

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

January 11, 2026

Christmas Season

Baptism of the Lord



The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, we then meditated on Christ's manifestation to all nations that was represented by the Magi, the wise men from the East, who came to adore the Child.

Now, in the mystery of Christ's Baptism in the Jordan River, we again encounter and represent the truth of the Lord's incarnation and His manifestation as the Christ. Jesus' Baptism is in fact His definitive manifestation as the Messiah or Christ to Israel, and as the Son of the Father to the entire world. Here we find the dimension of the Epiphany which was His manifestation to all nations. The Father's voice from heaven shows that Jesus of Nazareth is the eternal Son and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove shows the Trinitarian nature of the Christian God. The true and unique God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, shows Himself in Christ, through Him, with Him and in Him.

The Baptism in the Jordan returns to the great Christmas theme of 'Christification,' Jesus of Nazareth's spiritual anointing, His presentation as the Anointed One par excellence, the Messiah or the One sent by the Father for the salvation of mankind. The Spirit that descended on Jesus shows and seals in an incontrovertible way the 'Christification' of Jesus' humanity that the Word had already fulfilled from the first moment of His miraculous conception by Mary. Jesus, from the very beginning, was always the Lord's Christ, He was always God. Yet, His one, true humanity, that which is perfect in every way, as the Gospel records, constantly grew in natural and supernatural perfection. 'And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men' (Lk2:52). In Israel at 30 years of age, one reached full maturity and therefore could become a master. Jesus came of age and the Spirit, descending and remaining on Him, definitively consecrated His whole being as the Christ.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realised what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).

—Excerpted 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.

THE SEVENTH BEATITUDE

The Seventh Beatitude: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

There is something deeply stirring about the image of a peacemaker. In a world torn by division, war, resentment, and rivalry, to be a peacemaker is to be Christ-like. But this Beatitude is more than a call to be agreeable or conflict-averse. It is a summons to a radical way of life, one that reflects the very heart of God, who, in Christ, has made peace through the blood of His Cross.

To be called “sons of God” is no mere compliment. It is a sharing in divine identity, a recognition that one’s life mirrors the life of the Son. Just as Jesus reveals the Father by reconciling the world to Him, so the Christian is called to reveal Christ by becoming an instrument of peace.

Before we explore the peacemaker’s vocation, we must clarify what peace actually is. In the biblical sense, peace, shalom, is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the presence of right relationship. It is a fullness, a harmony, a state in which everything is in its proper order under God. Peace is not fragile. It is the fruit of justice, the effect of truth, and the offspring of charity.

The world offers a counterfeit peace, often achieved by silencing the truth or suppressing conflict at any cost. But the peace of Christ does not come through compromise with evil. It comes through the healing of sin, the restoration of grace, and the victory of love.

“Peace I leave you,” Christ tells His disciples, “My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you” (Jn 14:27). His peace is deeper, stronger, and more enduring than any worldly truce.

Jesus is the perfect Peacemaker. Through His Passion, death, and Resurrection, He reconciles sinful humanity to the Father. St. Paul proclaims that Christ is “our peace” and that He “has broken down the dividing wall of hostility” (Eph 2:14). On the Cross, Jesus absorbed the hatred and sin of the world and returned only mercy. He did not retaliate. He forgave.

The peacemaker, then, must be conformed to the Cross. Peacemaking is not weakness, it is costly love. It means absorbing the pain of others, standing in the breach, interceding, forgiving, reconciling, and rebuilding what sin has broken.

To be a peacemaker is to carry within oneself the peace of Christ and to bring it to others, beginning with our immediate relationships.

Peacemaking begins within. A divided heart cannot offer unity. A soul in turmoil cannot bring calm. The one who spreads peace must first receive it from Christ.

This is why the saints were so often forces of peace in the world: because their hearts were anchored in God. They were not rattled by insult, inflamed by criticism, or drawn into petty quarrels. Their serenity came from knowing they were loved by the Father.

To be a peacemaker, then, requires interior peace. And this peace is a fruit of prayer, sacramental grace, and detachment from disordered desires. It does not mean a lack of struggle, but a deep trust in God’s providence. It is the peace that guards the heart and mind in Christ Jesus (cf. Phil 4:7).

The home is the first and most fundamental arena for peacemaking. Here, we learn how to forgive, how to speak with kindness, how to resolve conflicts with humility and truth.

Parents must model peace for their children, not only in how they speak to one another, but in how they handle stress, failure, and correction. Anger, sarcasm, or emotional manipulation poison the atmosphere of a home. But when forgiveness is quick, love is constant, and prayer is central, peace takes root.

Peacemaking in the home means learning to listen without judgment, to apologize when wrong, and to strive always for unity. It does not mean avoiding hard conversations, but having them with love and patience. Family life will always involve tension. But the peacemaker sees those tensions as

opportunities to grow in love, rather than occasions for resentment or division.

The Church is meant to be the sacrament of unity, the sign and instrument of peace among all peoples. But she is also a family of sinners, and so there is constant need for reconciliation.

