

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

January 25, 2026

Ordinary Time

Third Sunday



The Gospel is from St. Matthew 4:12-23. The prophet Isaiah announced a future of liberation and great joy for all of Galilee, through the image of light that dispels the darkness in which the people walk. The Gospel, quoting verbatim the same passage of the prophet Isaiah, presents Jesus as the Light thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy. He is the light that was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed.

The light becomes an efficacious means to express God's involvement in human history. God manifests Himself as 'The Light' that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasises the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God's initiative with regard to men permits them to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God's light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, 'on those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone' (Is 9:1), the text adds, 'you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing' (Is 9:2).

A joy and happiness that became real in Jesus' presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God's initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity.

This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch', a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' (Jn 15:16).

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.

Let us ask the Lord, for us and the whole Church, for the gift of a true conversion of our hearts enabling us to receive Christ as the only Light to follow. Christ is the only one that really dispels the darkness within and around us.

—From the Dicastery for the Clergy

CHURCH INFORMATION

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

St. John the Evangelist Parish

1300 Charles Street

Wellsburg, WV 26070

Email: office@stjohnwellsburgwv.com

Parish Office: (304) 737-0429

Pastoral Team:

Pastor.....Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V.

Secretary.....Trisha Vaders

Director of Music/Organist.....Zac Gordon

Director of Religious Education.....Monica Biery

Parish Council Chair.....John Alvarez

Finance Council Chair.....Bill Garvey

Sacraments:

Baptism: For infants: Parents make arrangements with the pastor/office. For Adults: Baptism will be given at the Easter Vigil after completing the OCIA program. For details, please contact the parish office.

Marriage: Please make arrangements with the pastor. Six months minimum notice is required for the celebration of marriage.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact the office for arrangements.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9-4pm



Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Friday - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 am & 10:30 a.m.

(See the Weekly Schedule for changes to Mass times)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Tuesday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Wednesday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Friday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday - 9:15 - 10 a.m.

Adoration

Wednesday : 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

For Sacramental Preparation or Religious Education for children (CCD) or adults (OCIA), please contact the parish office for times of classes or check the bulletin and bulletin board in the vestibule.

Protecting God's Children

St. John the Evangelist takes seriously this 'VIRTUS' pursuit of excellence in our community. With the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, we are committed to making every environment – a safe environment. All employees and volunteers are required to complete VIRTUS Training. Participants of this training complete short video modules to learn how to best protect the vulnerable in our community. These short sessions empower participants to accurately identify and correctly report all instances of suspected child abuse. To create or update your account, please go to virtusonline.org.

Thank you for your continued support in making the environment at St. John the Evangelist safe for everyone.

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. Or you may call Rev. Don Higgs, 304.685.2367, the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504, or Victims Assistance Coordinator Erin McFarland at 304.559.6742. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

The confessional is available for use by new and nursing moms during Mass.

Feel free to use that space for your feeding needs.

FASTING & ALMSGIVING

Preparing the Heart for Lent: Why Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving Matter

As Lent draws near, and it will be here in less than a month, the Church once again places before us the three great pillars of spiritual renewal: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These are not arbitrary customs or seasonal obligations, but divinely inspired means of transformation. Each one draws us deeper into the mystery of conversion. Each one touches a different part of who we are. Together, they form a kind of threefold medicine for the wounded soul, a remedy for the heart that has grown distracted, divided, or dulled by the noise of the world.

If we are to receive the grace of Lent fruitfully, we must begin now to prepare. And that preparation does not start with the external trappings of the season, but with an interior desire: the desire to be made new. Lent is not merely about doing difficult things for forty days. It is about returning to the Lord with our whole heart. It is about allowing God to reorder our loves and redirect our lives. The three disciplines of Lent are the way we open the door to Him.

So why these three?

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not just spiritual habits. They are the Church's way of aligning us with the mystery of Christ. When the Lord went into the desert for forty days, He prayed. He fasted. He gave Himself entirely to the Father. When He taught the crowds in the Sermon on the Mount, He said not "if" you pray, fast, or give alms, but "when" you do. These practices are expected. But they are not meant to be burdens. They are meant to be bridges. They reconnect us to God, to others, and to our true selves.

