

# St. John the Evangelist Church

November 9, 2025

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

## Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica's official title is "Major Papal, Patriarchal and Roman Archbasilica, Metropolitan and Primatial Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior and Saints John the Baptist and the Evangelist in Lateran, Mother and Head of All Churches in Rome and in the World" but most often called the Basilica of St. John Lateran. It is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not the Basilica of St. Peter as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honor of the archbasilica, the ecclesiastical mother church, called "the mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world" (*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*), as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter.

St. John Lateran is unique because it is both a cathedral and a basilica. The Church celebrates the anniversary of the dedication as a cathedral since it is regarded as the Mother Church of the entire Catholic Faith. Because the Church/Cathedral bears the title of "Christ our Savior Cathedral," today's feast is considered a Feast of the Lord which takes precedence over the Sunday liturgy.

# 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 Third Precept of the Church: You shall receive the Eucharist at least once during the Easter season.

At first glance, this Precept might seem strange. Why would the Church insist on something as seemingly obvious as receiving Holy Communion once a year, especially during Easter? For those who go to Mass every Sunday, or even daily, this obligation seems so minimal it barely registers. But the very simplicity of this commandment reveals something profound. The Church is reminding us that the reception of the Eucharist is not optional. It is essential. It is the source and summit of the Christian life, and without it, the soul withers.

Like all the Precepts of the Church, this one is a minimum, not a maximum. It sets the floor of our Christian life, not the ceiling. This Precept and the one immediately before it, concerning the confession of grave sins, are the only ones that require us to do something just once a year. The Church does not say that once is enough, only that anything less would fall below the bare minimum for spiritual survival.

Holy Communion is not a symbolic gesture or a private devotion. It is a sacramental encounter with the living Christ: Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is the moment when heaven comes to earth, when the Bridegroom gives Himself to His Bride, the Church. In the Eucharist, Jesus fulfills His promise: "Behold, I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). To go a year without receiving Him, when one is capable of doing so, would be to say to the One who died for us, "I do not need You."

The Church specifies the Easter season as the time when this Precept must be fulfilled. Why? Because Easter is the feast of the Resurrection. It is the center of the liturgical year. It is the moment when death was conquered, when the tomb was broken, and when Christ revealed Himself as the Bread of Life in a new and definitive way.

The Catechism calls the Eucharist the "source and summit of the Christian life." Why? Because everything flows from it and everything leads to it. The Eucharist is Christ Himself. It is not a thing, but a Person, the Person of Jesus, who gives Himself to us completely.

In the Eucharist, we are united to His sacrifice on the Cross. We are nourished with His very life. We are drawn into communion with one another as members of His Body. It is through the Eucharist that the Church is made, and it is through the Eucharist that the Church is sustained.

To neglect the Eucharist is to sever ourselves from the Vine. To receive it, even once a year, is to be grafted back into life.

This Precept is not a permission to receive Communion unthinkingly. The Church also teaches that one must be in a state of grace to receive the Eucharist worthily. As St. Paul writes, "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:27).

This is why the Second Precept (confession at least once a year) often accompanies the Third. If one is conscious of mortal sin, one must go to confession before receiving Holy Communion. Otherwise, the act becomes not a moment of union, but a sacrilege.

When a Catholic knowingly receives Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin, the outward act says "yes" to Christ and His Church while the heart is still saying "no." Think of someone who freely chooses to miss Sunday Mass without a serious reason, which obliges him to seek absolution in confession before receiving again, or a person who is living in an irregular marriage, such as a merely civil union without the sacramental grace of Holy Matrimony, which calls for external regularization in the Church or a commitment to live as brother and sister. These are not small faults, but objectively grave sins. Until such sins are brought to confession with sincere repentance and a firm purpose of amendment, the person is not yet ready to receive the Lord worthily.

If, in that state, one comes forward to receive the Eucharist anyway, the sacrament does not become less holy, but the reception becomes spiritually harmful. Instead of strengthening faith, it clouds the mind and dulls the conscience, making it harder to see sin for what it is. Instead of softening the heart, it risks hardening it, fostering a habit of saying with the body what one does not live with the soul. The Lord continues to love that person and to seek his conversion, but until there is confession and absolution, each unworthy Communion deepens the wound in the soul rather than healing it.

The Church does not impose this to exclude, but to protect. She guards the dignity of the sacrament and the soul. Christ desires to unite Himself to each of us, but not without our repentance. He respects our freedom. And He desires that we approach the altar not as entitled consumers, but as grateful beggars.

Again, the Third Precept sets the lowest possible bar. It does not imply that once a year is sufficient for a healthy spiritual life. On the contrary, the Church encourages frequent, even daily, Communion for those who are properly disposed.

