

Saint John the Evangelist Parish

1300 CHARLES STREET • WELLSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26070

Email: stjohn1300@comcast.net Parish Office: 304-737-0429



DECEMBER 2024

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor.....Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V.
Bookkeeper.....Steph Russell
Parish Secretary.....Amanda Manner
Dir. Of Music/ Organist.....Zac Gordon
Dir. of Religious Education.....Monica Biery
Parish Council.....John Alvarez
Finance Council.....Bill Garvey

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM: For Infants: Parents make arrangements with the pastor/office. For Adults: Baptism will be given on Easter Vigil after completing the RCIA program. For details, please contact 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 Parish office for arrangements.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Mon, Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday and Friday: 5:30 p.m.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00 - 8:25 a.m.
Wednesday and Friday: 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

ADORATION

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

We the family of St. John the Evangelist Parish commit ourselves to the call of Baptism: To Listen, To Learn, To Live and To Share the Word of God through our lives.

Pastor's Perusings— Breaking Open the Word

At every Mass, we hear one of the Gospels proclaimed to us. To those of us who are very attentive listeners, we might begin to notice that some of the Gospels give us the same story with more or less detail than their counterpart. Why is this?

The four Gospels were, as we know, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (our patron saint!). The first three, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, are known as the synoptic Gospels which means that our patron's Gospel stands alone, as it were. The first three are called the synoptic Gospels because they approach the life of Christ with "one view" whereas the Gospel according to St. John is wholly unique in style. The reason for these differences is because the authors of the Gospels, working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, had different audiences and contexts in mind.

The Gospels are not a mere recounting of details and events from the life of our Lord, instead they are ways of preaching Jesus Christ as the true Messiah so that people can come to know Him. They continue to be this for us, as well. In our personal prayer, we are able to meditate upon the written Word of God and encounter our Lord speaking directly to us through the Sacred Scripture.

But it is not always easy to see how the readings from Sacred Scripture apply to our own lives. That is why Holy Mother Church encourages, and on certain days obliges, the priest to give a homily following the Gospel. The word "homily" comes to us from a Greek word which means 'explanation'. Just as our Lord opened up the Scriptures for His disciples before He opened their eyes at the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-35), so, too, does the priest break open the Scriptures at the homily to lead us to a deeper understanding of the mysteries that we celebrate.

In recent years, there has been much clamor in certain parts of the Church which want to allow lay persons to deliver the homily. The reason that the homily, which by its nature is given during Mass, is reserved to bishops, priests, and deacons is because they are given special graces at their ordination to preach and teach the Gospel. When I was ordained a deacon, I knelt before the bishop who placed the Book of the Gospels in my hands and told me, "Receive the Gospel of Christ whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach." From this we can see that the proclamation of the Gospel and the homily that fol-

lows requires a specific grace from God so that the hearts and eyes of the faithful can be opened to God's action in their lives.

The homily "should be an explanation of some aspect of the readings from Sacred Scripture or of another text from the Ordinary or the Proper of the Mass of the day and should take into account both the mystery being celebrated and the particular needs of the listeners" (GIRM 65). While the homily should ordinarily be focused on the readings from the Mass, it can be expanded to the prayers used at the Mass. On the other hand, it would be entirely inappropriate for me to use the homily as a sort of reading of the news of the day since the homily is oriented towards drawing the People of God into a deeper understanding of God's Word and action in their lives. One of the things that is important to keep in mind is that not every homily is going to affect you in a profound way. The purpose of the homily is to draw each heart in the pews closer to Christ which means that the priest, in delivering the homily, has to seek out each heart that is present there.

You might hear a homily that is recounting to you things you already know or believe. In that case, that homily might not be specifically for you but could be given for the person in the pew ahead of you who has never heard these things before and is coming to a deeper appreciation of the Faith that very day. Listening to a homily well requires us to have some humility in understanding that every person comes to Mass from different backgrounds and experiences and that the priest is trying to reach all of his people at different times and to have the humility to be challenged by the homily to see where God is asking us to make a decision or some change in our lives. Listening to a homily well also requires an open heart to take what is helpful in the homily and to hear how God is moving us through the words of the priest even if that is found only in one line from a specific homily.