Prayer opens us upward, fasting heals us internally, and almsgiving sends us outward. Prayer reorients our hearts to God. Fasting purifies our disordered attachments. Almsgiving heals our relationships with others by pulling us out of self-centeredness. Each one, in its own way, is a movement toward love. Together, they shape the whole of the human person in love of God and neighbor.

Our tradition teaches that every sin, every fall, ultimately stems from a distortion of our loves. We cling to things that cannot satisfy. The great disease of our culture is that we love things and use people as opposed to using things and loving people. We place created goods before the Creator. We forget who we are and for what we were made. Lent is the season in which the Church invites us to see again with clarity. To let the scales fall from our eyes. To allow the Spirit to search our hearts and heal what has grown disordered.

And that is why the three Lenten practices matter so much. Each one targets a particular wound.

Prayer is the remedy for forgetfulness of God. In a world of distraction, where our attention is constantly fragmented, prayer recenters us. It reminds us that we are not alone, that we are not self-sufficient, and that our lives are meant to be lived in communion with the Father. It is the soul's oxygen. Without it, the spiritual life withers.

Fasting is the remedy for the disordered self. We are not pure spirits, and we are not mere animals. We are embodied souls.

When we fast, we train the body to serve the soul. We learn that not every appetite must be satisfied. We learn freedom from the tyranny of our impulses. And in that freedom, we make room for grace.

Almsgiving is the remedy for the isolation of sin. Sin always narrows the heart. It turns us in on ourselves. Almsgiving opens us up. It reminds us that what we have is not our own. That the goods of this world are given to be shared. That the face of Christ is hidden in the face of the poor. Charity is not just a duty, it is the overflow of love that has first been received.

The three practices of Lent are not a spiritual version of a New Year's resolution. They are not techniques for moral self-help. They are acts of worship. When done rightly, they turn us outward and upward. They restore the right order in our souls. But to do that, they must be done with the right intention. The Gospel is clear: if we pray to be seen, if we fast to impress, if we give alms for applause, then we already have our reward.

But when we do these things in secret, with hearts turned to the Father, something in us changes. We become more receptive to grace. We learn to love what God loves. We are conformed more closely to the image of Christ. Lent is not about making ourselves better. It is about letting God make us holy.

The time to begin is now. The Church does not wait for Ash Wednesday to invite us to conversion. She begins preparing us in the weeks leading up to it, so that the season may not catch us unready. We should begin thinking now: How will I pray this Lent? What will I fast from? To whom will I give?

These are not questions to answer quickly. They require discernment. They require listening to the Spirit. Perhaps the Lord is calling you to spend time each day in silence, to make a commitment to daily Mass or Eucharistic Adoration. Perhaps He is inviting you to fast not just from food, but from media, gossip, or noise. Perhaps He is prompting you to give not just money, but time and presence to someone in need.

Whatever it is, it will cost something. But it will also yield something. For every renunciation we make in Lent is an opening for God to act. The desert may be dry, but it is not empty. Christ went into the desert not to escape the world, but to redeem it. He invites us to follow Him there, that we too might be transformed.

Lent is not about punishment. It is about preparation. Just as Christ fasted before His public ministry, just as Israel wandered before entering the Promised Land, so too must we be made ready. The ashes we will wear on Ash Wednesday are not just symbols of mortality, but of beginning. They mark us as people on a journey. People who know they need mercy. People who trust that God can restore what is broken.

The disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are not boxes to check. They are instruments of grace. They till the soil of the heart. They prepare us to receive the seed of the Word. They help us recognize our need, so that when Easter comes, our joy will not be shallow but full.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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 Sue Simonetti † Requested by: Sydney Stewart
Monday, January 26	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Tuesday, January 27	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Wednesday, January 28	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Mary Schwertfeger
Thursday, January 29	8:30 AM	For the repose of the soul of Matthew Casale † Requested by: Fred & Sue Casale
Friday, January 30	5:30 P.M.	Intention of the Priest
Saturday, January 31	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Pam & Jim Boyd
Sunday, February 1	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Michael & Nancy Garan
Sunday, February 1	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

*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	38
Sunday 10:30 AM	54
Total attendance	147
Regular Collection	\$2950.30
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$117
Building & Maintenance	\$50

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.

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.



HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

WEST VIRGINIA



MYTHS vs FACTS

The WV Hope Scholarship is based on my income.



ALL WV residents are eligible for Hope Scholarship for the 2026-27 school year regardless of income.

My child does not qualify for the WV Hope Scholarship



All WV students entering K through 12th grade can qualify

I won't receive the full amount of the scholarship.



For the 2026-2027 WV Hope Scholarship year, the projected amount is \$5,435.62 per student

Madonna High School & St. Paul School are registered Education Service Providers with the WV Hope Scholarship

