

THE Cathedral Courier

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

30 November 2025



First Sunday of Advent

HOLY MASS

SUNDAY

7:30 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

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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 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 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

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. John Soplinski, the Diocesan Director of Vocations at jsoplinski@dwc.org or (304) 233-4121.

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



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cathedralofstjoseph1.flocknote.com

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



Masses & Schedule

November 30 -
December 7, 2025

SUN
30

First Sunday of Advent

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners
7:30 am Mass for + Ross Felton
9:00 am OCIA (*Cantina*)
10:30 am Mass for + Nepomuceno Dario
12:00 pm Thanksgiving Potluck (*Great Hall*)
6:00 pm Sung Vespers

MON
1

Advent Weekday Month of the Divine Infancy

12:05 pm Mass for + Joseph Truini

TUE
2

Advent Weekday

12:05 pm Mass for + James Leahy
6:00 pm St. Gianna Pro-Life Group (*St. Alphonsus*)

WED
3

Memorial of St. Francis Xavier

12:05 pm Mass for + Chapman/Owens Family
7:00 pm St. Monica Prayer Group (*St. Alphonsus*)
7:00 pm Sons of St. Joseph (*Chancery Cantina*)

THU
4

Optional Memorial of St. John Damascene

12:05 pm Mass for + Evelyn Ghaphery

FRI
5

Advent Weekday First Friday

11:00 am Confessions
12:05 pm Mass for + Daniel Krulcik
12:45 pm Eucharistic Adoration Begins
4:00 pm Holy Hour of Reparation & Benediction

SAT
6

Optional Memorial of St. Nicholas First Saturday

9:00 am Mass for + Rev. Thomas Magary
10:00 am Rosary Altar Society
11:00 am Confessions
6:00 pm Mass for + John Petrella

SUN
7

Second Sunday of Advent

7:30 am Mass for the Parishioners
9:00 am OCIA (*Cantina*)
10:30 am Mass for + Thomas Gompers
6:00 pm Sung Vespers

**The Rosary is prayed Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.
and on Saturday following the 9:00 a.m. Mass.
Please join us as we pray especially for
an increase in vocations in our diocese.**

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Today we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent, a time of watchfulness, prayer, and renewal. The Lord calls each of us to begin again, to prepare our hearts for His coming, and to live with a deeper sense of hope and faith. Advent is not only a countdown to Christmas; it is a sacred time of spiritual awakening, inviting us to open our hearts to God's mercy and to make room for Christ in every part of our lives.

As we enter these four holy weeks, we also draw near to the close of the Jubilee Year of Hope, which concludes at the end of December.

Throughout this special year, the Church has reminded us that hope is not simply optimism, but confidence rooted in the promises of God. Even in uncertainty, the Lord is near. Advent renews that same hope - that Christ who once came in humility will come again in glory, and that He desires to be born anew in each of our hearts.

This is a wonderful moment to recommit ourselves to prayer, to the sacraments, and to acts of love. Take time to quiet your heart and reflect on the words of Scripture each day. Let this season not rush by as simply another part of the busy year, but be truly a time of grace — a time to begin again in faith, in hope, and in love.

May this Advent season help us to draw closer to Jesus, the true Light who shines in the darkness, and may the spirit of hope continue to fill our Cathedral parish, our families, and our world.

In Christ,
Father Pen



Angel Tree

Christmas Giving Program

Angel Tree in the narthex
starting November 22/23

PLEASE RETURN GIFTS BY DEC. 9
To Cathedral Sacristy or Parish Offices

Help us spread Christmas joy by choosing a tag from our Angel Tree.

Please return the tags with wrapped gifts or gift cards.



