

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/stfrancisofassisisaintalbans



APRIL 5, 2026 EASTER 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.

(THE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI -2026)

SUNDAY READINGS P. 1079 (YEAR A)



**THE LORD IS RISEN....ALLELUIA... ALLELUIA!
A VERY HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE! MAY THE RISEN CHRIST
FILL YOUR LIVES WITH HIS LOVE, PEACE AND JOY.**

<u>06 Monday</u>	<u>07 Tuesday</u>	<u>08 Wednesday</u>	<u>09 Thursday</u>	<u>10 Friday</u>	<u>11 Saturday</u>	<u>12 Sunday</u>
Acts 2: 14, 22-33 Mt 28: 8-15 (261)	Acts 2: 36-41 Jn 20 11-18 (262)	Acts 3: 1-10 Lk 24: 13-35 (262)	Acts 3: 11-26 Lk 24: 35-48 (264)	Acts 4: 1-12 Jn 21 1-14 (265)	Acts 4: 13-21 Mk 16: 9-15 (266)	Acts: 2:42-47 1 Pt 1: 3-9 Jn 20: 19-31 (43)

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
SAT APR 04	8:00 pm	Marilyn Arose By Kim Keiffer Arose	Dawna Kessler Mark Muchow Jacque Switzer Tom Williams	Tom Liberatore(X) Midge Butler (C) Helen Musrock (C)	Lily Palmer Sadie Palmer Jonah White	
SUN APR 05	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Fred Heindl	Jennifer Lopez (X) Shaun Lopez (C) Suzanne Farley(C)	Mighty Lopez Reed Wriston Miguel Matheus	Tamara Buel
MON APR 06	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUE APR 07	6:00 pm	No Mass	—	—	—	—
WED APR 08	8:15 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	Tom Liberatore	Helen Musrock	—	—
THU APR 09	8:00 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	School Students	Lynn Fenimore	School Students	—
FRI APR 10	6:00 pm	Sara Campbell Garska By Mom and Family	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
SAT APR 11	5:00 pm	James Bump	Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore(X) Midge Butler (C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
SUN APR 12	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Shaun Lopez	Suzanne Farley(X) John Carnell (C) Mary Sanney (C)	Mary Pauley Ruby Pauley Mairin Knapp	Mark Muchow

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

Fri: 5:00 pm

Friday 5:00 pm

Confession

Saturday 4:00 pm

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

Sophia Chaskes –Vecchio, Music Director.....(304) 727-3033

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

Matthew Matheny, Knights of Columbus.....(304)545-8534/ mlmatheny1@gmail.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

PASTOR'S NOTE—EASTER MESSAGE

“RISEN CHRIST, OUR HOPE”

The risen Jesus is
the source of our

hope
and
joy



A Frenchman once wanted to start a new religion to replace Christianity. He preached passionately, but very few came to listen. Discouraged, he complained to a friend about his failure. His friend replied gently, “Allow yourself to be crucified on a Friday, be buried in a tomb, and then rise up on Sunday morning. I assure you—if you can do that, you’ll have plenty of followers.”

Dear friends, *that* is precisely why we rejoice today. Jesus, the Son of God, was crucified on a Friday, laid in a tomb, and on Sunday morning He rose from the dead. We sing with joy: “Alleluia! Christ is risen!” because we are certain that the Lord is truly risen—let us rejoice and be glad! That single truth—the empty tomb revealing the Resurrection—has changed the world forever. And it is the truth our troubled hearts need most today.

We live in a time of uncertainty. Many families feel the strain of rising costs, unstable jobs, and daily worry about the future. Others bear quieter burdens—anxiety, depression, loneliness. Parents struggle to balance work and family life, anxious for their children’s future in a turbulent world. Around us, conflict and division create fear and fatigue. It can seem as though the stone of despair cannot be moved. Some feel forgotten, abandoned, or too broken even to hope.

But Easter tells us otherwise. **Easter is the feast of hope.** The Gospel shows that the stone was rolled away—death did not have the final word. When Mary Magdalene and the disciples found the empty tomb, everything changed. They realized that God’s love had broken through the world’s darkness once and for all.

