

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



APRI 6, 2025 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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.



07 Monday	08 Tuesday	09 Wednesday	10 Thursday	11 Friday	12 Saturday	13 Sunday
Dn 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Jn 8: 12-20 (251)	Nm 21 4-9 Jn 8: 21-30 (252)	Dn 3: 14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8: 31-42 (253)	Gn 17: 3-9 Jn 8: 51-59 (254)	Jer 20: 10-13 Jn 10: 31-42 (255)	Ez 37: 21-28 Jn 11: 45-56 (256)	Lk 19: 28-30 (37) Is 50: 4-7 Phil 2: 6-11 Lk 22:14-23

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
Sat Apr 05	5:00 pm	Cecil Broom By Donna Hebb	Fred Heindl	Midge Butler (X) Suzanne Farley (C) Helen Musrock (C)	Volunteers	Dave DeLuca
Sun Apr 06	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mark Muchow	Shaun Lopez (X) Mark Muchow (C) Paul Niedbalski (C)	Gia Lopez Aubree Wriston Reed Wriston	Paul Niedbalski
Mon Apr 07	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tue Apr 08	6:00 pm	Carl L. Fletcher By Jo Fletcher	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
Wed Apr 09	8:15 am	Caroline Holstein	Pat Tabor	Midge Butler	—	—
Thu Apr 10	8:15 am	Rita Ramella Lawson By Nilda Ramella	School Students	Tom Liberatore (X)	School Students	—
Fri Apr 11	6:00 pm	Wolf Scholz By Tony and Mary Jane Gertz	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
Sat Apr 12	5:00 pm	Jane Duran By Paul Duran	Fred Heindl Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore (X) Leslie Huffman (C) Midge Butler (C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
Sun Apr 13	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mita Larson Tom Williams	Paul Niedbalski (X) Mary Sanney (C) John Carnell (C)	Jonah White Alyssa Lake Evelyn Winiesdorffer	Lourdes Stone

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 / ginoooffice@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

CALL TO MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION



As we journey deeper into Lent, today's Gospel (John 8:1-11) presents one of the most powerful encounters of mercy in Scripture—the story of the woman caught in adultery. The scribes and Pharisees bring her before Jesus, not for justice but as a trap. Yet, rather than condemning her, Jesus offers her a new begin-

ning, revealing His mission to redeem, not destroy.

This passage beautifully illustrates that Christ's mercy does not excuse sin but calls us to conversion. As St. Augustine reminds us, *"God has promised forgiveness to your repentance, but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."* Today, Jesus invites us to embrace His mercy and be transformed.

Mercy That Calls Us to Conversion: The religious leaders expected Jesus to enforce the Law of Moses, but He responded with wisdom and mercy: *"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her"* (John 8:7). One by one, her accusers left, realizing their own sinfulness.

After they depart, Jesus asks the woman, *"Has no one condemned you?"* She replies, *"No one, sir."* Then He tells her, *"Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore"* (John 8:11). Jesus does not ignore her sin, but He does not define her by it. He offers her freedom—not just from punishment, but from sin itself.

Lent is a time for us to reflect—are there areas in our lives where we, too, are going in the wrong direction? If so, we must turn to the forgiving Jesus, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There, He does for us what He did for the woman—He forgives us and sends us forth as a new creation.

Overcoming Reluctance to Confession: Many hesitate to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Some say, *"I confess the same sins over and over—why bother?"* But think of our physical health: if we have allergies or poor eyesight, we don't stop treatment just because the problem persists. Likewise, in our spiritual lives, we struggle with weaknesses—impatience, pride, or selfishness—and must continually seek God's mercy.

Others feel they have nothing to confess. Yet, as St. John warns, *"If we say, 'We are without sin,' we deceive ourselves"* (1 John 1:8). Perhaps we have become numb to our spiritual failings. Often, we focus on sins of commission—the wrongs we have done—while ignoring sins of omission, the good we have failed to do. But Jesus, in Matthew 25, emphasizes sins of omission, calling us to care for the hungry, the sick, and the poor.

Becoming Instruments of Mercy: Jesus invites us not only to receive mercy but to extend it to others. Too often, like the Pharisees, we judge quickly but forgive slowly. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, *"If you judge people, you have no time to love them."*

The story of the woman caught in adultery is our story. We all stand before Jesus as sinners in need of mercy. But the good news is that He does not condemn us—He calls us to rise, to walk in freedom, and to begin again.

As we prepare for Holy Week, let us seek Christ's mercy in confession, reconcile with those we have wronged, and extend to others the forgiveness we have received. In Christ's love, we are not defined by our past but by the hope of a new future.

HOLY COMMUNION: THE WEDDING FEAST OF THE LAMB



Holy Communion is the culmination of the Liturgy—our intimate union with Jesus, the Divine Bridegroom, in the Eucharist. The Mass is often described as a wedding feast, and we see this reflected in the

words of the priest before we receive Communion:

“Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.”

These words are drawn from a climactic moment in the Book of Revelation (Revelation 19:9), where heaven rejoices at the wedding feast of the Lamb. To grasp the full significance of this proclamation, we must look at its broader context.

In **Revelation 19:1-6**, we see a vast heavenly multitude—angels, elders, and saints—singing a triumphant new song to God. Four times they cry out *“Alleluia!”* in praise of the Lord. This is remarkable because, while the Hebrew word *Hallelujah* (meaning “Praise Yahweh”) is common in the Old Testament, the Greek equivalent appears only **four times** in the entire New Testament—all of them in this passage of Revelation, in rapid succession.

