

St. John the Evangelist Church

November 30, 2025

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

First Sunday of Advent



For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the First Sunday of Advent, opening the Advent season. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'¹

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of

Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait.' To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' " (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44).

Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006

—Excerpted from 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.

PASTOR'S PERUSINGS

The First Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

With these few words Christ inaugurates the greatest sermon ever spoken, and as the Church steps across the threshold into a new liturgical year it is especially fitting that we turn our gaze toward His divine teaching. Only by allowing His Beatitudes to shape our minds and hearts can we prepare ourselves worthily for the coming of the Lord. On the slopes of a Galilean hillside, the Son of God opens His mouth and unveils the true path to happiness, not the shallow contentment the world promises, but the enduring blessedness that flows from a heart attuned to the will of God. And where does He begin? With poverty of spirit. Not wealth, status, comfort, or worldly achievement marks the blessed life, but poverty, more precisely, the interior freedom that arises when we recognize our utter dependence upon God.

To be poor in spirit is not necessarily to be financially poor, although the materially poor often find it easier to live this Beatitude. Poverty of spirit is an inner disposition. It is the attitude of a soul who knows that everything he is and everything he has is a gift. It is the humility that recognizes our dependence on God for everything, from the breath in our lungs to the grace of salvation.

The poor in spirit do not cling to possessions, to self-sufficiency, or to the illusion of control. They live with open hands and open hearts. They know they are beggars before the throne of mercy, and this is not a source of shame, but the very door to joy. For God can fill only the soul that is empty. He can exalt only the one who bows low.

This is why the saints, though they performed great deeds, were always humble. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, declared a Doctor of the Church, saw herself as a little child who could not even climb the stairs to holiness. So she asked Jesus to carry her. That is poverty of spirit. It does not mean thinking less of ourselves. It means thinking truthfully about ourselves and thinking more about God.

In the modern world, everything conspires to drown out this Beatitude. Our culture teaches us to be strong, self-made, independent, and proud. It tells us that success is found in asserting ourselves, accumulating wealth, protecting our interests, and never appearing weak. To such a world, Christ's words are scandalous: "Blessed are the poor in spirit."

But herein lies the paradox of the Gospel. In the kingdom of heaven, the last are first. The humble are exalted. The empty are filled. Mary, the lowly handmaid, becomes Queen of Heaven. Peter, the fisherman who denied Christ, becomes the rock of the Church. It is not our strength that wins heaven, but our surrender. Not our riches, but our poverty. Not our achievements, but our need for mercy.

The world builds monuments to power. Christ builds His kingdom on the hearts of the poor in spirit.

Jesus did not only preach this Beatitude. He lived it. Though He was rich, He became poor for our sake (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). He was born in a manger, raised in obscurity, and had nowhere to lay His head. He owned nothing, sought no earthly prestige, and washed the feet of His disciples.

Most of all, He embraced the poverty of the Cross. Naked, rejected, abandoned, He gave Himself completely to the Father. In that supreme act of surrender, He won salvation for the world.

The saints who followed Him did likewise. St. Francis of Assisi stripped himself of all possessions and called Lady Poverty his bride. St. Teresa of Calcutta lived among the poorest of the poor, seeing Christ in their suffering faces. Every authentic Christian vocation must in some way pass through the school of poverty, poverty of pride, poverty of attachment, poverty of self-will.

How do we live this Beatitude in a culture of abundance?

First, we cultivate gratitude. The poor in spirit never take God's gifts for granted. They give thanks in all things, recognizing that life, health, family, the sacraments, the Church, everything, is pure grace.

Second, we practice detachment. This does not mean renouncing all possessions (unless one is called to religious poverty), but it does mean holding them lightly. We must be willing to let go, to share generously, and to resist the idol of consumerism that equates worth with wealth.

Third, we embrace dependence on God. This is the heart of the Beatitude. The poor in spirit pray often and pray well. They know their need. They begin each day with trust, not in their plans, but in divine providence. They confess their sins regularly, recognizing that spiritual poverty is healed by the riches of mercy.

Fourth, we honor the materially poor. The poor are not just recipients of charity; they are bearers of Christ. "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Mt 25:40). The Church teaches a preferential love for the poor, not because they are better, but because Christ is mysteriously present in them. To serve them is to touch the wounds of Christ.

Poverty of spirit is built into the very structure of the Church's liturgy. At the beginning of every Mass, we strike our breast and confess that we have sinned. We begin in humility. We place our needs before God and open our hearts to receive what we cannot earn: grace.

The Eucharist is a meal of divine generosity. We bring bread and wine, the work of human hands, and Christ transforms them into His Body and Blood. We come poor, and we are fed with the riches of heaven.

