

St. John the Evangelist Church

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

March 1st, 2026

Lent

Second Sunday



The Gospel is from St. Matthew 17:1-9. This momentary vision of Christ, in his glory, was given in order to strengthen the three principal Apostles to face the trials to their faith, which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. For the very same reason it is retold to us today, in the early part of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten mortification. It reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many, far too many, who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness.

And are they any happier during their few years on this earth by acting thus towards the God of mercy? Can they, by ignoring God and their duties towards him, remove all pain, all sorrow, all sufferings, from their daily lives? Death, which means a total separation from all we possessed and cherished in this world, is waiting around the corner for all of us. Who can face it more calmly and confidently —he man who is firmly convinced that it is the gateway to a new life, and who has done his best to earn admission through that gateway, or the man who has acted all his life as if death did not exist for him, and who has done everything to have the gate to the new life shut forever in his face?

Illnesses and troubles and disappointments are the lot of all men. They respect neither wealth, nor power, nor position. The man who knows his purpose in life, and is ever striving to reach the goal God's goodness has planned for him, can and will see in these trials of life the hand of a kind father who is preparing him for greater things. His sufferings become understandable and more bearable because of his attitude to life and its meaning. The man who ignores God and tries to close the eyes of his mind to the real facts of life has nothing to uphold him or console him in his hours of sorrow and pain. Yet, sorrow and pain will dog his footsteps, strive as he will to avoid them, and he can see no value, no divine purpose in these, for him, misfortunes.

Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Savior. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter and often not a burden but a pleasure. The man who tries to shuffle off his cross, and who curses and rebels against him who sent it, will find it doubles its weight and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare.

Let the thought of the Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.

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

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

St. John the Evangelist Parish

1300 Charles Street

Wellsburg, WV 26070

Email: office@stjohnwellsburgwv.com

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- A Glimpse of Glory in the Midst of the Desert

If the First Sunday of Lent leads us into the desert of temptation, the Second Sunday leads us up the mountain of glory. The Church, like a wise guide, does not leave us in the wilderness without consolation. Just as Christ fasted and was tempted in the desert, so too He took Peter, James, and John up Mount Tabor and was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun. His garments became dazzling white. The voice of the Father declared, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him."

At first glance, this moment seems out of place in Lent. Why does the Church interrupt a season of penance with a vision of glory? The answer reveals something essential about the spiritual life. God does not ask us to walk through the desert without hope. He grants us glimpses of His glory so that we may persevere when the path grows difficult.

Peter, overwhelmed by the vision, exclaims, "Lord, it is good that we are here." His reaction is deeply human. When we encounter beauty, peace, and divine presence, we want the moment to last. We want to remain on the mountain, far from suffering and struggle.

Yet the Transfiguration is not an escape. It is a preparation. Jesus reveals His glory to strengthen His disciples for the scandal of the Cross. Soon they will see Him betrayed, humiliated, and crucified. Without the memory of Tabor, Golgotha might shatter their faith. The light of the Transfiguration becomes a lamp for the darkness to come.

The same pattern unfolds in our lives. God grants moments of clarity, consolation, and peace. In prayer, we may experience a profound sense of His presence. In the liturgy, we may glimpse the beauty of heaven. In acts of charity, we may feel the quiet joy of self-gift. These are not rewards for doing good. They are provisions for the journey.

The spiritual life moves between consolation and desolation. Consolation is the experience of God's nearness. Desolation is the experience of dryness, confusion, or distance. Both are permitted by God. Consolation encourages us. Desolation purifies us.

The truth is that our faith is not founded on emotional experience. If we seek God only for the comfort He gives, we risk loving the gift more than the Giver. Yet God, in His tenderness, knows our weakness. He grants us moments of light to sustain us.

The Transfiguration teaches us how to receive consolation. We do not cling to it as a possession. We allow it to strengthen our trust. We descend the mountain with Christ, carrying the memory of His glory into the valleys of daily life.

At the heart of the Transfiguration is the voice of the Father: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." These words are both revelation and command. They identify Jesus as the Son and direct us toward obedience.

To listen to Christ is more than to hear His words. It is to conform our lives to His. It is to trust His teaching even when it contradicts our preferences. It is to follow Him down the mountain, into the suffering of the world, and ultimately to the Cross.