Advent

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 30

Masses: 6:00 PM (Saturday), 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Blessing of Advent Wreath at 6:00 PM Mass
Vespers: 6:00 PM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 7

Masses: 6:00 PM (Saturday), 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Vespers: 6:00 PM

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, December 8

Masses: 12:05 PM and 6:00 PM
Holy Day of Obligation

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 14

Masses: 6:00 PM (Saturday), 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Vespers: 6:00 PM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 21

Masses: 6:00 PM (Saturday), 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM
Blessing of Bambinelli during Masses
Decorating for Christmas: 12 NOON
Vespers: 6:00 PM

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Penance Service: Thursday, December 11 at 6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 24 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM



• UPCOMING EVENTS •

November 30 - Thanksgiving Potluck, following 10:30am Mass

Sundays of Advent - Sung Vespers, 6:00pm

December 5 - First Friday Adoration, 12:45pm-5:00pm

December 6/7 - Angel Tree Gift Return

December 8 - Immaculate Conception Mass, 12:05pm & 6:00pm

December 11 - Advent Penance Service, 6:00pm

December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, 6:00pm

December 21 - Decorating the Church for Christmas

December 24 - Confessions, 1:00pm-3:00pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve Mass, 6:00pm

December 25 - Christmas Midnight Mass

December 25 - Christmas Day Mass, 10:30am

December 28 - Closing Mass for Jubilee Year, 10:30am

December 31 - Confessions, 2:00pm-3:30pm

December 31 - Vigil Mass for Mary, Mother of God, 6:00pm

January 1 - Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 10:30am

January 4 - Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 4 - Epiphany Party, 3:00pm, St. Alphonsus Hall

January 12 - Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Advent Prayer Exchange

As we journey through this holy season of Advent, our Cathedral parish invites you to participate in a special way of preparing our hearts for Christ's coming. At Mass this weekend, each person will receive the name of a fellow parishioner to hold in prayer throughout Advent.

This isn't a gift exchange—it's something much more meaningful. By offering the gift of prayer, we're giving one another the greatest gift of all: spiritual support and unity in Christ. Let's make this Advent a season of deeper connection through prayer, as we prepare together for the joy of Christmas!

Eucharistic Adoration

This Friday, December 5 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 the Lord, even if only for a few minutes during the day.

Scholarship Applications

A second round of scholarship applications are now available for new applicants attending a 2 or 4 year college or Wheeling Central Catholic High School. Please see the forms in the back of the church for more information.

COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE

November 23, 2025

Envelopes: \$1858 • Loose: \$681 • Online: \$633 • Total: \$3172

Centennial Campaign: \$986 • Maintenance: \$200

Attendance: 283

Thank you for your generous support!



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of November 30

THIS SUNDAY

Isaiah 2:1-5
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

MONDAY

Isaiah 2:1-5
Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Matthew 8:5-11

TUESDAY

Isaiah 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, -8, 12-13, 17
Luke 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY

Isaiah 25:6-10
Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
Matthew 15:29-37

THURSDAY

Isaiah 26:1-6
Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY

Isaiah 29:17-24
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Matthew 9:27-31

SATURDAY

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Matthew 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY

Isaiah 11:1-10
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

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.

Advent: A Season of Prayer and Renewal A Quiet Journey Towards the Manger

As the Church enters the holy season of Advent, we are invited to slow our pace and ready our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is not simply the beginning of another liturgical year. It is a deliberate spiritual pause that calls us to prepare inwardly for the Lord who draws near.

Return to the Heart of the Season

The weeks before Christmas can easily become crowded with activity, yet Advent encourages us to turn our attention toward the humble mystery of the Nativity. God chose to enter the world in simplicity and poverty. He came to us as a child resting in a manger. When we remember this truth, our priorities begin to shift.

A simple way to keep the season's focus is to place an empty manger or a small stable scene somewhere visible in the home. Let it serve as a daily invitation to prayer and reflection. This small space reminds us that we are waiting for Christ, and that the waiting changes us.

Receive the Gift of the Incarnate Lord

The birth of Jesus reveals the depth of God's love. He took on our humanity so that we might share in His divine life. The Child of Bethlehem is also the Savior who embraces our suffering and our weaknesses in order to redeem them.

