

St. John the Evangelist Church

December 28, 2025

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

Holy Family



The Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, 'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.' (First Homily on the 'Missus Est').

Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, 'Redemptoris Custos' (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for who Saint Joseph 'shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men' (Encyclical Quamquam Pluries [1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, '...Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was.[...] It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.' Not many years before, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, 'Patron of the Catholic Church' (1870).

Almost intuitively, one can recognize that the mysterious, exemplary, guardianship enacted by Joseph was conducted firstly, in a yet more intimate way, by Mary.

Consequently, the liturgical feast of the Holy Family speaks to us of the fond and loving care that we must render to the Body of Christ. We can understand this in a mystical sense, as guardians of the Church, and also in the Eucharistic sense. Mary and Joseph took great care of Jesus' physical body. Following their example, we can and must take great care of His Mystical Body, the Church, and the Eucharist which He has entrusted to us. If Mary was, in some way, 'the first tabernacle in history' (John Paul II Ecclesia de Eucharistia, n. 55) then we the Tabernacle in which Our Lord chose to reside in person, in His Real Presence, was also entrusted to us. We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus' physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

—From the Congregation for the Clergy

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 - 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.

Pastor's Perusings

The Fifth Beatitude: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Mercy is the most divine of virtues. It is the radiant face of love meeting the reality of human weakness. When Jesus proclaims, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," He is revealing the very heart of God. The Beatitude is not only an ethical instruction, it is a window into the Gospel itself. For in the Kingdom of God, mercy is not the exception, it is the rule.

To be merciful is to see another's misery and to act to relieve it. The Latin word *miser cordia* means "a heart moved by misery." Mercy is not mere pity or tolerance. It is the powerful tenderness that flows from love. It is compassion that moves toward the wounded. It is love that stoops.

Christ Himself is Mercy Incarnate. To hunger for righteousness, as we saw in the fourth Beatitude, is to long for holiness and justice. But what happens when holiness meets the reality of human frailty? It becomes mercy.

Mercy is love's response to sin, suffering, and need. It is not weakness or compromise. It does not deny justice or excuse evil. Rather, mercy fulfills justice by going beyond it. Where justice gives what is deserved, mercy gives more, healing, forgiveness, and restoration.

In Sacred Scripture, mercy is not an abstract concept. It is tangible. It feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, forgives the sinner, lifts the fallen, and welcomes the outcast. The parable of the Prodigal Son, the Good Samaritan, the Woman Caught in Adultery, all these are stories not just about human kindness, but about divine mercy poured into the world.

To be merciful is to imitate the very character of God, who "is rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4). The Lord describes Himself to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex 34:6). Every page of salvation history echoes with this refrain.

Mercy must be practiced both spiritually and corporally. The Church gives us the traditional lists of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as ways to embody this Beatitude:

Corporal Works of Mercy:

· Feed the hungry; Give drink to the thirsty; Clothe the naked; Shelter the homeless; Visit the sick; Visit the imprisoned; Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

· Instruct the ignorant; Counsel the doubtful; Admonish sinners; Bear wrongs patiently; Forgive offenses willingly; Comfort the afflicted; Pray for the living and the dead.

To be merciful is not merely to "feel bad" for others. It is to act, even when inconvenient, uncomfortable, or unrewarded. It means stepping into the suffering of others and allowing your heart to be pierced by their wounds.

Mercy is not selective. It doesn't ask whether the person "deserves" help. It sees the image of God in every human soul. The merciful person treats the poor with the dignity of royalty, the sinner with the hope of redemption, the enemy with the possibility of conversion.

Perhaps the hardest form of mercy is forgiveness. It is here that the Beatitude cuts deepest. To forgive those who have wronged us is not to say the wound didn't matter. It is to say that love is stronger than hatred, and that grace is stronger than vengeance.

Jesus demands this kind of mercy of His disciples. He commands us to forgive "seventy times seven" times (Mt 18:22). In the Lord's Prayer, we beg God to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." And He warns us: "If you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Mt 6:15).