Easter proclaims that no matter how heavy our burdens, no matter how dark our nights, Christ has gone ahead of us into new life that never ends. He has already walked through the valley of death, and now He walks beside us.

In the first reading, Peter declares: *“We are witnesses.”* That is our calling too—to be witnesses of hope where others see none. Where there is grief, we speak life.

Where there is fear, we lift up faith. Where there is failure, we proclaim forgiveness. The Resurrection is not only a miracle of the past; it is a promise for today—that every fear, every wound, every loss can be transformed by the power of Christ’s risen life.

So when someone feels alone, when a family is ready to give up, when a young person feels buried under shame or anxiety, Easter whispers: *You are not finished. God is not finished with you.*

This Easter, we are invited to believe again that the same Lord who rolled away the stone still moves the stones that block our hearts today—the stones of fear, sadness, and sin. We are called not merely to shift from pessimism to optimism, but to rise into the deep hope born of faith in Jesus. He is courage for the anxious, strength for the weary, light for the lost.

As Pope Francis wrote: *“It is the Risen One who radically changes our perspective, instilling hope that fills the void of sadness. On the paths of the heart, the Risen One walks with us and for us. He bears witness to the defeat of death and affirms the victory of life, despite the darkness of Calvary. To recognize the Resurrection means to change one’s outlook on the world—to return to the light and recognize the truth that has saved us.”*

Every time we lift one another up, forgive freely, act with compassion, or bring joy to others, we make the Resurrection visible again in our world.

So let us carry Easter faith into every corner of our lives—a faith that families can endure, that love can heal, that hope can rise again. The tomb is empty, and the Savior is alive! Because Christ lives, so will we. Trust His promise: *“And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”* I wish you all a hope-filled and love-filled Easter. May the risen Lord walk with you and your family.

Alleluia! Amen.

CATECHETICAL CORNER

THE EASTER VIGIL: THE CHURCH'S GREATEST CELEBRATION



INTRODUCTION: The word “Vigil” means watch. Early Christians kept watch throughout the night on the eve of a great feast. Yet theirs was not a watch of fear, but of longing—for the coming of someone. The Guest they waited for was Christ.

Christians would gather and spend the entire night reading the Scriptures, listening to them explained, praying and singing, and concluding the night-long service with the celebration of the Eucharist at dawn.

The most significant vigil of the year was—and remains—the **Easter Vigil**, also called the Paschal Vigil. The early Christians adopted both the name and the timing of this celebration from the Jewish Passover, yet for Christians the feast holds a deeper meaning.

For the Jews, the Passover commemorates the “passing over” of the houses of the Israelites in Egypt by the angel of death, who struck down the firstborn of the Egyptians. This event marked Israel’s liberation from the slavery of Pharaoh.

For Christians, this feast celebrates the **passing of Jesus from death to life through His Resurrection**, and likewise the passing of each Christian from the death of sin to new life in Christ. In the early Church, baptism was administered to new converts on this night, while those already baptized renewed their baptismal promises and sought forgiveness for sins committed after baptism. For all, it signified dying to sin and rising to new life with Christ.

While we recall the practice of the early Christians, our vigil today lasts only a few hours rather than the entire night.

I propose to explain the Easter Vigil service so that, by understanding its depth and symbolism, we may participate more devoutly and fervently.

The **Easter Vigil** is highly symbolic and structured around four distinct liturgies:

- The Service of Light
- The Liturgy of the Word
- The Baptismal Liturgy
- The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Together, these movements lead the faithful from the darkness of sin into the radiant joy of Easter.



THE SERVICE OF LIGHT: The Vigil begins in darkness, symbolizing the world without Christ. A **new fire** is blessed outside the church, representing Christ as the Light breaking through the darkness of sin and death.

Fire gives both light and warmth; Christ gives us all this and more—He gives us life. The large fire may symbolize the divine life of Jesus, which was not destroyed on the Cross.

The Paschal Candle: The large candle, called the Paschal Candle, is lit from the new fire. It is the central symbol of the risen Christ. The large candle represents the body of Jesus. While in the tomb, His body had no life, but it was restored to a more perfect life by the Spirit—His own divine life. Jesus came forth from the tomb fully alive, both God and man.