During Advent, we can respond to this love through simple acts of charity. A thoughtful gesture, a word of encouragement, a small sacrifice for the good of another captures the spirit of the season. These quiet offerings become our way of preparing a place for Christ within us.

Strengthen Prayer and Participation in the Sacraments

Advent gains its meaning when it is lived with prayer. The Mass invites us to watch for the Lord with renewed attention. The

Rosary, especially the Joyful Mysteries, helps us reflect on the unfolding grace of the Incarnation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also a powerful way to enter this season. In confession we meet the Savior who heals



and restores us. Many people also pray the Saint Andrew Christmas Novena (see page 7), beginning on November 30. It is a beautiful way to keep our hearts lifted toward the moment when Christ first entered our world.

Live Advent with Hope and Joy

Even as Advent calls for quiet preparation, it is filled with deep joy. We are not waiting for a distant or forgotten event. We are preparing to welcome the Lord who is already near and who continues to work in our lives.

Let this season draw you closer to the manger. Let it bring peace to your home and renewal to your spirit. Approach Christmas with a heart that has been made ready through prayer, generosity, and hope.

"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

- Pope Benedict XVI

GROUPS & MINISTRIES



BAKING SPIRITS
bright
COOKIE EXCHANGE
Saturday, December 13th, 12 Noon
The Bugaj Home
60 East Cardinal Ave.
Hosted by Patti, Deb & Stephanie

**Bake a batch of your favorite Christmas Cookies!
Please bring at least 2 dozen in packages of 4!**

sisters in
GRACE
CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH
1870 2024

St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry

Help us create a culture of life in Wheeling!



Donate to our new mobile baby pantry:

St. Gianna's Goods on the Go!

We'll be making regular deliveries of baby, toddler, and maternity supplies to parents at public housing and service organizations.

Contact: Amy Carlson Miesel
(304) 312-9051 or
Jennie Adams (304) 281-1349

St. Monica Prayer Group

Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m. | St. Alphonsus

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

Rosary Altar Society

Saturday, December 6 after 9am Mass & Rosary

We foster devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through prayer, care for the altar and sanctuary, and service to the Cathedral family.



Faith Sharing Book Club

Sunday, December 7 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.



Catholics in Recovery

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. | St. Alphonsus Hall

This program offers support for those facing addictions and unhealthy attachments of any kind. Come for yourself or someone you love who is struggling. *For more information, please e-mail Fr. John Soplinski at jsoplinski@dwc.org or call the parish office at 304-233-4121.*



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.

Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 p.m.
Formation: A Reflection on Advent
Chancery Cantina

FORMATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • SERVICE

Stewardship Reflection

On this First Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us to stay awake and be ready for the coming of Christ. Advent is a season of hope and preparation—not just for Christmas, but for the Lord's return in glory. As Christian stewards, we are called to use this time well: to pray more deeply, give more freely, and live more intentionally. In a season filled with distractions, may we slow down, look up, and open our hearts to the One who comes to make all things new.

December 6/7 Liturgical Ministers Schedule

	Greeter	Altar Server	Reader	EMHC
Saturday 6:00 pm	Yvonne K. Ginny S.	Martin I.	Roberta P. Charla F.	Patti D. Judy M.
Sunday 7:30 am	Paul B. Kathy B.	Julia S. Tamora M.	Philippa S. Mark B.	Debbie F. Pat F.
Sunday 10:30 am	Linda F. Sarah C.	Martin I. The Brown Family	Chris T. Shawn T.	Catherine L. Diane F.
Collection Counters for this Week		Leslie M., Deb Y.		

LIVING OUR FAITH

ST. ANDREW ADVENT PRAYER

Hail and blessed be
the hour and moment
in which the Son of God
was born
of the most pure Virgin Mary,
at midnight, in Bethlehem,
in the piercing cold. In that
hour vouchsafe,
I beseech Thee, O my God,
to hear my prayer and grant
my desires,
[here mention your request]
through the merits of Our
Savior Jesus Christ,
and of His blessed Mother.

