

St. John the Evangelist Church

October 26, 2025

1300 Charles Street
Wellsburg, WV 26070
(304) 737-0429

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Gospel is from St. Luke 18:9-14. During His hidden life in Nazareth, and especially during His public life when He traveled through the towns and villages of Palestine, our Lord met sinners of all kinds. There is not a single record of a harsh word spoken by Him to any of them. In fact, He was accused of mixing too freely with them. His answer was that "it was those who were ill who needed a doctor, not those who were in good health." The sinners He met knew that they were ill. They regretted their sins. He forgave them.

There was one group, however, and only one, against whom He uttered condemnation and for whom He foretold an unhappy ending. These were the Pharisees. In Mt. 23, the whole chapter is devoted to Christ's condemnation of them. It contains eight "woes" which He utters against them. He calls them by many unflattering names. One was "whited sepulchres, appearing beautiful to men on the outside but full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness within" (23:27). Such harshness, coming from the gentle Christ, may surprise us, but knowing as He did that pride, the first and basic sin of mankind and the root of all other evil in the world, was so ingrained in their very hearts, that they could never seek forgiveness, He stated nothing but the truth concerning them or to them.

In this parable which He addressed to the Pharisees themselves, He tells them once more where their pride will lead them. They will be excluded from the kingdom of God, because they will not admit or repent of their pride and their lack of charity. Instead of thanking God for the many gifts He had given them, they almost demanded thanks from God for being such pious people. They had virtues. They avoided serious injustices. They did not commit adultery. They fasted often. They paid all their Temple dues, but it was all done, not for the honor and glory of God, but for their own honor and glory. They told the world about it. They demanded the first places in the synagogues, and special marks of reverence on the streets. They had to be called "masters" as they claimed to represent and interpret Moses to the ordinary people.

One thing that we can learn from this sad story of the Pharisees is that, while God approves of no sin, His mercy and His forgiveness is available for all sinners except the proud. It isn't that God cannot or will not forgive the sin of pride but that the proud man will not ask for God's forgiveness.

We must all be on our guard against this insidious and destructive vice. It is insidious because it can grow in us almost without our knowing it, and once it has taken root it is difficult to eradicate. It is destructive because it spoils every other virtue we practice and every good work we do. Charity, or brotherly love, cannot flourish in a proud heart, for a proud heart is so full of self that it has no room for others. No true love of God can exist in a proud heart, for even the very acts of religion which a proud man performs, are done for the motive of self-glory and not for the glory of God. The Pharisee in this parable proves that fact. He boasted of his good works.

A few simple straight questions can tell us whether or not we are proud. Do we like others to see and hear of our good works, or do we prefer to do them in secret? Do we give as generously to charitable causes when no list of benefactors is published? Do we willingly take part among the rank and file in parish activities or do we feel offended if we are not the leaders? Do we criticize offhand those who are not all they should be, or do we thank God that we were saved from similar temptations? Do we always try to find an excuse for the failings of others or have we excuses for our own faults only? God forbid that any one in this congregation should be suffering from this, the worst of all vices. If anyone recognizes that he is, let him pray to God from the bottom of his heart for the opposite virtue, the true Christian virtue of humility, and look for every possible occasion to practice it. Let us all remember the two men praying in the Temple. One was full of himself and boasted to God and to all present, of his many good works. The Other just humbly beat his breast and asked for mercy—he had nothing to boast of. Yet, he left the Temple forgiven, the other returned home a worse sinner than when he had entered the Temple.

—Excerpted from The Sunday Readings Cycle C, Fr. Kevin O' Sullivan, O.F.M.

CHURCH INFORMATION

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

St. John the Evangelist Parish

1300 Charles Street

Wellsburg, WV 26070

Email: office@stjohnwellsburgwv.com

Parish Office: (304) 737-0429

Pastoral Team:

Pastor.....Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V.

Secretary.....Trisha Vaders

Director of Music/Organist.....Zac Gordon

Director of Religious Education.....Monica Biery

Parish Council Chair.....John Alvarez

Finance Council Chair.....Bill Garvey

Sacraments:

Baptism: For infants: Parents make arrangements with the pastor/office. For Adults: Baptism will be given at the Easter Vigil after completing the OCIA program. For details, please contact the parish office.

