

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)

524 Holley Street, St Albans, WV 25177 304-727-3033

www.stfranciswv.org parish@stfranciswv.org www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisisaintal



APRIL 13, 2025 PALM SUNDAY

OUR MISSION

~In the spirit of Saint Francis, we, the church family, strive to discover Christ's peace in us and in each aspect of creation by welcoming and walking hand in hand with our brothers and sisters on our faith journey~



"IF GOD CAN WORK THROUGH ME, HE CAN WORK THROUGH ANYONE." - SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

A WARM WELCOME TO SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH!

To register as a new or returning member of the parish, please contact the parish office at 304-727-3033. The parish community will be indeed delighted to have you.

SUNDAYS READINGS P. 1042 Year C



PALM SUNDAY

14 Monday	15 Tuesday	16 Wednesday	17 Thursday	18 Friday	19 Saturday	20 Sunday
Is 42: 1-7 Jn 12: 1-11 (257)	Is 49: 1-6 Jn 13: 21-33, 36—38 (258)	Is 50: 4-9a Mt 26: 14-25 (259)	Ex 12: 1-8, 11-14 1 Cor 11: 23-26/ Jn 13: 1-15 (39) Holy Thursday	Is 52: 13— 53: 12/ Heb 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9 Jn 18: 1-19; 42 (40) Good Friday	Gn 1: 1-2: 2 Ex 14: 15-15: 1/Is 54: 5-14 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	Acts 10: 34a, 37-43 Col 3: 1-4 Jn 20 1-9 (42) Easter Sunday

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
Sat Apr 12	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Fred Heindl Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore (X) Midge Butler (C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
Sun Apr 13	11:00 am	Jane Duran By Paul Duran	Mita Larson Tom Williams	Midge Butler (X) John Carnell (C) Mark Muchow (C)	Jonah White Alyssa lake Evelyn Winiesdorffer	Lourdes Stone
Mon Apr 14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tue Apr 15	6:00 pm	Sam Butler	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
Wed Apr 16	8:15 am	In Memory of Miguel Mathues	Pat Tabor	Tom Liberatore	—	—
Thu Apr 17	6:00 pm	Rita Ramella Lawson By Nilda Ramella	Lisa Desposito	Midge Burler (X) Tom Liberatore (C) Mary Sanney (C)	Mary Pauley Hadley Heumann Evelyn Winiesdorffer	—
Fri Apr 18	6:00 pm	—	Helen Musrock Pat Romanosky	Tom Liberatore (X) Leslie Huffman (C) Suzanne Farley (C)	Sagrada Lopez Aubree Wriston Eliza Berry	—
Sat Apr 19	8:00 pm	Jack, Keith & Betty Farley By Suzanne Farley	Dawna Kessler Shaun Lopez Pat Romanosky Jacque Switzer	Jennifer Lopez (X) Midge Butler (C) Helen Musrock (C)	Danny Kessler Hadley Heumann Carlee Stone	Pat Ronanosky
Sun Apr 20	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mark Muchow	Bill Tabor (X) Jennifer Lopez (C) Suzanne Farley (C)	Mighty Lopez Sagrada Lopez Gia Lopez	Sarah Palmer

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

Rosary: 4:30 pm
Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday

Rosary: 10:30 am
Mass: 11:00 am

Weekdays

Tue: 6:00 pm
Wed: 8:15 am
Thurs: 8:15 am
Fri: 6:00 pm

Adoration

For rental of church facilities (parish center, gym, cafeteria), please contact:

Mary Nichols
304-727-9832

St Francis of Assisi Parish And School Staff

Father Sojan Xavier, Pastor..... (304) 435-4342 / sxavier@dwc.org
Liz Liberatore, Parish Secretary..... (304) 727-3033 / parish@stfranciswv.org
Gwen Muchow, Bookkeeper..... (304) 727-3033 / gwenbmuchow@stfranciswv.org
Nanette Martin, Music Director..... (304) 727-3033 / nmartin@stfranciswv.org
Sandi Hudson, Religion Director.....(304) 549-4009 / shudson@stfranciswv.org
Erin Sikora, Principal..... (304) 727-5690 / esikora@sfsww.com
Kelly Oxley, School Office Manager..... (304)727-5690 / koxley@sfsww.com
Paul Niedbalski, Knights of Columbus.....(304)545-5100 / ginooffice@aol.com
Shaun Lopez, Pastoral Council President..... (681) 439-0421 / shnlopez@gmail.com
Fred Heindl, Property Manager.....(304)415-5942

Pastoral Availability

Father Sojan is available any time of day or night for spiritual guidance. If you or a family member is sick / homebound & require Communion or Sacrament of Anointing, contact him (304-435-4342) or the parish office.

