



# THE Cathedral Courier

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

26 October 2025



*Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

ADORATION OF THE TRINITY • DURER • 1511  
SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS: NOVEMBER 1

# 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](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

Rev. John Soplinski  
[jsoplinski@dwc.org](mailto:jsoplinski@dwc.org)

Deacon Douglas Breiding  
[dbreiding@dwc.org](mailto:dbreiding@dwc.org)

Deacon Jacob Manning  
[jmanning@dwc.org](mailto:jmanning@dwc.org)

### STAFF

#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Tyler J. Greenwood  
[tgreenwood@dwc.org](mailto:tgreenwood@dwc.org)

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Matthew S. Berher  
[mberher@dwc.org](mailto:mberher@dwc.org)

#### SACRISTAN

Martin Imbroscio  
[mimbroscio@dwc.org](mailto: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](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

## **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](mailto: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](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



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



# Masses & Schedule

October 26 - November 2, 2025

**SUN 26** **Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for the Parishioners  
 7:30 am Mass for + Helen Pasden  
 9:00 am OCIA (*Cantina*)  
 10:30 am Mass for + Jack & Evelyn Jochum

**MON 27** **Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
 12:05 pm Mass for the Living & Deceased Alumni of the CCHS Class of 1961  
 7:00 pm Infant of Prague Novena

**TUE 28** **Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude**  
 12:05 pm Mass for + Joseph P. Stemkowski, Jr.

**WED 29** **Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
 12:05 pm Mass for + Stella Baginski  
 7:00 pm Sons of St. Joseph (*Cantina*)

**THU 30** **Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
 12:05 pm Mass for + Joyce Early  
 6:00 pm Angels in the Bible Study (*Cantina*)  
 7:00 pm Rosary Procession (*St. Alphonsus*)  
 7:30 pm Catholics in Recovery (*St. Alphonsus*)

**FRI 31** **Weekday in Ordinary Time**  
 11:00 am Confessions  
 12:05 pm Mass for + Jack & Rosemarie Winiesdorffer

**SAT 1** **Solemnity of All Saints**  
**First Saturday**  
**Month of All Souls**  
 9:00 am Mass for the Parishioners  
 10:00 am Rosary Altar Society  
 11:00 am Confessions  
 6:00 pm Mass for the Holy Father's Intentions

**SUN 2** **Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**  
**All Souls' Day**  
 7:30 am Mass for the Celebrant's Intentions  
 9:00 am OCIA (*Cantina*)  
 9:00 am Book Club (*Rectory*)  
 10:30 am Mass for All of the Faithful Departed  
 6:00 pm Evening Prayer for the Faithful Departed

**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,

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14). The Pharisee's pride blinds him to his need for God's mercy, while the tax collector's humble prayer opens his heart to forgiveness. Jesus reminds us that it is not our status, words, or accomplishments that make us righteous before God, but a humble and contrite heart. "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

This Thursday evening, October 30, at 7:00 p.m., we will hold our annual Candlelight Rosary Procession, beginning at St. Alphonsus Church and concluding at the Cathedral, followed by Mass. This is a beautiful and prayerful evening of witness and devotion to Our Lady. I invite you to bring your family and friends as we pray together for peace in our hearts, our homes, and our world.

Next Saturday, November 1, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. While it is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Saturday, I warmly encourage everyone to come to Mass at 9:00 a.m. to honor all the saints in heaven and to ask their intercession for our parish and for our own journey toward holiness.

May the Lord grant us hearts of humility and faith, that we may always walk in His mercy and reflect His love to others.

In Christ,  
*Father Pen*

## Support Christians in the Holy Land

**This weekend, representatives from *Land of Peace*, a nonprofit organization, will visit after all Masses in the narthex to share about the hardships faced by Christians in the Holy Land.**

They support Christian families and churches in the Middle East, who continue to suffer from violence and declining tourism. Religious articles made from Olive Wood—native to Bethlehem—will be available for purchase, including crucifixes and rosaries.

