in WV**

May 13, 2025 - May 13, 2026

We encourage you to support our sponsors!



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