

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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

Easter

April 5, 2026

## Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of the Lord



### He is Risen!

"I rose up and am still with Thee." After His labors and His humiliations, Christ finds rest with His Father. "I am still with Thee." This is perfect beatitude. Through His cross He entered into the possession of eternal glory. Christ has gained the crown of victory; through Christ men also win their crowns of victory. Humanity was under a curse and subject to the wrath of God. Now that they have risen with Christ, their guilt has been destroyed. "I rose up and am still with Thee." The liturgy places these words in the mouth of the Church that she may pray them with Christ.

"The earth trembled and was still when God arose in judgment." The resurrection of Christ is the judgment and condemnation of those who have turned away from God. This judgment was prefigured by the angel who passed through the land of Egypt destroying the first-born of the Egyptians. The Israelites marked the doors of their houses with the blood of the paschal lamb.

We are the new Israel, and "Christ our Pasch is sacrificed." We mark ourselves with His blood, which we enjoy in the Holy Eucharist. We have been pardoned, we are saved, we shall live.

"He is risen." The resurrection of Christ is a pledge of our own resurrection. It is the foundation upon which our faith rests. It is the guarantee of our redemption and God's assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are called to eternal life. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein. Give praise to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Alleluia."

"Christ our Pasch is sacrificed. . . . The Lamb redeems the sheep. Christ, the innocent One, hath reconciled sinners to the Father."

—Excerpted from *The Light of the World* by Benedict Baur, O.S.B.

# 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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- Happy Easter! Christ Is Risen Indeed*

Welcome, truly welcome, to this day of days. Whether you are here every Sunday or perhaps only on this morning each year, whether your faith feels strong or uncertain, whether you come with joy, with questions, or even with hesitation, you are not here by accident. The Church greets you today with a word that is as ancient as it is ever new: Christ is risen. And because He is risen, everything has changed.

There are moments in life when joy seems almost too great to be true. A long-awaited reunion, the birth of a child, the healing of a wound we feared would never close. Yet even these moments, as luminous as they are, remain fragile. They pass. They fade. They cannot answer the deeper questions that dwell in the human heart: Why is there suffering? Why do we die? Does love endure, or is it swallowed up in silence?

It is precisely into these questions that Easter speaks.

The proclamation of this day is not a symbol or a metaphor. It is not simply a way of saying that goodness survives in memory. It is a claim about reality itself. Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified, who truly suffered and truly died, has passed through death and lives again. The tomb is empty. Death has been entered into and overcome from within.

For many who come to church on Easter, perhaps after some time away, this can feel distant at first. It may seem like something belonging to another age. And yet, if we listen closely, we begin to recognize that this message speaks directly to our own lives.

We all know, in one way or another, the reality of Good Friday. We know what it is to carry burdens that feel too heavy. We know what it is to experience betrayal, loss, disappointment, or suffering that no one else sees. The Cross is not foreign to us. It is written into the fabric of human existence.

The Christian faith does not deny this. It does not pretend that suffering is not real. Instead, it reveals something astonishing: God Himself has entered into it.

In Jesus Christ, God does not remain distant from our pain. He takes it upon Himself. The Passion is not simply the story of a good man unjustly condemned. It is the revelation of a love that goes to the very end. On the Cross, Jesus bears not only physical suffering, but the weight of sin, our sin, the rupture between humanity and God. He enters into the darkness that we ourselves cannot overcome, and He does so freely, out of love.

Yet if the story ended there, it would still be a tragedy, even if a noble one. What transforms everything is what happens on the third day.

The Resurrection is the Father's answer to the Son's self-gift. It is the definitive yes spoken by God to the love of Christ. But it is more than that. It is the beginning of something entirely new. In the Resurrection, death itself is changed. It no longer has the final word. Jesus does not simply return to His previous life. He rises into a new life, one that is no longer subject to death. This means that what happened to Him is not only about Him. It concerns us. It concerns every human life.

At the heart of Easter is the simplest and most profound proclamation the Church has ever made: Jesus Christ loves you, He gave His life to save you, and He is living now.

This is not an abstract idea. It is a reality that touches your life, here and now.

Perhaps you come today carrying doubts. Perhaps faith feels distant or unclear. Perhaps you have been away from the Church and are not sure where you stand. Easter is not reserved for those who have everything in

The first witnesses of the Resurrection were not expecting it. They came to the tomb with sorrow, not hope. When the Risen Christ appears, He does not begin with reproach. He begins with a gift.

“Peace be with you.”

These words are not only a greeting. They are a promise. The peace of Christ is not the absence of difficulty. It is the presence of His life within us, a life that is stronger than death.

Easter, then, is not simply a remembrance of something that happened long ago. It is an invitation.

