

St. John the Evangelist Church

December 25, 2025

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

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)



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 Vadere
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 - 9:15 - 10 a.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.

A Christmas Message to Our Parish Family

At Christmas, the Church always speaks a simple and astonishing word: God has come among us. Not as an idea, not as a memory, not as a distant promise, but as a living Person. The eternal Son of the Father has taken flesh, entered our history, and made His dwelling among us. Every Christmas, we are invited not merely to remember this truth, but to let it take hold of our lives once again.

For many of you, Christmas is a deeply cherished time. It is filled with traditions passed down through generations, familiar hymns, candlelight, family gatherings, and moments of quiet prayer before the manger. For others, Christmas can be complicated. It may stir grief, loneliness, regrets, or unanswered questions. And for some who are reading this, Christmas Mass may be the only time you set foot in a church all year. If that is you, I want you to know this clearly and without hesitation: you are welcome here. Not as a visitor, not as an outsider, but as someone whom Christ has been waiting for.

The mystery we celebrate at Christmas is not an empty myth or a hollow hope. It is radical. God does not remain at a safe distance. He does not save us from afar. He draws so near that He enters our weakness, our poverty, our wounds, and even our sin. He is born into a world that does not recognize Him, into a town with no room for Him, into circumstances that are anything but ideal. This is no accident. It is the way God chooses to come, because it is the way He comes into our lives as well.

At the heart of Christmas is a truth we often forget: God meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be. He does not wait for us to have everything together. He does not require a perfect past or a flawless present. He comes precisely because we need Him. That is why Christmas is such a powerful invitation, especially for those who feel distant from the Church or uncertain about their place within it. Christ is not intimidated by distance. He crosses it. He is not discouraged by resistance. He overcomes it with love.

This parish exists for that reason. It exists to proclaim, in every generation, that Jesus Christ is alive, that He is present in His Church, and that He desires a relationship with each person who walks through our doors or even glances at this bulletin.

Every Mass celebrated, every confession heard, every sacrament offered, every prayer spoken, every act of charity extended, flows from the same mystery we celebrate at Christmas, that God is with us. Emmanuel is not an ancient title. It is a reality. As a parish, we are entrusted with the responsibility of stewarding not only a building, but a mission. We are called to ensure that this church remains a place where the Gospel is proclaimed, the sacraments are celebrated with reverence, and every person can encounter Christ. This includes caring responsibly for the material realities that make that mission possible, always in service of people, never for their own sake.

The focus of this year's Christmas Appeal is the remaining debt on our elevator. The elevator has become one of the most important features of our parish life because it ensures that every parishioner, visitor, and family member can fully participate in the sacramental life of the Church regardless of mobility needs. The remaining debt now stands at \$53,000. This is our only interest bearing debt. Once it is eliminated, we will no longer pay any interest on any of our debt. In addition, payments from a trust that are required to be directed toward the elevator debt, totaling approximately \$13,000 each year and distributed in two installments, will immediately return to the parish once the debt is eliminated. This will significantly strengthen our yearly income and allow us to address future needs with greater stability.

If we can accomplish this together, the elevator debt will be completely paid off six years ahead of schedule. To accomplish this in the most financially responsible way, I ask that all donations to the Christmas Appeal be made through the Catholic Sharing Appeal so that your full gift can be directed to this purpose without diocesan assessment. If you are able to assist us with paying off the elevator debt, please use the Catholic Sharing Appeal envelopes that you can find in the pews so that we can keep 100% of the money raised to pay off the elevator used for that purpose. Even a modest gift will make a meaningful difference.

If you are struggling financially, please do not feel burdened or pressured. Your presence, your prayer, and your openness to God matter more than any donation. The Church is here for you, not the other way around. And if you are in a position to give generously, know that your sacrifice makes a real difference. It allows this parish to remain strong, stable, and ready to welcome those whom Christ is drawing to Himself.

Christmas is also a moment of invitation. If you have been away from the Church for a long time, perhaps due to hurt, disagreement, confusion, or simply the passage of time, consider this your invitation home. You do not need to have all the answers. You do not need to resolve everything at once. You only need to take the first step. Christ does the rest. He always has.

If you have been carrying guilt or regret, hear this clearly: the child in the manger has come for you. If you have felt unworthy, unseen, or forgotten, know that God has entered history precisely to seek you out. If faith has grown cold or distant, Christmas is not a judgment. It is an opening. Grace begins again where humility allows it to enter.

The Incarnation tells us something decisive about God and something equally decisive about us. God is not content to remain an abstraction. He becomes flesh. And our lives are no longer insignificant. They become the place where God desires to dwell. Because God has taken on human nature, every human life now carries an eternal weight. Every ordinary moment can become a meeting place with God. Every act of love, repentance, forgiveness, and faith can be transformed from within.

This is why Christmas changes everything. History is no longer closed in on itself. Suffering is no longer meaningless. Sin is no longer the final word. Death is no longer absolute. The Word has become flesh, and nothing is the same again. God has bound Himself to humanity forever, and in doing so, He has opened the way for humanity to share in His divine life.

As we celebrate this holy season, my prayer for you is simple: that you would allow Christ to draw near to you. Not as a symbol, but as a Savior. Not as a memory, but as a living presence. Let Him enter the places you usually keep closed. Let Him speak into the areas of your life that need healing, direction, or hope. He does not come to condemn. He comes to save.

Thank you for being part of this parish, whether regularly or occasionally, visibly or quietly. Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your openness to the grace of God. May this Christmas be more than a moment. May it be a turning point. Because the child born in Bethlehem changes everything. God is no longer distant. Grace is no longer unreachable. History is no longer closed in on itself. The Word has become flesh, and because of that, nothing, absolutely nothing, can ever be the same again.

