

THE Cathedral Courier

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

7 September 2025



Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

SAINTS CARLO ACUTIS & PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI • CANONIZED ON SEPTEMBER 7

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

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Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan
Bishop of Wheeling-Charleston

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pmanikyalarao@dwc.org

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SACRISTAN

Martin Imbroscio

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



Masses & Schedule

September 7 - 14, 2025

SUN 7 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

6:00 pm (Sat) Mass for + Madeline Belby
 7:00 pm (Sat) Carlo Acutis Film (*Courtyard*)
 7:30 am Mass for + Mihalena Pacewicz
 9:00 am Faith Sharing Book Club (*Rectorcy*)
 10:30 am Mass for the Parishioners
 Canonization Celebration (*Courtyard*)

MON 8 Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

12:05 pm Mass for + Norma Paytash
 7:00 pm Infant of Prague Novena

TUE 9 Memorial of St. Peter Claver

12:05 pm Mass for + Dr. Joseph Agresta

WED 10 Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 pm Mass for + Dorothy Fillipovich

THU 11 Weekday in Ordinary Time

12:05 pm Mass for + Dr. Edwin Angulo
 6:00 pm Eucharistic Missionaries Series (*Cantina*)
 7:30 pm Catholics in Recovery

FRI 12 Memorial of the Most Holy Name of Mary

11:00 am Confessions
 12:05 pm Mass for + Msgr. Joseph Peterson
 5:30 pm Mountain State Catholic Men Kick-Off

SAT 13 Memorial of St. John Chrysostom

9:00 am Mass for + Paul & Stella Crum
 11:00 am Confessions
 6:00 pm Mass for the Parishioners

SUN 14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

7:30 am Mass for + Ginny Felton
 10:30 am Mass for + Evelyn Rose Miller

**The Rosary is prayed Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m.
 Please join us as we pray especially for
 an increase in vocations in our diocese.**

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

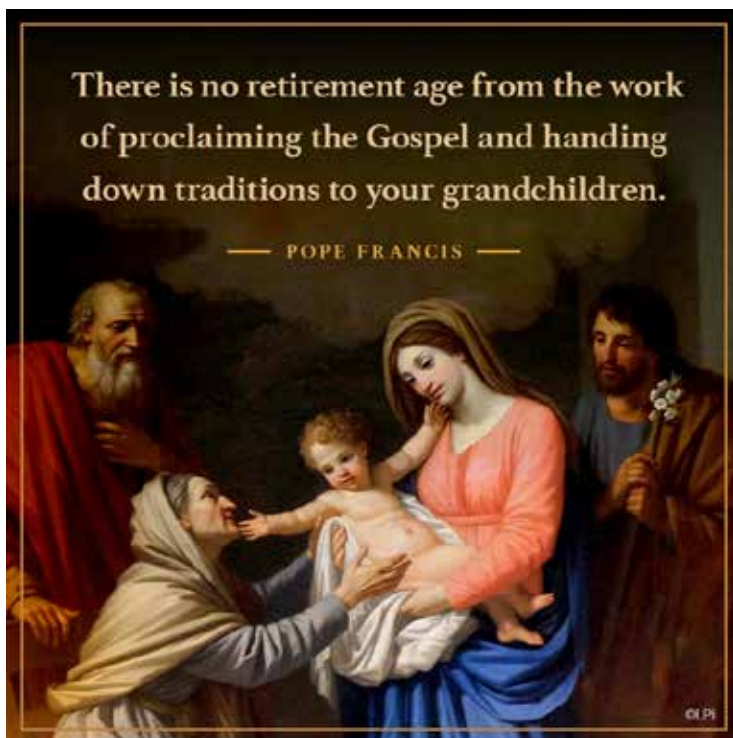
In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks to us about the cost of discipleship: "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27). Following Christ requires more than words; it calls for action, courage, and sacrifice. We are invited to place Jesus above all else and to live each day as faithful witnesses to His love.

This weekend is also a time of great joy for the Church universal as we celebrate the canonizations of Saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. Both young men remind us that holiness is not reserved for the few or the famous but is possible for each one of us. Carlo, a modern teenager devoted to the Eucharist, and Pier Giorgio, a young man full of charity and zeal for his faith, show us what it means to live the Gospel authentically in our world today. Let us ask for their intercession as we strive to follow Christ faithfully in our own lives.