Your support helps bring hope to the land of Christ's birth. Learn more at [www.landofpeace.org](http://www.landofpeace.org)





*All Saints*      *All Souls*

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 1**

**MASS  
9:00 AM**

**SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 2**

**MASSES  
6:00 PM (SAT)  
7:30 AM  
10:30 AM**

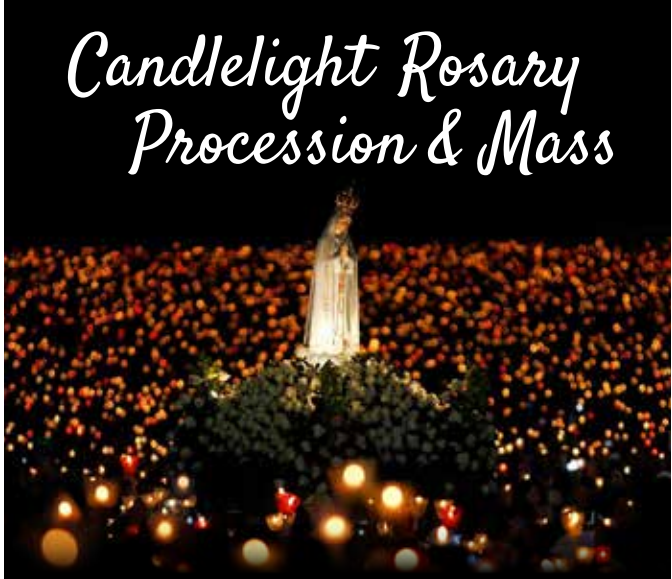


**This Saturday, November 1 is the Solemnity of All Saints,** when the Church honors all the saints who now rejoice in God's presence. *Because it falls on a Saturday this year, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.*

**The next day, Sunday, November 2, is All Souls' Day,** when the Church prays for all the faithful departed, asking God to grant them eternal light and peace.

## • UPCOMING EVENTS •

- October 28** - Pastoral Council Meeting, 5pm
- October 30** - Rosary Procession & Mass, 7pm
- November 1** - Solemnity of All Saints, 9am Mass
- November 1** - Rosary Altar Society after 9am Mass & Rosary
- November 2** - All Souls Day
- November 2** - Evening Prayer for the Faithful Departed, 7pm
- November 4** - St. Gianna Pro-Life, 6pm at St. Alphonsus
- November 5** - Finance Council Meeting, 5pm
- November 7** - First Friday Adoration, 12:45pm-5pm
- November 24** - Mass of Gratitude, 12:05pm
- November 27** - Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9am
- November 30** - First Sunday of Advent



*Candlelight Rosary  
Procession & Mass*

Join us for an outdoor Candlelight Rosary Procession as we pray for our Church, our world, and our families.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025  
7:00 PM**

Procession begins at **ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH**  
(2111 Market Street, Wheeling) and ends with Holy Mass  
at the **CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH** (1300 Eoff Street, Wheeling)

### PARKING & TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS:

**Option #1:** Park at the Cathedral starting at 6PM and take the shuttle bus over to St. Alphonsus for the start of the Rosary. The last shuttle bus leaves the Cathedral at 6:40PM.

**Option #2:** Park at St. Alphonsus and take the shuttle bus from the Cathedral back to St. Alphonsus after the Rosary and Mass is completed.

## COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE

**October 19, 2025**

Envelopes: \$1873 • Loose: \$1541 • Online: \$921 • **Total: \$4335**  
World Mission Sunday: \$1034 • Maintenance Fund: \$195

Attendance: 285

*Thank you for your generous support!*

## EVENING PRAYER *for the Faithful Departed*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2  
6:00 PM

*Featuring music by*  
THE SCHOLA OF THE CATHEDRAL  
&  
THE VOICES OF FREEDOM  
OF WHEELING PARK HIGH SCHOOL

*Join us for this special evening of prayer and music as we remember our beloved deceased family members, friends, and parishioners.*

## ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

*Hope Does Not Disappoint*



Week 8 - October 27  
"The Hope of Resurrection"

Deacon Douglas Breiding  
*Director of Catholic Cemeteries*

**Nine Consecutive Mondays at 7:00 p.m.**



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of October 26

### THIS SUNDAY

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18  
Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

