

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

January 18, 2026

Ordinary Time

Second Sunday



The Gospel is from St. John 1:29-34. The pages of the Gospel present John the Baptist as a symbolic example of a 'bridegroom's friend', as Christ's excellent and exemplary witness. The Baptist's pre-eminent witness was affirmed in two ways: firstly with regard to the content of his testimony and secondly with respect to its style.

With regard to the content of his testimony, the Baptist identified Jesus as 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world' (Jn 1:29). Anticipating Jesus' messianic and salvific role, each of the four evangelists start their Gospels with the Baptist's words. The Lamb refers to the idea of salvation. The Lamb is the gift of liberation that, following the flight from Egypt, the Israelites sacrificed to the Lord. The Lamb recalls the servant of the Lord, the messianic image described by the

Prophet Isaiah, 'like a lamb led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep dumb before its shearers' (Is 53:7). The Lamb recalls the image of the Victorious Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse who at the end of time will definitively destroy evil and sin. John the Baptist is therefore, an authoritative witness who knew Jesus' exact identity and why He came amongst men. With regard to John the Baptist's style, St John's Gospel (cfr Jn 3:28-29) presents St John the Baptist through the image of the 'bridegroom's friend'. He gives witness, yet is not positioned central to the events that are unfolding. His testimony is totally centralised on Christ. John indicates the presence of the Lord and then steps into the margins. 'I am not the Christ' and he goes on to affirm 'I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him. It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater, I must grow less.' (Jn 3:28-30)

Today's Gospel offers us an eloquent example to imitate, so that we can also become Christ's authoritative witnesses. A believer can only give an authoritative witness if it coexists in perfect harmony with two of the Baptist's evangelical qualities. Firstly, knowledge of Christ that is cultivated through prayer, the sacramental and ecclesial life, reading good books and edifying friendships. Secondly, the constant attributes of a 'bridegroom's friend' who goes in search of the Groom through the virtue of humility because always, in everyone's life, Christ must increase and we must decrease!

—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 EIGHTH BEATITUDE

The Eighth Beatitude: “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The Beatitudes begin and end with the same promise: “for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” In the first, it is promised to the poor in spirit. In the eighth, it is promised to those persecuted for righteousness. Between these two, Christ outlines the shape of a disciple’s heart, meek, merciful, pure, and peaceful. But with the final beatitude, the Lord brings us face to face with the cost of such a life. The world, which rejected Christ, will reject His followers.

Yet here lies the paradox of Christian life: persecution becomes blessing, suffering becomes glory, the Cross becomes a crown. The world may despise those who live according to righteousness, but God claims them as heirs of His Kingdom.

Righteousness, in Scripture, is not mere moral rectitude or following the rules. It means right relationship with God and neighbor, a life aligned with God’s will, rooted in grace and lived in truth. The righteous are those who hunger and thirst for God, who seek justice for the oppressed, who defend the dignity of life, who refuse to compromise with evil.

But a world entrenched in sin will not applaud righteousness. The light exposes the darkness. And the one who lives for God will eventually provoke the scorn of those who do not. “If the world hates you,” Jesus said, “know that it hated Me before it hated you” (Jn 15:18).

Persecution, then, is not an accident for the Christian, it is part of the calling.

We often imagine persecution as dramatic martyrdom: imprisonment, torture, execution. And indeed, throughout history and even today, countless Christians have shed their blood for the faith. From the apostles to the martyrs of the early Church, from St. Thomas More to St. Maximilian Kolbe, from Chinese underground Catholics to Nigerian Christians today, the blood of the martyrs continues to be the seed of the Church.

But persecution also takes subtler forms.

In Western society, where overt violence may be rare, persecution often comes through exclusion, ridicule, discrimination, or social isolation. Faithful Catholics may be labeled as intolerant for upholding the truth about marriage and sexuality. Defenders of life may be shouted down in the public square. Priests and religious may be caricatured and scorned in media. Workers may lose jobs for refusing to compromise their conscience. Students may be mocked for their beliefs.

In families, persecution can take the form of misunderstanding or rejection: children ridiculed by their peers, spouses belittled for their faith, converts ostracized by relatives. In all these cases, the temptation is to shrink back, to compromise, to soften the Gospel so as to avoid discomfort. But Jesus calls us to a holy courage.

