

# St. John the Evangelist Church

September 14, 2025

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

## Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross



### The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim. The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

# 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 - Fifth Commandment*

**“You shall not kill.”**

At first glance, the Fifth Commandment seems obvious. Most people, religious or not, would agree that murder is wrong. But the Lord's command goes far deeper than a simple prohibition against violence. It reveals the sanctity of life itself. It teaches us to see every human person as created in the image and likeness of God, and therefore to be treated with reverence, never as a means, never as an obstacle, never as disposable.

To obey the Fifth Commandment is to become guardians of life, protectors of the weak, and ministers of peace. It is not enough to avoid murder. Christ calls us to root out all that leads to it, anger, hatred, revenge, contempt, and indifference.

The foundation of the Fifth Commandment is the truth that human life is sacred. Unlike anything else in creation, man bears the image of the Creator. Life is not a right we give ourselves or a value determined by usefulness. It is a gift, freely bestowed by God. Because life belongs to Him, we do not have the authority to take it unjustly, not our own, and not another's.

This includes not only physical life, but the dignity that belongs to every person from conception to natural death. Whether born or unborn, healthy or sick, rich or poor, free or imprisoned, each life has infinite value in the eyes of God. The Fifth Commandment teaches us to revere that sacredness in all our dealings.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus intensifies this commandment. He teaches, “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not kill...’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment” (Mt 5:21–22). This is not a legal redefinition, but a moral deepening. Christ reveals the spiritual root of violence: the inner disposition of the heart.

Hatred, bitterness, resentment, verbal abuse, and even neglect are all violations of the commandment when they degrade the dignity of another. The Christian is called not only to refrain from violence but to actively love, to forgive enemies, to seek reconciliation, and to preserve peace.

Jesus Himself, the innocent Lamb, was murdered by the hands of men. And yet, from the Cross, He prays, “Father, forgive them.” This is the measure of the Christian life. To keep the Fifth Commandment is not merely to avoid wrongdoing, but to imitate the mercy of God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church outlines a range of grave offenses against this commandment. Foremost among them is direct abortion, the deliberate killing of an unborn child. The Church has always taught that abortion is a moral evil and a grave sin, the first written condemnation of this gravely evil act is from 70 A.D. in the Didache (The Lord's Teaching Through the Twelve Apostles to the Nations). No circumstance, no appeal to freedom or privacy, can justify the taking of innocent life.

Euthanasia, the direct killing of the elderly, the sick, or the disabled to eliminate suffering, is also a grave offense. While we are called to alleviate pain and offer comfort, we may never cross the line into killing. Life, even when burdened by illness, retains its full dignity.

Suicide, too, is a violation of this commandment. While psychological factors may diminish personal culpability, the act itself remains objectively wrong. The Church, however, entrusts those who die by suicide to the mercy of God and encourages pastoral care for their families.

Other offenses include murder, terrorism, torture, human trafficking, and the intentional targeting of civilians in war. Each of these crimes denies the dignity of the human person and assaults the Creator who fashioned them.

Not all violations of this commandment involve physical violence. The Lord calls us to examine our hearts. Unchecked anger, desire for revenge, verbal cruelty, and wishing harm upon others all fall under the shadow of this command. When we insult or demean others, we wound the image of God in them.

Gossip and calumny, though often dismissed as minor faults, can kill reputations, destroy relationships, and sow division. The tongue, as the letter of James reminds us, can be “a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (Jas 3:8). Christian charity requires that we speak truth in love and seek peace even when wronged.

One of the greatest ways we keep this commandment is by choosing to forgive. The refusal to forgive often festers into hatred. But forgiveness opens the heart to healing and allows grace to flow where wounds once ruled.

This does not mean forgetting injustice or permitting further harm. Forgiveness is not passivity. It is the deliberate choice to release vengeance into God's hands and to will the good of the other. In doing so, we imitate Christ, who forgave His executioners and bore their sins in His flesh.

The Fifth Commandment also compels us to protect those whose lives are at risk because of poverty, violence, or neglect. It is not enough to refrain from harming others. We must actively work to safeguard life where it is threatened.

This includes the unborn, the refugee, the prisoner, the abandoned child, and the elderly person in a nursing home. The Christian cannot claim to revere life while ignoring the suffering of others. To be pro-life is to be all-in on life, from the first heartbeat to the last breath, from natural conception to natural death.

The Church teaches that there may be rare circumstances in which taking life is morally permissible, such as legitimate self-defense or just war. These are not rejections of the commandment but tragic concessions in a fallen world. Even then, every effort must be made to avoid killing and to respect life.