Marriage: Please make arrangements with the pastor. Six months minimum notice is required for the celebration of marriage.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact the office for arrangements.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9-4pm



Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Friday - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 am & 10:30 a.m.

(See the Weekly Schedule for changes to Mass times)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Tuesday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Wednesday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Friday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday - 1-2 p.m.

Adoration

Wednesday : 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For Sacramental Preparation or Religious Education for children (CCD) or adults (OCIA), please contact the parish office for times of classes or check the bulletin and bulletin board in the vestibule.

Protecting God's Children

St. John the Evangelist takes seriously this 'VIRTUS' pursuit of excellence in our community. With the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are committed to making every environment – a safe environment. All employees and volunteers are required to complete VIRTUS Training. Participants of this training complete short video modules to learn how to best protect the vulnerable in our community. These short sessions empower participants to accurately identify and correctly report all instances of suspected child abuse. To create or update your account, please go to virtusonline.org.

Thank you for your continued support in making the environment at St. John the Evangelist safe for everyone.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. Or you may call Rev. Don Higgs, 304.685.2367, the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504, or Victims Assistance Coordinator Erin McFarland at 304.559.6742. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

The confessional is available for use by new and nursing moms during Mass. Feel free to use that space for your feeding needs.

Pastor's Perusings

The First Precept of the Church: You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor.

The Precepts of the Church may appear modest in number, only five, but they are far from trivial. They form a kind of spiritual triage: a baseline of what is necessary to remain in a living communion with Christ and His Church. They do not describe the height of holiness, but the threshold beneath which our relationship with God begins to wither. The First Precept, concerning Sunday Mass and rest, is foundational, because it governs our time, our priorities, and our very identity as creatures made for worship.

The command to attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days is not the invention of a bureaucratic Church. It is rooted in the direct command of Christ Himself on the night before He died: "Do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19). The Church, as His Bride and Mystical Body, has obeyed this command from the earliest days. The Acts of the Apostles tells us that the first Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). This "breaking of the bread" is the Eucharist, and it has always been central to Christian life.

The Catechism affirms, "The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice" (CCC 2181). In other words, if we are not attending Mass every Sunday, we are not practicing the faith. This is not a harsh rule, it is a reflection of reality. A Christian who does not worship on the Lord's Day is like a branch cut off from the vine. It may appear alive for a time, but the sap is no longer flowing.

To deliberately skip Mass on Sunday (without serious reason) is a grave sin. The Church does not say this to threaten us, but to awaken us to the supreme value of the Eucharist. Missing Sunday Mass is not a failure to check a box, it is a rupture in the heart of our relationship with Christ.

From the very beginning, Christians have gathered on the first day of the week, which they called "the Lord's Day." Why? Because Sunday is the day Christ rose from the dead. It is the first day of the new creation, the day when death was trampled and the tomb was shattered.

The Sabbath of the Old Covenant, observed on Saturday, commemorated the seventh day of creation, when God rested. But in the New Covenant, Christ brings about a greater rest, a Sabbath of redemption. Sunday is not merely a day off, it is the weekly Paschal feast. It is the day on which time itself was renewed by the Resurrection. As Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Dies Domini*, "Sunday is not only the remembrance of a past event: it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of his own people" (DD 31).

Every Sunday is a "little Easter," a new beginning, a fresh outpouring of grace. To miss it is not just to disobey, it is to deprive oneself of the gift.

The Precept speaks of "attending" Mass, but the Church desires far more than passive presence. The active participation of the faithful is not a modern novelty, it is part of the Church's liturgical tradition. The Second Vatican Council teaches that "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, §14).

This participation does not mean constant motion or noise. It means engaging the heart, mind, and soul in the sacred mysteries. It means listening to the Word with faith, offering ourselves with the bread and wine at the Offertory, joining our voices in prayer, and receiving Christ in the Eucharist with devotion and reverence.

The Mass is not a performance; it is a sacrifice. We are not spectators, we are participants in the offering of the Body and Blood of Christ to the Father. We do not come to be entertained, but to be sanctified.

In addition to Sundays, the Church designates certain feast days throughout the year as Holy Days of Obligation. These include, for example, Christmas, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and the Ascension. These

feasts celebrate central mysteries of our faith, and the Church calls us to gather and rejoice in them.