When we are persecuted for righteousness, we are not alone. We are walking the path Christ walked before us. He was hated without cause, accused falsely, mocked, beaten, and crucified. Yet from the Cross, He forgave. He bore witness to the truth in love, without bitterness or vengeance.

St. Peter, who knew both failure and redemption, wrote to the early Church: “If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you” (1 Pt 4:14). And St. Paul, writing from prison, declared, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Tm 3:12).

To suffer for Christ is to be conformed to Him. It is a sign not of failure, but of fidelity.

This Beatitude carries a stunning promise: the Kingdom belongs to the persecuted. Not just in the future, but now. Their suffering is not in vain. Their reward is great in heaven.

This promise gives meaning to affliction. It reminds us that nothing done for Christ is wasted. Every insult borne patiently, every sacrifice offered silently, every act of courage in the face of hostility becomes a treasure stored in heaven.

The Kingdom is not for the comfortable, but for the courageous. It belongs to those who take up their cross daily and follow Christ, even when it costs them everything.

Jesus not only says the persecuted are blessed, He tells them to rejoice. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven” (Mt 5:12). This is perhaps the most startling part of the Beatitude. How can one rejoice in persecution?

The saints show us how. The apostles, after being flogged for preaching Jesus, “rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the Name” (Acts 5:41). St. Paul sang hymns in prison. St. Lawrence joked with his executioners as he was roasted on a gridiron. Countless martyrs went to their deaths with psalms on their lips.

This joy does not come from pain itself, but from union with Christ. It is the joy of knowing that we are sharing in His suffering, and that He is near. Among these great martyrs are: **St. Stephen**, the first martyr, whose face shone like an angel and who forgave his killers as he died. **St. Thomas More**, who lost everything for his refusal to betray the truth about marriage. **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**, a Jewish convert who died in Auschwitz, offering her suffering for her people. **Blessed Miguel Pro**, who was executed in Mexico during anti-Catholic persecution, crying out “Viva Cristo Rey!”, Long live Christ the King.

Their lives remind us that the Cross is not the end. It is the beginning of glory.

Persecution does not stop the Gospel. It spreads it. The early Church grew under persecution. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of new Christians. When believers stand firm in the face of opposition, the world takes notice because courage is contagious.

In fact, many conversions have come about precisely because someone chose faith over fear. The Church does not shrink in the face of persecution. She shines.

As Tertullian wrote, “The blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians.”

How can we prepare to live this Beatitude?

1. **Strengthen your faith.** A deep prayer life, frequent reception of the sacraments, and knowledge of the faith are essential. Shallow faith will crumble under pressure. Root yourself in Christ.
2. **Expect opposition.** Do not be surprised when it comes. Jesus promised it. Anticipating it helps us endure it with peace.
3. **Respond with charity.** Never retaliate with hatred. Speak the truth boldly but with gentleness and reverence (cf. 1 Pt 3:15).
4. **Unite your suffering to Christ.** Offer it for others, for the Church, for the conversion of sinners.
5. **Support one another.** Persecuted Christians need community. Encourage, pray for, and defend one another.
6. **Pray for the persecutors.** Christ did. So must we. They are not the enemy. Sin is the enemy.

We are living in a time when the cost of discipleship is rising. Faithful Catholics must be prepared to suffer for their convictions. But we must not be afraid.

Our Lord has gone before us. He has overcome the world. And He promises a joy the world cannot give and cannot take away.

If we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him. If we are insulted for His name, we are blessed. If we are persecuted for righteousness, we are not defeated, we are victorious.

“Do not fear those who kill the body,” Jesus said, “but cannot kill the soul” (Mt 10:28). Fear, instead, a life lived in cowardice, compromise, or silence when truth must be spoken.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake. Blessed are those who stand firm. Blessed are those who keep the faith. Theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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.	For the living and deceased members of the Golna and Grant Families
Monday, January 19	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of George Underwood †
Tuesday, January 20	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Harry Staffileno, Sr. †
Wednesday, January 21	5:30 PM	For Sister Salvinette, M.C.
Thursday, January 22	8:30 AM	For the repose of the soul of Fr. Kent Durig †
Friday, January 23	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Virginia Diserio † Requested by: Patty & Suzann
Saturday, January 24	4:00 P.M.	For the Rockey/ Sperlazza Family † Requested by: Eleanor Rockey
Sunday, January 25	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, January 25	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Sydney Stewart