All that being said, we know that not every homily given is a "home run". Sometimes the priest doesn't go in a direction we want him to, sometimes we are distracted or tired, sometimes we think the priest is going a little long. As long as we trying our best to hear the Word of God being opened for us, we will be able to find something that applies to our lives. Thankfully, I preach shorter than John Henry Cardinal Newman who regularly preached for over an hour and a half! - Fr. Golna



Sat 4:00 pm Doris Sperlazza +
Sun 8:00 am People of the Parish
Sun 10:30 am Alfred and Virginia Staffileno and their Deceased Descendants +
Mon 8:30 am Harold DeGarmo +
Tue 8:30 am Virginia Diserio +
Wed 5:30 pm Rosemary Kyanko +
Thur 8:30 am Olga Messner +
Fri 5:30 pm Benjamin Diaz +
Sat 4:00 pm Rockey/ Sperlazza Families +
Sun 8:00 am The Barsi Family +
Sun 10:30 am People of the Parish

Readings

Saturday: Rom 10:9-18, 19:8, 9, 10, 11, Mt 4:19, Mt 4:18-22
Sunday: Jer 33:14-16, Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14, 1 Thes 3:12—4:2, Ps 85:8, Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday: Is 2:1-5, Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9, See Ps 80:4, Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10, Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17, Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6, Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6, Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a, Is 55:6, Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: IS 29:17-24, PS 27:1, 4, 13-14, MT 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26, Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, Is 33:22, Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9, Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6., Phil 1:4-6, 8-11, Lk 3:4, 6, Lk 3:1-6



DECEMBER 7, 4:00 PM
Gre: Pam and Jeanette
Ser: Avery and Liam
Lec: Jim Sperlazza

DECEMBER 8, 8:00 AM
Gre: Toot and Joanie
Ser: Theresa Kowcheck
Lec: Judith Aracich

DECEMBER 8, 10:30 AM
Gre: Mary Beth Harvey
Ser: Will and Sothard
Lec: Monica Biery

USHERS PLEASE COUNT

THE READINGS for this weekend are in the Hymnal at 858

The **FOOD PANTRY** will be open on Wednesdays from Noon to 3:00pm to assist Brooke County residents. A valid ID & proof of address required. If you would like to donate any non perishable items please leave them in the red bin located in the vestibule.

It is that time of year again when the **FOOD PANTRY** could use our help with their holiday assistance. Gift cards in \$10 increments are always appreciated. You can turn them into the office or send them in the collection basket.

We have set out the sign up sheet for our **Dedication Mass and Holiday Gathering Dinner**. We will be having the dinner catered and would like to know how many to expect so please remind your friends and family to sign up too!

On Thursday, **December 5th at 6:30 p.m.** we will have a **PASTORAL COUNCIL** meeting to discuss last minute details for our Dedication Mass and Holiday Gathering. All are invited to attend this meeting, we hope to see you there!

November 24th, 2024

<u>Collection</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Weekly Envelopes	130	\$3922
Building & Maintenance		\$105
Elevator Fund		\$50
Thanksgiving for the poor		\$45
Christmas Flowers		\$20
Registered Parishioners/ Budget	249	\$2,900



- Sat:
- Sun:
- Mon:
- Tues: Paulette Grooms
- Wed:
- Thurs:
- Fri: Patsy Cipoletti
- Sat:
- Sun: Julianna Petruccioli



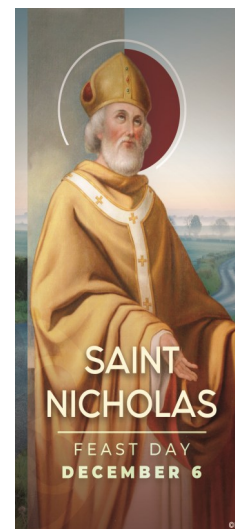
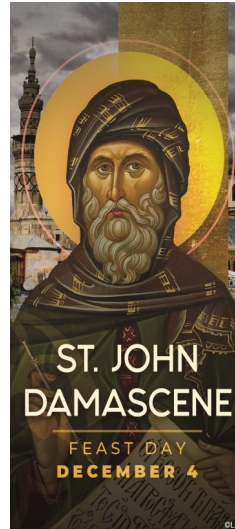
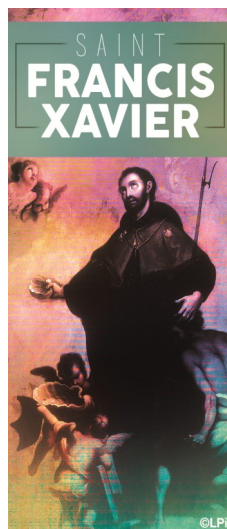
THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

is burning in memory of
Virginia Diserio
 (Celia Ptaszek)
 From December 6, 2024 to
 December 19, 2024.

Prayer List

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND THEIR INTENTIONS IN YOUR PRAYERS:
 DR. SCOTT BENEFIELD AND FAMILY, PAULA HENDERSON, DOMINIC CIPRIANI, MARY ROSE, DIANE BAYLESS, HILDA TARQUINIO, JOE BIBBO, BEVERLY SCHWERTFEGER, CHERYL BLAND, LISA CHIODO, DONNA SULLIVAN, SANDY, ELEANOR ROCKEY, COLLEEN RUSHING, ELEANOR SACRIPANTI, JIM AND SHARON PAVLIC, JOSIE NEWTON, KATHLEEN GODINA, DEBBIE AND RICK MERCER

Please keep the parish office updated of anyone you have added to the PRAYER LIST every 30 days.