It is a sign of spiritual maturity to love these days, not merely to "get to Mass" as a duty, but to desire to enter more deeply into the liturgical rhythm of the Church. By observing these feasts, we allow Christ to shape not only our week, but our entire year.

The Precept also commands us to rest from "servile labor." This phrase, drawn from the tradition of Sabbath observance, refers to work that is not necessary for the maintenance of life or charity. The Catechism explains: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God... and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body" (CCC 2185).

This rest is not laziness. It is holy leisure. It is space for prayer, family, reflection, and recreation. It is a reminder that we are not defined by productivity. In a culture that worships efficiency and idolizes busyness, the command to rest is countercultural, and liberating.

Resting on Sunday proclaims that God is God, and we are not. It reorders our week around what matters most: not deadlines, but grace; not consumption, but communion.

Of course, there are exceptions. Those who must work for the good of others, emergency workers, medical personnel, and others, are not sinning by necessity. But even they are called to sanctify the Lord's Day in other ways: by prayer, by acts of mercy, or by participating in the Eucharist at another time if Sunday is impossible.

The First Precept reveals the essential truth that man is made to worship. To attend Mass is not merely to obey a rule; it is to fulfill the deepest longing of the human heart. We were created to offer ourselves to God. The early martyrs died rather than miss the Eucharist. As one group of Christians said to their persecutors, "We cannot live without Sunday."

If this Precept is ignored, all the others begin to crumble. Without worship, we forget who we are. Without the Mass, we are like pilgrims without a map, vines cut off from the root, children who have wandered from home.

Some Catholics treat this Precept as the bare minimum: just make it to Mass, punch the card, and move on. But those who seek holiness see in it a threshold, not a ceiling. Mass attendance is the starting point for a Eucharistic life, a life that is shaped by gratitude, self-offering, and communion with Christ.

This Precept is not just about attending church. It is about becoming Church. It is about being drawn into the Mystical Body of Christ and learning to live from the altar into the world.

The saints were those who not only went to Mass, but became a living Mass. Like Christ, they offered themselves for others. Their days flowed from the Eucharist and returned to it.

The Letter to the Hebrews urges us, "Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another" (Heb 10:25). The First Precept echoes this exhortation. In an age when so many drift from faith, the Church calls us back to the center.


To attend Sunday Mass is not an imposition, it is a rescue. It is God's weekly intervention to reorient our hearts, restore our strength, and renew our love. Let us never take it for granted. Let us treasure it as the privilege it is. For here, in the mystery of the altar, heaven touches earth, and Christ comes to dwell among His people.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 25	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Souls of the Rockey/Sperlazza Fam. † Requested by: Eleanor Rockey
Sunday, October 26	8:00 A.M.	Pro populo
Sunday, October 26	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Susie Weaver † Requested by: Susan Canistraro
Monday, October 27	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Tuesday, October 28	8:30 A.M.	For Bobby & the repose of the soul of Veronica Requested by: John & Trisha Vaders
Wednesday, October 29	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Jo Rita(Jay) Anile † Requested by: Anna DeGarmo
Thursday, October 30	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Friday, October 31	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul Lena Serevicz † Requested by: Angela Cipriani
Saturday, November 1	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cathy DiNardo Weeks † Requested by: Pam Boyd
Sunday, November 2	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, November 2	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Susie Weaver † Requested by: Susan Canistraro

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Rockey/Sperlazza Fam. by Eleanor Rockey Oct.24-Nov.6



Contact the parish office to sponsor the sanctuary lamp for a two week period!

Please write separate checks for each collection. Collections are split between various accounts and it is not possible to split one check into more than one account. Thank you!

Attendance & Collections	
Saturday 4:00	42
Sunday 8:00	38
Sunday 10:30	43
Total Attendance	123
Regular Collection	\$4023
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$18
Elevator	\$50
Building and Maintenance	\$10
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$58,781.95

Adorer Enrollment Status	
9-10	
10-11	
11-12	
12-1	
1-2	
2-3	
3-4	
4-5	
Need 2 Adorers	
Need 1 Adorer	
Need 0 Adorers	

Prayer List

Those who are sick: Dr. Scott Benefield and Family, Gary Antigo, Mary Antigo, Joe Bibbo and the Summers Family, Mary A. Rose, Christine Rose, Matthew Dillard, Lloyd VanHorn, and James Baker, Marissa Bandibas Jewer, Mary Fluharty, Marie Reck, Karen & Son and Tonette Alward.