### MONDAY

Romans 8:12-17  
Ps 68:2, 4, 6-7, 20-21  
Luke 13:10-17

### TUESDAY

Ephesians 2:19-22  
Ps 19:2-3, 4-5  
Luke 6:12-16

### WEDNESDAY

Romans 8:26-30  
Ps 13:4-5, 6  
Luke 13:22-30

### THURSDAY

Romans 8:31-39  
Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31  
Luke 13:31-35

### FRIDAY

Romans 9:1-5  
Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20  
Luke 14:1-6

### SATURDAY

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14  
Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12

### NEXT SUNDAY

Wisdom 3:1-9  
Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6  
Romans 5:5-11  
John 6:37-40

*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.*

# A Cloud of Witnesses

## Celebrating the Saints Who Keep the Flame of Faith Burning

Each year on November 1, the Church pauses to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints—a feast that reminds us that holiness is not the privilege of a few, but the calling of all. The Second Vatican Council echoed this truth powerfully, teaching that every baptized person is "called to holiness," no matter their state in life. From the earliest martyrs who shed their blood for Christ to the quiet saints of our own day who lived lives of radiant charity, we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). They are proof that God's grace truly transforms human lives and that holiness is not an abstract idea, but a living reality within the Church.

Throughout history, the saints have kept the flame of faith burning brightly through every age and trial. When the early Church faced persecution, saints like Stephen, Agnes, and Lawrence gave courageous witness to Christ's love even unto death. In the chaos of the Middle Ages, saints such as Francis and Clare of Assisi rekindled the Gospel's simplicity and joy. In the modern era, saints like Thérèse of Lisieux, Maximilian Kolbe, and Teresa of Calcutta reminded the world that holiness begins with small acts of love offered to God.

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, the saints stand before us as radiant beacons of that very hope. Their lives remind us that despair never has the final word. St. Bartolo Longo, once a priest of Satan, became one of the Church's greatest apostles of the Rosary. His story

proclaims that no one is beyond the reach of mercy. St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, a young man full of laughter, mountain climbs, and service to the poor, shows that sanctity is not a gloomy affair—it is the adventure of living for God. And St. Carlo Acutis, the first millennial saint, points our digital age toward heaven by showing how ordinary life, when rooted in the Eucharist, can become extraordinary.

The saints also reveal that holiness takes many forms. Some changed the world through preaching or miracles; others through quiet fidelity and hidden sacrifice. What unites them is not uniformity of life, but unity of love—a love that finds its source in Christ. Whether in a hospital ward, a classroom, a workshop, or a monastery, they discovered that the path to heaven runs right through the heart of daily life. Their sanctity was not achieved by escaping the world, but by transforming it through grace.

All Saints' Day is not just about looking back—it is about looking forward. The saints are not distant figures on stained glass windows; they are companions urging us onward in the same race of faith. Their lives proclaim that hope is not naïve optimism, but trust that God's grace is stronger than sin, darkness, or death. As we honor this cloud of witnesses, may we take up the torch they have passed to us and carry the light of Christ into our own time, our own world, our own hearts.



# GROUPS & MINISTRIES



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.

**Formation Evening**  
Wednesday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.  
Chancery Cantina

**FORMATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • SERVICE**

## Sisters in Grace

Next gathering TBA

We are a fellowship of women who grow together in faith through prayer and friendship.



## Faith Sharing Book Club

Sunday, November 2 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.



## St. Monica Prayer Group

Wednesday, November 5 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.

## Stewardship Reflection

This Sunday, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, reminding us that true righteousness comes from humility, not self-importance. As Christian stewards, we are called to approach God with honest hearts, recognizing our need for His mercy and grace. Stewardship begins in humility—acknowledging that all we have is a gift and offering it back with gratitude. As we draw near to the Solemnity of All Saints, we look to the great cloud of witnesses who lived with humble hearts and generous spirits. May we follow their example by living our faith with sincerity, serving others with love, and walking each day in trust and humility before the Lord.

