

St. John the Evangelist Church

November 2, 2025

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

All Souls Day



The Church, after rejoicing yesterday with those of her children who have entered the glory of heaven, today prays for all those who, in the purifying suffering of Purgatory await the day when they will be joined to the company of saints. At no place in the liturgy is stated in more striking fashion the mysterious union between the Church triumphant, the Church militant and the Church suffering; at no time is there accomplished in clearer fashion the twofold duty of charity and justice deriving for every Christian from the fact of his incorporation in the mystical Body of Christ. By virtue of the consoling doctrine of the communion of saints the merits and prayers of each one are able to help all; and the Church is able to join her prayer with that of the saints in heaven and supply what is wanting to the souls in Purgatory by means of the Mass, indulgences and the alms and sacrifices of her children. The celebration of Mass, the sacrifice of Calvary continued on our altars, has ever been for the Church the principal means of fulfilling towards the dead the great commandment of charity. Masses for the dead are found in the fifth century. But it was St. Odilo, fourth abbot of Cluny, who was responsible for the institution of the general commemoration of all the faithful departed; he instituted it and fixed its celebration on November 2, the day after All Saints. The practice spread to the rest of Christendom.

Daily in a special Memento in the Canon of the Mass, at which the priest remembers all those who have fallen asleep in the Lord, the priest implores God to grant them a place of happiness, light and peace. Thus there is no Mass in which the Church does not pray for the faithful departed; but today her thoughts are directed towards them in a particular fashion, with the maternal preoccupation of leaving no soul in Purgatory without spiritual aid and of grouping them all together in her intercession. By a privilege that Benedict XV's decree has extended to the whole world every priest can today celebrate three Masses; for the liberation of the souls in Purgatory the Church multiplies the offering of the sacrifice of Christ, from which she draws forever on behalf of all her children, infinite fruits of redemption.

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 - 1-2 p.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

The Second Precept of the Church: You shall confess your sins at least once a year.

There are few things more healing, more powerful, and more liberating than the Sacrament of Reconciliation. And yet, there are few sacraments more neglected. The Second Precept of the Church, which commands that every Catholic must "confess serious sins at least once a year," stands as a minimum requirement for the soul's spiritual health. It is not a harsh rule but a lifeline. It reminds us that sin is real, that grace is stronger, and that mercy is not an abstract idea but a sacramental encounter with the living Christ.

From the beginning, God has revealed Himself as one who desires to forgive. After the Fall, God sought out Adam and Eve with the question, "Where are you?", not to condemn them, but to call them back. Throughout the Old Testament, the Lord raised up prophets to summon His people to repentance. And when Christ came, He did not abolish this mission of mercy but fulfilled it. His very name means "God saves."

After His Resurrection, Jesus appeared to His Apostles and gave them this astonishing commission: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:22-23). This moment is the institution of the Sacrament of Penance. The forgiveness of sins is not a private transaction between the individual and God alone, it is mediated through the Church, through ordained priests who act in the person of Christ the Head.

Confession is not a human invention. It is Christ's gift to His Church. It is the ordinary means by which mortal sins are forgiven and the soul is restored to grace. Without it, serious sin remains unhealed.

The Second Precept obliges all the faithful to confess mortal sins at least once a year. This is not merely a suggestion, it is a binding law, because of what is at stake. Mortal sin kills the life of grace in the soul. To remain in such a state without seeking reconciliation is to risk eternal separation from God.

The Church, in her maternal wisdom, understands human nature. She knows that we can become lax, that we can rationalize our sins, that we can drift away from grace through spiritual inertia. This Precept acts as a safeguard. It insists that at least once a year, we examine our conscience, confront our failures honestly, and return to the Father through the Son.

Some may ask, "If I haven't committed a mortal sin, do I still need to go to confession?" The answer is: no, not strictly by the letter of the Precept, but yes, for the sake of growth in holiness. Even venial sins, though not deadly to the soul, weaken our relationship with God, dull our conscience, and make us more vulnerable to temptation. Regular confession, even of venial sins, is a powerful aid to spiritual maturity.

We live in an age that downplays sin. Language softens it, psychology explains it away, and relativism denies its existence. But sin is not a joke, it is the wound of the soul, the distortion of love, the rupture of relationship with God and neighbor. It is the reason for the Cross.