I also invite you to join us as we begin our annual Infant Jesus of Prague Novena this Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. This beautiful devotion has been a cherished tradition in our Cathedral for many years, drawing us closer to the humility and kingship of Christ as a child. We encourage you to participate in this time of prayer and encounter with the Lord's mercy and love.

May today's Gospel and the lives of these two new saints inspire us to take up our crosses with courage, live our faith boldly, and embrace the path to holiness that Christ places before us.

In Christ,
 Father Pen



ANNUAL NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

SEPTEMBER 8 – NOVEMBER 3, 2025
NINE CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.

Hope Does Not Disappoint



Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Wheeling, West Virginia

"The more you honor me, the more I will bless you."

Stewardship Weekend

September 20/21 following Masses

Join us the weekend of September 20 and 21 following all the weekend Masses for our Parish Stewardship Fair! We'll showcase some of our wonderful current groups and ministries — as well as introduce a few new ones. Start praying now about how God may be calling you to get more involved and share your gifts in service to our parish family.

Cathedral Fall Festival

Sunday, October 12 from Noon to 5pm

Mark your calendars for our annual parish festival — a celebration for the whole community! **We need everyone's help to make it a success.** A sign-up sheet is available in the back of the church; **please take a moment to volunteer.** Once you sign up, we'll contact you to schedule you for areas where you feel most comfortable helping. Together, we can make this year's festival our best yet!



Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've raised **\$51,972 - far surpassing our goal of \$16,400!** If you haven't contributed yet, there's still time! Scan the QR code below or return your pledge card today. Every gift matters.



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 •

- September 8** - Infant of Prague Novena begins, 7pm
- September 14** - Blessing of Catechists & Students
- September 20/21** - Stewardship Weekend
- September 24** - 40 Days for Life Opening Mass, 6pm (Begins at St. Alphonsus)
- October 4** - Blessing of Pets, 10am
- October 12** - Fall Festival, 12 Noon - 5pm
- October 30** - Rosary Procession & Mass, 7pm

Mass Intentions for 2026

It is an ancient and noble practice to pray for the living and the deceased at Mass. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest and most powerful prayer we have, since it makes present the saving fruits of Christ's redemption. Because of this, many parishioners seek to schedule Mass intentions for their loved ones.

Anyone may request a Mass intention for:

- A person who is living or deceased, Catholic or non-Catholic.
- Particular individuals or families.
- A special intention appropriate to the Eucharist, such as: World Peace, Vocations, Respect for Life, or Souls in Purgatory.

How to Request a Mass Intention:

Mass intentions will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis. **Requests for 2026 may be made beginning Tuesday, September 16, 2025, by:**

- Visiting the Parish Office
- Calling the office at 304-233-4121
- E-mailing cathedraloffice@dwc.org

(Please note: No intentions will be accepted by mail.)

Guidelines:

- At the time the 2026 book opens, each household or group may request up to five (5) Mass intentions to allow fair opportunity for all parishioners.
- Requests will be scheduled as close to the desired date and time as possible; if unavailable, the nearest possible date will be offered.
- A \$10 stipend per Mass is suggested. Please make checks payable to the Cathedral of St. Joseph. However, no one will be denied a Mass intention due to inability to pay.

Special Collections this Weekend

- **Gaza Relief** to support humanitarian and pastoral support
- **Maintenance Fund** to support our Cathedral

COLLECTION & ATTENDANCE

August 31, 2025

Envelopes: \$1708 • Loose: \$897 • Online: \$870 • Total: \$3475
Maintenance Fund: \$307
Attendance: 262

Thank you for your generous support!



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of September 7

THIS SUNDAY

Wisdom 9:13-18
Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17
Philemon 9-10, 12-17
Luke 14:25-33

MONDAY

Micah 5:1-4
Ps 13:6
Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

TUESDAY

Colossians 2:6-15
Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11
Luke 6:12-19

WEDNESDAY

Colossians 3:1-11
Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13
Luke 6:20-26

THURSDAY

Numbers 21:4-9
Ps 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

FRIDAY

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14
Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11
John 19:25-27 or Luke 2:33-35

SATURDAY

1 Timothy 1:15-17
Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5, 6-7
Luke 6:43-49

NEXT SUNDAY

Numbers 21:4-9
Ps 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

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.

