

# St. John the Evangelist Church

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

February 22, 2026

Lent

## First Sunday



The Gospel is from St. Matthew 4:1-11. This incident in our Lord's life, his forty days and nights of fasting followed by temptations, has been chosen as a reading for this first Sunday of Lent for our edification and encouragement. Lent is a period of preparation for the central Christian events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Christ, the Son of God in human nature, died the excruciating death of crucifixion on Good Friday, because of the sins of the human race. By this supreme act of obedience to his heavenly Father he made atonement for all our disobediences, and set us free from the slavery of Satan and of sin. In his resurrection his human nature was glorified by God the Father, and in that glorification we are all offered a share and given the right to an eternal life of glory, if we follow Christ faithfully in this life.

For every sincere Christian therefore, who appreciates what Good Friday and Easter Sunday mean for her or him, this period of preparation should be a welcome opportunity. The Church no longer imposes on us any obligatory daily fasting from food, but it urges us to find other means of mortifying ourselves, so as to show that we realize what Christ has done for us and what he has earned for us through his passion, death and resurrection. The example of Christ fasting from food for forty days, should move even the coldest Christian heart to try to do something to make reparation for past negligence and sins. Christ had no sin to atone for; it was for our sins that he mortified himself. We all have much to atone for. If, because of the demands of our present way of life, we cannot fast rigorously as our grandparents did, we can find many other less noticeable, but maybe nonetheless difficult, ways of subduing our human worldly inclinations. Where there is a will there is a way; the willing Christian will find ready substitutes for fasting. The temptations, to which our Lord allowed himself to be submitted, are for us a source of encouragement and consolation. If our Lord and master underwent temptation, we cannot and must not expect to live a Christian life without experiencing similar tests and trials. The three temptations Satan put to our Lord were suggestions to forget his purpose in life—his messianic mission of redemption. He was urged to get all the bodily comforts of life, all the self-glory which men could give him, and all the possessions and power this world has to offer.

Our basic temptations in life are the same: bodily comforts and pleasure, the empty esteem of our fellowman, wealth and power. There are millions of men and women on earth today—many of them nominal Christians—who have given in to these temptations and, are wasting their lives chasing after these unattainable shadows. But even should they manage to catch up with some of them, they soon find out that they are empty baubles. They will have to leave them so very soon.

Today, let each one of us look into his heart and honestly examine his reaction to these temptations. Do we imitate our Savior and leader, and say "begone Satan"? Our purpose in life is not to collect its treasures, its honors or its pleasures. We are here for a few short years, to merit the unending life which Christ has won for us. Would we be so foolish as to swap our inheritance for a mere mess of pottage (see Gen. 25:29-34)?

Lent is a golden opportunity to review our past and make sensible resolutions for our future.

—Excerpted from The Sunday Readings by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

# 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- The Desert of Lent, Learning to Fight with Christ*

Each year, on the First Sunday of Lent, the Church leads us into the desert. We do not enter alone. We follow Christ. The Gospel presents Him driven by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He fasts for forty days and is tempted by the devil. This is not an accidental episode. It is a revelation. Before He begins His public ministry, before He heals, teaches, and proclaims the Kingdom, Jesus enters into combat.

Lent begins in the same way. It is not first a season of achievement but a season of testing. The desert exposes what is hidden. It reveals our attachments, our fears, our illusions of self-sufficiency. It strips away distractions and confronts us with the truth of our hearts. For this reason, many people feel that Lent becomes more difficult almost immediately. Resolutions falter. Old habits resurface. Prayer feels dry. Temptations intensify. This is not a sign that Lent is failing. It is a sign that Lent has begun.

The Gospel tells us that Jesus was driven into the desert by the Spirit. This is a striking detail. The desert is not a place of punishment but of encounter. In Scripture, the desert is where God forms His people. Israel wandered there for forty years and learned dependence on the Lord. The prophets retreated there to hear God's voice. John the Baptist preached there in preparation for the Messiah.

