

St. John the Evangelist Church

September 21, 2025

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The Gospel is from St. Luke 16:1-13. These words of Christ warning those who would follow him on the road to heaven not to become the slaves of earthly things are applicable to all of us. Most of us may feel that this warning is for millionaires and business magnates. Our Lord didn't say so. There was not a single millionaire in his audience. He meant it for all of us, for what he warned against was not the just acquisition of this world's goods but their unjust acquisition, and the dishonest use of them when they were justly acquired.

It was God who created all that exists in this world. He intended these goods for the use of man. We are only managers, therefore, of these worldly goods. It is on our way of managing these goods, not on the quantity we had to manage, that our judgment will be based. Millionaires can get to heaven while all paupers have no guarantee that they will make it. Our Lord deduces two lessons for us from the parable of the unjust manager or steward. Firstly, the enterprise which he showed in providing for his earthly happiness when he would lose his employment, was greater and keener than that shown by most of us in providing for our eternal happiness.

Did I give one hour a day to God and the things of God, helping the needy, learning more about my religion, giving a hand in parochial affairs, advising those in difficulties, spiritual or temporal, praying for my own and my neighbor's needs—yet even if I did, it is less than one-tenth of the free time I had at my own disposal.

If I did not, if I barely managed to get in the Sunday Mass and a few hasty prayers, could anyone suggest that I was showing great interest and was very enterprising as far as my future life was concerned? God is very generous with me. He gives me lots of time for providing for my health and temporal needs each week, and a lot of free time besides. I should not express surprise if he is disappointed at how little of that wonderful gift of time I am willing to give back to him. The unjust steward was far more enterprising as regards earthly provision for himself.

The second lesson our Lord wishes to teach us is that we should use what we can spare of our earthly possessions in helping those who are in need of our help. By doing that, we will be making friends who will help us at the judgment seat to get a lasting reception in heaven. Remember that description of the judgment which our Lord gave when he said, "I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was naked and you clothed me"? What we do for the needy, we do for Him. Those whom we help, as far as we can, will be witnesses testifying for us when our final examination, on which our eternity will depend, comes upon us.

Two resolutions worthy of your serious consideration today in relation to earthly goods are: Never let them take up all your time. You have a far more serious purpose in life. Give it a little more thought and enterprise than you have been doing. Secondly, be grateful to God for what He has given you in this life. You might like to have a lot more, but God knows best. Work honestly and be generous with what you have. You are serving God, not money. God will be waiting for you where there is no currency, and where the one bank account that matters will be the good use that you made of your time and your share of this world's goods while you were alive.

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

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

St. John the Evangelist Parish

1300 Charles Street

Wellsburg, WV 26070

Email: office@stjohnwellsburgwv.com

Parish Office: (304) 737-0429

Pastoral Team:

Pastor.....Very Rev. Justin Golna, J.C.L., J.V.

Secretary.....Trisha Vaders

Director of Music/Organist.....Zac Gordon

Director of Religious Education.....Monica Biery

Parish Council Chair.....John Alvarez

Finance Council Chair.....Bill Garvey

Sacraments:

Baptism: For infants: Parents make arrangements with the pastor/office. For Adults: Baptism will be given at the Easter Vigil after completing the OCIA program. For details, please contact the parish office.

Marriage: Please make arrangements with the pastor. Six months minimum notice is required for the celebration of marriage.

Sacrament of the Sick: Please contact the office for arrangements.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday: 9-4pm

Mass Schedule

Monday - 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday - 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8:30 a.m.

Friday - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 am & 10:30 a.m.

(See the Weekly Schedule for changes to Mass times)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Tuesday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Wednesday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Thursday - 8-8:25 a.m.

Friday - 6-6:30 p.m.

Saturday Vigil - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Sunday - 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 - Sixth Commandment

“You shall not commit adultery.”