Two New Saints for Our Time

Celebrating the Canonization of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati

On Sunday, September 7, 2025, the Catholic Church joyfully celebrates the canonization of two new saints: St. Carlo Acutis and St. Pier Giorgio Frassati. For Catholics around the world, this historic day is a powerful reminder that holiness is not reserved for a few. It is the universal call of every Christian, no matter their age, race, gender, or background.

St. Carlo Acutis (1991–2006) is often called the “patron saint of the internet generation.” A modern teenager with a passion for technology, Carlo used his gifts to serve God, creating a digital exhibition of Eucharistic miracles that has brought countless people closer to Christ. His short life was marked by an extraordinary love for the Eucharist, a deep devotion to Our Lady, and a desire to help others encounter God in simple, practical ways.

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901–1925), often referred to as the “Man of the Beatitudes,” was a young Italian known for his infectious joy, adventurous spirit, and profound charity. Whether climbing mountains or serving the poor, Pier Giorgio lived his faith with authenticity and courage. He showed that holiness is not about withdrawing from the world but engaging it fully - with generosity, compassion, and love.

Their canonization speaks powerfully to us today. Both saints were young, vibrant, and relatable, reminding us that sanctity does not require age, status, or perfection - it requires a heart open to God's grace. For our youth, St. Carlo and St. Pier Giorgio are models of how to live boldly for Christ in today's culture. For families, their stories affirm the impor-

ance of faith in daily life, friendships rooted in Christ, and service to others. And for all of us, their example is a call to live our faith authentically, to seek Christ truly present in the Holy Eucharist, and to bring His love into the world.



In this Jubilee Year of Hope, these new saints invite us to walk as true “pilgrims of hope” trusting that God's grace can transform ordinary lives into extraordinary witnesses. May we be inspired by their example and strengthened by their prayers as we strive for holiness in our own lives.

St. Carlo Acutis

Feast Day: October 12

Patronage: Youth, the internet, programmers, Eucharistic devotion

"To be always close to Jesus, that's my life plan."



St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

Feast Day: July 4

Patronage: Young adults, mountaineers, students, social justice

"Verso l'alto — to the heights!"

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.

We are participating in the five week course on becoming Eucharistic Missionaries on Thursday evenings at 6pm in the Cantina!

FORMATION • FELLOWSHIP • WORSHIP • SERVICE

Sisters in Grace Women's Group

The Sisters in Grace are a joyful group of Catholic women who grow in faith through prayer, fellowship, and service. Open to women of all ages, they foster sisterhood, deepen their relationship with God, and support the Church and community. For more information, please contact Stephanie at thebugajs@gmail.com

St. Monica Prayer Group

Wednesday, October 1 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.

Faith Sharing Book Club

Sunday, September 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.



St. Gianna Pro-Life Ministry



Do you have a heart for those who need our help? Help us build a culture of life in our community!

**Contact: Amy Meisel
304-312-9051
ABCMeisel@comcast.net**

Adult Faith Formation

We are currently working on a five-week course to become Eucharistic Missionaries! We will be sharing soon some plans for future formational opportunities.

Stewardship Reflection

On this Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus reminds us that true discipleship requires sacrifice, commitment, and putting Him first. He speaks of carrying the cross and letting go of attachments that keep us from fully following Him. As Christian stewards, this challenges us to reflect on how we use our time, gifts, and priorities. Are we willing to let go of comfort and convenience for the sake of the Gospel? May we have the courage to follow Christ wholeheartedly, trusting that the cost of discipleship leads to the joy of the Kingdom.

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 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 event!



September 13/14 Liturgical Ministers Schedule

	Greeter	Altar Server	Reader	EMHC
Saturday 6:00 pm	Yvonne K. Ginny S.	Martin I.	Rose Marie C. Dierdre B.	Patti D. Judy M.
Sunday 7:30 am	Debbie R. Paul R.	Tamora M. Julia S.	Susanna K. Philippa S.	Debbie F. Pat F.
Sunday 10:30 am	Diane F. Cathy L.	The Brown Family Martin I.	Chris T. Shawn T.	Bill H. Cathy L.
Collection Counters for this Week		Leslie M., Deb. Y.		

