

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

February 1st, 2026

Ordinary Time

Fourth Sunday



The Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of St. Matthew 5:1-12a. At the end of the Gospel of the Beatitudes, the poor appear as the privileged ones in the discourse, the definitive, true protagonists in the story.

The first recipients of the Beatitudes are, in fact, the 'poor in spirit', an expression that indicates those who have their hearts and consciences directed intimately to Our Lord. They are the expression of the just who are tried by moments of suffering and difficulties. However, they are called 'blessed' and 'happy' because God's merciful and compassionate gaze rests on them. These are the poor that the Bible text really refers to. The poor in the Bible are the humbled, the 'anawim', who bear a burden on their shoulders. They are given God's favor and because of this the Word identifies them as just, meek and humble. All kinds of attitudes are included in the eight beatitudes. This way the true significance of the 'just poor' is revealed; the ones who don't confide mainly in themselves but in God. The poor are those who detach themselves concretely and interiorly from the possession of persons and things and above all of themselves. The poor don't find security in the gods of this world like success, power or pride but the true Lord God in Heaven.

Thus, the poor, meek and humble become a scandal before the world because they witness that one can found our lives on God, with the same certainty of His constant presence and so they confirm the existence and works of God. Each one of us is invited to verify where our certainty rests and if our daily life and actions proclaim God's efficacious presence in the world.

—From the Dicastery 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.

FASTING & PRAYING

The Ascent of the Heart: Rediscovering the Power of Prayer

Prayer is not merely one element of the Christian life. It is its lifeblood. It is the first pillar of Lent, the daily bread of the soul, and the very language of our relationship with God. Without prayer, even our best efforts at fasting, almsgiving, or moral living can become mere formalities. But with prayer, everything is set aflame with divine love.

St. John Vianney said, “Prayer is nothing but union with God.” This phrase, though simple, is profound. Prayer is not a skill to be mastered but a relationship to be deepened. It is not a performance to gain His attention but a surrender to His divine love. In prayer, the soul returns to its origin and goal. We lift our hearts to the One who made us and who alone can satisfy us.

Human beings are made for communion with God. We are not meant to wander as spiritual orphans. We are created for dialogue, for intimacy, for abiding relationship with the living God. The Catechism affirms this foundational truth: “Man is in search of God. In the act of creation, God calls every being from nothingness into existence. Even after losing through his sin his likeness to God, man remains an image of his Creator, and retains the desire for the one who calls him into existence” (CCC 2566–2567). Prayer, then, is not optional. It is essential. It is not a task among many but the very context in which everything else finds its meaning. God is always the initiator. We never begin prayer alone. Grace draws us. The Spirit stirs within us. Our prayer is a response to the One who has already spoken in love.

The tradition of the Church identifies four principal forms of prayer: adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and supplication. Every true prayer partakes of all four.

Adoration is the highest form of prayer. It acknowledges God as God. It is the posture of heaven. In adoration, we love God not for His gifts but for Himself. We bow before His majesty and rest in His holiness. This is the prayer of the saints and angels. It is the soul’s prostration before the throne of glory.

Contrition is the humble admission of sin. It is the cry of the tax collector in the temple: “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Contrition purifies the heart and opens the door to God’s mercy. It is not about self-loathing but about truth. In recognizing our failures, we allow the Physician of souls to heal us.

Thanksgiving is the joyful recognition that all is gift. The thankful heart is a heart at peace. Even in suffering, there is always something to be grateful for. Gratitude stretches the soul and anchors it in humility. It turns our gaze away from entitlement and toward wonder.

Supplication is the prayer of petition. It is asking God for what we need and interceding for others. It is not a sign of weakness to beg from God. It is a sign of trust. Christ Himself taught us to ask, seek, and knock. The Father delights in our dependence on Him. Even when His answers seem delayed, they are never absent.

These four movements of prayer form the full range of the Christian heart. Adoration centers us in who God is. Contrition cleanses. Thanksgiving lifts us from bitterness. Supplication reminds us we are sons and daughters.