Forgiveness is not a feeling. It is a decision, a choice to release the debt, to entrust justice to God, and to love even through pain. It may not come easily, but it opens the door to freedom. Hatred binds. Mercy liberates.

We live in a time that speaks constantly about justice, but often forgets mercy. Our public discourse is marked by outrage, cancelation, and unforgiveness. People are not allowed to grow. One mistake can define a person forever. The merciful heart sees more.

This Beatitude calls us to resist the culture of mercilessness. It invites us to see each person, whether they are repentant or not, with the eyes of Christ. That doesn't mean we condone evil, but it means we never give up on the person.

It also means we must show mercy to ourselves. Some souls are trapped not by others' judgment, but by their own. They carry years of guilt, shame, and self-condemnation. Yet the mercy of God is wider than any ocean. In the confessional, Christ says not "I condemn you," but "I absolve you." And once forgiven, we must learn to live as the forgiven.

This Beatitude comes with a promise: "They shall obtain mercy." What we give, we receive. What we withhold, we risk losing.

This is not a barter, but a spiritual law. The one who forgives will be forgiven. The one who shows mercy will receive it in return, if not always from men, then certainly from God.

The final judgment will be a judgment of mercy. Christ tells us that we will be judged by how we loved the least among us: the hungry, the thirsty, the imprisoned, the stranger. In that moment, it is not theological knowledge or social status that will matter. It will be whether we showed mercy.

St. James writes: "Judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgment" (James 2:13). These are sobering words, but also joyful ones. For if we live mercifully now, we will find mercy then.

The lives of the saints abound with examples of mercy:

St. Faustina Kowalska, the apostle of Divine Mercy, received from Christ the message that His Heart is a fountain of mercy for the whole world.

St. John Vianney, who spent hours each day in the confessional, poured out mercy on penitents who had been away for decades.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, who gave his life to save another in Auschwitz, practiced the greatest form of mercy, laying down one's life for a friend.

St. Damien of Molokai, who cared for lepers and touched the untouchable, lived mercy in every act.

Their example is not beyond us. Mercy is not just for mystics or martyrs. It is for teachers and parents, cashiers and nurses, priests and farmers. Each of us can be merciful today.

Above all, this Beatitude points to Jesus Christ, the Face of the Father's mercy. Every page of the Gospel reveals His merciful Heart: forgiving sinners, touching the unclean, feeding the crowds, weeping at death, dying for enemies.

From the Cross, He cried out, "Father, forgive them." In the Resurrection, His first words were "Peace be with you." In the Eucharist, He feeds us with mercy. In Confession, He washes our wounds again and again.

To live this Beatitude is to become like Him. Not just to receive His mercy, but to extend it to others. Blessed are the merciful, not because they are strong, but because they are Christlike. And they shall obtain mercy, not only in this life, but in eternity.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday, December 29	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Ted & Linda Bolen
Tuesday, December 30	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Wednesday, December 31	6:00 P.M.	Intention of the Priest
Thursday, January 1	10:30A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Dennis Cross † Requested by: Greg & Cindy Crabtree
Friday, January 2	5:30 P.M.	Intention of the Priest
Saturday, January 3	4:00 P.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, January 4	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of Benjiman & Richard Bucy Requested by: Rita Bucy
Sunday, January 4	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of Helen, David & Stephen Requested by: Alfred Diserio

*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!

Attendance & Collections

Saturday 4:00	53
Sunday 8:00	40
Sunday 10:30	74
Total Attendance	167
Regular Collection	\$6605
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$58
Christmas Flowers	\$260
Christmas Appeal/CSA	\$6,500.00
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$56,274.97

Adorer Enrollment Status

9-10	
10-11	
11-12	
12-1	
1-2	
2-3	
3-4	
4-5	

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, Mike Turkaly, and Gerry Schott.

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.**

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

Need 2 Adorers

Need 1 Adorer

Need 0 Adorers

Encounter with Jesus

JANUARY 10TH & 11TH 2026

"THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND STIRRING ADVENTURE THAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU IS THE PERSONAL MEETING WITH JESUS, WHO IS THE ONLY ONE WHO GIVES REAL MEANING TO OUR LIVES".