Visit hopescholarshipwv.gov or email kedmiston@weirtonstpauls.org

GOLNA HAPPEN

Tuesday January 27

Coffee & Catechesis 9 am

Wednesday January 28

Adoration & Benediction

9 to 5

Wednesday January 28

Men's Group 7PM

Feb 2 to Feb. 6

Father Golna on Vacation

Feb. 8 & 9

Fr. Golna at Presbyteral

Council

Father Justin Adiele

Covering

Masses on these dates

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

Toot Lazear 1/26

Joe Pettini 1/26

Alina Shaffer 1/26

Bill Elcesser 1/27



Sophia Rosso 1/28

Annette Best 01/29

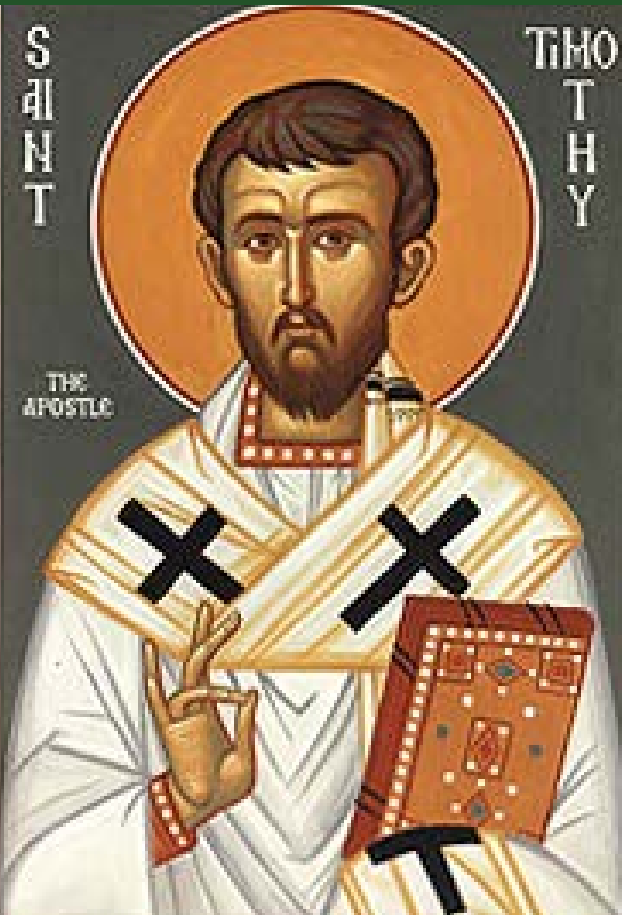
Bonnie Camilletti 02/01

Tom Zurbuch 02/01

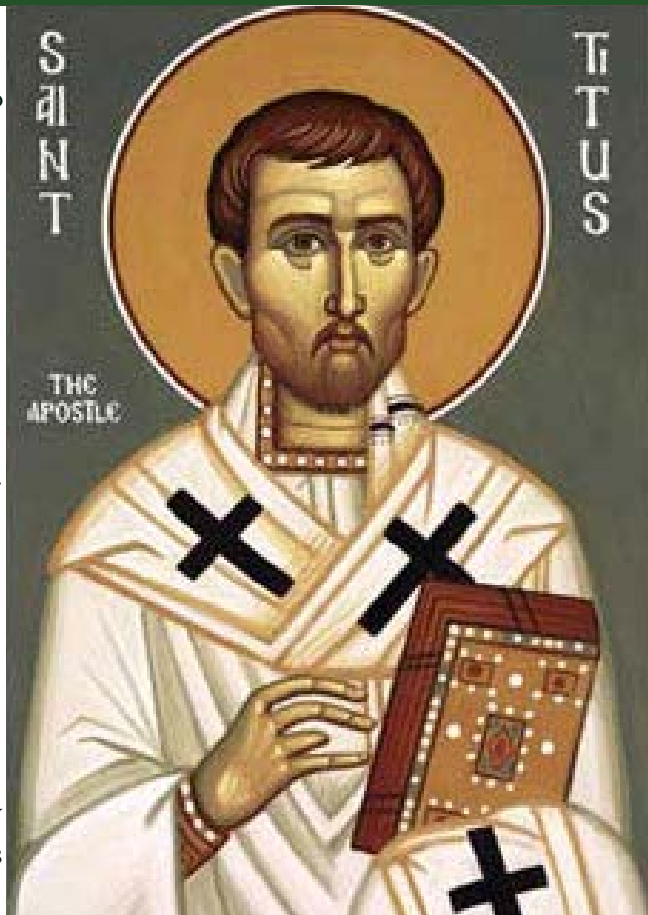
Margie Mercer 1/27

Birthday!

Profiles in Holiness



January 26- Saints Timothy and Titus were key disciples of St. Paul, trained by him to lead the early Church, with Timothy becoming the first Bishop of Ephesus (known for his gentleness and defence of doctrine) and Titus serving as Bishop of Crete (a Gentile convert known for resolving church disputes and administration). Both were instrumental in consolidating Christianity, combating heresy, and establishing leadership, representing the second generation of Church leaders, with their lives and missions detailed in the New Testament's Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus).



January 28- By universal consent, Saint Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five Saint Thomas Aquinas was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239, he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, Saint Thomas Aquinas went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died March 7, 1274.



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, January 31, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, February 1, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, February 1, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Pam & Jeanette	Linda Stuckey	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Jim Sperlazza	Maryanne Capp	Monica Biery

Daily Readings and Feasts

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 (or shorter form Matthew 4:12-17)

January 26, 2026 (Monday) (Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops); 2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 10; Mark 3:22-30

January 27, 2026 (Tuesday) (Weekday, Optional Memorial of Saint Angela Merici, Virgin); 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19; Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Mark 3:31-35

January 28, 2026 (Wednesday) (Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church); 2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalm 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30; Mark 4:1-20

January 29, 2026 (Thursday); 2 Samuel 7:18-19, 24-29; Psalm 132:1-2, 3-5, 11-14; Mark 4:21-25

January 30, 2026 (Friday); 2 Samuel 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6a, 13-14, 17; Mark 4:26-34

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

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

The readings for this weekend can be found on page 934 of the green hymnal in your pew

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.

February 5, 2026

6:30 - 8:00 pm

St. Michael Parish Angelus Center

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.

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.

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



We're more than a Convenience store

Mark's Deli & Catering
304-737-0065

CARRY OUT

- Deli
- Broaster Chicken
- Catering
- Delivery
- Lunch Specials

BROASTER CHICKEN

markscarryout.com



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

TUNE IN ON TUESDAY

Your Community's Funeral Home
CHAMBERS AND JAMES

FUNERAL, 907 N. BROADWAY WELLSBURG, WV



Providing Insurance and Financial Services
State Farm, Bloomington, IL

Bill Garvey, Agent
LUTC®

700 Charles Street
Wellsburg, WV 26070-1616
Bus: 304-737-0713
bgarvey.com



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