The Sixth Commandment is more than a rule about sexual fidelity. It is a radiant witness to the beauty of God's design for human love. In a world that often reduces the body to an object and love to a passing emotion, this commandment stands as a call to authentic communion: a love that is faithful, fruitful, and free. It protects the sacredness of marriage, the dignity of the human body, and the integrity of the heart.

To understand this commandment properly, we must begin where Scripture begins: not with sin, but with gift. “Male and female He created them,” and in that difference and union, God wrote into our very bodies a language of love. The Sixth Commandment teaches us to speak that language truthfully.

Human sexuality is not a mere biological function. It is an integral part of our personhood, created by God to express and deepen the covenant of love between husband and wife. The union of man and woman in marriage mirrors the union of Christ and His Church. It is both unitive and procreative, ordered toward mutual self-giving and open to the gift of life.

Because of its sacred meaning, sexuality must be treated with reverence. The body speaks a language, and that language is meant to say, “I give myself to you, entirely, faithfully, and forever.” Any use of sexuality that contradicts this sacred meaning, whether through infidelity, pornography, contraception, masturbation, or casual encounters, not only distorts the truth of the body but also constitutes a grave sin against God and His plan for love, life, and human dignity. It transforms what was meant to be a total, faithful, and fruitful gift into a counterfeit gesture, wounding both soul and body, and profaning the divine image inscribed in our sexuality.

This same distortion appears in the now-common practice of cohabitation before marriage, which has become a socially accepted norm but remains a grave offense against God. Living together outside of marriage may seem like a way to “test compatibility” or avoid the risk of divorce, but in reality, it removes the sexual relationship from the covenantal context in which it was created to flourish. It treats what is meant to be a permanent, sacramental gift as a temporary arrangement, hollowing out both commitment and intimacy. Far from preparing a couple for marriage, cohabitation undermines trust, habituates the heart to impermanence, and places the couple in a near occasion of grave sin.

Sexual intimacy outside the sacrament of Matrimony, no matter how emotionally bonded the couple may feel, remains objectively disordered because it separates the bodily gift from the lifelong, sacramental promise it is meant to express. The Church calls such couples not to shame, but to conversion. Out of love for their souls, she urges them to regularize their union, or if not yet ready, to live in chaste separation until they are. This may seem difficult, but Christ never asks us to give up joy, only to give up what cannot lead to it.

In the Gospels, Jesus does not lessen the force of this commandment. He intensifies it. “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ but I say to you, that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart” (Mt 5:27–28). In these words, Christ moves the commandment from external behavior to the inner landscape of desire.

Lust is not merely temptation or attraction. It is the reduction of a person to an object for selfish pleasure. Christ calls us to purity of heart, a vision of the other that sees not a body to be used, but a soul to be revered, a person to be loved. Chastity, therefore, is not repression but the integration of desire with truth and love. It frees us to love as God loves.

At the heart of the Sixth Commandment is the defense of the sacrament of Matrimony. Marriage is not a human contract subject to revision. It is a covenant instituted by God. The vows exchanged in Christian marriage are not merely personal promises, they are sacred words that establish an indissoluble bond. “What God has joined together, let no one separate” (Mk 10:9).

Adultery wounds this sacred bond. It betrays trust, fractures communion, and harms the children and community bound to that marriage. Fidelity is not just about physical exclusivity, but about emotional integrity, spiritual unity, and self-sacrificial love. The faithfulness of husband and wife is a mirror of Christ's faithfulness to the Church: a love that endures to the end, even to the Cross.

In a culture where divorce is common and commitment is feared, the witness of a faithful marriage is a beacon of hope. It tells the world that love is possible, that permanence is beautiful, and that grace is stronger than failure.

Chastity is often misunderstood as something reserved for the unmarried. But every Christian, regardless of state in life, is called to live chastely. For married couples, this means faithful and generous self-giving in accord with the truth of their vows. For the unmarried, it means refraining from sexual intimacy while cultivating habits of love, respect, and self-control.