Regarding capital punishment, the Church's teaching has developed over time. While it was once seen as a legitimate recourse in cases of extreme crime, recent popes have affirmed that modern societies have the means to protect themselves without taking life. For instance, in these United States of America, the existence of super-maximum-security prisons renders recourse to the death penalty virtually unnecessary. This stands in contrast to underdeveloped nations that may lack the means to safely and permanently detain those guilty of heinous crimes.

The Fifth Commandment includes care for our own lives. We are stewards, not owners, of our bodies. Reckless behavior, drug abuse, self-harm, and neglect of health all offend against the dignity God has given us. Temperance, moderation, and a life rooted in virtue honor the Creator who made us.

Even acts like overworking, neglecting sleep, or embracing stress without prayerful surrender can erode the gift of life. The Christian is called to live wisely, not wastefully.

In a world marked by violence, division, and a throwaway mentality, the Fifth Commandment becomes a radical witness. It calls the Christian to stand for life when others mock it, to defend the voiceless, and to love those deemed unlovable.

It is not enough to be against killing. We must be for life, abundant, radiant, redeemed life. This means walking with women in crisis pregnancies, caring for the sick and dying, standing against racism and injustice, praying for enemies, and choosing peace in the home.

Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly. In keeping the Fifth Commandment, we become collaborators with Him in the work of redemption. Every act of kindness, every word of peace, every child protected, every soul forgiven, these are victories of life over death.

**-Father Golna**

# WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 13	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cheryl Bland † Requested by: Pam Boyd
Sunday, September 14	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, September 14	10:30 A.M.	For Deborah Golna Requested by: Father Golna
Monday, September 15	8:30 A.M.	For Lucy White Ackland
Tuesday, September 16	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Virginia Diserio †
Wednesday, September 17	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Mark Kowcheck † Requested by: Toot & Joanie Lazear
Thursday, September 18	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cheryl Bland † Requested by: Toot & Joanie Lazear
Friday, September 19	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Souls of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Traubert † Requested by: Elizabeth Lane
Saturday, September 20	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Souls of Rockey/Sperlazza Fam. † Requested by: Eleanor Rockey
Sunday, September 21	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, September 21	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Souls of Mark & Greg Lamone Requested by: Pam Ferguson

*The sanctuary lamp is burning in memory of Margaret Diserio Sept. 12-Sept. 25*



*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	58
Sunday 8:00	41
Sunday 10:30	41
Total Attendance	140
Regular Collection	\$4083
Online Giving	\$250
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$18
Elevator	\$110
Building and Maintenance	\$960
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$64,864.78

**Adorers needed on Wednesdays from 1-2 pm & 3-4pm.**

## 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 and Mary Fluharty.

**Those who have died:** Especially for Mrs. Lena Serevicz. 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 and Dominic Re

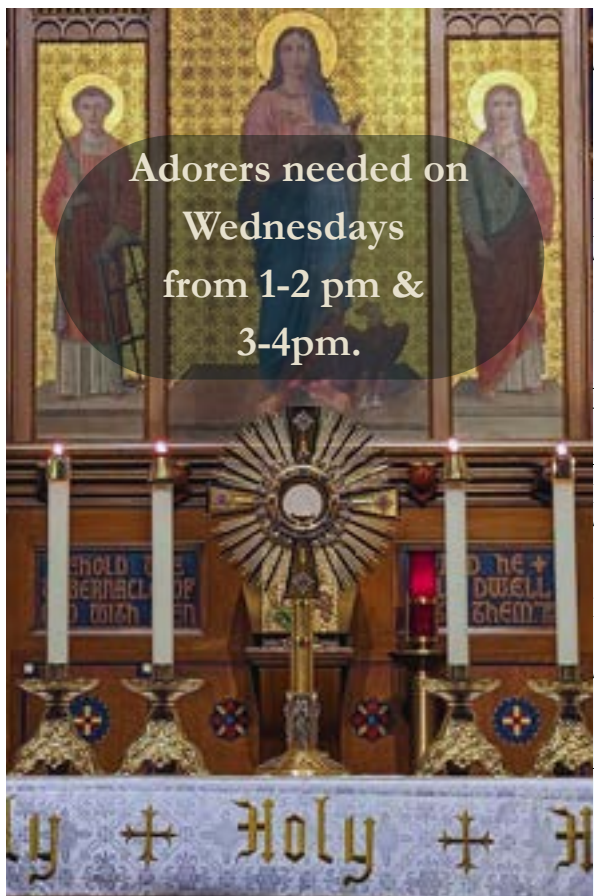
**The Priests of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston:** Especially Fr. Justin Golna  
**Former priests and religious of and from our parish**

**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 warmly invite volunteers to assist with counting the offertory on Monday mornings after the 8:30 AM Mass. Your help would be greatly appreciated! For more info contact the office @ 304-737-0429**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** 



**LET'S GET VACCINATED**

Protect yourself and your neighbors from the Flu this fall!