Please help us in welcoming Brodee Michael Molinaro and Andrew Jay Vogel as they received the Sacrament of Baptism at

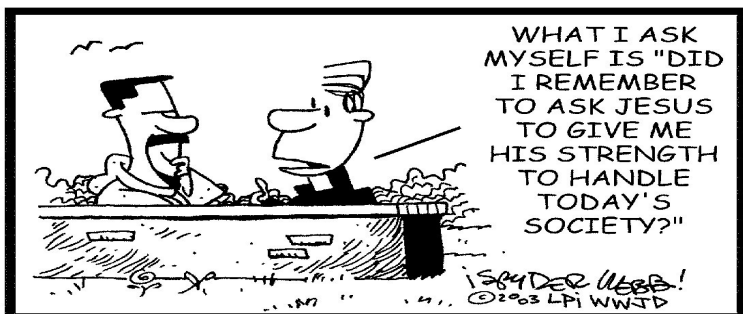
St. John the Evangelist Parish.
 We would also like to welcome Dave Klick as he was received into full communion with the Catholic Church at St. John the Evangelist Parish.

DECEMBER 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 9 A.M. Coffee & Catechesis	4 6:30 P.M. Altar & Rosary Meeting	5 6:30 P.M. Pastoral Council Meeting	6	7
8	9 Solemnity of Immaculate Conception 12 P.M. / 6 P.M. Mass	10 9 A.M. Coffee & Catechesis	11 11 A.M. Altar & Rosary Soup and Sandwich	12	13	14 4 P.M. 100th Year Anniversary Mass and Gathering
15	16	17 9 A.M. Coffee & Catechesis	18	18	20	21
22	23	24 9 A.M. Coffee & Catechesis	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 9 A.M. Coffee & Catechesis				

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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 by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 304-233-0880 or 888-434-6237: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Father Dennis

DATES TO REMEMBER:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHEDULE

December 9th (Holy Day of Obligation)

11:15 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. – Confession

12 P.M. – Mass

5:15 P.M. to 5:45 P.M. – Confession

6:00 P.M. – Mass

Saturday, December 14th: 100th Year Dedication Mass/ Holiday Gathering

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

By Bud Ozar

Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful". This comes natural to families. Parents are watchful of their children's health, grades, and friends. Children are watchful of parental moods. Today's gospel encourages us to use this ability to see God acting in the innocence, tenderness, love, and forgiveness of your family. "Be watchful", the Lord is already with you.

ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY

On Wednesday, December 4th Altar & Rosary Society will be having their monthly meeting in the parish hall. The guest speaker will be Molly from the Friendship Room, she will speak about their mission. In the spirit of Christmas if you so desire you can bring a gift card, a warm blanket, cap, gloves, or socks, to allow them to care for the homeless. (optional)



THE LADIES OF THE ALTAR & ROSARY SOCIETY WILL BE SELLING THEIR COOKIE TRAYS AGAIN THIS YEAR AT THEIR SOUP & SANDWICH SALE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11TH. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DONATING COOKIES PLEASE CALL SUSIE MULLENBACH (304) 281-1239



Sacred Heart of Mary Christmas Kielbasa Sale

This Christmas Sacred Heart of Mary Church will once again be taking orders for Jacob & Sons Kielbasa from Martins Ferry, OH. Kielbasa choices are smoked \$6/lb. or fresh unsmoked \$6/lb., **weights will vary**. Orders are due by **Monday, December 16** and will be available for pick up on **Saturday, December 21 from 12:00 to 4:00** in the cafeteria. **Payment due at time of pick up**. To order call the church office at 304-723-7175 from 8am-1:30pm M-F or by dropping the order form off at the church office at **200 Preston Ave Weirton**. Thank you for your support.

Name _____ Phone _____

Smoked Kielbasa _____ # Lbs. Fresh (unsmoked) Kielbasa _____ # Lbs. Homemade bread _____ \$5/loaf
(limit of 5 loaves)

Orders Due By Monday, December 16; Pick Up Saturday, December 21 12:00-4:00 pm

ADORATION SCHEDULE

9 A.M.		<p>Every week on Wednesdays, from 9 until 5 p.m., adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place in our parish church.</p> <p>If you would like to sign up to be an adorer for an hour, please call the parish office.</p>	
10 A.M.			
11 A.M.			
12 P.M.			
1 P.M.			
2 P.M.			Need 1 Adorer
3 P.M.			
4 P.M.			



It has been brought to our attention that the Sarris Candy Bars are a little hard to sell at \$3 each so we are going to make them 2 for \$5. From what we were told this was the first time that Sarris has raised their prices in several years, they also worked with us to help us get the maximum donation amount. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with the situation.

We're more than a Convenience store

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- Catering
- Delivery
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Is the Lord calling you? Call Rev. Brian Crenwelge at the VOCATIONS OFFICE, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston at 304-233-0880, ext. 298

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Cody R. Rice
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