LIVING OUR FAITH



Opening Mass

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025
6:00 PM

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH
2111 MARKET ST, WHEELING, WV 26003

Join us as we begin 40 Days for Life with a special Mass and Eucharistic Procession, uniting in prayer for the dignity and protection of every human life.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." — Jeremiah 1:5

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Peter Claver (1580–1654)

Feast Day: September 9

Saint Peter Claver, a Jesuit priest from Spain, devoted his life to serving enslaved Africans in Cartagena, Colombia, one of the largest slave-trading ports of the 17th century. Arriving in 1610, he was ordained a priest in 1616 and took a personal vow to become "the slave of the slaves forever."



Peter ministered to those arriving on the slave ships, bringing food, medicine, and comfort while baptizing and catechizing thousands. He also advocated for their dignity, urging others to see them as beloved children of God. Despite facing criticism and isolation, his compassion never wavered.

Canonized in 1888, Peter Claver is the patron saint of missionaries to Africa and of ministry to enslaved and marginalized peoples. Saint Peter Claver, pray for us!

St. Peter Claver, pray for us!



On September 15, the Church honors the Blessed Mother as Our Lady of Sorrows. "And a sword will pierce your own soul, too," Simeon told Mary when she presented the child Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:35). That prophecy was fulfilled as she stood at the foot of the Cross, sharing her Son's suffering. This month, let us bring our sorrows to Mary, who truly understands suffering, and draw closer to her by meditating on the great hymn to the Mother of Sorrows, the *Stabat Mater*.

Ways to Honor Our Lady of Sorrows

- Pray the *Stabat Mater*
- Meditate upon an image of the *Pieta*
- Don't run from the sorrows of others

THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION

September: For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Please remember in your prayers:

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

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers:

Thomas Galinski

We offer our prayerful condolences to his wife, Kathy, and their family.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults



Evangelization is the primary task of the Church and we, the members of the Church, are called to evangelize. Let us go forth and seek out those who want to be Catholic and bring them to experience an encounter with Jesus. Therefore,

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Is interested in becoming Catholic?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- Has been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what to do to become Catholic?

Registration for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is open. If you want to join or knows someone who wants to be Catholic, please contact the Parish Office at 304-233-4121 or tgreenwood@dwc.org



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Church and State

Question:

What does the Catholic Church teach about the separation of Church and State?

Answer:

The Catholic Church supports a proper distinction between the roles of Church and State, but not a complete separation. Jesus himself teaches this when He says, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17).

The State is responsible for the common good of society, while the Church is entrusted with guiding the faithful in matters of faith, morals, and salvation. Each has its own role, but they should work together for the dignity of every human person and the flourishing of society.

Importantly, the Church does not seek to control governments, nor should governments control the mission of the Church. However, the Church has both the right and the duty to speak on moral and social issues, especially when human dignity or the common good is at stake.

As the Catechism reminds us: "It is part of the Church's mission 'to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it'" (CCC 2246).

In short, Catholics are called to be faithful citizens: respecting the laws of the land, but also allowing their faith to guide their choices and their contributions to society.

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



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:

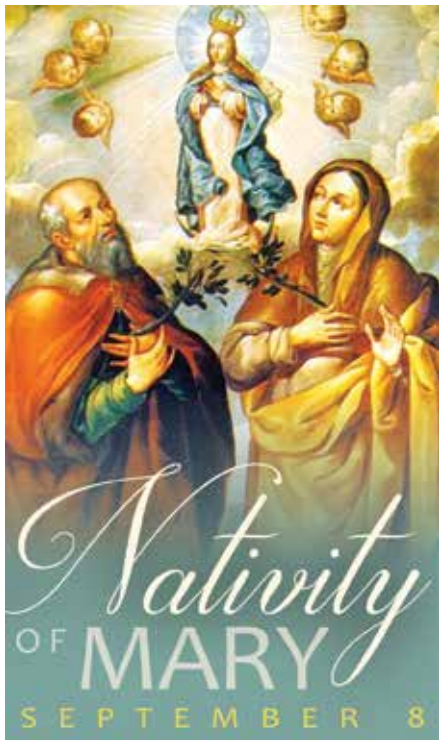
Roof Repairs: A major leak threatens interior damage — estimated at \$145,000

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 \$38,979 in donations. Thank you for your support!