Marriage Preparation

Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Francis should be practicing Catholics & are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. 6 months notice is required. Contact the office to discuss date of marriage.

Order of Christian Initiation

Children ages 7-17& adults who have not been baptized or baptized but not confirmed go through a faith formation program before they are admitted to the sacraments.

Parish Office Hours Tues-Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

HOLY WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHRIST'S PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Holy Week is the most sacred time in the liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church. It commemorates the final days of Jesus Christ's earthly life, leading up to His Passion, Death, and glorious Resurrection. It is a time of deep reflection, prayer, and participation in the mysteries of our salvation. The week begins with **Palm Sunday** and culminates in the celebration of **Easter Sunday**, marking the victory of Christ over sin and death.

PALM SUNDAY: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday. On this day, Catholics remember



Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when He was greeted with shouts of

"Hosanna!" and people laid palm branches before Him (Matthew 21:1-11). However, the same crowd that welcomed Him would soon turn against Him. The Mass includes a reading of Christ's Passion, reminding us that His journey to glory passes through suffering and the cross.

HOLY MONDAY TO HOLY WEDNESDAY: PREPARING FOR THE PASSION

The first three days of Holy Week prepare us for the sacred Triduum. These days recall various events leading to Christ's arrest, such as:

- **Holy Monday:** Jesus cleansing the Temple and teaching in Jerusalem.
- **Holy Tuesday:** The confrontation with the

- **Spy Wednesday:** The day Judas Iscariot betrays Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). This betrayal sets in motion the events of Christ's Passion.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM: THE HEART OF HOLY WEEK

The **Easter Triduum** (Latin for "Three Days") is the most solemn part of the Church year, beginning on **Holy Thursday** and ending with **Easter Sunday**.

HOLY THURSDAY: THE LAST SUPPER AND THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST

On **Holy Thursday**, Catholics celebrate the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, which commemorates:



- **Institution of the Eucharist:** Jesus gives His disciples His Body and Blood in the form of bread and wine, saying, "**Do this in**

memory of me" (Luke 22:19-20).

- **The Institution of the Priesthood:** Jesus commands His apostles to continue celebrating the Eucharist, establishing the priesthood.



- **The Washing of the Feet:** Jesus humbly washes the feet of His disciples

teaching the importance of love and service (John 13:1-15).

After Mass, the altar is stripped, and the Eucharist is placed in a side chapel for adoration, recalling Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The faithful are invited to "keep watch" with Christ in prayer. Cont...

HOLY WEEK IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, cont.

GOOD FRIDAY: THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS



Good Friday is a day of mourning, fasting, and prayer. The Church does not celebrate Mass but gathers for the **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion**, which includes:

- The **Reading of the Passion** from the Gospel of John (John 18–19).
- The **Veneration of the Cross**, where the faithful come forward to honor the cross, recognizing it as the instrument of our salvation.
- **Holy Communion**, using hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

At 3:00 PM, the traditional hour of Christ's death, many Catholics pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** or the **Stations of the Cross**, meditating on Jesus' suffering.

HOLY SATURDAY: WAITING IN SILENCE

Holy Saturday is a day of silence and waiting. The Church contemplates Jesus in the tomb, and no Mass is celebrated during the day. The faithful prepare for the Easter Vigil, the greatest and most beautiful liturgy of the year.

THE EASTER VIGIL" THE LIGHT OF CHRIST BREAKS THROUGH

On **Holy Saturday night**, the Church gathers for the **Easter Vigil**, a liturgy rich with symbolism and meaning. The Vigil begins in darkness, representing the world before Christ's Resurrection. Then, the **Paschal Candle** is lit, symbolizing the risen Christ, and the faithful sing the **Exsultet**, the great Easter proclamation.