To confess our sins is to stand in truth. It is to say, "I have failed. I have misused the gift of my freedom. I have hurt others and disfigured the image of Christ in me." This kind of honesty is not self-hatred, it is humility. And humility is the soil in which grace grows.

The saints were not people who never sinned, they were people who never stopped repenting. St. John Paul II went to confession weekly. St. Teresa of Calcutta encouraged her sisters to do the same. The closer one comes to the light, the more one sees the dust.

Many Catholics avoid confession because they fear shame. But the confessional is not a place of condemnation, it is the tribunal of mercy. The priest does not sit there as a judge looking down in scorn. He sits there as Christ's representative, a father waiting to welcome the prodigal son.

When we confess our sins sincerely, completely, and with true contrition, we are not merely forgiven, we are absolved. The chains of sin are broken. Grace is restored. The guilt is gone. The penitent walks out not burdened but unburdened, not condemned but healed.

The priest is bound by the seal of confession with absolute strictness. He may never reveal or act upon anything he hears, under pain of excommunication.

This absolute secrecy encourages true openness. In the confessional, you are not talking to Father So-and-So. You are speaking to Christ.

Regular confession transforms the soul. It increases self-knowledge, sharpens the conscience, strengthens the will, and imparts sacramental grace to resist future temptation. It fosters humility, the root of all virtue. It also teaches us to forgive others, for once we have stood before the mercy of God, we find it harder to withhold mercy from others.

This sacrament trains the soul in spiritual combat. In confession, we learn to name the enemy, to identify the patterns of sin, the lies we believe, the roots of our weakness. The devil loves secrecy and isolation. Confession exposes his work to the light and breaks his grip.

Moreover, it brings joy. There is no freedom like the freedom of a soul forgiven. Confession is not merely functional, it is transformative. It is one of the most personal and intimate encounters we can have with Christ this side of heaven.

Some may be tempted to fulfill this Precept out of mere fear of hell. But the Church proposes it as a step toward love. A person who has never been to confession is like a child who has never said "I'm sorry", their relationships cannot deepen, their freedom remains shallow.

The goal is not minimalism. The goal is holiness. A once-a-year confession is the minimum, but love does not aim at the minimum. How many of you married people would still be together if you only ever said "I'm sorry" or "Thank you" once a year? A soul in love with Christ desires to be close to Him, and sin creates distance. Frequent confession, monthly or even weekly, is a sign of spiritual health, not scrupulosity. On a personal note, not only do I hear confessions seven days a week, but I also take the spiritual life seriously and go to confession frequently myself. The safest and most loved I have ever felt is when I am kneeling before my confessor, pouring out my heart, and receiving in return an overflowing of God's love and mercy.

Confession should become a habit not of dread, but of desire. Like the regular cleaning of a beautiful home, it allows the soul to shine with the radiance of grace.

To prepare for confession well, begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your conscience. Use a good examination of conscience, one based on the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, or the Seven Deadly Sins.

Be honest, concise, and complete. Do not make excuses or self-justify. You are not telling the priest anything God does not already know. You are giving Him permission to heal what is broken. After receiving absolution, perform your penance with gratitude. Then give thanks. Every confession is a moment of resurrection, a personal Easter.

Parents should teach their children the value of confession early. A child who learns to confess with honesty and peace will grow into an adult who does not fear mercy. Families should go to confession together. Confession must be accessible, reverent, and joyfully promoted both by the priest and by families raising their children in the faith.

The Church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners. And the confessional is her emergency room, her therapy center, and her sacred sanctuary of second chances. The Second Precept of the Church is a gentle but firm reminder: come back. Come home. Come be made whole.

Do not wait until you feel holy enough to confess. That day will never come. Holiness begins with confession. Christ is waiting. The priest is waiting. The mercy of God has no limits, only the limit we place by staying away.