In Lent, the Church calls us to renewed attentiveness to the voice of Christ. We listen through Scripture. We listen in the liturgy. We listen in the silence of prayer. We listen in the cries of the poor and the needs of our neighbor. To listen is to be transformed.

The light of the Transfiguration does not merely dazzle as if it were nothing more than a great magic trick. It reveals. It reveals Christ's divine identity. It reveals the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets in the presence of Moses and Elijah. It reveals the destiny of the human body, which is not called to decay but to glory.

This light also reveals the truth about ourselves. In the presence of Christ's radiance, our illusions fall away. We see our need for conversion. We see the gap between the life we live and the life we are called to live. Yet this revelation is not a condemnation. It is an invitation. The light that exposes also heals.

Lent invites us to step into this light. Through an examination of conscience, confession, and sincere repentance, we allow Christ's light to purify our hearts. The goal is not self-perfection, for we can never achieve that, but communion with the living God.

Peter's impulse to build three tents is understandable. He wants to preserve the moment. Yet the Gospel makes clear that this is not the purpose of the vision. The Transfiguration is not meant to be contained. It is meant to be remembered.

We, too, are tempted to confine God to moments of comfort. We prefer a faith that remains on the mountain, detached from suffering and sacrifice. But Christ calls us to follow Him into the ordinary and the difficult. The true test of faith is not how we feel in moments of consolation, but how we live when the light fades.

The disciples descend the mountain. They walk toward Jerusalem. They carry within them the memory of glory, which sustains them when darkness falls. This is the pattern of Christian life.

The Transfiguration finds its continuation in the liturgy, especially in the Most Holy Eucharist. At every Mass, heaven touches earth. The veil is drawn back. Christ becomes present under the humble appearances of bread and wine. The same Lord who shone on Tabor gives Himself to us as food.

Yet the Eucharist, like the Transfiguration, is not an escape from the world. It is a sending. Having encountered Christ, we are sent to live what we have received. The light of the altar is meant to illuminate our homes, our workplaces, our relationships.

In the liturgy, we learn to see with new eyes. We begin to recognize Christ in the ordinary, in the suffering, in the poor. The glory of Tabor prepares us to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread.

Lent can feel long. The initial enthusiasm of Ash Wednesday fades. The discipline of fasting grows tiresome. Prayer can feel dry. It is precisely at this early point that the Church gives us the Transfiguration. She reminds us that the desert is not the final word. She reminds us that glory awaits.

Christian hope is not optimism. It is not the denial of suffering. It is the certainty that suffering does not have the last word. The light of Christ shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

When you feel weary in your Lenten practices, remember Tabor. When you are tempted to discouragement, recall the voice of the Father. When the Cross looms large, remember the glory that lies beyond it.

The disciples were commanded to keep silence about the Transfiguration until after the Resurrection. Only then would its meaning be fully understood. We, who live after Easter, know the end of the story. The Cross leads to glory. Death leads to life. Sacrifice leads to joy.

This knowledge does not remove suffering. But it transforms it. The light of Christ does not eliminate the desert. It illumines it. It allows us to walk with confidence, knowing that the path leads home.

This week, ask the Lord to show you His face. Seek Him in prayer. Listen to His voice in Scripture. Receive Him in the Eucharist. And when you encounter moments of peace, clarity, or beauty, receive them with gratitude. They are not meant to be possessed. They are meant to strengthen you for the journey.

Descend the mountain with Christ. Carry His light into the world. And persevere in your walk toward Easter with hope.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 28	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the souls of Kristian White † Requested by: Eva & Ron Ujcich
Sunday, March 1	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Charlene Mianenti
Sunday, March 1	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo
Monday, March 2	8:30 A.M.	For living & deceased members of Altar & Rosary Soc. Requested by: Members of Altar & Rosary Society
Tuesday, March 3	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Matthew Casale † Requested by: Fred & Sue Casale
Wednesday, March 4	5:30 PM	For the repose of the soul of George Bayless † Requested by: Cindy Crabtree
Thursday, March 5	8:30 AM	For the repose of the soul of Carole White † Requested by: Michelle Evans
Friday, March 6	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the souls of Matthew & Eleanor Evans † Requested by: Michelle Evans
Saturday, March 7	4:00 P.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, March 8	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of: Josie Newton Requested by: Longhi & Antinone Family
Sunday, March 8	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Helen Lamone † Requested by: Richard & Pam Ferguson

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Kristian White Feb. 27 - Mar.12 By: Sam & Margaret White



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	70	\$3396
Sunday 8:00 AM	35	\$705
Sunday 10:30 AM	57	\$1017
Total attendance	162	
Collection Total	\$5023	
Online Giving	\$175	
Weekly Needs	\$5,000	
Votive Candles	\$28	

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, 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.