The desert is the place where illusions die. In the desert, we cannot rely on comfort, abundance, or distraction. We are confronted with our hunger and thirst. Yet it is precisely in this poverty that God speaks most clearly. The desert is not empty. It is filled with God's presence.

Lent is our annual desert. The Church, like a wise mother, leads us there so that we may rediscover what truly sustains us. When familiar supports are reduced through fasting, when prayer exposes our restlessness, when almsgiving loosens our grip on possessions, we begin to see our need for God. The desert is not meant to destroy us. It is meant to teach us that God alone is enough.

One of the most consoling truths revealed in this Gospel is that Jesus Himself was tempted. The sinless Son of God entered into the arena of human struggle. This tells us something essential. Temptation is not sin. It is part of the human condition.

We often feel shame simply for being tempted. We assume that temptation means we are weak or unfaithful. Yet Christ was tempted precisely because He was human. Temptation reveals not our guilt but our freedom. It is the moment in which we must choose whom we will serve.

The devil's temptations in the desert are not crude. They are subtle distortions of good things. Bread is good. Power can be used for good. Trust in God is good. Yet each temptation invites Jesus to misuse these goods, to place His own will above the Father's, to grasp rather than to receive.

Our temptations follow the same pattern. They rarely present themselves as obvious evils. They appear as reasonable compromises, small concessions, or harmless indulgences. They whisper that we deserve comfort, that obedience can wait, that holiness can be postponed. The battle of Lent is fought in these quiet moments of decision.

The first temptation is to turn stones into bread. After forty days of fasting, Jesus is hungry. The devil invites Him to use His power to satisfy His own need. The temptation is not about bread alone. It is about self-sufficiency. It suggests that we can secure our own life without reference to God.

We encounter this temptation whenever we place material security above spiritual truth. We are tempted to believe that comfort, success, or control will save us. Yet Jesus responds, "Man shall not live by bread alone." He reminds us that life is sustained not merely by what we consume, but by the Word of God.

The second temptation offers power and glory. The devil promises the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship. Here the temptation is idolatry disguised as effectiveness. How often are we tempted to compromise truth for influence, to sacrifice integrity for success, to seek recognition rather than faithfulness?

Jesus responds, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." True power is found in obedience. True glory is found in fidelity. The Christian does not grasp at greatness. He receives it through humility.

The third temptation invites Jesus to throw Himself from the temple and force God to intervene. It is a temptation to manipulate God, to demand signs, to place Him at our service. We face this temptation when we treat prayer as a transaction, when we measure God's love by visible results, when we doubt His presence in suffering. Jesus answers, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." Faith is not control. It is trust. It does not demand proof. It rests in the certainty of God's love, even in silence.

The most important truth of this Gospel is not that temptation exists, but that Christ has overcome it. He does not defeat the devil through displays of power. He defeats him through obedience, humility, and fidelity to the Word of God. He fights as one of us. He fights for us.

This means that we do not face temptation alone. Lent is not a solitary struggle. We are united to Christ through baptism. His victory becomes our strength. When we resist temptation, even imperfectly, we participate in His triumph.

The weapons Christ uses are available to us: Scripture, prayer, fasting, and trust in the Father. He answers each temptation with the Word of God. This teaches us that familiarity with Scripture is not optional. It is a shield. The Word of God clarifies truth when temptation clouds it.

Even with the best intentions, we will not always respond as Christ did. We will fail. We will give in to impatience, pride, distraction, or indulgence. Lent does not demand flawless performance. It invites faithful return.

The danger is not falling. The danger is remaining fallen. The enemy of the spiritual life is not weakness, but discouragement. The devil who tempts also accuses. He whispers that our failures prove we are incapable of holiness. Yet the Gospel reveals the opposite. Christ entered the desert precisely because we are weak. He fights for us, not against us.

When you fall, return immediately. Do not wait for tomorrow. Do not abandon your resolutions. Begin again. Each return is a victory of grace. Each confession of weakness opens the heart to mercy.