Those who have died: May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

All Veterans, and Military Personnel

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

All seminarians: Especially Joe Dericó

The Priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Especially Fr. Justin Golna

Former priests and religious of and from our parish

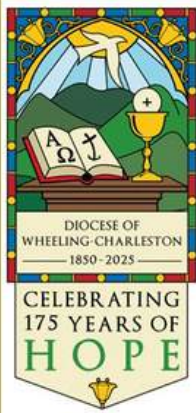
Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.

All married couples struggling with infertility.

To add or remove names to the prayer list, please call or email the parish office! You can also request prayers on our website.



Thank you Chipper @ Fonce's for the beautiful mums. God Bless you!



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!!

GOLNA HAPPEN

Sunday Oct. 26

CCD 9am

Tuesday October 28

Coffee & Catechesis

Wednesday October 29

Adoration & Benediction 9-5

Men's Group 7pm

Sunday November 2

CCD 9am

Wednesday November 5

Altar & Rosary Meeting

(New time) 5:30pm

November 9

*Collection for the Archdiocese for the
Military Services*

Grief Support Group

Find Comfort and Support in Your Journey Through Grief. Join our Grief Support Group, a safe and compassionate space to share, heal, and find hope. Open to all who are navigating loss.

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, starting at 6:00 PM

Where: Parish Hall

No registration required. Come as you are, and bring a friend if you wish. For more information, contact Theresa Kowcheck 304-914-7471

You are not alone. We're here to walk with you.

Next Meeting: October 30, 2025

We are 13% from completion. Goal \$18,200 Raised \$15,900 87% 31 gifts

Thank you to EVERYONE who has given to the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Since we have reached 50% of our \$18,200 goal, EVERY PENNY donated is returned to our parish free from Cathedraticum and PHRA assessment. Donations for the Catholic Sharing Appeal can be made through the parish for those who don't like to give online.

Please write CSA in large letters on the envelope or the memo line of the check!

<https://csa.dwcministries.org/donate/>

Patricia Casale 10/27

Ryan Sperlazza 10/27

Joe Mullenbach 10/28

Alfred Diserio 10/28

Harold Sonda 10/29

Brianna Ferguson 10/29

Corey Mitchell 10/30

Dante Canistraro 11/1

Mary Ellen Paul 11/1

Mass Intentions can now be booked through June 30, 2026! Please call the office or put one of the pink envelopes in the collection.

Free admission!

Fun for the whole family!

Alpentanz!

featuring the Sycamore Folk Dancers

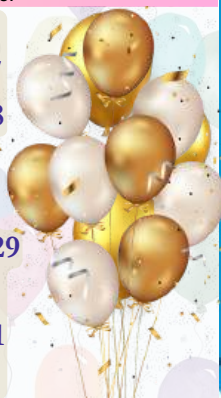
Songs and dances from Germany, Bavaria, and Austria

Wheeling: November 3rd at 6:30 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Gym,
2103 Market Street Wheeling, WV

Steubenville: November 10th at 7:00 p.m.
The Sycamore Youth
Center in Steubenville, OH

www.ohiovalleyfolksociety.com

Happy Birthday!



Profiles in Holiness



All Saints Day, a significant feast within the Catholic tradition, is celebrated on November 1st. Following All Hallows Eve, it is a day to honor all the known and unknown saints who have gained everlasting life in Heaven. It also aims to recognize all the saints who may not have a feast day in the liturgical calendar, celebrating their profound impact on the faithful.

The importance of All Saints Day (also known as All Hallows Day) in Catholicism, a Holy Day of Obligation, lies in its focus on the communion of saints—a key belief that saints continue to intercede for those on Earth. This article will give you a history lesson, take you on a trip around the world, and inspire deeper faith by examining traditions, meaning, and a Psalm.

The origins of All Saints Day can be traced back to the early Christian Church. Initially, Christians honored martyrs who had died for their faith, dedicating specific days to remember those who sacrificed their lives. As the number of martyrs grew, assigning individual feast days for each one became increasingly difficult. To address this, the Church created a collective feast to honor all martyrs, which laid the foundation for what would eventually become All Saints Day.