The devil whispers, "Don't go. It won't make a difference. You'll fall again." Christ says, "Come. Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more." Every time a soul returns to confession, heaven rejoices. The saints rejoice. The angels rejoice. And the Father runs to embrace the child who was lost and is now found.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 1	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cathy DiNardo Weeks † Requested by: Pam Boyd
Sunday, November 2	8:00 A.M.	Pro populo
Sunday, November 2	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cheryl Bland † Requested by: Suzanne Davidson
Monday, November 3	8:30 A.M.	For the living and deceased members of Altar & Rosary Society-Requested by members of A& R
Tuesday, November 4	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Charles Birkhimer † Requested by: Anna DeGarmo
Wednesday, November 5	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Souls of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Traubert † Requested by: Elizabeth Lane
Thursday, November 6	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Anthony Morris† Requested by: Judith Aracich
Friday, November 7	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Virginia Diserio †
Saturday, November 8	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Terry Cox † Requested by: Linda Cox
Sunday, November 9	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Kristian White† Requested by: Margaret White
Sunday, November 9	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Rocky/Sperlazza Fam. by Eleanor Rockey Oct.24-Nov.6



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	47
Sunday 8:00	35
Sunday 10:30	60
Total Attendance	142
Regular Collection	\$2626.55
Online Giving	\$1075
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$20
Elevator	\$5050
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$58,781.95

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 and Tonette Alward.

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.

Free admission! For the whole family!

Alpentanz!

Featuring the Sycamore Folk Dancers
Songs and dances from Germany, Bavaria, and Austria

Wheeling: November 3rd at 6:30 p.m.
St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Gym,
2101 Market Street Wheeling, WV

Stuebenville: November 10th at 7:00 p.m.
The Sycamore Youth Center in Stuebenville, OH

www.ohiovalleyfolksociety.com

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Mark Peter Kowcheck-12/19/2024
Jerry Peter Cassandra -02/17/2025
Bonnie Lou Camiletti-03/01/2025
Robert Carr Sult Jr.-03/01/2025
George Messar, Jr.-03/03/2025
Vittoria Staffileno-03/20/2025
Irene Whitehead-03/26/2025
Dorothy Pauline Sacripanti-03/30/2025
Stephen Diserio-04/21/2025
Larry Thomas Main-04/22/2025
Delores Ann Cimino-05/09/2025
Violet Viola Martino- 5/17/2025
Charles Beall- 06/06/2025
Thomas Lemal- 06/09/2025
Hank Durante- 06/23/2025
Cheryl Bland- 06/26/2025
Susan Kay Weaver- 7/18/2025
Lena Serevicz- 09/01/2025
Priscilla Griffith-09/15/2025
Michael John Messar, Jr.-10/14/2025

GOLNA HAPPEN

Sunday, November 2

CCD 9am

Tuesday November 4

Coffee & Catechesis

Altar & Rosary Meeting

(New time) 4:30

AIM Speaker

Wednesday November 5

Adoration & Benediction 9-5

Sunday November 9

CCD 9am

November 9

*Collection for the Archdiocese for the
Military Services*

Mass Intentions can now be booked through June 30, 2026! Please call the office or put one of the pink envelopes in the collection.

We are 13% from completion. Goal \$18,200 Raised \$15,900 87% 31 gifts

Thank you to EVERYONE who has given to the 2025 Catholic Sharing Appeal. Since we have reached 50% of our \$18,200 goal, EVERY PENNY donated is returned to our parish free from Cathedraticum and PHRA assessment. Donations for the Catholic Sharing Appeal can be made through the parish for those who don't like to give online.

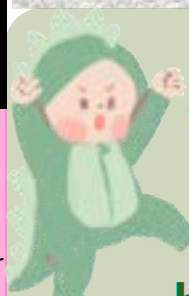
Please write CSA in large letters on the envelope or the memo line of the check!

<https://csa.dwcministries.org/donate/>



Ryan Lazear 11/3
Kourtney Provenzano 11/3
Gabriella Staffileno 11/9

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Please join us in supporting the AIM Center in Steubenville, Ohio! We're collecting baby items (diapers, clothes, formula, etc.) in the vestibule. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket, with checks payable to AIM or a note indicating it's for AIM.

aim
Women's Center



Profiles in Holiness



St. Martin de Porres, O.P.

Martin de Porres Velázquez was born in Lima, Peru on December 9, 1579. The son of a Spanish nobleman and a freed slave from Panama, Martin would grow up to become one of the most revered members of the Order of Preachers.

When he was very young, Martin took up an apprenticeship as a barber/surgeon. Although the work allowed him to support his family after his father abandoned them, Martin felt called to something more. At the time, the law in Peru prohibited descendants of Africans and Indians from joining religious orders, but after witnessing his skills as a barber and in medicine, the prior of the Dominican Convent of the Holy Rosary in Lima allowed Martin to join the community as a tertiary.