It is an invitation to allow the reality of the Resurrection to enter into our own lives. It is an invitation to step out of the tombs that can quietly enclose us. Those tombs may be made of sin, of discouragement, of fear, or of indifference. They may be hidden beneath outward success or busyness. But they are real.

And Christ calls us out of them.

There is a subtle temptation in our world to live as though God were absent, as though life were confined to what we can see and measure. This can lead to resignation. If death is the final horizon, then everything is ultimately fragile.

But Easter breaks open that horizon.

It tells us that our lives are not limited to this world alone. It tells us that we are made for something more, for a communion with God that cannot be destroyed. It tells us that love is stronger than death, not as a comforting thought, but as a reality revealed in the Risen Christ.

This is why the Church speaks of Easter as a day of joy. Not a superficial joy, not a fleeting emotion, but a deep and abiding joy that rests on something solid. God has acted. He has not abandoned the world. He has entered into it and redeemed it.

For those who come only occasionally, Easter can be a moment of grace. A moment when something stirs again within the heart. Perhaps it is a desire, a sense of being drawn, even without knowing exactly why.

That desire matters. It is already a sign that Christ is near.

The invitation of Easter is not to solve every question at once. It is to take a step. To be open. To consider that what the Church proclaims may truly be real.

Perhaps that step is to begin again in prayer. Perhaps it is to return to the sacraments, especially Reconciliation so that you can be unburdened of your sins by the Lord who died for you. Perhaps it is simply to remain, to listen, and to allow this day to speak.

The Risen Christ does not force Himself upon us. He invites. He calls. He waits.

But His call is not impersonal. It is addressed directly to you. Your life is not closed. No matter where you have been, no matter what you carry, a new beginning is always possible.

This is the heart of Easter.

On this day, the Church proclaims with confidence and radiant joy: Christ is risen! Indeed He is Risen!

And in Him, the door to life stands open.

**-Father Golna**

# WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 4	9:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Charles Olszeski † Requested by: Patty & Suzann
Sunday, April 5	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo
Monday, April 6	8:30 A.M.	For the living and deceased members of the A & R Society Requested by: Members of A & R Society
Tuesday, April 7	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Joe Elswick Sr. † Requested by: Ted & Linda Bolen
Wednesday, April 8	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of Randy Lamone † Requested by: Pam Ferguson
Thursday, April 9	8:30 AM	For the repose of the soul of Mildred Bayless † Requested by: Cindy Crabtree
Friday, April 10	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Mark Kowcheck † Requested by: Theresa Kowcheck
Saturday, April 11	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Dora McDermott † Requested by: Patty & Suzann
Sunday, April 12	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, April 12	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Jim Kunzler † Requested by: Max & Pat Ferry

*The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Mark Kowcheck March 27-April 9 By: Theresa Kowcheck*



*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 PM	58	\$725
Sunday 8:00 AM	38	\$255
Sunday 10:30 AM	80	\$3455
Total attendance	176	
Collection Total	\$4560	
Online Giving	\$1100	
Weekly Needs	\$5,000	
Votive Candles	\$222	

## Adorer Enrollment Status

9-10	Green
10-11	Green
11-12	Green
12-1	Yellow
1-2	Green
2-3	Yellow
3-4	Red
4-5	Green
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, Matthew Dillard, James Baker, Marissa Bandibas Jewer, Mary Fluharty, Marie Reck, Karen & Son, Tonette Alward and Colleen Rushing, Madeline Brozstek, Kristen Newton, Clyde Gray, Diana DeGarmo and Simon Rohaly.

**Those who have died:** Especially Frank Martino. 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.



# Donut SUNDAY

*Have a little treat!*

*Divine Mercy Sunday,  
Join us for coffee and  
donuts. This is a great  
opportunity to meet new  
parishioners, develop  
new friendships, serve  
others and create new  
memories.*

**Sunday April 12**  
**After 10:30am Mass**  
**@ Parish Hall**



## GOLNA HAPPEN

*Monday April 6*  
*Office Closed*

*Tuesday April 7*  
*Coffee and Catechesis 9am*  
*Altar & Rosary meeting*  
*4:30pm*

*Wednesday April 8*  
*Adoration & Benediction*  
*9am-5pm*

*Sunday April 12*  
*Donuts & Coffee after*  
*10:30am Mass*

Mass Intentions can now be booked through December 31, 2026! Please call the office or put one of the pink envelopes in the collection.

If you are divorced and civilly remarried, in a civil marriage not recognized by the Church, or have questions about a prior marriage, please know that you are not alone and that the Church desires to walk with you.

If you are unsure about your marital situation, are considering an annulment, or believe your current circumstances may affect your full participation in the sacramental life of the Church, please contact Father Golna. These conversations are always confidential and respectful.