For those with same-sex attractions or for anyone who experiences disordered desires, the call to chastity remains. The Church never condemns persons for their temptations. Rather, she invites all people to embrace the dignity of their calling as sons and daughters of God. The grace of Christ, received in prayer and the sacraments, makes purity not only possible, but fruitful.

Chastity is not a burden, but a path to joy. It teaches us to love rightly, to master our impulses, and to await the right time and context for the total gift of self. It is a virtue that must be learned, prayed for, and practiced in community.

One of the most prevalent violations of this commandment in our time is the sin of pornography. It distorts the meaning of the body, feeds the vice of lust, enslaves the imagination, and undermines true intimacy. It exploits the vulnerable and erodes the soul.

The Church speaks clearly: pornography is a grave offense against chastity and against the dignity of all involved. It forms habits that can cripple relationships, especially in marriage, and it dulls the soul's capacity for authentic love. But healing is possible. Through confession, accountability, spiritual direction, and the grace of perseverance, many have found freedom.

Purity is a battle, but it is a winnable one with Christ.

This commandment also teaches us to respect the body, both our own and others'. Modesty, in speech, dress, and behavior, is not prudishness, but a form of charity. It protects the mystery of the person and fosters authentic relationships. The body is not shameful, it is holy. And like all holy things, it is meant to be veiled in reverence, not exposed for consumption.

The human body, male and female, is a temple of the Holy Spirit. We are not souls trapped in flesh, but enlivened spirits. What we do with our bodies affects our souls. The commandment to purity is therefore not a restriction on pleasure, but a protection of joy.

Within the Church, some are called to witness to this commandment through a total consecration of their bodies to Christ. Virgins, celibate priests, and religious brothers and sisters offer a sign of the world to come, where there is no marrying or giving in marriage. Their chastity is not a rejection of love, but its transfiguration.

By renouncing earthly marriage, they point to the eternal marriage between Christ and the Church. Their fidelity proclaims that love is not limited to the flesh, and that the heart finds its deepest fulfillment in God alone.

The Sixth Commandment is not about repression. It is about joy. It reveals that love is more than desire, that the body is more than an instrument, and that freedom is found in self-mastery. In a culture that idolizes pleasure and discards people, this commandment dares to say that love is sacred and that purity is possible.

The Church's teaching on the Sixth Commandment is demanding, but it is not cruel. It is a call to truth, not condemnation. She does not stand with arms folded, but with the arms of Christ outstretched. For those who have fallen into sexual sin, the path of repentance is open. The confessional is not a courtroom of shame, but a place of healing.

Whether someone has experienced adultery, masturbation, cohabitation, pornography, or sexual confusion, the mercy of Christ is deeper than any sin. The saints were not born pure, they became pure through grace. What matters is not where we have been, but whether we are willing to let Christ redeem us and lead us into the freedom He died for us to have.

To keep this commandment is to walk the path of beauty. It is to revere the mystery of man and woman, to guard the sanctuary of marriage, and to love others as persons made for heaven.

-Father Golna

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday, September 22	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Frances Cranes † Requested by: Nancy Mitchell
Tuesday, September 23	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Cheryl Bland † Requested by: Monica Biery
Wednesday, September 24	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Charlie Kirk † Requested by: Vaders Family
Thursday, September 25	8:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Janeen Markos † Requested by: Greg & Cindy Crabtree
Friday, September 26	5:30 P.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Lena Serevicz † Requested by: Greg & Cindy Crabtree
Saturday, September 27	4:00 P.M.	For the repose of the Souls of Benny Jr. & Lena Serevicz † Requested by: Benji Serevicz
Sunday, September 28	8:00 A.M.	Pro Populo
Sunday, September 28	10:30 A.M.	For the repose of the Soul of Clemence Golna † Requested by: Father Golna

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	39
Sunday 8:00	31
Sunday 10:30	50
Total Attendance	120
Regular Collection	\$2685.15
Online Giving	\$75
Weekly Needs	\$5,000
Votive Candles	\$56
Building and Maintenance	\$10
Elevator Annex Loan Balance	\$65,647.30

Adorers needed on Wednesdays from 2-3pm & 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: 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 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/>



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!!