Through baptism, Jesus shares His own divine life with us; in this sharing, we are truly reborn and become God’s children.

The Greek Letters and Other Symbols: The Paschal Candle is marked with:

The cross, recalling Christ’s sacrificial death.

The Greek letters Alpha and Omega, declaring that Christ is Lord of all time and eternity.

- The **current year**, showing that Christ is present here and now.
- **Five incense grains**, representing the five wounds of Christ in His hands, feet, and side.

This symbolism reminds us that Christ, after His Resurrection, remains both God and man. When He appeared to the apostles, He showed them His wounds—no longer painful, but like the scars of a soldier returned from war.

As the Paschal Candle is carried into the dark church, the faithful light their smaller candles from it. The spreading light signifies the risen Christ whose light is shared with all believers and never kept hidden.

NEWS AND UPDATES

The Exsultet: Also known as the Easter Proclamation, the **Exsultet** is sung once the church is illuminated. This ancient hymn praises the candle as a symbol of Christ's triumph over death and celebrates the joy of redemption. It announces that this is the blessed night when heaven and earth are united in the Resurrection.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD: After the Easter Proclamation, the faithful extinguish their candles, which will be relit later during the renewal of baptismal promises.



The Scripture readings then follow. Up to nine readings are provided—

seven from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament—revealing the entire story of salvation. These passages recall creation, Abraham's faith, Israel's deliverance through the Red Sea, and the promises of the prophets. Each reading corresponds in some way to baptism:

1. New creation, 2. New covenant, 3. Freedom from slavery, 4. Reconciliation with God, 5. Sharing in God's gifts, 6. Commitment to God's law, and 7. Proof of God's mercy and cleansing from sin through His Spirit.

After the Old Testament readings, the Gloria returns, joyfully proclaimed and accompanied by the ringing of bells to mark the Resurrection. The New Testament readings then proclaim the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ, especially through St. Paul's teaching on baptism, and culminate in the **Gospel of the empty tomb**.

THE BAPTISMAL LITURGY:

Easter is profoundly linked with baptism—the sacrament of new life in Christ. In this part of the Vigil, the baptismal water is blessed, signifying cleansing, rebirth, and incorporation into the Body of Christ.



Those preparing for baptism are received into the Church, while all present renew their baptismal promises, professing their faith and rejecting sin. This renewal unites the faithful to the victory of Christ and the new life His Resurrection brings.

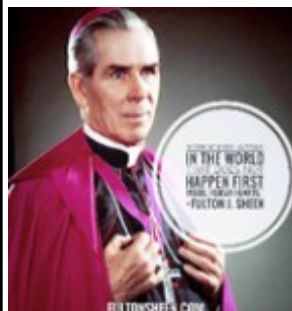
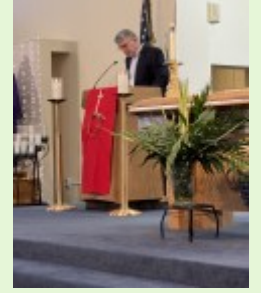
THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST: The Vigil reaches its high point in the celebration of the Eucharist, where the newly baptized join the Christian community in receiving the Body and Blood of Christ. In this sacred moment, the Church fully enters into the Paschal Mystery—the passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ, made present in the sacrament.



CONCLUSION: Every part of the Easter Vigil proclaims one message: God has saved, is saving, and continues to give new life through Christ. The progression from fire to light, from word to water, from sacrifice to banquet, expresses not mere remembrance but participation. In the Vigil, the Church does not simply recall the Resurrection—it enters into it, rejoicing in the dawn of everlasting life. May this explanation help us all to understand more deeply what we celebrate, and lead us to participate with faith and devotion in the Risen Lord, who calls us to share fully in His divine life.

It was a beautiful day Palm Sunday for blessing of the Palm's outside and procession into the Church to begin Mass. The Knights of Columbus were in a support role to Father on Palm Sunday.

If you feel inspired to serve the church and community, please contact Matt Matheny.



Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, the renowned American archbishop and media evangelist, will be beatified on September 24, 2026, at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, with Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle presiding. The Vatican approved the ceremony after confirming a miracle involving the recovery of a stillborn baby and clearing Sheen of past concerns. Best known for his pioneering radio and TV ministry *Life Is Worth Living*, Sheen's beatification marks a major step toward his canonization.