## 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!*  
For info, call Amy at (304) 312-9051 or Jennie at (304) 281-1349

**Join us at our next meeting:**  
Tuesday, Nov. 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Alphonsus fellowship hall (church basement)  
Pro-life rosary in the church at 6:00 p.m.

## Catholics in Recovery

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

This program offers support for those facing addictions and unhealthy attachments - including alcohol, drugs, pornography, relationships, food, gambling, and anxiety. Come for yourself or someone you love who is struggling. *For more information, please e-mail Fr. John Soplinski at [jsoplinski@dwc.org](mailto:jsoplinski@dwc.org) or call the parish office at 304-233-4121.*

## Seniors Group

If you are 55 years and over and searching for a group that shares conversation, friendship, fun, and spiritual activities, this group is just for you! **Stay tuned for our next gathering.**



## Rosary Altar Society

Saturday, November 1 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.



## November 1/2 Liturgical Ministers Schedule

	Greeter	Altar Server	Reader	EMHC
<b>Saturday 6:00 pm</b>	Ginny S. Judy M.	Martin I. The Brown Family	Rose Marie C. Deirdre B.	Judy R. Paul R.
<b>Sunday 7:30 am</b>	Paul B. Kathy B.	Tamora M. Julia S.	Jim E. Susanna K.	Tamora M. Philippa S.
<b>Sunday 10:30 am</b>	Cheryl J. Linda F.	Martin I. Liam G.	Lanny S. Vivienne P.	Catherine L. Diane F.
<b>Collection Counters for this Week</b>		Helen P., Julia S., Carolyn W.		

# LIVING OUR FAITH

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

### St. Alphonsus Rodriguez (1532-1617)

Feast Day: October 31

St. Alphonsus Rodriguez was a humble Jesuit lay brother known for his obedience, simplicity, and deep spiritual wisdom. Born in Segovia, Spain, he married young and ran a family business, but after the death of his wife and children, he devoted himself entirely to God.



Rejected at first because of his age and lack of education, Alphonsus was eventually accepted into the Society of Jesus as a lay brother and assigned as porter at the Jesuit college in Majorca. There, for over 40 years, he welcomed visitors, students, and strangers with kindness and prayer.

Behind his simple duties lay a profound spiritual life marked by humility, self-denial, and constant union with God. Among those he inspired was Saint Peter Claver, to whom he gave guidance and encouragement.

Canonized in 1888, Saint Alphonsus reminds us that holiness is found not in great deeds but in faithfulness to God in the ordinary moments of life.

## 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](mailto:jmanning@dwc.org). Our OCIA classes have just begun, but we are still welcoming new candidates.



On October 7, we celebrated the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Church dedicates the whole month of October to this devotion. In the Rosary, with its prayers and mysteries, we contemplate the Gospel with Mary. As St. John Paul II wrote in 2002, "The Rosary...is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it remains a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness....With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 1).

## Ways to Our Lady this Month

- Pray the Rosary each day
- Devote Saturdays to Our Lady
- Place flowers in front of a statue of the Blessed Mother

## THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION

### October: For Collaboration Between Different Religious Traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

## PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

O God, who have revealed that peacemakers are to be called your children, grant, we pray, that we may work without ceasing to establish that justice which alone ensures true and lasting peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Please remember in your prayers:

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

**Wheeling Vicariate Gathering:**

Celebrating the 175th Anniversary of the Diocese

**Tuesday, October 28**  
St. Paul Parish  
140 Walnut St. Weirton WV

Mass at 6:00pm  
Celebrated by Bishop Brennan  
and priests of the Wheeling Vicariate

Reception to follow the Mass

*All are welcome!!*



The Sisters in Grace, our Cathedral women's group, gathered last weekend for a fall Soup Swap! It was a great afternoon of good fun and fellowship — and they were glad to welcome a few new faces to the group. Thanks to everyone who cooked, shared, and made the day a success!



## 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  
\$43,414 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:

#### Halloween

### Question:

Is Halloween a pagan holiday or a Catholic one?