Merry Christmas!

Very Rev. Justin Holna, J.C.L., J.V.

WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule for Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God A Holy Day of Obligation

Wednesday, December 31st – 6 PM
Thursday, January 1st – 10:30 AM

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Jeff Ferda
Dec. 19-Jan.1



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!

Wednesday, December 24	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Jeff Ferda †
Thursday, December 25	12:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Thursday, December 25	10:30A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Mark Kowcheck † Requested by: Theresa Kowcheck
Friday, December 26	5:30 P.M.	For the TOR Sisters † Requested by: Gordon Smith & Mary Ann
Saturday, December 27	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Woodrow Hudspeth †
Sunday, December 28	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of Benjiman & Richard Bucy Requested by: Rita Bucy
Sunday, December 28	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

Attendance & Collections

Saturday 4:00	53
Sunday 8:00	40
Sunday 10:30	74
Total Attendance	167
Regular Collection	\$6605
Building and Maintenance Fund	\$1239
Votive Candles	\$58
Christmas Appeal/CSA	\$6,500.00
Christmas Flowers	\$240
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$56,274.97

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, Tonette Alward and Colleen Rushing ,Madeline Brozstek and Mike Turkaly.
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 Derico

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.



We are 49% past completion. Goal \$18,200 Raised \$27,140 149% 46 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 Cathedralicum 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/>



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, December 27, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, December 28, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 28, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Anna & Jeje	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Jim Sperlazza	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

*The readings for today can be
found on pages:
870-Vigil (4PM)
871- Midnight(12:00AM)
873- Day (10:30AM)
of the green hymnal in your pew.*

Daily Readings and Feasts

December 20, 2025 (Saturday) Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Luke 1:26-38

December 21, 2025 (Sunday) Fourth Sunday of Advent; Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

December 22, 2025 (Monday); 1 Samuel 1:24-28; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Luke 1:46-56

December 23, 2025 (Tuesday); Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14; Luke 1:57-66

December 24, 2025 (Wednesday) Vigil Mass: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

December 25, 2025 (Thursday) The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

- Mass at Midnight: Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14
- Mass at Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Psalm 97:1, 6, 11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20
- Mass during the Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

December 26, 2025 (Friday) Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr; Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Matthew 10:17-22

December 27, 2025 (Saturday) Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist; 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a, 2-8

December 28, 2025 (Sunday) Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph; Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

You're Invited to a Joyful Christmas Lunch!

Date: Sunday, January 11

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: St. John the Evangelist Hall

Join us for a delicious holiday meal, warm fellowship, and festive cheer as we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord!

Cost: \$20 adults

\$10- under 12 years old

Sign up sheets in the vestibule or call the parish office. 304-737-0429

We look forward to sharing this special time with you!

Merry Christmas!



Music

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

O Come All Ye Faithful 300

INTROIT 4pm MASS:

Refrain: "Today you will know that the Lord will come, and He will save us, and in the morning you will see His glory." Ex 16: 6, 7

INTROIT 10:30am MASS:

Refrain: "A child is born for us, and a son is given to us; his scepter of power rests upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Messenger of great counsel." Is 9: 6

KYRIE:

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

GLORIA:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

PSALM RESPONSE 4pm MASS:

Refrain: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord." Psalm 89

PSALM RESPONSE 10:30am MASS:

Refrain: "All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God." Psalm 98

ALLELUIA

4pm MASS: Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Acclamation: "Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed: the Savior of the world will reign over us."

ALLELUIA

10:30am MASS: Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Acclamation: "A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth."

OFFERTORY:

Away in a Manger 310

SANCTUS:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

MYSTERY OF FAITH:

We proclaim Your death, O Lord, and profess Your resurrection until You come again.

GREAT AMEN:

Amen.

AGNUS DEI:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

4pm MASS: Refrain: "The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see the salvation of our God." Is 40: 5

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

10:30am MASS: Refrain: "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God."

POST-COMMUNION HYMN:

Lo How a Rose E're Blooming 302

Marian Antiphon:

Alma Redemptoris Mater 471

RECESSIONAL:

Joy to the World 303

Christmas flowers in memory of:

Alan Klein
Jeff Atwell
Tammy West McClure
Damian Barnes
Lauren (Lupinetti) Summers
Jim + Madalyn Sperlazza
Tom + Claribel McLaughlin
Harold DeGarmo
Charles Birkheimer
Mary + Rinaldo Anitori
Eva Lucas
Bill + Roseanna Diserio
Margaret Lauck
Bob Lauck
Theresa Opaskey
Stephen Opaskey
Larry Main
Gene Parent
Agnar Bigelmeyer
Frances Parent
The Dinardo Family
Joe + Pearl Bibbo
Anthony Morris
Lazear, Lupinetti + Cusick Families
Mitchell + DiNardo Families
Michael Mullenbach
Leroy + Norma Libby
Bill Harvey
Harvey Family
Danny Cipoletti
Jeff Ferda
Leonard + Gerry Stolirchick
Mike + Mary Turkaly
Don Huff Sr
Don Huff Jr.
Rose DeFede
Frank DeFede
John + Clemence Golna
Emma + Russell Grant

Kayla A. Schoonmaker
Funeral Director

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

Mullenbach Funeral Home

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.D.C.
Owner and Director
ReasnerOfWellsburg.com
304-737-3231



*In Loving
Memory of
Kristian
White*

*In Loving
Memory of
George &
Mildred Bayless*

*In Loving
Memory of
Janeen Markos*

*In Loving
Memory Of
Diane & Harold
Crabtree*

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

\$15 per week

\$750 per year

per

year

\$20 per month

\$1400 per year