The Church's marriage law exists not to exclude, but to serve the truth of marriage and the dignity of the persons involved. When questions arise, the Church seeks clarity so that consciences may be at peace and lives may be ordered toward full communion with Christ and His Church.

If this applies to you or to someone you love, please do not hesitate to reach out. Taking this step is not about paperwork or judgment, but about healing, truth, and the freedom to live fully the life God desires for you.

HAPPY  
*Birthday*



**John Radvansky 4/8**  
**Patty Royal 4/10**  
**Daniell Diserio 4/12**

*Easter Flowers in memory of:*

Mary Anitori

Rinaldo Anitori

George & Mildred Bayless

Joe & Pearl Bibbo

Charles "Jock" Birkheimer

Capp & Gagish Family

Casale & Marovich Families

Children lost to Miscarriage

Jerry Cassandra

Danny Cipoletti

Harold & Diane Crabtree

Deceased Classmates of 1975 & 1980

(St. John School)

Harold DeGarmo

DiNardo Family

Virginia Diserio

Roger Dobbs

Shirley Dorrance

Joe & Helen Elswick

Jeff Ferda

Freshwater & Pavlic Family

John & Clemence Golna

Emma & Russell Grant

Bill Harvey

Vaughn Hone, Sr.

Don Huff, Jr.

Don Huff, Sr.

Herman & Dolores Jeskey

Charlie Kirk

Lazear, Lupinetti & Cusick  
Family

Janeen Markos

Andy & Stella Matusic

Mary Mazzafo

Tom & Thea Montalbano

Anthony Morris

Mike Mullenbach

Robert & Josephine Newton

Dorothy Sacripanti

Charles & Maryann Sivalski

Harry Staffileno, Sr.

Leonard & Gerry Stolirchick

John, Dorothy & John Stucin, Jr.

Bob Stuckey


Mike & Mary Turkaly

Frank Ujcich

George Underwood

Kristian White

## Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, April 11 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, April 12 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, April 12, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Pam & Jeanette	Linda Stuckey	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Jim Sperlazza	Maryanne Capp	Monica Biery

*The readings for this weekend can be found on pages 901 & 902 of the green hymnal in your pew.*

## Daily Readings and Feasts

**April 4, 2026 (Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil)** Genesis 1:1–2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15–15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32–4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

**April 5, 2026 (Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord)** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10 or (at evening Mass) Luke 24:13-35

**April 6, 2026 (Monday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Matthew 28:8-15

**April 7, 2026 (Tuesday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; John 20:11-18

**April 8, 2026 (Wednesday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:13-35

**April 9, 2026 (Thursday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Luke 24:35-48

**April 10, 2026 (Friday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; John 21:1-14

**April 11, 2026 (Saturday within the Octave of Easter)** Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mark 16:9-15

**April 12, 2026 (Second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy)** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**St. Joseph the Worker-Christian Mothers Card Party** will be held **Sunday, May 3rd at 2:00 pm** in the grade school Dube' Dome. Doors open at 1:00 pm and tickets are \$10.00. No tickets will be sold at the door.

To purchase tickets, call Barbara Reynolds 304-723-9772. They will be mailed upon receipt of your check made out to St. Joseph Christian Mothers if you include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Tickets for card party and 50/50 raffle will also be sold at church the weekends of April 11-12 & April 18-19. Christian Mothers will accept door prizes for the card party. They may be dropped off at the church office up until the 30th of April.

### St. Joseph Holy Name Society

**Wine Tasting!**

Enjoy the wine of local wine makers and finger foods.

We are still in search of homemade wine & brandy makers to join us.

Contact Mike Veltri @ 304-670-0722

Saturday, May 16th 6-9PM

Madonna High School Gym

Adults 21 & Over Only!

Donation \$20.00

Purchase tickets at St. Joe's rectory or at the door the day of the event.

### 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).

# 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](http://www.mullenbachfh.com)

Cody R. Rice  
Funeral Director

(304) 527-4090  
Fax (304) 527-3793  
[mullenbachfh@comcast.net](mailto:mullenbachfh@comcast.net)

 *Reasner Funeral Home*  
Robert Morris L.F.C.  
Owner and Director  
[ReasnerOfWellsburg.com](http://ReasnerOfWellsburg.com)  
304-737-3251



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**Bill Garvey, Agent**  
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700 Charles Street  
Wellsburg, WV 26070-1616  
Bus: 304-737-0713  
[bgarvey.com](http://bgarvey.com)



*In loving memory of Kristian White*

 **Jacob Brunoni**  
740-512-2147  
-Call or Text  
Brunoni's Tree Service **f**  
Brunonitree **@**  
[jacob@brunonitree.com](mailto:jacob@brunonitree.com) **✉**

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

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

**\$1400 per year**