We would like to offer our condolences to the family of

Linda Lee

who passed away February 21st, 2026.





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 March 3

*Coffee and catechesis 9am
Altar & Rosary meeting
4:30PM*

Wednesday March 4

Adoration and Benediction 9-5

Saturday March 7 &

Sunday March 8

*Diocesan Priest Retirement
Collection*

Wednesday March 11

*Soup & Sandwich
11am to Sold Out*

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.



Bill Cipriani 03/02

Tara Ferguson 03/03

Barb Bolden 03/03

Susan Canistraro 03/05

Maryanne Capp 03/06

Patty Elcesser 03/08

Profiles in Holiness



March 3- Born into a wealthy Philadelphia banking family in 1858, Saint Katharine Drexel traded her \$7 million inheritance for a life of voluntary poverty after realizing that wealth could not shield her family from suffering. Following a challenge from Pope Leo XIII to become a missionary herself, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament to serve Native and African Americans. Despite facing intense harassment from segregationists, she established a vast network of 50 missions and 63 schools, including Xavier University of Louisiana, the first Catholic university for African Americans. After decades of activism and a later life defined by quiet prayer, she died at age 96 and was canonized by the Vatican in 2000.

Life of the uncommon Saints

March 5- Born on the island of Ischia in 1654, Saint John Joseph of the Cross was a Franciscan friar who became the first Italian to join the Alcantarine Reform. Despite serving as Vicar Provincial, he maintained profound humility by performing menial tasks, traveling incognito, and sacrificing his own food for beggars. A renowned healer and prophet, he often deflected credit for his miracles to natural causes to avoid public recognition. Beyond his administrative duties, he was a dedicated builder who physically assisted in the construction of new convents for his order. He passed away in 1734 after a life of extreme austerity and was later canonized by Pope Gregory XVI in 1839.



Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, March 7 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, March 8 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, March 8, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Anna & Jeje	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Will & Stothard
Reader	Jim Sperlazza	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 886 of
the green hymnal in your pew*

Daily Readings and Feasts

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

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

March 2, 2026 (Monday) Daniel 9:4b-10; Psalm 79:8, 9, 11
and 13; Luke 6:36-38

**March 3, 2026 (Tuesday) (Optional Memorial of Saint
Katharine Drexel, Virgin)** Isaiah 1:10, 16-20; Psalm 50:8-9,
16bc-17, 21 and 23; Matthew 23:1-12

**March 4, 2026 (Wednesday) (Optional Memorial of
Saint Casimir)** Jeremiah 18:18-20; Psalm 31:5-6, 14, 15-16;
Matthew 20:17-28

March 5, 2026 (Thursday) Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1:1-2,
3, 4 and 6; Luke 16:19-31

March 6, 2026 (Friday) Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a;
Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

**March 7, 2026 (Saturday) (Memorial of Saints Perpetua
and Felicity, Martyrs)** Micah 7:14-15, 18-20; Psalm 103:1-2,
3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

March 8, 2026 (Third Sunday of Lent) Exodus 17:3-7;
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 (or
shorter form John 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42)

Franciscan University of Steubenville will host

On March 20–21, 2026,

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

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



What's your Lenten Practice?

Are you interested in:

Walking with Moms in Need – support vulnerable moms and babies in need

Prison Ministry – visit the incarcerated and support those in re-entry

Olive Branch – support and healing for those impacted by divorce

Cabrini Grant – assists with the cost of adoption and guardianship



Contact Kathy Barton, director of Social Ministries at kbarton@dwc.org 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

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

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Wellsburg, WV 26070-1616

Bus: 304-737-0713

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In loving memory of Kristian White

In loving memory of Alice "Boots" Lupinetti

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

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

\$1400 per year