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Dr. John Traubert Jan. 16-Jan.29 By: Eleanor Sacripanti



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	55
Sunday 8:00 AM	36
Sunday 10:30 AM	72
Total attendance	163
Regular Collection	\$2950
Online Giving	\$175
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$168
Building & Maintenance	\$868

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, 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.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

A Conversation on Catholic Social Teaching and Immigration

Please join us as the participants share their stories of being and working with immigrants around the world, as well as leading us into synodal listening concerning the most recent teachings of the Catholic Church—from Pope Leo XIV, to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, to our own Bishop Mark Brennan - growing in hospitality, solidarity, and compassion with the many refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and immigrants around the world.



Featuring

Very Reverend Fr. Carlos Melocoton
Pastor, St. Michael Parish

Genevieve Volpe, Millvale Outreach Manager,
North Hills Community Outreach, Pittsburgh

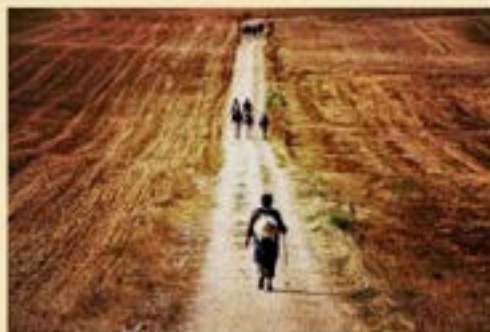
Reverend Fr. Lusius (Luis) Mite, Parochial Vicar,
SVD, (Society of Divine Word Missionaries)

Lou Volpe, Facilitator

February 5, 2026

6:30 - 8:00 pm

St. Michael Parish
Angelus Center



GOLNA HAPPEN

Tuesday January 20
Coffee & Catechesis 9 am

Wednesday January 21
Adoration & Benediction
9 to 5

Wednesday January 28
Men's Group 7PM

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!

Sue Beall 1/21

Jennifer Adler 1/21

Michael Petruccioli 1/24

Christmas Lunch



Church Bell - Father Golna, Zac, and Patrick went on a field trip exploring the bell tower last week!



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, January 24, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, January 25, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, January 25, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Rob & Marcie	Linda Stuckey	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Jimmy Sperlazza	-	Pam Ferguson

Daily Readings and Feasts

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

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

January 19, 2026 (Monday); 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mark 2:18-22

January 20, 2026 (Tuesday); 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28; Mark 2:23-28

January 21, 2026 (Wednesday) (Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr); 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Mark 3:1-6

January 22, 2026 (Thursday) (Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children); 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Psalm 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13; Mark 3:7-12

January 23, 2026 (Friday); 1 Samuel 24:3-21; Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11; Mark 3:13-19

January 24, 2026 (Saturday) (Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church); 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Psalm 80:2-3, 5-7; Mark 3:20-21

January 25, 2026 (Sunday) (Third Sunday in Ordinary Time); Isaiah 8:23—9:3; Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17; Matthew 4:12-23

The readings for this weekend can be found on page 931 of the green hymnal in your pew



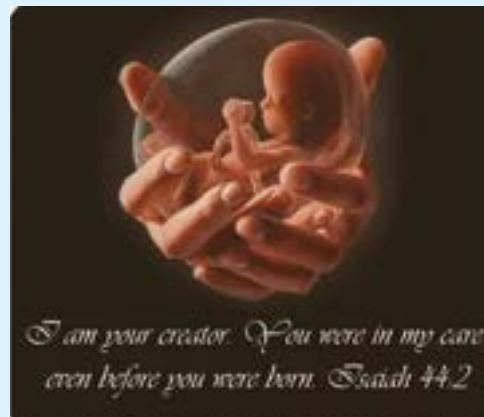
MARCH FOR LIFE

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.



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

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Robert Morris L.D.C.
Owner and Director
ReasnerOfWellsburg.com
304-737-3231

Join our owner, Eric Pithyan L.D.C., as he explains unique topics of funeral service.

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*In Loving
Memory of
George &
Mildred Bayless*

*In Loving
Memory Of
Diane & Harold
Crabtree*

*In Loving
Memory of
Janeen Markos*

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