Traubert's Pharmacy
A MEMBER OF The Medicine Shoppe

GOLNA HAPPEN
After 10:30 a.m. Mass, remove any remaining items from Parish Hall

Sunday, September 21
CCD 9 a.m.

Tuesday, September 23
Hall floors getting refinished 9a.m.
No Coffee and Catechesis. No Hall access.
Next one is Sep. 30th

Wednesday, September 24 - Adoration and Benediction 9am-5pm

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

Sunday, September 28
Second collection for The Catholic University of America
NO CCD

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

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

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

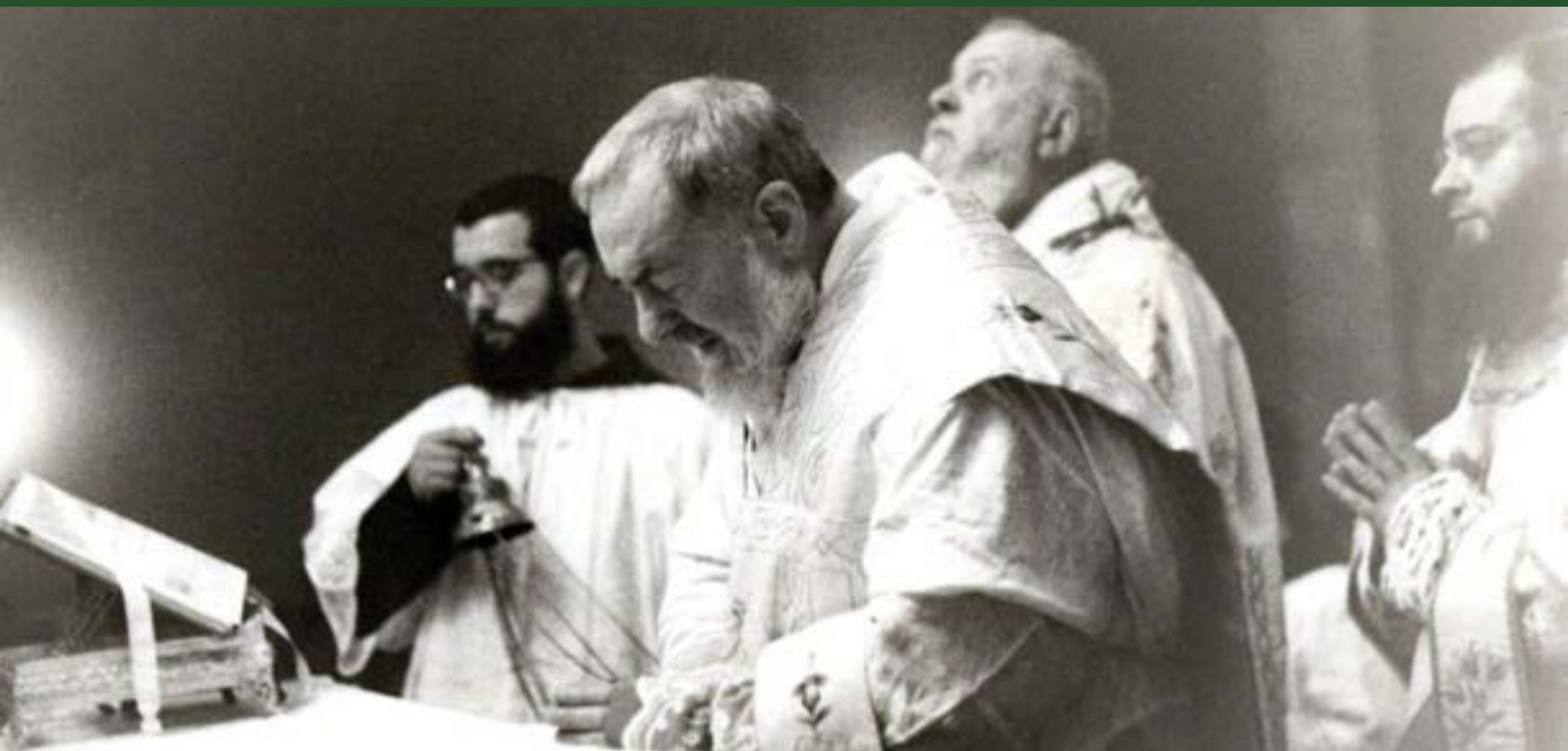
Suzanne Casale 9/22
 Karleigh Kowcheck 9/22
 Gavin Scott 9/22
 Angela Staffileno 9/23
 James Best 9/24