**Flu Vaccine Clinic presented by Traubert's Pharmacy!**

**Date:** October 3, 2025  
**Time:** 3p.m. - 5p.m.  
**Where:** St. Johns Evangelist Catholic Church Basement

**PLEASE BRING YOUR INSURANCE CARD!!**

**GOLNA HAPPEN**  
*Sunday, September 14*  
 CCD 9 a.m.

*Monday & Tuesday, September 15-16*  
 Father Golna at Presbyteral Council-  
 Father Justin Adiele covering

**Tuesday, September 16**  
 No Coffee and Catechesis. Next one is  
 Sep. 30th

*Wednesday, September 17- Adoration  
 and Benediction 9am-5pm*

**Sunday, September 21**  
 CCD 9 a.m.  
 After 10:30 a.m. Mass, remove any  
 remaining items from Parish Hall

**Wednesday, September 24**  
 Men's Group 7 p.m. (Meeting in Picnic  
 Pavilion or the Church)

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

**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 6:00 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.  
 The first meeting will be Thursday, September 18  
 @ 6 p.m.



**CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL**

**We are 20% from completion.**  
**Goal \$18,200 Raised**  
**\$14,550 80% 29 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 Cathedralium 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/>

**Coat Drive**



**Through the month of October**


Please bring your slightly used/new coats (Any Size) without rips and with working zippers to the **PARISH HALL**

**COATS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE FOOD PANTRY**

**STARTING THE FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER**

**Happy Birthday**

**Lana Gilkey 9/18**  
**Carolyn Mason 9/19**  
**Anthony Ptaszek 9/19**  
**Sue Malson 9/21**




**Sign up sheets for the Apple Fest are in the vestibule.**

## Profiles in Holiness



Saint Andrew Kim Taegon was the first native-born Korean Catholic priest, martyred for his faith in 1846. He, along with Paul Chong Hasang and 102 other companions, are the Patron Saints of Korea, canonized in 1984 for their courageous witness and martyrdom during fierce persecutions of Christians in 19th-century Korea. His family had been converted by Christian literature from China, and Andrew traveled to Macao to study at a seminary before returning to Korea to minister to the growing Catholic community and arrange for missionaries to enter the country. They are celebrated on September 20th.

## Life of the Uncommon Saints




Saint Catherine of Genoa (1447–1510) was an Italian mystic who, after an unhappy marriage, had a profound conversion experience and spent the rest of her life dedicated to serving the sick and the poor at a hospital in Genoa. Her feast day is September 15.



Saint Joseph of Cupertino was a 17th-century Conventual Franciscan friar from Italy known for his extraordinary mystical ecstasies and ability to levitate. Despite being a poor student, he was eventually ordained a priest and became a patron of students and test takers. His feast day is September 18.

# Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, September 20 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, September 21, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, September 21, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Rob Morris	Anna & Jeje	Mary Beth Harvey
Servers	Avery & Liam	Judith Aracich	Will & Stothard
Reader	Marcie Morris	Maryanne Capp	Pam Ferguson

*The readings for this weekend  
can be found on page 1041 of  
the green hymnal in your pew*

**Our Lady Of Fatima**  
Pray for us!

Join us for a  
powerful **Rosary  
Rally** on  
Saturday  
October 11 at 12  
noon, outside by  
the statue of  
Our Lady  
(weather  
permitting),  
praying for  
peace and unity  
in our  
community!

# Daily Readings and Feasts

September 13, 2025 (Saturday) Memorial of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Psalm 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7; Luke 6:43-49

September 14, 2025 (Sunday) Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; Numbers 21:4b-9; Psalm 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

September 15, 2025 (Monday) Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Psalm 28:2, 7, 8-9; Luke 2:33-35

September 16, 2025 (Tuesday) Memorial of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Psalm 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6; Luke 7:11-17

September 17, 2025 (Wednesday) 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Psalm 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Luke 7:31-35

September 18, 2025 (Thursday) 1 Timothy 4:12-16; Psalm 111:7-8, 9, 10; Luke 7:36-50

September 19, 2025 (Friday) 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Psalm 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20; Luke 8:1-3

September 20, 2025 (Saturday) Memorial of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Luke 8:4-15

September 21, 2025 (Sunday) 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13

## Parish Food Handlers

We kindly invite you to join us for a Food Handler Training and Certification session on Thursday, September 18 immediately following the 8:30am mass at the Parish hall. We look forward to seeing you there. Please bring your smart phone or tablet. This is requirement for anyone working in the luncheons or soup and sandwich.



# Mullenbach Funeral Home

*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)

Kayla A. Schoonmaker  
Funeral Director

P.O. Box 272

669 Main Street

Follansbee, WV 26037



*Reasner Funeral Home*  
Robert Morris L.L.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**