The **Liturgy of the Word** includes readings from the Old Testament recounting salvation history, leading to the joyful proclamation of Christ's Resurrection in the Gospel.

- The **Baptism of Catechumens** often takes place, as new members are welcomed into the Church.
- The **Renewal of Baptismal Promises** reminds all Catholics of their commitment to Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY" THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Holy Week reaches its climax with **Easter Sunday**, the greatest feast in Christianity. The Church celebrates Jesus' victory over sin and death. The **Alleluia**, which had been absent during Lent, resounds with joy. The Resurrection is the foundation of our faith: **"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain"** (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The Meaning of Holy Week for Catholics

Holy Week is not just a historical remembrance; it is a call to live out the Paschal Mystery in our own lives. Through Christ's Passion, we learn about:

- **Sacrificial Love:** Jesus willingly gave His life for us.
- **Suffering with Purpose:** Our struggles have meaning when united with Christ's.
- **The Hope of Resurrection:** No suffering is final; Easter assures us that life triumphs over death.

As we participate in the liturgies of Holy Week, may we walk with Jesus from the cross to the empty tomb, so that we, too, may share in His Resurrection.

THE ALTAR OF REPOSE: MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE



The **Altar of Repose** is a specially prepared altar where the Eucharist is placed on **Holy Thursday** after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. It is a place of **prayer, adoration, and waiting**, commemorating Jesus' time in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion.

Why is the Altar of Repose Important?

1. Commemoration of Christ's Agony – After the Last Supper, Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, asking His disciples to stay awake with Him (Matthew 26:36-46). The Altar of Repose invites the faithful to “keep watch” with the Lord in

prayer and adoration.

2. Symbol of Christ's Presence – Since the Eucharist will not be consecrated again until the Easter Vigil, the reserved

Blessed Sacrament allows the Church to continue honoring Christ's real presence.

3. Transition into Good Friday – The stripped main altar reminds us of Christ's suffering, while the Altar of Repose is a temporary dwelling place, foreshadowing His time in the tomb.

How Should the Altar of Repose Be Kept?

- **Adorned with Beauty and Reverence** – It should be decorated with flowers, candles, and sacred imagery to reflect the solemnity and significance of the Eucharist.
- **Candles** – At least one burning candle is required, but typically multiple candles surround the altar, symbolizing Christ as the Light of the World.
- **Angels or Religious Symbols** – Statues or images of angels, which traditionally adore the Eucharist, may be placed to emphasize the sacred nature of the space.
- **A Place of Silence and Prayer** – The area should foster quiet reflection, allowing the faithful to meditate on Christ's sacrifice.

The Altar of Repose remains a **profound focal point of Holy Thursday**, inviting believers to accompany Christ in His moment of solitude and prepare their hearts for the mystery of His Passion and Resurrection.

NEWS AND UPDATES



Gary & Mary Nichols
56 years



April Anniversaries



Bill & Noreen Unger 55 Years



April Birthdays



SFS students present Fr. Sojan with birthday cards



April Birthdays



Fr. Joe said the blessing



All celebrants helped cut the cake



Thank you Knights for hosting

Lily Palmer is the recipient of the 2025 Thomas Aquinas Medal. This award is given in recognition of a student who exemplifies wisdom and service, reflecting the values of St. Francis of Assisi School. Congratulations Lily!



Thank you to the Women's Club for the beautiful Angles on the Altar of Repose

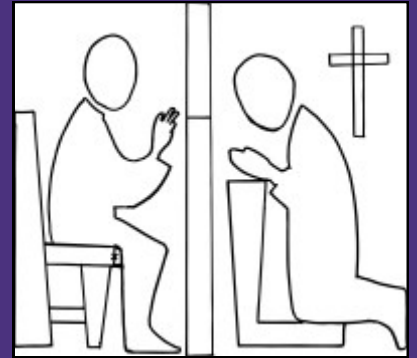
NEWS AND UPDATES

Words of Appreciation and Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for making my birthday special with your prayers and warm wishes. I deeply appreciate your love and care. May the Lord bless you all abundantly. Fr. Sojan Xavier

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE

There will be a Lenten Penitential Service on Tuesday, April 15th at 6pm in the Church. Fr. John Finnel, Fr. Paul Wharton, Fr. Shaji Thomas and Fr. Sojan will be hearing Confession