HAPPY Birthday

Cindy Crabtree 9/15

John McGowan 9/24
 Rachael Ferrise 9/26
 Jeje Huff 9/27
 Katie Shaffer 9/27
 Arlene Shidock 9/27

Profiles in Holiness



Padre Pio (born May 25, 1887, Pietrelcina, Italy—died September 23, 1968, San Giovanni Rotondo; canonized June 16, 2002; feast day September 23) was an Italian priest and saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

Born into a devout Roman Catholic family, he consecrated himself to Jesus at age 5. At age 15 he joined the Capuchin order and took the name Pio in honor of St. Pius I. In 1910, the year in which he became a priest, he received the stigmata (bodily marks corresponding to the wounds suffered by the crucified Jesus) for the first time, though they eventually healed. He was drafted into the Italian military in 1915 for medical service during World War I but was shortly discharged because of his poor health. He received the stigmata again in 1918, and this time they remained with him until his death. These and other signs of his holiness (such as his reported ability to be in two places at once and his gift of healing) drew growing numbers of pilgrims to him. He was noted for his charity and piety and was canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

Life of the Uncommon Saints



Saints Cosmas and Damian, twin brothers and physicians, were martyred around 287 AD for their Christian faith, known for healing without charge. Their feast day is celebrated on September 26 in the Roman Catholic Church.



Saint Vincent de Paul (1581–1660), a French priest, dedicated his life to serving the poor, founding the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians) and co-founding the Daughters of Charity. His feast day is celebrated on September 27 in the Roman Catholic Church.

Liturgical Ministries Schedule

	Saturday, September 27 4:00 p.m.	Sunday, September 28, 8:00 a.m.	Sunday, September 28, 10:30a.m.
Greeters	Mark & Shari	Toot & Joanie	Annabel Holmes
Servers	Avery & Liam	Judith Aracich	Will & Stothard
Reader	AJ Mitchell	Fred Casale	Mary Beth Harvey

*The readings for this weekend
can be found on page 1002 of
the green hymnal in your pew*

Daily Readings and Feasts

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

September 22, 2025 (Monday) Ezra 1:1-6; Psalm 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Luke 8:16-18

September 23, 2025 (Tuesday) Memorial of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest; Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Luke 8:19-21

September 24, 2025 (Wednesday) Ezra 9:5-9; Tobit 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Luke 9:1-6

September 25, 2025 (Thursday) Haggai 1:1-8; Psalm 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Luke 9:7-9

September 26, 2025 (Friday) Haggai 2:1-9; Psalm 43:1, 2, 3, 4; Luke 9:18-22

September 27, 2025 (Saturday) Memorial of Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest; Zechariah 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Luke 9:43b-45

September 28, 2025 (Sunday) 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31

*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!

Join us!
Register now.

dwc.org/the-olive-branch

The Olive Branch Ministry is your resource, helping you to remain steadfast in faith and hope.

OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

Helping individuals separated or divorced

October 11th
8:30 am -3:30 pm

St. Michael Angelus Center
1225 National Road
Wheeling, WV



REGISTER NOW
DWC.ORG

Mullenbach Funeral Home

Celebrating Life...

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Licensee in Charge

www.mullenbachfh.com

Cody R. Rice
Funeral Director

(304) 527-4090

Fax (304) 527-3793

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
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