At the heart of prayer is an orientation. The very act of lifting one’s heart to God implies direction, transcendence, ascent. This is more than symbolic. From the early Church to today, the faithful have recognized that prayer is not inward-looking but God-facing. In the Mass and in private prayer, we are drawn beyond ourselves toward the Lord who is coming.

This is why the Church has historically emphasized the eastward orientation of prayer. The rising sun is a symbol of Christ, the true light from heaven. Early Christians often prayed facing the East, both in posture and in hope. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal acknowledges this when it notes that during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest speaks to God on behalf of the people, and the people unite themselves inwardly to this sacred action.

This orientation is not about geography. It is about theology. It is not about turning our backs to one another, but about turning our hearts together toward the Lord. Whether physically or spiritually, prayer always reaches out toward the coming King. In this way, the form of prayer shapes its content. Our bodies express what our souls seek. We long for Christ, and we turn toward Him.

The Church distinguishes between personal and liturgical prayer, and both are essential.

Personal prayer is the quiet daily conversation of the soul with God. It may take many forms: spontaneous words, meditation on Scripture, the Rosary, silent adoration. It is prayer in the home, in the car, in the quiet of morning or night. It is relational and intimate. Saints like Teresa of Avila and Thérèse of Lisieux describe it as a conversation between friends, a look of love, a surrender of the heart.

Liturgical prayer is the public worship of the Church, above all the Holy Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. It is the prayer of Christ Himself, offered in His Mystical Body. In the liturgy, we are caught up into the perfect worship of heaven. We do not make it; we enter it. This is why liturgical prayer is so powerful. It does not depend on our emotions or eloquence. It flows from Christ and returns to the Father in the Spirit.

During Lent, the Church invites us to draw more deeply into both personal and communal prayer. There are opportunities for Mass, Stations of the Cross, and adoration. But these cannot replace the hidden prayer of the heart. We must pray not only in public but in secret, where the Father sees.

If you do not already have a daily habit of prayer, begin simply. Choose a time and space. Begin with ten minutes. Read the Gospel. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving or sorrow. Speak to God as to a friend. Listen in silence. Build slowly. Prayer is not about intensity but consistency.

Use Scripture, especially the Psalms and the Gospels. Pray the Rosary. Try the Liturgy of the Hours. Keep a journal. Light a candle. Kneel. Stand. Walk. There is no perfect method, only faithful hearts.

Distractions will come. Dryness will come. Do not be discouraged. Fidelity matters more than feelings. Every time you return your attention to God, you are praying well. The saints all experienced dryness. What kept them going was not emotion but love.

Remember that Christ Himself prayed. He prayed in the desert, in the temple, on the mountain, in the garden. He spent nights in prayer. On the Cross, He prayed the Psalms. If the Son of God needed prayer, how much more do we?

When we pray, we pray in Him. Baptized into His Body, we offer our prayers through Him, with Him, and in Him. This is especially true in the Eucharist, where the Church’s prayer reaches its summit.

Prayer is not a burden. It is a joy. It is the most human thing we can do. It heals our wounds, restores our hope, and anchors our days. It is the gateway to holiness and the foretaste of heaven.

In prayer, we begin to see as God sees, love as He loves, and live as we were made to live. Whether in silent adoration, sorrowful confession, grateful song, or pleading petition, prayer is the ascent of the heart to God.