The celebration took a significant turn in the 8th century when Pope Gregory III (731-741) played a crucial role in formalizing the day. He designated November 1st as the official date for the feast when he dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in honor of "all saints" entitled the Chapel of the Madonna of Bocciata. This act gave the day an official place in the Church's calendar and broadened its scope to include not just martyrs but all saints who had attained eternal life in Heaven.

Before this, the feast was celebrated on various dates in various regions. However, Pope Gregory IV later extended the celebration to the entire Church in AD 837, establishing All Saints Day as a universal feast for the Catholic Church.

The celebration of All Saints Day has evolved over the centuries. Initially focused on martyrs, it gradually expanded to include all who had lived holy lives and attained sainthood, whether or not they were canonized. This change reflected the growing understanding of the communion of saints, which emphasizes that sainthood is open to all Christians who achieve spiritual perfection. As time passed, different cultures incorporated unique customs into the celebration. All Saints Day became a time for Mass, prayers, and visiting the graves of loved ones, especially in countries like France, Spain, and the Philippines. This evolution underscores the feast's rich history and global significance. It maintains its original intent of honoring those who have achieved eternal life while also adapting to local customs and traditions.

Thank You, Rosary Rally Participants!



St. John the Evangelist Parish extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined our recent Rosary Rally. Your prayers and devotion to Our Lady strengthened our community. May God bless you, and may Mary continue to guide us all!

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, November 1, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, November 2, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, November 2, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Anna & Jeje	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Judith Aracich	Stothard
Reader	Wendi Mitchell	Maryanne Capp	Mary Beth Harvey

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 1017 of
the green hymnal in your pew*

Daily Readings and Feasts

October 25, 2025 (Saturday); Romans 8:1-11; Psalm 24:1b-2, 3-4ab; Luke 13:1-9

October 26, 2025 (Sunday) 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18; Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14

October 27, 2025 (Monday); Romans 8:12-17; Psalm 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Luke 13:10-17

October 28, 2025 (Tuesday) Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles; Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5; Luke 6:12-16

October 29, 2025 (Wednesday); Romans 8:26-30; Psalm 13:4-5, 6; Luke 13:22-30

October 30, 2025 (Thursday); Romans 8:31b-39; Psalm 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Luke 13:31-35

October 31, 2025 (Friday); Romans 9:1-5; Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20; Luke 14:1-6

November 1, 2025 (Saturday) Solemnity of All Saints; Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

November 2, 2025 (Sunday) The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40

aim
Women's Center

Please join us in supporting the AIM Center in Steubenville, Ohio! We're collecting baby items (diapers, clothes, formula, etc.) in the vestibule during the last two weeks of October. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket, with checks payable to AIM or a note indicating it's for AIM.

Coat Drive

Through the month of October



Please bring your slightly used/new coats (Any Size) without rips and with working zippers to the **PARISH HALL**

COATS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE FOOD PANTRY STARTING THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER

Mullenbach Funeral Home

Kayla A. Schoonmaker
Funeral Director

P.O. Box 272
669 Main Street
Follansbee, WV 26037

Celebrating Life...

Joseph M. Mullenbach
Licensee in Charge
www.mullenbachfh.com

Cody R. Rice
Funeral Director

(304) 527-4090
Fax (304) 527-3793
mullenbachfh@comcast.net



Reasner Funeral Home
Robert Morris L.I.C.
Owner and Director
ReasnerOfWellsburg.com
304-737-3231

Join our owner, Eric Fithyan L.I.C., as he explains unique topics of funeral service.

TUNE IN ON TUESDAY

Your Community's Funeral Home
CHAMBERS AND JAMES
FUNERAL, PET & CREMATION SERVICES

We're more than a Convenience store

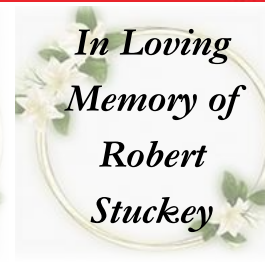
Mark's Deli & Catering
304-737-0065

CARRY OUT

- Deli
- Broaster Chicken
- Catering
- Delivery
- Lent Specials

BROASTER CHICKEN

markscarryout.com



Please consider advertising and directly supporting the parish! All advertising dollars are used to offset the printing costs of this beautiful bulletin.

\$50 per month	\$500 per year	\$975 per year
\$15 per week	\$750 per year	
\$20 per month	\$750 per year	

\$1400 per year