Peacemakers in the Church are those who resist gossip, who refuse to sow division, who seek healing over blame. They are the ones who pray for their enemies, who give the benefit of the doubt, who strive to maintain “the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:3).

Clergy, religious, and laity all have a role to play in this. Peace is not a passive state. It must be cultivated. Parishes should be places where wounded hearts find healing, where disagreements are handled with charity, and where people of different temperaments and backgrounds are united in Christ. The peacemaker also turns outward, to the world.

This does not mean that every Christian must become a diplomat or political activist. But it does mean that every disciple of Christ must care about the restoration of justice, the dignity of human life, and the healing of social fractures.

The Christian peacemaker confronts evil not with violence, but with truth and love. He defends the unborn, the poor, the immigrant, and the forgotten, not with rage, but with radiant fidelity to the Gospel. He speaks the truth, but with gentleness and respect. He refuses to demonize his enemies, even when they persecute him.

Peace in the world does not come from treaties alone. It begins with conversion. As St. John Paul II said, “There is no peace without justice, and no justice without forgiveness.” The Christian does not simply protest violence, he offers an alternative: the peace of Christ, born from the Cross.

Peacemaking is often thankless. It requires sacrifice, vulnerability, and courage. The peacemaker may be misunderstood, rejected, or even persecuted. But he does not give up. He trusts that God is at work, even in apparent failure.

This Beatitude promises that the peacemakers will be called “sons of God.” Why? Because they reflect the very nature of God, who is love, who is unity, and who is always seeking the return of His prodigal children.

To be called a son or daughter of God is to be acknowledged as belonging to Him, to bear His likeness. The peacemaker is one who, like Christ, brings reconciliation wherever there is rupture.

History is filled with saints who embodied this Beatitude: St. Francis of Assisi, who sought to reconcile feuding towns and even crossed enemy lines to preach peace to the Sultan. St. Elizabeth of Portugal, who rode between two warring armies to stop a civil war in her own family. St. John XXIII, whose diplomatic efforts during the Cuban Missile Crisis helped avert a nuclear catastrophe. Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, who refused to fight in Hitler’s army, choosing the path of peace even unto death.

These saints did not merely talk about peace. They lived it, even when it cost them everything.

How can we be peacemakers today?

- Examine your relationships. Is there someone you need to forgive? Someone you’ve wronged? Take the first step.
- Practice restraint in speech. Avoid gossip, sarcasm, and unnecessary criticism.
- Pray for peace, in your family, Parish, nation, and world.
- Form your conscience so that your actions contribute to justice and charity.
- Promote dialogue where there is division. Listen more than you speak.
- Be a witness of Christ’s mercy in a world that thrives on vengeance.

Above all, cultivate a peaceful heart. Let your soul become a place where Christ dwells, so that wherever you go, His peace goes with you.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 10	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Kent Hudspeth † Requested by: Linda Riggle
Sunday, January 11	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, January 11	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Pam Ferguson
Monday, January 12	8:30 A.M.	Intention of Priest
Tuesday, January 13	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of Pete & Victor Cattaruzza † Requested by: Fred & Sue Casale
Wednesday, January 14	5:30 PM	Intention of Priest
Thursday, January 15	8:30 AM	Intention of Priest
Friday, January 16	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Shirley A. Dorrance † Requested by: Jeffrey Dorrance
Saturday, January 17	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Sue Simonetti
Sunday, January 18	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, January 18	10:30 A.M.	Intention of Priest

*The sanctuary lamp is
burning in memory of
Cheryl Bland
Jan. 2-Jan.15
By: Mary Traubert*



*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	48
Sunday 8:00 AM	32
Sunday 10:30 AM	50
Total attendance	130
Mary Mother of God	
Wednesday 6:00 PM	20
Thursday 10:30AM	34
Total Attendance	54
Regular Collection	\$5737
Mary Mother of God Collection	\$794
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$103

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, Christine Rose, Matthew Dillard, Lloyd VanHorn, and James Baker., Marissa Bandibas Jewer, Mary Fluharty, Marie Reck, Karen & Son, Tonette Alward and Colleen Rushing, Madeline Brozstek, Mike Turkaly, and Gerry Schott.

Those who have died: May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

All Veterans, and Military Personnel

Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life

All seminarians: Especially Joe Derico

The Priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston: Especially Fr. Justin Golna

Former priests and religious of and from our parish.

Those who are homebound, in assisted living or nursing homes.

All married couples struggling with infertility.

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

Thank you!

A heartfelt thank you to every parishioner who contributed to the Christmas Appeal. Because of your incredible generosity and commitment, we are thrilled to announce that our parish elevator is now fully paid off, and we saved \$20,243.52 of interest by paying the loan off 6 years and 2 months early!

This achievement is about more than just a piece of machinery; it is about ensuring that our church remains accessible and welcoming to every member of our community, regardless of mobility. Your sacrifices have made our spiritual home more inclusive for years to come.