Let this upcoming Lent be a renewal of your life of prayer. Orient your heart to the Lord. Lift your eyes to the cross and beyond it to the Resurrection. Join the whole Church in crying out, day by day, Come, Lord Jesus.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 31	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Pam & Jim Boyd
Sunday, February 1	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Michael & Nancy Garan
Sunday, February 1	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo
Monday, February 2	8:30 A.M.	Living and Deceased members of Altar & Rosary Society
Tuesday, February 3	8:30 A.M.	Sister Salvinette, M.C.
Wednesday, February 4	5:30 PM	Seminarians of the DWC
Thursday, February 5	8:30 AM	Priests of the DWC
Friday, February 6	5:30 P.M.	Father Jacob Mlakar and Father Joshua Bertrand
Saturday, February 7	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Scott & Natalie Teaff
Sunday, February 8	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Terry Cross & Cathy Weeks Requested by: Toot & Joan Lazear
Sunday, February 8	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

*The sanctuary lamp is
burning in memory of
Dr. John Traubert
Jan. 30 - Feb. 12
By: Elizabeth Lane*



*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	80
Sunday 8:00 AM	8
Sunday 10:30 AM	7
Total attendance	95
Regular Collection	/
Online Giving	/
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	/
Church in the Developing Word 1/18/26	\$422

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, Mike Turkaly, Gerry Schott and Clyde Gray.
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.

Join us for a powerful
moment of service during
our Maundy Thursday
service on April 2, 2026.
We are seeking volunteers
to participate in the
washing of feet, following
the example of humility set
by Jesus. If you are willing
to serve or would like more
information, please contact
the parish office.

Mardi Gras
IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

SUNDAY
15
FEBRUARY

JOIN US FOR
HORS D'OEUVRES, GAMES,
PHOTO BOOTH AND MORE.
12:00 PM

@ St. John the Evangelist Parish Hall

BRING YOUR FAVORITE FINGER
FOODS TO SHARE, DRINKS
WILL BE PROVIDED.

GOLNA HAPPEN

Monday February 2

Office Closed at 1:30PM

Tuesday February 3

No Coffee & Catechesis

Office closed from 11AM to 3PM

Altar & Rosary Meeting 4:30PM

Wednesday February 4

No Adoration

Friday February 6

No First Friday Adoration

Feb 2 to Feb. 6

Father Golna on Vacation

Feb. 9 & 10

Presbyteral Council

Father Justin Adiele Covering

Masses on these dates

February 7 & 8 Collection

Church Missions in the US

Mass Intentions can now be booked through June 30, 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*

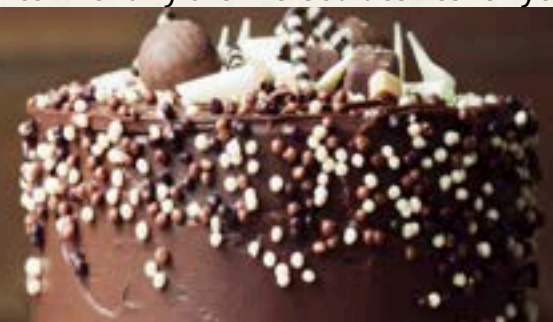
Judy Cipoletti 02/02

Jeff Dorrance 02/03

John Alvarez 02/03

James Rosso 02/06

Estelle Shaffer 02/07



Profiles in Holiness

February 3 | Healing

Saint Blaise

A.D. 276–316

The bishop had been arrested for his faith. He was being carted off to jail when a desperate mother placed her son at his feet. The poor boy was choking to death on a fishbone. The bishop was known for working miracles, and in his presence, the boy was instantly cured.

This is the legendary story of Saint Blaise. Many legends surround his life, but they all point to a man of unshakable faith who worked incredible healings.

On his feast day, the Church offers a special blessing of throats: a priest places two crossed candles on the throats of believers and invokes Saint Blaise's healing and protection.

Where in your life do you need healing? Your marriage? Your career? Your finances?

Your health? Everyone needs to be healed in some way, right now, today.

Jesus is always healing someone in the Gospels. He made the blind see, gave hearing to the deaf, cured the paralyzed, and even raised the dead.