Amen.



Month of the Divine Infancy

The month of December is traditionally dedicated to the Divine Infancy of Jesus Christ. This month, let the paradox of Christ's birth and childhood strike us anew. Let us pray with Mary in the words of an ancient hymn by Saint Ephrem the Syrian: "I am your Mother but I will give honor to you. I have engendered you, but you are older than I am. I have carried you in my womb, but you sustain me on my feet. You have been born of me like a little one, but you are as strong as a giant. The height of the heavens are filled with your majesty, and yet my womb has not been too small for you."

Ways to Honor the Divine Infancy

- ❖ Pray and support children and their families who are victims of abuse; homelessness; hunger; discrimination; and poverty
- ❖ Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- ❖ Make an effort to take the Season of Advent seriously

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Andrew (1st century)

Feast Day: November 30

Saint Andrew, the brother of Saint Peter, was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. A fisherman by trade, he heard John the Baptist proclaim Jesus as the Lamb of God and immediately followed Christ, later bringing his brother Peter to meet the Lord.



Known as the "Protokletos," or "first-called," Andrew preached the Gospel with great zeal, traveling to regions such as Greece and Asia Minor. Tradition holds that he was martyred in Patras on an X-shaped cross—now called the St. Andrew's Cross—declaring as he died that he was unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Lord.

Saint Andrew is the patron saint of fishermen, Scotland, and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. His faithful witness reminds us to bring others to Christ with courage and love.

Saint Andrew, pray for us!

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, as Advent begins, awaken our hearts to Your call. Grant us vigilance to watch for Christ's coming, repentance to turn from sin, and grace to embrace new beginnings. May Your light guide us, your mercy renew us, and Your love prepare us for the Savior's birth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers:

Bill Hehr	Laine Castello	Pete Cuffaro
Blanche Kirkland	Maria Workman	Susan Ackerman
Cheryl Garrison	Marsha Bartlett	Our Homebound
Crystal Vines	Millie Kirkpatrick	Parishioners
Joe Bechtel	Pat Edmon	

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Catedral de San José

1300 Eoff St. Wheeling, WV

La misa será celebrada por el Obispo Mark Brennan.

Misa en español el viernes,
12 de diciembre
a las 6:00 p.m.

Agradecemos su presencia en la recepción que se celebrará después de la misa.

Cathedral of St. Joseph

1300 Eoff St. Wheeling, WV

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan.

Friday, December 12
6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Reception following the Mass.

Todos Son Bienvenidos! | You're All Welcome!



CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE FUND



Our beautiful Cathedral, rich in history and faith, needs essential repairs to preserve it for generations to come. Please consider making a donation. Every gift makes a difference. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

So far we have received \$45,501 in donations. Thank you for your support!

Leave a Legacy Gift

Do you hold the Cathedral close to your heart? Including it in your will or estate plan is a meaningful way to ensure our faith and ministry continue for generations.

You can:

- Name the Cathedral as a beneficiary on an account
- Leave a specific gift in your Will or Trust
- Designate a percentage of your estate

Wording for bequests: "Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church of Wheeling-Charleston, for the use and benefit of the Rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Wheeling, WV, for the Cathedral."

Thank you for considering this lasting gift of faith!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Advent Wreath

Question:

What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer:

Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we're roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.

If you have a question you'd like answered, please email tgreenwood@dwc.org.

2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope



The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston has designated four pilgrimage sites for the Jubilee Year 2025, including our own Cathedral of St. Joseph! The other sites are the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart (Charleston), St. Patrick Church (Weston), and St. Joseph Parish (Martinsburg).

From now until December 28, 2025, the faithful are invited to visit these locations to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence, as called for by Pope Francis. To receive this special grace, pilgrims must:

Make a brief pilgrimage to one of the designated sites as a sign of conversion and hope.