Each year on September 8, the Church celebrates the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary, marking a turning point in salvation history. Though Scripture does not record the details of her birth, this ancient feast, celebrated since at least the sixth century, reminds us that God's plan of redemption was unfolding long before the birth of Christ. Chosen from all eternity, Mary was prepared by grace to become the Mother of our Savior, and her nativity signals the dawn of the Good News.

Mary's birth is a sign of hope for the world. In her, the promises of the Old Testament begin to find fulfillment, and through her "yes," the Light of the World would soon enter human history. As we honor her nativity, we are reminded not only of her unique role but also of our own call to holiness. Like Mary, we are invited to trust in God's plan and open our hearts more fully to Christ.

Infant of Prague Novena Begins This Week

A Nine-Week Journey of Prayer in the Jubilee Year of Hope

This Monday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. we will begin our 14th annual Novena to the Infant Jesus of Prague. The Novena will be prayed on nine consecutive Monday evenings concluding on November 3.

This year's Novena carries a special significance as we continue to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. Our theme, taken from Romans 5:5, is: **"Hope Does Not Disappoint."**

Novenas

The word novena comes from the Latin *novem*, meaning "nine." A novena is a series of nine days (or weeks) of prayer, traditionally offered for a special intention or need, often seeking the intercession of a saint or honoring a particular devotion.

Novenas invite us to pray with perseverance and to cultivate a spirit of hopeful expectation. In this Jubilee Year, our prayers take on even greater meaning as we ask God to renew our hearts and to make us true "pilgrims of hope" for a world in need.

History of the Infant of Prague

The devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague began in what is now the Czech Republic. According to tradition, the original statue was once owned by St. Teresa of Ávila and brought to Bohemia by a Spanish noblewoman upon her marriage to Vratislav of Pernstyn, a Czech nobleman. Their daughter, Princess Polyxena of Lobkowitz, later gifted the statue to the Discalced Carmelite friars in Prague, where it remains today in the Church of Our Lady Victorious.

Statue of the Infant of Prague

In His left hand, the Infant Jesus holds a miniature globe topped by a cross, representing His kingship over the world. His right hand is raised in blessing, with two fingers bent to reflect Christ's divine and human nature, and the other three fingers raised to symbolize the unity of the Trinity.



Significance of the Infant of Prague

By depicting Christ as a child, the devotion to the Infant of Prague draws us into the mystery of the Incarnation and invites us to approach God with the trust and simplicity of a child.

Pope Benedict XVI reflected beautifully on this truth: "The figure of the Child Jesus, the tender infant, brings home to us God's closeness and His love. We come to understand how precious we are in His eyes, because it is through Him that we in our turn have become children of God."

This Jubilee Year reminds us that our hope in Christ never fails. Through the prayers of this Novena, we are called to place our trust in Him more fully, confident that the Lord's promises are always fulfilled.

2025 Novena Homilists

- Sept 8** - Rev. Pen Manikylarao
- Sept 15** - Rev. Daniel Heusel
- Sept 22** - Deacon Jacob Manning
- Sept 29** - Rev. John Soplinski
- Oct 6** - Father Dennis Schuelkens
- Oct 13** - Rev. Chester Pabin
- Oct 20** - Bishop Mark Brennan
- Oct 27** - Deacon Douglas Breiding
- Nov 3** - Bishop William Waltersheid

JOIN THE INAUGURAL
GATHERING OF . . .

MOUNTAIN STATE CATHOLIC MEN

Friday, September 12
St. Joseph Cathedral Parish
Wheeling, WV

5:30 P.M. EXPOSITION OF
BLESSED SACRAMENT & VESPERS

6:30 P.M. INFORMAL DINNER
FOLLOWED BY ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION

Saturday, September 13
Pittsburgh, PA

Gathering of Catholic Men's Conference
Noon to 4:30 p.m. (Mass at 4:30 p.m.)

For more information and to register for
Pittsburgh conference, go to:

www.cmfwpa.org

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