It's easy to distance ourselves from these experiences and think we aren't the blind, deaf or lame. But we are blind. We are paralyzed. We are deaf. We are possessed. It may manifest in different ways and to different degrees, but we are. We all need to be comforted in our afflictions. We need to be counseled in our worries and anxiety. We all need to be liberated from spirits that possess us. We are all lepers in need of cleansing. We all need to be forgiven for the mistakes and sins and regrets that burden us with guilt and shame. We all need to be given a voice in situations where we find it hard to speak up. And in some way or another, some part of us, or some aspect of our lives needs to be raised from the dead.



February 6 | Imitation

Saint Paul Miki

A.D. 1562–1597

In the Christian life, imitation of Jesus is the highest form of praise. This imitation has long been held as an ideal among Christians, so much so that *The Imitation of Christ*, published in 1418, is still a top-selling spiritual book in the twenty-first century.

What does it mean to imitate Jesus? For Francis of Assisi, it meant giving up all he had. For Teresa of Ávila, it meant communing deeply with God through prayer. For Mother Teresa, it meant ministering to the poorest of the poor.

For Saint Paul Miki, it meant marching to his place of execution, being crucified, and forgiving his executioners from the cross.

Paul Miki was born into a wealthy Japanese family in 1562, at a time when Christianity was just being introduced to Japan by missionaries like Saint Francis Xavier. Paul joined the Jesuits at a young age, and quickly became renowned for his brilliant preaching of deep theological concepts.

Soon after, the Japanese government began to target Christians, and Paul Miki, along with twenty-five others, were forced on a death march from Kyoto to Nagasaki. They were humiliated and mocked at every turn, but Paul Miki sang hymns to God the whole way. In Nagasaki, these twenty-six martyrs were crucified. Paul Miki was pierced with a lance like Jesus. He preached his final sermon from the cross, forgiving those who killed him and even telling them, "Ask Christ to help you to become happy."

Saint Paul Miki's story is extraordinary, but we're all called to imitate Jesus in whatever situation we find ourselves in. Next time someone wrongs you in any way, take a deep breath and do your best to forgive them. You might have to try it a couple times. And every day, ask Jesus for the grace to become more like him.



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, February 7, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, February 8, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, February 8, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Rob Morris	Anna & Jeje	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Marcie Morris	Fred Casale	Pam Ferguson

Daily Readings and Feasts

January 31, 2026 (Saturday) (Optional Memorial of Saint John Bosco, Priest) 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17; Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17; Mark 4:35-41

February 1, 2026 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time) Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 5:1-12a

February 2, 2026 (Monday) (The Presentation of the Lord) Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 (or shorter form Luke 2:22-32)

February 3, 2026 (Tuesday) (Optional Memorials of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr) 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mark 5:21-43

February 4, 2026 (Wednesday) 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mark 6:1-6

February 5, 2026 (Thursday) (Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr) 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chronicles 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mark 6:7-13

February 6, 2026 (Friday) (Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs) Sirach 47:2-11; Psalm 18:31, 47, 50; Mark 6:14-29

February 7, 2026 (Saturday) (Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary) 1 Kings 3:4-13; Psalm 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; Mark 6:30-34

February 8, 2026 (Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time) Isaiah 58:7-10; Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Matthew 5:13-16

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 937 of
the green hymnal in your pew*

Jerusalem Carvings

Dear brothers and sisters,

The weekend of **February 14 & 15**, the group from the Holy Land will have a display of beautiful religious handmade olive wood carvings, from Bethlehem in the Holy Land. The Christians of the Holy Land have been suffering and continue living in hard economical situations. Many of them have fled the Holy Land which decreased their population from **37% to 5%**. Our mission is to help support these families by selling their religious carvings, which is a major source to their income to help them work and live in dignity in the Holy Land. Your support through purchasing these items, 200 families will be helped, also it will support peace in the middle east.

Olivewood carvings are a part of a tradition handed down from generations. Please stop at their table and purchase a nice gift from the little town in Bethlehem.

**Thank you,
God Bless You**

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
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Follansbee, WV 26037

Celebrating Life...

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Cody R. Rice
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Fax (304) 527-3793
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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	\$240 per year	

\$1400 per year