

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

February 8th , 2026

Ordinary Time

Fifth 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.

Pastor's Perusings- Fasting: Hungering for the Bread of Life

To a secular world, fasting seems like a relic of the past, a remnant of a more austere age. Why voluntarily deprive oneself of food or comfort? What purpose could there be in choosing hunger when abundance is available? Yet for the Christian, fasting is not self-punishment. It is not spiritual performance or mere discipline. It is a way of opening the soul to God. Fasting, rightly understood, is not an end in itself. It is a means of love.

In the logic of salvation, God often works through apparent contradiction. Life comes through death. Strength is perfected in weakness. Glory is revealed through a cross.

Fasting follows this same paradox: we are filled by emptying. We receive by relinquishing. We draw near to the Bread of Life by voluntarily turning from earthly bread. Depriving ourselves of something, however small, helps to overcome selfishness and self-centeredness and opens the heart to love of God and neighbor.

Fasting, then, is a school of desire. It teaches the soul to hunger not for the fleeting, but for the eternal.

From the earliest pages of Scripture, fasting appears as a return. Adam and Eve's sin was, at its core, a failure to fast. They grasped what was not yet given. They consumed what was to be consecrated. In contrast, Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, not to prove Himself, but to enter into the drama of Israel's history and to overcome where humanity had failed. In His fasting, Christ reestablished the primacy of God.

Throughout Scripture, fasting is joined with prayer, repentance, and intercession. Moses fasted before receiving the Law. Esther fasted before interceding for her people. Elijah fasted in preparation for encountering God on Mount Horeb. Jesus declared that certain demons can only be cast out by prayer and fasting. And in the Acts of the Apostles, we see the early Church fasting before appointing leaders or undertaking missions.

Fasting, in the biblical sense, is never mere asceticism. It is always relational. It turns the heart back to the Lord. It expresses repentance, dependence, and longing. It becomes a bodily prayer, a cry of the flesh that echoes the cry of the soul.

In our Catholic tradition, fasting is not merely abstaining from food. It is a movement of the whole person. It is a spiritual posture. The Fathers of the Church often warned against a fasting of the lips while the heart feasts on sin. To fast rightly is to unite exterior discipline with interior conversion.

Fasting helps us to mortify our egoism and to open our hearts to love of God and neighbor. It nourishes virtue, strengthens the will, and gives meaning to mortification. In fasting, we train the body to serve the soul, rather than dominate it. We allow the desires of the flesh to be reordered. In a world that teaches instant gratification, fasting teaches patience. In a culture that glorifies indulgence, fasting becomes a prophetic sign.

Fasting is not self-hatred. It is love. It is the soul's refusal to be satisfied with what is less than God. It says with the Psalmist, "My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, my God." It prepares us to receive Christ with renewed hunger and awe.

There is a deep and beautiful link between fasting and the Holy Eucharist. In former times, the Church required a lengthy Eucharistic fast to cultivate reverence and longing. Though the discipline has been lessened, the principle remains. Fasting prepares us for encounter. It reminds us that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

When we fast, we are reminded of our dependence. We remember that we are not self-sufficient. We become more attentive, more prayerful, more humble. The hunger in our bodies becomes a symbol of the deeper hunger in our hearts: a hunger that no earthly food can satisfy.

Fasting also expresses solidarity with the poor. It helps us remember those for whom hunger is not a choice. Fasting must lead to charity. It must overflow into acts of mercy. What we do not eat, we may share. What we deny ourselves, we may offer to others.

The prophet Isaiah writes, "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free?" True fasting is never closed in on the self. It opens the heart. It liberates the will. It prepares us for communion.

The Catholic Church teaches that fasting is not optional. It is one of the Precepts of the Church and an essential component of Christian life.

During Lent, the faithful are called to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and to abstain from meat on all Fridays of Lent. These are minimum standards. They are not meant to limit devotion, but to provide a shared foundation.

Fasting, of course, must be appropriate to one's state in life. The sick, the elderly, and those with medical conditions are not bound in the same way. But all are called to the spirit of fasting: to simplicity, to self-restraint, to detachment. One may fast from food, from entertainment, from technology, or from habits of self-indulgence. What matters is that the sacrifice be real and offered to God.

Voluntary fasting enables us to grow in the spirit of the Good Samaritan, who bends low and offers help to his suffering brother. Fasting opens our eyes. It teaches compassion. It creates space for grace.

Fasting is not a private exercise. It is always ecclesial. It draws its meaning from the rhythm of the Church's liturgical life. The great fast of Lent is not merely a personal challenge. It is a journey we undertake together as the Body of Christ.

Lent is the Church's retreat. It is her pilgrimage through the desert, following Christ toward the Cross and the Resurrection. Fasting, in this context, becomes more than abstinence. It becomes purification. It becomes the Exodus of the heart.

This is why the Church sets Lent within a liturgical framework. The readings at Mass call us to repentance. The prayers intensify. The absence of the Gloria and Alleluia reflects the penitential tone. The call to fasting is embedded in a larger movement of conversion. In this way, the liturgy teaches us that fasting is not arbitrary. It is a preparation for joy.

Fasting, like prayer, must be undertaken with discernment and consistency. It is better to begin simply and persevere than to attempt heroic sacrifices that cannot be sustained. Choose one or two concrete sacrifices and offer them with love. Allow hunger to become a prompt for prayer. Use the time or resources saved for acts of charity.