NEWS AND UPDATES



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

March 24, 2026

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to share that I will be retiring at the end of this school year. In 2006, I began my ministry as principal of St. Francis of Assisi School, and it has been a true honor and privilege to serve the children, faculty, staff, families, and parish community throughout these years.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Father Sojan, as well as to my many incredible friends and colleagues whose dedication and hard work have made SFS the exceptional school it is today. I am especially grateful to my dear friend, Mrs. Oxley, who has worked alongside me in leading the school for 15 years, sharing countless moments of laughter and tears along the way.

Father Sojan and our superintendent, Ms. Jennifer Hornyak, will begin the process of selecting a new principal. Candidates will be carefully reviewed, and a selection committee will work to identify the individual best suited to continue and strengthen the mission of the school.

Please know that St. Francis of Assisi School is a true treasure, richly blessed by God's grace. I am confident that He will continue to guide and support the school in the years ahead.

Blessings,

Erin Sikora
Erin Sikora
Principal

cc: Father Xavier Sojan
Ms. Jennifer Hornyak

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE



With heartfelt appreciation, we acknowledge the remarkable service of our Principal, Mrs. Erin Sikora, who has faithfully led our school community for nearly two decades and will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Under her wise and dedicated leadership, our school has reached new heights. Her wholehearted commitment, tireless effort, and selfless service—never counting the cost—have been a true inspiration to all. Through challenges and triumphs alike, she has shown unwavering strength, grace, and faith, becoming a guiding light for staff, students, and families.

Her legacy is deeply etched in the hearts of everyone—our teachers, students, alumni, and all who have been touched by her kindness and vision. On a personal note, I have always found deep confidence in entrusting responsibilities to her, knowing her integrity, sense of duty, and steadfast dedication.

Though we will greatly miss her daily presence and service, we understand that life unfolds in seasons, and now her family rightly calls for her care and attention. We are profoundly grateful for all she has given and cherish the hope that, whenever possible, we may continue to benefit from her wisdom and generosity in the days ahead.

On behalf of the entire school community, our parents, and the parish family, we extend our deepest thanks—from the core of our hearts. We look forward to seeing her among us in new ways and new roles. We assure her of our prayers, love, and enduring gratitude.

Fr. Sojan Xavier
Pastor



Hand washing and the upper school grades acted out the Stations of the Cross.



EASTER FLOWERS

In memory of Harry & Adele Groom & Family, John & Lucy Marra & Family and Marion (Auntie) Hillabold by David & Micki Marra

Matthew & Alice Zuzel and Bernard & Alice Niedbalski by Paul and Diane Niedbalski

By Ivan and Jean Swanson

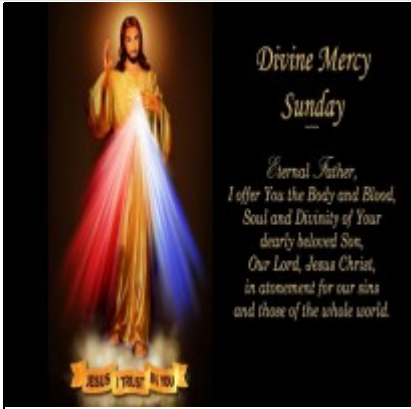
In memory of Daniel Musrock by Helen Musrock

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will meet Monday April 13th at 6:00pm for yoga with Carol. The hostesses for the evening will be Brenda Dlugos, Suzanne Farley and Billie Kirk.

All Women of the parish are welcome!

NEWS AND UPDATES



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 12 APRIL, 2026:

Divine Mercy Sunday was established in the Catholic Church by **Pope St. John Paul II**. He declared it for the universal Church in the year **2000**, during the canonization of **St. Faustina**

Kowalska, in response to the devotion to the Divine Mercy message and image that she had helped spread.

It is celebrated on the **Second Sunday of Easter** because the Church connects the mercy of Christ with the joy of the Resurrection. The reason for this feast is to remind the faithful that the risen Lord offers **forgiveness, peace, healing, and new life** to all who trust in Him. It also encourages Christians not only to receive God's mercy, but to live it by showing mercy to others.