### Answer:

The short answer: nowadays, a little bit of both. But it wasn't always that way. Halloween and All Saints' Day are closely connected. In the 800s, the Catholic Church began celebrating All Saints' Day. It was originally called All Hallow's Day or Hallowmas. The celebration began early on All Hallow's Eve. But if Halloween is really about the saints in all their victorious glory, where do we get haunted houses, costumes, and pranks?

All Saints' Day became associated with the other deceased rather quickly. November 2nd is All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls in purgatory. Throughout the European world, especially with the Celtic and Germanic peoples, the dead were honored in the autumn months. The Celtic pagan celebration of Samhain had its own folk rituals and occurred around the same time as these Catholic feast days.

Within the last few hundred years, this included dressing in disguise and going door to door, asking for food in exchange for a rhyme or poem. Some people masqueraded as "dark" spirits and pulled pranks on others. Today's celebration of Halloween tends to take on these later practices, rather than the original meaning of celebrating the saints. But remember ... this feast was Catholic first!

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



# Hope that Anchors Us

*Facing the end of life, whether for ourselves or someone we love, can stir fear, sadness and deep questions about what lies ahead. Yet, in these moments, we are called to cling to a hope far greater than anything this world offers. Christian hope is not just a wish for things to improve; it is a certainty, rooted in a person who will never fail us. Our hope rests in the One who guarantees it—Jesus Christ, who holds our future in His hands.*

*So how do we truly live out this hope, especially when suffering weighs heavy?*

*Let us use the letters of the word “hope” to reflect more deeply on the assurance Jesus has given us.*

## Holding Fast to Christ

Our hope is not in vague ideas but in Jesus Christ: God who took on flesh, loved us to the end, and conquered death. When life’s final chapter feels uncertain, He remains our sure and steadfast anchor. We are held by a God who keeps His promises. “The mystery of the Redemption of the human person is in an astonishing way rooted in the loving involvement of God with human suffering. That is why we can entrust ourselves to God and to convey this certainty in faith to the person who is suffering and fearful of pain and death.”<sup>1</sup>

## Overcoming Death

Through His resurrection, Jesus Christ, overcame death and gave us the hope of joining Him in eternal life. Eternal life is a relationship with our Lord who does not die, who is Life and Love itself. “Death is a decisive moment in the human person’s encounter with God the Savior.”<sup>2</sup> Thanks to the grace of Christ, death is not the end of life but a promise of communion with God. This is the glorious future awaiting us, and the great hope that steadies us even now when we are suffering.

## Persevering in Solidarity

The Gospel is not just information; it transforms. It changes our life and enables us to act. Since we know who holds our tomorrow, we can face today’s fears with courage. This hope reshapes how we face suffering. It means living our final days not in despair, but with joy, offering our pain as prayer and witness.

This hope is not just for us; it is a light we pass to others. In hospice rooms, family conversations, and quiet acts of care for others, we become living reminders that no life is beyond God’s reach. “The scene of the Cross provides a way of understanding that even when it seems that there is nothing more to do there remains much to do, because ‘remaining’ by the side of the sick is a sign of love and of the hope that it contains.”<sup>3</sup> Together, we can build communities anchored in solidarity that no illness or grief can destroy. We believe that every human

life, to the very last breath, has inestimable value and demands our protection and care.

### Embracing Suffering

Jesus did not just observe human suffering—He entered into it. Our God chose to become like us! Love Himself chose to suffer with us, and that changes everything. Even when we feel alone, He is there, whispering, “I am with you.” Our suffering becomes meaningful when united to Christ’s suffering on the Cross. When we unite our pain with His, it becomes a share in God’s redeeming work, a mystery where our deepest wounds become vessels of grace. This is the scandal of our faith: a God who did not spare Himself so that we would know we are never abandoned.



Isaiah the prophet tells us, “They that hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (Is. 40:31). In life’s hardest moments, let us fix our eyes on our Lord Jesus Christ. He walks this path with us, redeems our struggles, and promises a dawn where every tear is wiped away. May His hope light our way, guiding us and our loved ones to our heavenly home with Him.

<sup>1</sup> *Samaritanus bonus*, Conclusion.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, V, 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, II.

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