Do not fast in a spirit of pride. Fasting should never lead to judgment of others or self-congratulation. It must be hidden, humble, and joyful. Jesus warns us not to disfigure our faces or seek human praise. The Father sees in secret. The reward of fasting is not applause. It is intimacy with God.

Finally, unite your fasting with Christ. He fasted for forty days, not because He needed purification, but to accompany us. He who is the Bread of Life knew hunger so that He might feed us with Himself. Let your fasting be a participation in His offering. Let it become, as St. Paul says, a sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so as to share in His glory.

In a world that numbs desire with endless distraction, fasting reawakens the heart. It teaches us to hunger rightly. It sharpens the spiritual senses. It prepares us for the feast that only Christ can provide.

Fasting represents an important ascetic practice, a spiritual arm to do battle against every possible disordered attachment to ourselves. In fasting, we learn to say no to sin so that we may say yes to God.

This Lent, let us embrace the fast not as burden but as gift. Let us rediscover the joy of sacrifice. Let us hunger not for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life. And in our hunger, let us find Him who alone satisfies.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 7	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the souls of Terry Cross & Cathy Weeks † Requested by: Toot & Joan Lazear
Sunday, February 8	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Scott & Natalie Teaff
Sunday, February 8	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo
Monday, February 9	8:30 A.M.	For Mark & Cate Rosendale Requested by: Mr. & Mrs. Vaders
Tuesday, February 10	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Wednesday, February 11	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of William C. Bayless †
Thursday, February 12	8:30 AM	Intentio of the Priest
Friday, February 13	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Glen Pierce †
Saturday, February 14	4:00 P.M.	For the Rockey/Sperlazza Family † Requested by: Eleanor Rockey
Sunday, February 15	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, February 15	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of Frank & Charlotte Pollock Jr. † Requested by: Frank Pollock III

*The sanctuary lamp is
burning in memory of
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	38
Sunday 8:00 AM	35
Sunday 10:30 AM	68
Total attendance	141
Regular Collection 01/25	\$2478
Regular Collection 02/01	\$3596
Online Giving	\$1325
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$41
Building & Maintenance	\$642

Adorer Enrollment Status

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

Feb. 9 & 10

*Father Golna @ Presbyteral
Council*

*Father Justin Adiele Covering
Masses on these dates*

Tuesday February 10

*No Coffee & Catechesis
Office closes at 1:30PM*

Wednesday February 11

*Adoration & Benediction 9-5
Soup and Sandwich
11am to sold out*

February 14 & 15

Charity Fund Collection

Wednesday February 18

Ash Wednesday

Masses

12:00 PM (noon)

6:00 PM

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.



Rita Bucy 02/08
Parker McMahon 02/08
Barb Almasy 02/08
John Bober 02/08

Mary Salatino 02/11
Will Harvey 02/12
Jay Schwertfeger 02/14
Anthony Bachinski 02/14

Our Lady of Lourdes-February 11th

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in the apostolic constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*. A little more than three years later, on February 11, 1858, a young lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous.

This began a series of visions. During the apparition on March 25, the lady identified herself with the words: "I am the Immaculate Conception."


Bernadette was a sickly child of poor parents. Their practice of the Catholic faith was scarcely more than lukewarm. Bernadette could pray the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Creed. She also knew the prayer of the Miraculous Medal: "O Mary conceived without sin."



During interrogations Bernadette gave an account of what she saw. It was "something white in the shape of a girl." She used the word *aquero*, a dialect term meaning "this thing." It was "a pretty young girl with a rosary over her arm." Her white robe was encircled by a blue girdle. She wore a white veil. There was a yellow rose on each foot. A rosary was in her hand. Bernadette was also impressed by the fact that the lady did not use the informal form of address (*tu*), but the polite form (*vous*). The humble virgin appeared to a humble girl and treated her with dignity.

Through that humble girl, Mary revitalized and continues to revitalize the faith of millions of people. People began to flock to Lourdes from other parts of France and from all over the world. In 1862 Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions and authorized the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes for the diocese. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes became worldwide in 1907.

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, February 14, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, February 15 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, February 15, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	AJ Mitchell	Maryanne Capp	Mary Beth Harvey

Daily Readings and Feasts

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

February 9, 2026 (Monday) 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Psalm 132:6-7, 8-10; Mark 6:53-56

February 10, 2026 (Tuesday) (Memorial of Saint Scholastica, Virgin) 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Psalm 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11; Mark 7:1-13

February 11, 2026 (Wednesday) (Optional Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) 1 Kings 10:1-10; Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mark 7:14-23

February 12, 2026 (Thursday) 1 Kings 11:4-13; Psalm 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40; Mark 7:24-30

February 13, 2026 (Friday) 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Psalm 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mark 7:31-37

February 14, 2026 (Saturday) (Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop) 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Psalm 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mark 8:1-10

February 15, 2026 (Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time) Sirach 15:15-20; Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10; Matthew 5:17-37 (or shorter form Matthew 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37)

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 940 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
669 Main Street
Follansbee, WV 26037

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.F.C.
Owner and Director
ReasnerOfWellsburg.com
304-737-3251



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Wellsburg, WV 26070-1616

Bus: 304-737-0713

bgarvey.com



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