GOLNA HAPPEN

Sunday January 11

Holiday Lunch - 12 noon

Parish Hall

Tuesday January 13

Coffee & Catechesis 9 am

Wednesday January 14

Soup & Sandwich

11am to Sold out

Adoration & Benediction

9 to 5

Sunday January 18

Church in the Developing World

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.

What's your New Year's Resolution?

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 or 304-233- 0880, ext. 289.

Happy Birthday!

Michael Bachinski 01/14

Linda Hone 01/14

Janice Stucin 01/15



Profiles in Holiness

January 15-Born in 475 A.D. to Irish royalty, St. Ita (originally named Deirdre) overcame parental opposition through prayer to embrace a religious calling, eventually earning a name signifying a "thirst for holiness." She founded a monastery at Killeedy (Cill Ide) in Limerick, which became a renowned center for spiritual formation and learning where she famously fostered St. Brendan the Navigator. Known as the "Brigid of Munster," she was celebrated for her asceticism, her devotion to the infant Jesus, and her wisdom regarding the virtues of faith and charity. After her death on January 15, 570 A.D., her legacy endured through the ruins of her convent and her status as a patroness of the Munster region. Today, her memory is preserved globally, including at St. Ita Catholic Church in Chicago, which houses a cornerstone from her original monastery.



January 17-St. Anthony Abbot is the founder of modern day monasticism. He sold almost everything he had, leaving enough for his younger sister to live a good life. He went into the desert and became a hermit. After almost 30 years of living in solitude, he came back to provide guidance to a growing community of hermits, thus marking the beginning of modern day monasticism. Many people sought to hear St. Anthony's spiritual advice, including Emperor Constantine. Most of what we know about St. Anthony comes from the Life of Anthony, written by St. Athanasius shortly after St. Anthony's death. "Do not be astonished if an emperor writes to us, for he is a man, but rather: wonder that God wrote the Law for men, and has spoken to us through his own Son." -St. Anthony Abbot

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, January 17, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, January 18, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, January 18, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Pam & Jeanette	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Marcie Morris	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

Daily Readings and Feasts

January 10, 2026 (Saturday) Saturday after Epiphany; 1 John 5:14-21; Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a, 9b; John 3:22-30

January 11, 2026 (Sunday) The Baptism of the Lord; Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

January 12, 2026 (Monday); 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Psalm 116:12-13, 14-16, 18-19; Mark 1:14-20

January 13, 2026 (Tuesday) ; 1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Mark 1:21-28

January 14, 2026 (Wednesday) ; 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20; Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Mark 1:29-39

January 15, 2026 (Thursday) ; 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Psalm 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mark 1:40-45

January 16, 2026 (Friday); 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a; Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19, 21-22, 27-28; Mark 2:1-12

January 17, 2026 (Saturday) (Optional Memorial of St. Anthony, Abbot); 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Psalm 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Mark 2:13-17

January 18, 2026 (Sunday); Isaiah 49:3, 5-6; Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Corinthians 1:1-3; John 1:29-34

The readings for this weekend can be found on page 879 of the green hymnal in your pew



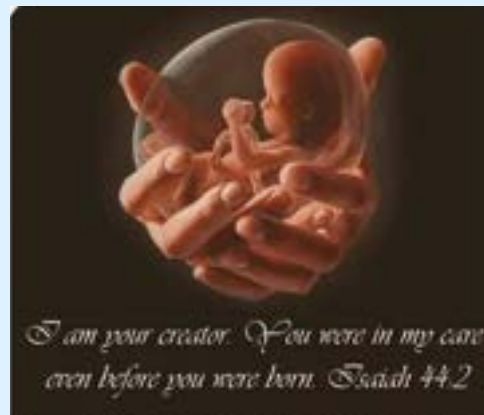
MARCH FOR LIFE

In Conjunction with the **MARCH FOR LIFE in Washington D.C.**, St. Michael Church will be offering **ALL DAY** Eucharistic Adoration in the church **Friday, January 23th. 8:00am - 5:00pm**



All are welcome to come and pray for unborn babies, their mothers, and your own special intentions.

We will be praying the Pro-Life Rosary every hour and the Chaplet of Mercy at the 3:00 hour.



I am your creator. You were in my care even before you were born. Isaiah 44:2

Will or Estate Planning?

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

Kayla A. Schoonmaker
Funeral Director

P.O. Box 272
669 Main Street
Follansbee, WV 26037

Mullenbach Funeral Home

Celebrating Life...

Joseph M. Mullenbach
Licensee in Charge
www.mullenbachfh.com

Cody R. Rice
Funeral Director

(304) 527-4090
Fax (304) 527-3793
mullenbachfh@comcast.net



Reasner Funeral Home
Robert Morris L.L.C.
Owner and Director
ReasnerOfWellsburg.com
304-737-3231



*In Loving
Memory of
George &
Mildred Bayless*

*In Loving
Memory of
Janeen Markos*

*In Loving
Memory Of
Diane & Harold
Crabtree*

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

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

\$1400 per year