Just as the body cannot thrive on one meal a year, the soul cannot thrive on one Eucharist a year. The minimum ensures that no soul is totally cut off. But the maximum? There is none. The saints hungered for the Eucharist like deer longing for running streams. They lived from Mass to Mass, from Communion to Communion. They knew what the world forgets: that in the Host is hidden the very God who made them, died for them, and calls them home.

In recent decades, belief in the Real Presence has declined dramatically, even among practicing Catholics. This Precept, though ancient, is particularly urgent today. It calls each of us to reflect: Do I believe that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist? Do I prepare my heart to receive Him? Do I hunger for Him?

The U.S. Bishops have called for a Eucharistic Revival, an effort to renew faith in and love for this sacrament. But revival begins not in conferences or events. It begins in the heart of each believer who says, "Lord, I am not worthy, but only say the word..." It begins when a soul returns to confession and then returns to the altar with clean hands and a hungry heart.

As your pastor, I urge every parishioner not only to fulfill this Precept, but to exceed it joyfully. If you are estranged from the sacraments, come home. If you've fallen into the habit of missing Mass or avoiding confession, now is the time to return. Easter is not just a season on the calendar. It is a reality that breaks open the tomb of every heart.

For parents, this is a chance to form your children in Eucharistic faith. Explain to them the mystery, model for them reverence, and accompany them to confession. Make the Eucharist the center of your home, not just something you "fit in" on Sunday.

If you struggle to believe, bring your doubts to the Lord. Say with the man in the Gospel, "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mk 9:24). Faith in the Eucharist is not a matter of feeling, but of trust. And Christ rewards every act of faith, even the trembling kind.

The Eucharist is not a reward for the perfect. It is nourishment for pilgrims. But to receive it fruitfully, we must come with repentance, reverence, and love. The Third Precept of the Church reminds us that we cannot be Catholic in name only. We must be Catholic in the deepest possible way, by being united with Christ in the sacrament of His Body and Blood.


Once a year is the minimum. But once is enough to change a life, if we receive Him with faith. The Lord who conquered death now waits to enter the sanctuary of your soul. Do not keep Him waiting.

**-Father Golna**

# WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday, November 10	8:30 A.M.	For the TOR Sisters Requested by: Gordon Smith & Maryann
Tuesday, November 11	8:30 A.M.	For the TOR Sisters Requested by: Gordon Smith & Maryann
Wednesday, November 12	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Lena Serevicz †
Thursday, November 13	8:30 A.M.	For the TOR Sisters Requested by: Gordon Smith & Maryann
Friday, November 14	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul Lena Serevicz †
Saturday, November 15	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Lena Serevicz † Requested by: Rita Bucy
Sunday, November 16	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, November 16	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Anne Zdinak †

*The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Antigo, Pepe, Meier Fam. by Flora Antigo Nov.7-Nov.20*



*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!

<b>Attendance &amp; Collections</b>	
Saturday 4:00	53
Sunday 8:00	44
Sunday 10:30	45
Total Attendance	142
Regular Collection	\$7665
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
All Saints	\$329
All Souls	\$659
Votive Candles	\$126
Elevator	\$100
Building and Maintenance	\$25
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$58,781.95

<b>Adorer Enrollment Status</b>	
9-10	
10-11	
11-12	
12-1	
1-2	
2-3	
3-4	
4-5	
<b>Need 2 Adorers</b>	
<b>Need 1 Adorer</b>	
<b>Need 0 Adorers</b>	

**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.**

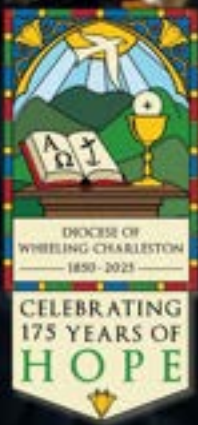
To add or remove names to the prayer list, please call or email the parish office! You can also request prayers on our website.

**Support our church easily & securely with online giving!**

Our church now uses **Floormate** for secure online giving. Donate by visiting the website below or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera!

- ✓ It's the **easiest & most secure** way to give to our church and its ministries!
- ✓ You can make one-time donations or you can set up automatic, recurring giving!