The desert is not the destination. It is the path. Lent leads to Easter. The struggle of these forty days prepares us for the joy of the Resurrection. Without the desert, Easter becomes sentiment. Without the Cross, the empty tomb loses its meaning.

The Church leads us through this season so that our Alleluia may be true. The joy of Easter is not superficial. It is born from repentance, fidelity, and grace. It is the joy of those who have struggled and discovered that Christ is victorious. This week, do not be surprised by struggle. Do not be discouraged by temptation. Do not be alarmed by dryness in prayer. These are not signs that you are far from God. They may be signs that you are finally drawing near.

Walk with Christ in the desert. Fast with Him. Pray with Him. Resist with Him. And when you stumble, rise with Him.

The desert is not a place of abandonment. It is the place where we learn that we are never alone.

**-Father Golna**

# WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 21	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Benjamin Bucy † Requested by: Nancy Mitchell
Sunday, February 22	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Randy & Estelle Shaffer
Sunday, February 22	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo
Monday, February 23	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Jerry Cassandra † Requested by: Sally Cassandra
Tuesday, February 24	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Wednesday, February 25	5:30 PM	Intention of the Priest
Thursday, February 26	8:30 AM	Intention of the Priest
Friday, February 27	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul Josette Michetti Grace † Requested by: Greg & Cindy Crabtree
Saturday, February 28	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul Kristian White † Requested by: Evan & Ron Ujcich
Sunday, March 1	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Charlene Mainenti
Sunday, March 1	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

*The sanctuary lamp is  
burning in memory of  
Artie Joe Baldauf  
Feb. 13 - Feb. 26*



*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	63	\$1580
		\$321
Sunday 8:00 AM	43	\$515
		\$36
Sunday 10:30 AM	54	\$1437
		\$270
Total Attendance	160	
Regular Collection Total	\$3532	
Second Collection Total	\$627	
Ash Wednesday 12:00PM	78	
Ash Wednesday 6:00PM	42	
Total Ash Wednesday Attendance	120	
Online Giving	\$75	
Weekly Needs	\$5,000	
Votive Candles	\$225	

### Adorer Enrollment Status

9-10	
10-11	
11-12	
12-1	
1-2	
2-3	
3-4	
4-5	
<b>Need 2 Adorers</b>	
<b>Need 1 Adorer</b>	
<b>Need 0 Adorers</b>	

### 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.



**Thank you everyone who joined our Mardi Gras celebration!**

# GOLNA HAPPEN

*Tuesday February 24  
Coffee and catechesis 9am*

*Wednesday February 25  
Adoration and Benediction  
9-5*

*Men's Group 7pm  
Friday February 27  
Stations of the Cross 5pm*

*Saturday & Sunday  
February 28 &  
March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Building and Maintenance  
Collection*

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!*

- Patty Waters 02/23**
- Pam Boyd 02/25**
- David Cross 02/27**
- Don Kostival 02/28**
- Frank Canistraro Jr. 02/28**



# Chair of Saint Peter- February 22nd



Chair of St. Peter

Since early times, the Roman Church has had a special commemoration of the primatial authority of St. Peter. As witness one of the most renowned of the Apostolic Fathers, the Roman See has always held a peculiar place in the affection and obedience of orthodox believers because of its "presiding in love" and service over all the Churches of God.

"We shall find in the Gospel that Jesus Christ, willing to begin the mystery of unity in His Church, among all His disciples chose twelve; but that, willing to consummate the mystery of unity in the same Church, among the twelve He chose one. He called His disciples, said the Gospel; here are all; and among them He chose twelve. Here is the first separation, and the Apostles chosen. And these are the names of the twelve Apostles: the first, Simon, who is called Peter. [Mt. 10, 1-2] Here, in a second separation, St. Peter is set at the head, and called for that reason by the name of Peter, 'which Jesus Christ,' says St. Mark, 'had given him,' in order to prepare, as you will see, the work which He was proposing to raise all His building on that stone.