NB: After mass, we will have a Eucharistic procession around the church, followed by a brief period of adoration and the recitation of the divine mercy chaplet.



Friday Adoration will resume after Easter!

If you have any meetings or important information you would like in the bulletin, please email it to: parish@stfranciswv.org by Wednesday at noon to be printed in that weeks bulletin. Thank you

EVANGELIZATION MEETING

The Evangelization committee will meet **Monday, April 6th** at the home of **Mary Sanney**. Mary's address is **2126 Lincoln Ave, St. Albans**. For more information call **Mary Sanney** at **304.932.5674**.



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, hats, scarves, gloves and soups,



Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinner, Liz Gadd, Barbara George, Robin Gothard, Aubrie Hebb, Donna Hebb, Nancy Hillen, Diane Holley-Brown, Jane Howley, Max Huck, Kenny Huck, Virgil Huck, Carmelina Kessler, Dawna Kessler, Tooter Kirk, Barbara Lambert, Larry Lerose, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Sue Martin, Brent Marsteller, Mary McNeely, Joe McQuaide, Lillian Matheny, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Susan Robinson, Diana Rossi, Patricia, Scarlett (child), Lillian Schilling, Michael Scott, Peggy Shelton, Matt Sowers, Becky Vannatter Smith, Joseph Swanson, Valerie Tabit, Pat Tabor, Colleen Ullmer, Joyce Weiskircher, Roberta Van Horn, Pat Vannatter, Robbie Vannatter, Barbara Yeager, Gordon Holbrook, Alaina Rae Gilbert, Tracy McGrath, Nico Sayre, Pearl Thompson, Ralph Holland, John Hebb III, Jan Quinlan, Kate Lichtenfels, Darlene Holland, Ty Laughery, Steve McGrath, John May

Immediate Prayer needs:

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Carolyn Hanson | John Carnell | Patty Young |
| Rick Mullins | Josephine Fletcher | Peggy Shelton |
| Rick Robinson | Matt Sowers | Allison Grinstead |
| Terry DeLuca | Dave Lucas | Brody Fulk |
| Margaret McEvoy | Landen Chin | Pam Burton White |
| Anna Ng | Michele Sturgeon | Brandi Authur |

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure

Listed below are collections for
March 28 & 29, 2026

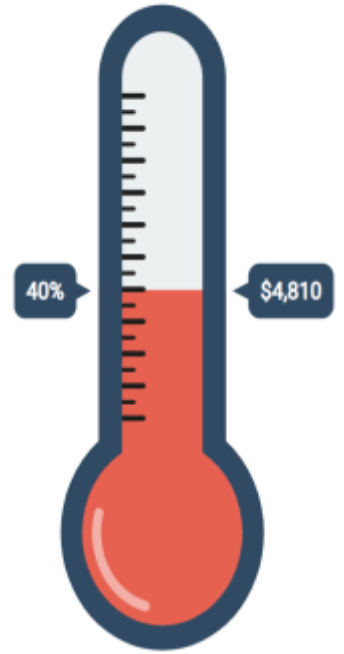
Collection for Church Operation.....	\$5,505.41
School.....	00
Diocese.....	50.00
Votive Candles.....	11.00
 Total.....	 \$5,566.41

Weekly Mass Attendance
Sat – 77 Sun – 166
Total – 243



The Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) is an opportunity for us to come together as one diocesan family to support the vital ministries and initiatives that strengthen our parishes and communities. Through your generosity, the CSA assists our parishes, shared ministries, Catholic education, and outreach efforts.

GOAL: \$12,100



Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of
March 29, 2026

EASTER SEASON

The Easter season is the joyful period that celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It begins on Easter Sunday and continues for 50 days, ending on Pentecost Sunday. Easter season is not just one day of celebration; it is a whole liturgical season of rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death. The Church sees it as the time to reflect on the empty tomb, the appearances of the risen Lord, and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

SHARE YOUR TREASURE

The Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of giving from the heart and encourages individuals to give according to their ability. Your donation, no matter how large or small, is significant to our Church. A QR code has been created for you as an option vs weekly envelopes for our parishioners and visitors.



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.