Then, in 1603, Martin was allowed to profess vows as a Dominican lay brother, what is today referred to as a cooperator brother. Eventually he was assigned to the infirmary, where he cared for the ill and elderly friars. In his spare time, he also cared for the sick outside of the priory, ministering without distinction to nobles and slaves alike.

A story is told of his finding a poor man on the street, bleeding to death. Martin took the man to the priory, and to his own room, in order to care for him. The prior chastised Martin, but he humbly replied: "Please forgive me, for I did not know that the precept of obedience took precedence over that of charity." Impressed by his response, the prior gave Martin permission to care for this sick and the poor in whatever way he thought best.

After his death in 1639, word of Martin's charity spread far and wide. The

Christian faithful began to ask for his intercession, and a number of miracles were soon attributed to his prayers. When his body was exhumed 25 years later, it was found to be intact, and giving off a sweet fragrance.

Pope Gregory XVI beatified Martin in 1837, and Pope Saint John XXIII canonized him in Rome on May 6, 1962. His feast is celebrated on November 3, and he is the patron saint of innkeepers, barbers, and public health workers. His Feast day is November 3rd.

Life of the Uncommon Saints




St. Elizabeth of the Trinity (1880–1906) was a French Carmelite nun, mystic, and saint known for her spiritual writings on the indwelling Trinity and her famous prayer, "O my God, Trinity whom I adore". She taught that God dwells within each person and the secret to a peaceful and happy life is to forget oneself and allow oneself to be loved by God. Her life was cut short at age 26 by Addison's disease, and she was canonized by Pope Francis in 2016. Her Feast day is November 9.



Saint Nicholas Tavelic (born 1340 in Croatia) and his Franciscan companions—Deodat of Rodez, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo—served as missionaries in the Holy Land, where, on November 11, 1391, they boldly preached the Gospel inside Jerusalem's Mosque of Omar, refused to retract their message despite warnings, and were subsequently beheaded for their faith; they were canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970, and their shared feast day is celebrated on November 14.

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, November 8, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, November 9, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, November 9, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Pam & Jeanette	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Stothard
Reader	Marcie Morris	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

PROVERBS 22:9 - THE GENEROUS WILL THEMSELVES BE BLESSED, FOR THEY SHARE THEIR FOOD WITH THE POOR.

The readings for this weekend can be found on page 1043 of the green hymnal in your pew

Daily Readings and Feasts

November 1, 2025 (Saturday) Solemnity of All Saints; Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14; Psalm 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12a

November 2, 2025 (Sunday) The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Wisdom 3:1-9; Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Romans 5:5-11 or Romans 6:3-9; John 6:37-40

November 3, 2025 (Monday); Romans 11:29-36; Psalm 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Luke 14:12-14

November 4, 2025 (Tuesday) Memorial of Saint Charles Borromeo, Bishop; Romans 12:5-16ab; Psalm 131:1bcde, 2, 3; Luke 14:15-24

November 5, 2025 (Wednesday); Romans 13:8-10; Psalm 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Luke 14:25-33

November 6, 2025 (Thursday); Romans 14:7-12; Psalm 27:1bc, 4, 13-14; Luke 15:1-10

November 7, 2025 (Friday); Romans 15:14-21; Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Luke 16:1-8

November 8, 2025 (Saturday); Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Luke 16:9-15

November 9, 2025 (Sunday) Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica; Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22

Spread Christmas Joy with a \$10 Kroger Gift Card!

Dear Parish Family,
This holiday season, let's fill hearts and baskets with hope! The Food Pantry is preparing Christmas Baskets to bless local families in need—and we need your help to make them extra special.

Here's the simple way you can help: Drop off a \$10 Kroger gift card (or more!) at the parish office or collection basket by November 30.



Coat Drive



A big, heartfelt **THANK YOU** to every single person who donated to the coat drive! Your generosity is keeping folks warm this winter—whether it was one coat or a whole trunkful, it all makes a real difference. You're the real MVPs!

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

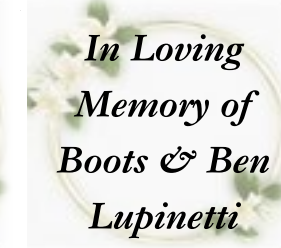
(304) 527-4090

Fax (304) 527-3793

mullenbachfh@comcast.net



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



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