"All this is yet but a beginning of the mystery of unity. Jesus Christ, in beginning it, still spoke to many: Go, preach; I send you [see Mt. 28, 19]. Now, when He would put the last hand to the mystery of unity, He speaks no longer to many: He marks out Peter personally, and by the new name which He has given him. It is One who speaks to one: Jesus Christ the Son of God to Simon son of Jonas; Jesus Christ, who is the true Stone, strong of Himself, to Simon, who is only the stone by the strength which Jesus Christ imparts to him. It is to him that Christ speaks, and in speaking acts on him, and stamps upon him His own immovableness. And I, He says, say to you, you are Peter; and, He adds, upon this rock I will build my Church, and, He concludes, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. [Mt. 16, 18] To prepare him for that honor Jesus Christ, who knows that faith in Himself is the foundation of His Church, inspires Peter with a faith worthy to be the foundation of that admirable building. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. [Mt. 16, 16] By that bold preaching of the faith he draws to himself the inviolable promise which makes him the foundation of the Church.

"It was, then, clearly the design of Jesus Christ to put first in one alone, what afterwards He meant to put in several; but the sequence does not reverse the beginning, nor the first lose his place. That first word, Whatsoever you shall bind, said to one alone, has already ranged under his power each one of those to whom shall be said, Whatsoever you shall remit; for the promises of Jesus Christ, as well as His gift, are without repentance; and what is once given indefinitely and universally is irrevocable. Besides, that power given to several carries its restriction in its division, while power given to one alone, and over all, and without exception, carries with it plenitude, and, not having to be divided with any other, it has no bounds save those which its terms convey."

—Excerpted from *The See of St. Peter*, Jacques Bossuet

## Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, February 28, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, March 1 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, March 1, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Rob Morris	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Marcie Morris	Maryanne Capp	Monica Biery

*The readings for this weekend  
can be found on page 883 of  
the green hymnal in your pew*

## Daily Readings and Feasts

**February 21, 2026 (Saturday)** Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 5:27-32

**February 22, 2026 (First Sunday of Lent)** Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**February 23, 2026 (Monday)** Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Matthew 25:31-46

**February 24, 2026 (Tuesday)** Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Matthew 6:7-15

**February 25, 2026 (Wednesday)** Jonah 3:1-10; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Luke 11:29-32

**February 26, 2026 (Thursday)** Esther C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Psalm 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8; Matthew 7:7-12

**February 27, 2026 (Friday)** Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Matthew 5:20-26

**February 28, 2026 (Saturday)** Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Matthew 5:43-48

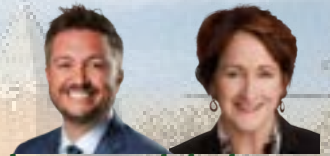
**March 1, 2026 (Second Sunday of Lent)** Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8b-10; Matthew 17:1-9

**Franciscan University of Steubenville will host**

**On March 20-21, 2026,**

**"Work, Family, and Faith: Toward an Integrated Life,"**

**a conference featuring Catholic leaders like Mary Rice Hasson and Terry Schilling to help young adults harmonize professional success with spiritual and family values. Presented by the Veritas Center for Ethics in Public Life, the event aims to provide Millennials and Gen Z with a human vision of vocation that integrates career ambitions with fidelity to Christ.**



**What's your Lenten Practice?**

**Are you interested in:**

- Walking with Moms in Need – support vulnerable moms and babies in need
- Prison Ministry – visit the incarcerated and support those in re-entry
- Olive Branch – support and healing for those impacted by divorce
- Cabrini Grant – assists with the cost of adoption and guardianship



**Contact Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries at [kbarton@dwc.org](mailto:kbarton@dwc.org) or 304-233- 0880, ext. 289.**

**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...*

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Cody R. Rice  
Funeral Director

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

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*In loving memory of Kristian White*

*In loving memory of Alice "Boots" Lupinetti*

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**