The Our Father, which we pray daily, teaches us to say, "Give us this day our daily bread." This is not only a petition for physical sustenance, but a cry of the poor in spirit, those who trust God for what they need each day and do not hoard tomorrow's manna.

Each Beatitude comes with a promise. The poor in spirit are not just promised consolation in the future. "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven", present tense. Even now, the kingdom begins to take root in their hearts.

To be poor in spirit is to already begin to live the life of heaven, because it is to live as Christ lived. The kingdom belongs to such as these, because only such hearts can receive it. Pride cannot enter heaven. Possessiveness cannot enter heaven. Only love, only trust, only humility.

This is why poverty of spirit is the gateway to all the other Beatitudes. Without it, we cannot mourn rightly, or be meek, or hunger for righteousness. The soul must be emptied before it can be filled. This is the foundation of Christian holiness.

To grow in this Beatitude, consider the following:

- Examine your life for areas of pride or self-reliance. Where do you resist asking for help, from others or from God?
- Take time each day to thank God specifically for what He has given you.
- Simplify your possessions. Give away what you do not need. Make space for generosity.
- Support the poor not only with money but with presence and dignity.
- Offer your plans and fears to God daily, saying, "Jesus, I trust in You."
- Choose humility in speech and action. Let others speak first. Be quick to admit fault and slow to judge.

The poor in spirit are not sad or defeated. They are the freest people in the world. Unburdened by attachment, they walk lightly. Unchained from pride, they love deeply. Dependent on God, they are rich in what the world cannot give.

And Christ calls them blessed.


To live this Beatitude is to follow Jesus on the path of humility. It is to say with Mary, "He has looked upon His lowly servant," and to rejoice that He has lifted us up. It is to find joy not in possession, but in surrender. For the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, November 29	4:00 P.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, November 30	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of George Long † Requested by: Toot & Joan Lazear
Sunday, November 30	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the souls of George & Mildred Bayless † Requested by: Cindy Crabtree
Monday, December 1	8:30 A.M.	Living & Deceased members of Altar & Rosary Society
Tuesday, December 2	8:30 A.M.	Intention of the Priest
Wednesday, December 3	5:30 P.M.	For the TOR Sisters Requested by: Gordon Smith & Maryann
Thursday, December 4	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Bill Almasy †
Friday, December 5	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the soul of Josie Newton † Requested by: Delores Manack
Saturday, December 6	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the souls of the Rockey/Sperlazza Fam. † Requested by: Eleanor Rockey
Sunday, December 7	8:00 A.M.	For the repose of the soul of Tony Salatino † Requested by: Toot & Joanie Lazear
Sunday, December 7	10:30 A.M.	Pro Populo

The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Anne & Michael Zdinak by Pat Ferry Nov. 21-Dec. 4



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	51
Sunday 8:00	35
Sunday 10:30	56
Total Attendance	142
Regular Collection	\$2728
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$22
Cathedral Restoration	\$92
Christmas Flowers	\$40
Thanksgiving for the Poor	\$80
Building and Maintenance	\$125
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, Tonette Alward, Colleen Rushing, and Madeline Brozstek.

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 Josie Newton who passed away on November 24, 2025



CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

STEUBENVILLE

Nutcracker VILLAGE™

Nov. 25, 2025 - Jan. 9, 2026

Nativity Collection Exhibit
Canton Ballet..... **This weekend only!**
St. Nicholas Lantern Parade ... **Dec 5th**
Nutcracker Pub Crawl **Dec 13th**
Masquerade Ball **Dec 19th**

And more!

Check our online schedule for more details

- Food & Music
- Glühwein Garden
- Christmas Gifts
- Local Artisans
- Hayrides
- Children's Corner

Fun for the whole family!



www.SteubenvilleNutcrackerVillage.com



GOLNA HAPPEN

Sunday November 30

No CCD

Tuesday December 2

Coffee & Catechesis 9am

Altar & Rosary Meeting

(New time) 4:30pm

Wednesday December 3

Adoration & Benediction 9-5

Sunday December 7

CCD 9am

New Sunday confession time from

9:15 to 10am.

Saturday & Sunday December 13

& 14

Collection for Retired Religious

Monday, December 15

Advent Penance Service 6 p.m

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

La Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Catedral de San José

1102 East St. Wheeling, WV

La misa será celebrada por el Obispo Mark Brennan.

Misa en español el viernes, 12 de diciembre a las 6:00 p.m.

Agradecemos su presencia en la recepción que se celebrará después de la misa.

Todos Son Bienvenidos! | You're All Welcome!

Cathedral of St. Joseph

1100 East St. Wheeling, WV

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Mark Brennan.

Friday, December 12 6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish

Reception following the Mass.