This moment of overwhelming praise leads directly to the announcement of the **wedding feast of the Lamb** (Revelation 19:7-9), where Christ, the Lamb of God, is united with His Bride—the Church. This heavenly vision is made present at every Mass, where we are invited to partake in the true and eternal wedding banquet.

When we receive the Eucharist, we are not just receiving bread—we are entering into the deepest union with Christ, our Bridegroom. The Mass is more than a ritual; it is a foretaste of the heavenly wedding feast, where we are called to rejoice with the saints in the presence of the Lamb.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Charles Armstead	Mary Nichols
Ian Burns	Owen Oxley
Katherine Buscher	Madeline Oxley
Jocelyn Buscher	Kelly Oxley
Margaret Crouch	Jack Palmer
Maria Forrester	Nilda Ramella
Lucy Forrester	Hector Ruiz
Cay Hoh	Tim Sneeringer
Barbara Jackson	Theresa Stankus
Danny Kessler	Abby Waldorf
Katie Lago	Sherman White
Kay Landers	Jennifer Wilson
Susan LaRose	Elizabeth Winter
Susan Pagan	



After Mass Social, Sunday, April 6th

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting! There will be a birthday cake to celebrate Fr. Sojan's birthday!



Ceili Fundraiser Dinner



SFS Staff Workshop

First Communion Preparation



Congratulations to Diondrae Johnson and Henry Cutlip. They made their Profession of Faith

Thank you to Justin Newman for trimming the hedges and making our parish / school look well maintained!



NEWS AND UPDATES

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 14 (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.



Palm Sunday Bake Sale

Sat April 12
before & after Mass

Sun April 13
before & after Mass

Delicious
homemade baked
goods for sale in the
school cafeteria

HOLY WEEK PROGRAM APRIL 13—APRIL 20, 2025



PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13-14

5:00 pm- Holy Eucharist (Sat. April 13)
Blessing of the Palms outside the Church, procession to the Church and the Holy Eucharist

11:00 am- Holy Eucharist (Sun. April 14)
Blessing of the Palms outside the Church, procession to the Church and the Holy Eucharist

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

6:00 pm- The Lord's Supper
Washing of the feet
Adoration in the place of the Reposition of Sacred Species until midnight



GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

5:00 pm- Live Stations of the Cross (Youth)

6:00 pm- Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
Liturgy of the Word
Veneration of the Cross
Holy Communion

EASTER VIGIL, SAT. APRIL 19

8:00 pm- Easter Vigil Service
Service of the Light- outside the Church
Solemn Holy Eucharist



PENITENTIAL SERVICE
APRIL 15 AT 6PM

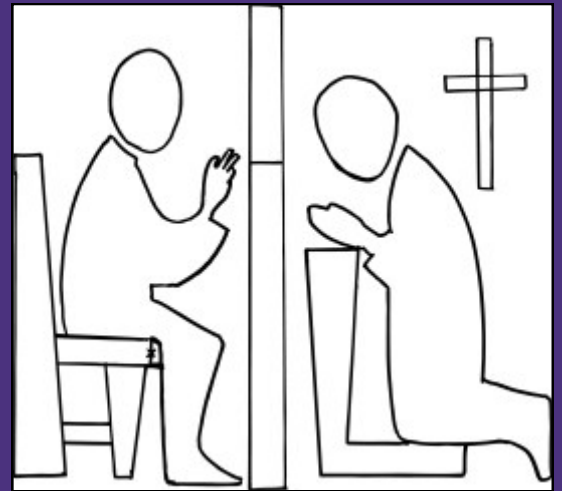
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
11:00 am Solemn Holy Eucharist

NEWS AND UPDATES

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



Christ's Kitchen Food Pantry

Collection: 2nd weekend of each month but accepted any time.

The Pantry is in need of Peanut Butter, Vienna Sausages, 5lb bag of sugar, Small bottle of vegetable oil, & Brownie Mix.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this critical outreach!

2025 Chrism Mass

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



EVANGELIZATION MEETING

The Evangelization Committee will hold their meeting at the home of Pat Romanosky, 2134 Pennsylvania Ave. on Monday, April 7th, 9am

APRIL SECOND COLLECTIONS:

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



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 Camell

Josephine Fletcher
Chuck Powers
Matt Sowers
Dave Lucas
Ralph Holand
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 March 29 & 30, 2025

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$11,219.64
School.....	\$5.00
Flowers.....	\$155.00
Votive Candles.....	60.00

Total.....\$11,439.64

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat- 70 Sun- 119 TOTAL-189

Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of
March 30, 2025

EASTER FLOWERS

Donations are now being accepted for Easter Flowers. If you would like to make a donation you can either use your "EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPE" or put your donation in an envelope with how you would like your donation directed, example: in memory of, and drop it in the collection basket.

CHURCH NURSERY

We will now have a nursery for our 11am mass beginning this week. If you have a child that is 5 or younger (not started kindergarten yet) you may drop them off before mass and pick them up after. It will be 1 adult and 1 teen helper. It will be in the pre-school class near the water fountains. Please see Jennifer Lopez if you would like to be an adult volunteer, you must be Virtus trained.

St. Francis School
Students will act out
live Stations of the
Cross April 11th at
1:00pm.
There will be evening
Stations at 6:30pm
following the 6pm
Mass



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.