MONONGALIA  
SYMPHONY  
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& REGIONAL  
DIOCESAN CHOIRS  
AND MUSICIANS

**6 PM  
NOV. 16**

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH  
MORGANTOWN, WV

# JUBILEE & HOPE SYMPHONY CONCERT

SONGS TO CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE  
AND THE 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

EVENT IS FREE

ALL ARE WELCOME

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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## GOLNA HAPPEN

*Sunday November 9*

*CCD 9am*

*Collection for the Archdiocese for the  
Military Services*

*Tuesday November 11*

*Coffee & Catechesis*

*Wednesday November 12*

*Adoration & Benediction 9-5*

*Soup & Sandwich*

*11am to Sold out*

*Sunday November 16*

*CCD 9am*

*Steve Brown and Nicole Michaux  
receiving Sacrament of confirmation  
during 10:30am Mass*

*Starting Nov. 30*

*New Sunday confession time  
from 9:15 to 10am.*

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/>

**Francesco Ferrise 11/12**

**Mary M. Rosso 11/10**

**Paula Henderson 11/10**

**Rick Harvey 11/11**

**Margaret Zumpetta 11/11**

**Roxanna Mears 11/12**

**Marie McGowan 11/13**

**Kevin Farrell 11/15**

**Frank Canistrato 11/15**



# Profiles in Holiness



## Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini

Frances Xavier Cabrini was the first United States citizen to be canonized. Her deep trust in the loving care of her God gave her the strength to be a valiant woman doing the work of Christ. Refused admission to the religious order which had educated her to be a teacher, she began charitable work at the House of Providence Orphanage in Cadogno, Italy. In September 1877, she made her vows there and took the religious habit. When the bishop closed the orphanage in 1880, he named Frances prioress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Seven young women from the orphanage joined her.

Since her early childhood in Italy, Frances Xavier Cabrini had wanted to be a missionary in China but, at the urging of Pope Leo XIII, Frances went west instead of east. She traveled with six sisters to New York City to work with the thousands of Italian immigrants living there.

She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York, the house intended to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances Xavier Cabrini, truly a valiant woman, departed from the archbishop's residence all the more determined to establish that orphanage. And she did.

In 35 years, Frances Xavier Cabrini founded 67 institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the uneducated and the sick. Seeing great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes.

As a child, she was always frightened of water, unable to overcome her fear of drowning. Yet, despite this fear, she traveled across the Atlantic Ocean more than 30 times. She died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago. Her Feast is celebrated November 13.

## Life of the Uncommon Saints



**Feast day: November 12 (Wednesday).** A noble-born Frank, Cunibert became bishop of Cologne and advisor to Merovingian kings like Dagobert I. He founded churches and monasteries, earning the nickname "father of the poor" for his charity.

Local legend claims he discovered a hidden spring by striking the ground with his staff; he remains a patron of horned cattle.



**St. Eucharius of Lyon (d. ~449)**

**Feast day: November 16 (Sunday).** A married senator who became a monk on Lérins, Eucharius was elected bishop of Lyon against his will. Exiled briefly for opposing Arian heresy among the Burgundians, he wrote spiritual treatises like *De contemptu mundi*. His letters and sermons influenced later monastic writers, though his cult remained local.

## Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	<b>Saturday, November 15, 4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, November 16, 8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, November 16, 10:30a.m.</b>
Greeters	Rob & Marcie	Linda Stuckey	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Theresa Kowcheck	Stothard
Reader	Jim sperlazza	Judith Aracich	Pam Ferguson

## Daily Readings and Feasts

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

**November 9, 2025 (Sunday) 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

**November 10, 2025 (Monday) Memorial of Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church;** Wisdom 1:1-7; Psalm 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Luke 17:1-6

**November 11, 2025 (Tuesday) Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop;** Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Psalm 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23; Luke 17:7-10

**November 12, 2025 (Wednesday) Memorial of Saint Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr;** Wisdom 6:1-11; Psalm 82:3-4, 6-7; Luke 17:11-19

**November 13, 2025 (Thursday) Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin;** Wisdom 7:22b-8:1; Psalm 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175; Luke 17:20-25

**November 14, 2025 (Friday)** Wisdom 13:1-9; Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5ab; Luke 17:26-37

**November 15, 2025 (Saturday) Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary;** Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Psalm 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Luke 18:1-8

**November 16, 2025 (Sunday) 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;** Malachi 3:19-20a; Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19

*The readings for this weekend can be found on page 1044 of the green hymnal in your pew*

## 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:** November 13, 2025

## 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...*

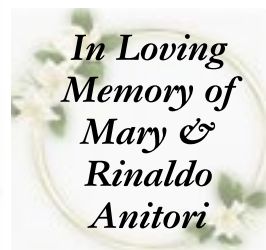
**Joseph M. Mullenbach**  
Licensee in Charge  
[www.mullenbachfh.com](http://www.mullenbachfh.com)

Cody R. Rice  
Funeral Director

(304) 527-4090  
Fax (304) 527-3793  
[mullenbachfh@comcast.net](mailto:mullenbachfh@comcast.net)



*Reasner Funeral Home*  
Robert Morris L.D.C.  
Owner and Director  
[ReasnerOfWellsburg.com](http://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**