Pray—by participating in Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, the Stations of the Cross, or the Rosary.

Confess—receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within 20 days before or after the pilgrimage.

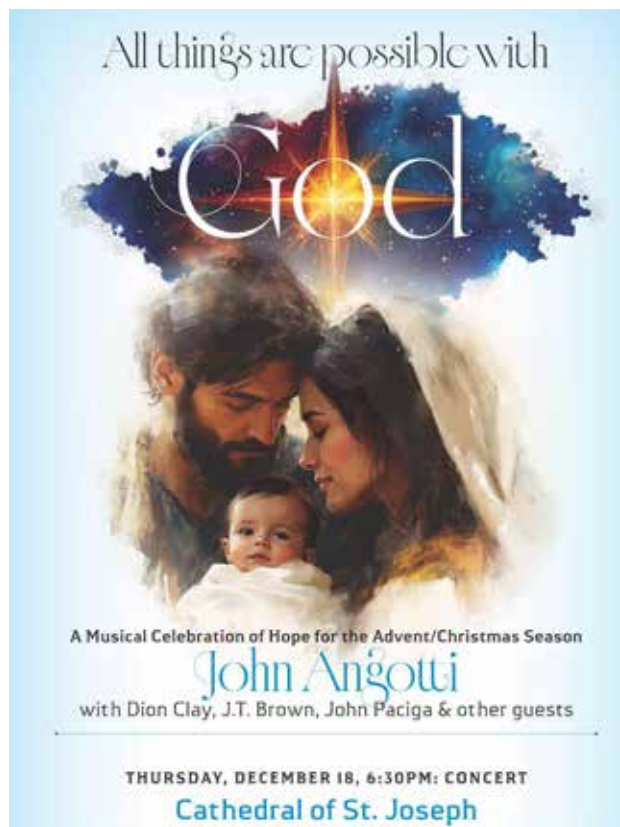
Receive Holy Communion, reflecting on the hope God gives.

Pray for the Holy Father and his intentions, with the Our Father and Hail Mary recommended.

A Plenary Indulgence may be applied to oneself or a soul in purgatory and can be obtained once per day.

For a full list of Jubilee pilgrimage sites in the U.S., visit www.usccb.org/jubilee2025/pilgrimage-sites-us

Let us embrace this sacred time as Pilgrims of Hope!



Interested in Becoming Catholic?

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the Cathedral parish office at 304-233-4121 or email jmanning@dwc.org. Our OCIA classes have just begun, but we are still welcoming new candidates.

We're hiring!

The Parishes of the
Cathedral of St. Joseph and St. Alphonsus
in Wheeling are looking to hire
a custodian.

This full-time position will be split between caring for both parishes. Responsibilities will include sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, dusting, and trash removal; cleaning restrooms, windows, doors, carpets/rugs; and the occasional painting and minor building, electrical and plumbing repairs. Candidate must be available for snow removal as needed for weekend Masses. Standard benefits package.

Candidate should be a Catholic in good standing. Apply by calling or emailing one of the parish offices.

Cathedral: (304) 233-4121
cathedraloffice@dwc.org

St. Alphonsus: (304) 232-4353
office@stalswheeling.org

ADVENT VESPERS

Join us for Sung Solemn Vespers at the Cathedral this Advent Season on Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m.



NOV 30



DEC 7



DEC 14



DEC 21

Music by The Cathedral Schola

Vespers is the official evening prayer of the Church.

Based on scripture, it consists of psalms, hymns, and prayers of intercession.

A brief reflection will be given each week reflecting on the spiritual themes of Advent.

THANKSGIVING

Pottluck

NOVEMBER 30

Following 10:30 Mass in the
Great Hall at Wheeling Central.

LAST NAMES A-H
SALADS

LAST NAMES I-Q
SIDE DISHES

LAST NAMES R-Z
DESSERTS

Please bring
non-perishable
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