APRIL SECOND

COLLECTIONS:

April 13th: School Support
April 18th: Pontifical Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

2025 Chrism Mass

Bishop Mark E. Brennan will preside over the Chrism Mass in Charleston on Monday of Holy Week, April 14th at 4

ATTENTION TO ALL INVOLVED IN ANY CHURCH MINISTRY

YEAR OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE AND REFRESHER ON LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Mrs. Bernadette McMasters, Director of Worship and Sacraments for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, will be joining us to lead a session on the Year of Hope and provide a refresher on liturgical ministry, including altar serving, the role of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and the responsibilities of lectors during Mass. All those involved in any ministry within the Church are encouraged to attend this important program. The session will take place on Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday), immediately following Mass.

Mary Nichols will have snacks prior to the start of the session.

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Woman's Club Meeting will be held Monday April 14th at 6:30 pm in the school cafeteria. This will be an "All Birthday Party" with Midge and Carole as the hostesses. Carole will be teaching chair yoga. This will be a fun evening and all women of the parish are invited to join our Women's Club. Great opportunity to meet and know your fellow members of the parish. Hope to see you there.



BLESSING BOX

St. Francis Blessing Box is located at the corner of 6th Avenue and Park Street.

Your donation is a gift to someone in need. A blue bin has been placed in the back of church to collect donated items. Items greatly needed are canned goods, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, bread, and soups

-Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinner, Liz Gadd, Barbara George, Alaina Rae Gilbert, Robin Gothard, Aubrie Hebb, Donna Hebb, Nancy Hillen, Diane Holley-Brown, Jane Howley, Max Huck, Kenny Huck, Virgil Huck, Bud Humphreys, Carmelina Kessler, Dawna Kessler, Tooter Kirk, Barbara Lambert, Larry Lerose, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Nanette Martin, Sue Martin, Brent Marsteller, Mary McNeely, Joe McQuaide, Lillian Matheny, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Jack Myatt, Susan Robinson, Diana Rossi, Scarlett (child), Lillian Schilling, Michael Scott, Peggy Shelton, Matt Sowers, Becky Vannatter Smith, Elizabeth Stonestreet, Joseph Swanson, Valerie Tabit, Pat Tabor, Colleen Ullmer, Joyce Weiskircher, Roberta VanHorn, Pat Vannatter, Robbie Vannatter, Barbara Yeager, Jack Myatt, Kraig Stutes, Teresa Tomas

Immediate Prayer List

Matthew Velazquez
Nanette Martin
Alaina Rae Gilbert
Rick Robinson
Terry DeLuca
Margaret McEvoy
Anna Ng
John Carnell

Josephine Fletcher
Matt Sowers
Dave Lucas
Ralph Holland
Darlene Holland
Mary Sanney
Michele Sturgeon
Patty Young

Peggy Shelton
Jason Haught
Katie Sayre

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasury

Listed below are collections for April 5 & 6, 2025

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$3,049.00
School.....	\$70.00
Flowers.....	\$30.00
Votive Candles.....	\$75.00

Total.....\$3,224.00

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat- 61 Sun- 110 TOTAL-171

Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of April 6, 2025



Stations of the Cross will be acted out by the Youth Group
Good Friday, April 18th at 5:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE

Kindly note that the main gate to the church premises will remain closed on school days (Monday to Friday) from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM for everyone's safety and security.

However, the walk-in gate will remain open during this time. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



CHURCH NURSERY

The nursery will not be available Palm Sunday, April 13th and Easter Sunday, April. 20th.

The nursery will resume Sunday, April 27th for the 11:00am Mass. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jennifer Lopez at 304-395-3494

Safe Environment Reporting Statement

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston maintains an Office of Safe Environment in accordance with the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. **To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing www.reportbishopabuse.org to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit www.reportbishopabuse.org. **To Report to Civil Authorities:** Contact your local law enforcement; numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe someone is in immediate danger, call 911. **To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse,** contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** In addition to civil authorities, the diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate church 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. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the **EthicsPoint** platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The **EthicsPoint** platform can be accessed via www.dwc.org, under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. **EthicsPoint** is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected.