-ST. JOHN PAUL II

AGES

18-30



CONTACT: (304) 240-6835

4030 MIDDLEWAY PIKE KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

GOLNA HAPPEN
Mass Wednesday, December 31st

6 PM

Mass Thursday, January 1st

10:30 AM

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy

Mother of God

A Holy Day of Obligation

Sunday December 28

NO CCD

Tuesday December 30

No Coffee & Catechesis

Wednesday December 31

No Adoration

Wednesday, December 31 &

Thursday January 1st

Collection for Mary Mother of God

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

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 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/>



Brittany Staffileno 12/29

Grant Yost 12/31

Gunner Yost 12/31

Profiles in Holiness



December 29th - St. Thomas Becket was Archbishop of Canterbury and a martyr for the faith. He held the position of Lord Chancellor under King Henry II, until his election as Archbishop. During this time, a quarrel formed between the Archbishop and the King over the authority of the Church. This eventually led the King to order the assassination of St. Thomas by accident because of the king's servants taking his commands too literally. St. Thomas was martyred in Canterbury Cathedral. St. Thomas Becket is the patron of secular priests.


"I die willingly, for the name of Jesus and for the defense of the Church."

- St. Thomas Becket

December 31st - Pope St. Sylvester was born in 285 and became pope in 314. He was thus the first pope to have his entire papacy be after the Edict of Milan in 313, when Emperor Constantine established the toleration of Christianity. Very little is confidently historically known about Pope St. Sylvester, but many important events took place during his pontificate. The First Council of Nicaea occurred in 325, and helped define Church teachings, and produced the Nicene Creed. In addition, because of the Edict of Milan, construction began on many large churches. In the time when St. Sylvester was Pope, Old St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St. John Lateran, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls were all constructed, among many more. Because his feast day falls on New Year's Eve, some countries refer to New Year's Eve as Silvester in honor of Pope St. Sylvester's feast day.



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, January 3, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, January 4, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, January 4, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Pam & Jeanette	Linda Stuckey	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	AJ Mitchell	Judith Aracich	Mary Beth Harvey

Daily Readings and Feasts

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; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

December 29, 2025 (Monday) Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35

December 30, 2025 (Tuesday) Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40

December 31, 2025 (Wednesday) Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; 1 John 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12a, 12b-13; John 1:1-18

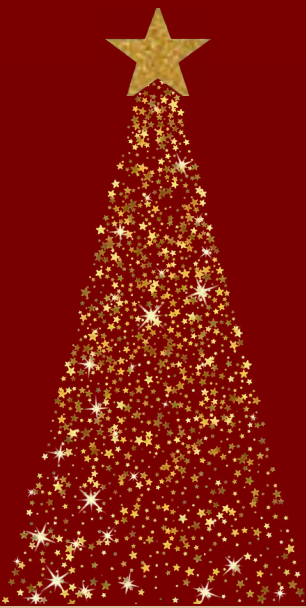
January 1, 2026 (Thursday) Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God; Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

January 2, 2026 (Friday) Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church; 1 John 2:22-28; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; John 1:19-28

January 3, 2026 (Saturday) Christmas Weekday; 1 John 2:29-3:6; Psalm 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; John 1:29-34

January 4, 2026 (Sunday) The Epiphany of the Lord; Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 874 of
the green hymnal in your pew*



You're Invited to a Joyful Christmas Lunch!

Date: Sunday, January 11

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: St. John the Evangelist Parish 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!

Will or Estate Planning?

Have you ever considered remembering St. John the Evangelist in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. John the Evangelist. Bequests should be made out to: "The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office," with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used (i.e. "for the use of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Wellsburg).

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



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

TUNED IN ON TUESDAY

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CHAMBERS AND JAMES

(FUNERAL, PET & CREMATION SERVICES)

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- Delivery
- Lunch Specials

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markscarryout.com

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 per year
\$15 per week	\$750 per year	
\$20 per month		

\$1400 per year