We are 7% from completion. Goal \$18,200 Raised \$16,950 93% 32 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/>

Grief Support Group

Find Comfort and Support in Your Journey Through Grief.

Join our Grief Support Group, a safe and compassionate space to share, heal, and find hope. Open to all who are navigating loss.

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month, starting at 5:00 PM

Where: Parish Hall

No registration required. Come as you are, and bring a friend if you wish. For more information, contact Theresa Kowcheck 304-914-7471

You are not alone. We're here to walk with you.

Next Meeting: December 4, 2025

Profiles in Holiness

St. Francis Xavier was a Navarrese-Basque Roman Catholic missionary born in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7, 1506. His father was a privy counselor and finance minister to King John III of Navarre. He was the youngest in his family and resided in a castle which still partially stands today and is in the possession of the Jesuit order.

As the young Francis grew, he was surrounded by war. Navarre was the target of a campaign by King Ferdinand of Aragon and Castile, and the kingdom was eventually conquered.

When the war stopped and Francis came of age, he was sent to study at the University of Paris. While there he roomed with his friend, Peter Favre. The pair met and were heavily influenced by Ignatius of Loyola, who encouraged Francis to become a priest.

In 1530, Francis Xavier earned his master's degree, and went on to teach philosophy at the University of Paris.

On August 15, 1534, Francis Xavier along with Peter Favre, and several other friends, made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The men planned to travel to the Holy Land to convert non-believers. Francis Xavier started his study of theology that same year and was ordained on June 24, 1537.

Pope Paul III approved the formation of their order in 1540, which became The Society of Jesus. The order is more popularly known as the Jesuits.

Feast day: 3 December




Saint Nicholas (c. 270–343) was a Greek Christian bishop of Myra in Asia Minor (modern Turkey). Little is known for certain about his life, but early legends portray him secretly giving gold to save three poor girls from prostitution, calming storms, rescuing innocent soldiers, and later resurrecting murdered children. Imprisoned under Diocletian, he was freed after Constantine's rise. His habit in legend of secret gift-giving, combined with his reputation for miracles, made him the patron saint of children, sailors, merchants, thieves, and many others, and the primary historical inspiration for Santa Claus via the Dutch Sinterklaas.

Most of his relics were stolen from Myra by Italian merchants in 1087 and brought to Bari, Italy, where they remain.

Feast day: 6 December.

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, December 6, 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, December 7, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, December 7, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Judith Aracich	Stothard & Will
Reader	AJ Mitchell	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

Daily Readings and Feasts

November 29, 2025 (Saturday); Daniel 7:15-27;

Daniel 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87; Luke 21:34-36

November 30, 2025 (Sunday) First Sunday of

Advent; Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9;

Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

December 1, 2025 (Monday); Isaiah 4:2-6; Psalm

122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Matthew 8:5-11

December 2, 2025 (Tuesday); Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm

72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Luke 10:21-24

December 3, 2025 (Wednesday) Memorial of Saint

Francis Xavier, Priest; Isaiah 25:6-10a; Psalm 23:1-3a,

3b-4, 5, 6; Matthew 15:29-37

December 4, 2025 (Thursday); Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm

118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Matthew 7:21, 24-27

December 5, 2025 (Friday); Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm

27:1, 4, 13-14; Matthew 9:27-31

December 6, 2025 (Saturday); Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26;

Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

December 7, 2025 (Sunday) Second Sunday of

Advent; Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;

Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 858 of
the green hymnal in your pew*

Advent Healing Prayer Service

"Immanuel, Our Healer & Restorer"
led by Rev. Sunil Thomas

6:00 pm: Talk

6:45 pm: Exposition of the
Eucharist & Confessions

7:45pm: Healing Prayer &
Benediction

St. Paul Church
Tuesday, December 9, 2025



Sacred Heart of Mary Christmas Kielbasa & Sausage Sale

This Christmas Sacred Heart of Mary will be taking orders for Jacob & Sons Kielbasa & Sausage. Price is \$6/pound. Weights will vary. Orders are due by Monday, December 15th and will be available for pick up on Friday, December 19th from 12:00p to 4:00p in the cafeteria at SHM. Payment due at time of pick up. To order, call the church office at 304-723-7175 during office hours or by dropping order form in the weekly collection basket or dropping it off at St. Joe's church office.

Name _____

Phone _____

Smoked Kielbasa _____ # Lbs. Fresh (unsmoked) Kielbasa _____ #Lbs.

Mild Garlic Sausage _____ # Lbs. Mild Hot Sausage _____ # Lbs. Old World Italian Sausage _____ # Lbs.

Orders Due By Monday, December 15; Pick Up Friday, December 19 12:00p-4:00p

Pay by cash or check day of pick up (check made out to Sacred Heart of Mary).

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

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