

# 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



FEBRUARY 15, 2026 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 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.

## SUNDAY READINGS P. 1124 (YEAR A)

Don't think that I came to destroy  
the law or the prophets. I didn't  
come to destroy, but to fulfill.

**Matthew 5:17**

DailyVerses.net

16 Monday	17 Tuesday	18 Wednesday	19 Thursday	20 Friday	21 Saturday	22 Sunday
Jas 1: 1-11 Mk 8: 11-13 (335)	Jas 1: 12-18 Mk 8: 14-21 (336)	Jl 2: 12-18 2 Cor 5: 20-6:2 Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18 (219)  ASH WEDNESDAY	Dt 30: 15-20 Lk 9: 22-25 (220)	Is 58 1-9a Mt 9: 14-15 (221)	Is 58: 9b-14 Lk 5: 27-32 (222)	Gn 2: 7-9,3: 1-7 Rom 5: 12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 Mt 4: 1-11 (22)

# PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
<b>SAT FEB 14</b>	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Helen Musrock	Dave DeLuca(X) Midge Butler (C) Leslie Huffman(C)	Volunteers	—
<b>SUN FEB 15</b>	11:00 am	Jim Liberatore By Sarah & Jack Palmer	Mark Muchow	Shaun Lopez (X) Jennifer Lopez(C) Mary Sanney(C)	Gia Lopez Sagrada Lopez Aubree Wriston	Mark Muchow
<b>MON FEB 16</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TUE FEB 17</b>	6:00 pm	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
<b>WED FEB 18</b>	8:15 am 6:00 pm	Wolfgang Scholz By Tony Gertz	School Students Helen Musrock	Midge Butler	School Students	—
<b>THU FEB 19</b>	8:00 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore	—	—
<b>FRI FEB 20</b>	6:00 pm	Frans Liberatore By Gwen & Mark Muchow	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
<b>SAT FEB 21</b>	5:00 pm	Marie Oxley By Donna Hebb & Mary Reppert	Fred Heindl	Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca(C) Tom Liberatore(C)	Volunteers	Midge Burler
<b>SUN FEB 22</b>	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mighty Lopez	Jennifer Lopez (X) John Carnell (C) Shaun Lopez (C)	Mary Pauley Ruby Pauley Joey Sikora	Tom Williams

## ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH AND SCHOOL STAFF

### 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

Father Sojan Xavier, Pastor	:(304) 435-4342 / sxavier@dwc.org
Liz Liberatore, Parish Secretary	:(304) 727-3033 / parish@stfranciswv.org
Gwen Muchow, Parish Bookkeeper	:(304) 727-3033 / gwenbmuchow@stfranciswv.org
Angela Marie Pugh, School Bookkeeper	:(304)807-5160
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.

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

**Mary Nichols**  
**304-727-9832**

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

# PASTOR'S NOTE

## BEYOND THE LETTER: LIVE GOD'S COMMANDMENTS FROM THE HEART

### *The Fulfillment of the Law*

Matthew 5:17–37



In this sixth Sunday in ordinary Time, the readings invite us to reflect deeply on what it means to live faithfully according to God's wisdom. The Book of Sirach reminds us that God has placed before us the choice of life and death, good and evil—and that choosing His ways leads us to true freedom. God does not force our obedience; rather, He empowers it, respecting our ability to make moral and faithful decisions.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, speaks of a “wisdom not of this age” but one revealed through the Spirit. The wisdom of Christ surpasses human

reason and legalism—it penetrates the heart. It teaches that the path of discipleship is not about outward conformity to rules, but the inner transformation that comes from the Spirit's guidance.

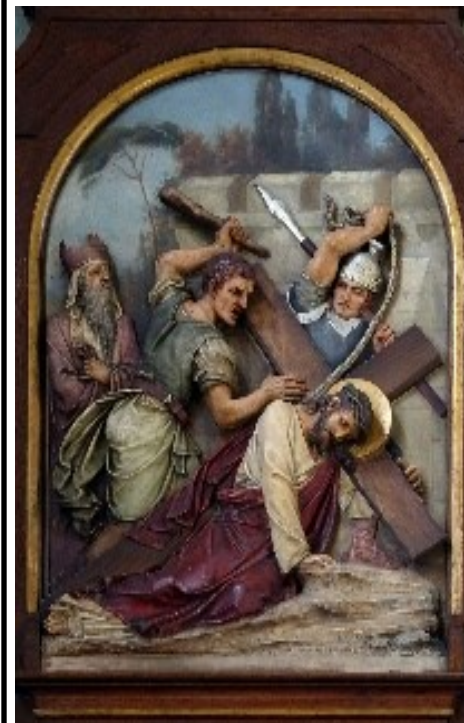
In the Gospel, Jesus declares He has not come to abolish the Law but to fulfil it. He calls His followers to go beyond mere observance—to a righteousness born of love and sincerity. The commandments become alive in us when we act not from fear or obligation, but from a heart rooted in compassion, forgiveness, and mercy.

These readings together remind us that faith is not static but alive—an ongoing invitation to conform our choices, attitudes, and relationships with the wisdom of Christ. As we continue through Ordinary Time, may we choose daily to respond to God's call with faithful hearts, seeking not the letter of the Law, but its divine spirit of love.



### **BLESSING OF HOMES DURING LENT AND EASTER**

It is a tradition in the Catholic Church for the pastor to bless the homes of parishioners. If you wish to have your home blessed, Father will be available during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Please contact the parish office and provide your mobile number and address.



### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS OF LENT**

- **1:00 PM for  
Children**
- **6:30 PM for  
Parishioners**

# Catechetical Corner

## VALENTINE'S DAY, A CELEBRATION OF LOVE AS REVEALED BY GOD



**Introduction:** Valentine's Day, widely celebrated as a day of love and affection, offers Christians a valuable opportunity to reflect on the **true meaning of love** as revealed by God. While popular culture often reduces love to romantic feelings or fleeting emotions, the Catholic Church invites us to rediscover love as a **self-giving vocation rooted in God Himself**.

**God Is Love:** Sacred Scripture reminds us: "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). All authentic love has its source in God and finds its fulfillment in Him. Love is not merely something we feel; it is a **decision to will the good of another**, even at personal cost. This divine love (caritas) is patient, faithful, sacrificial, and life-giving (cf. 1 Cor 13:4–7).

**St. Valentine:** A Witness to Sacrificial Love: Valentine's Day is named after **St. Valentine**, a Christian martyr who bore witness to Christ through courage and fidelity. Though historical details vary, his life reminds us that **true love is rooted in truth and sacrifice**, not convenience or self-interest. Christian love is always linked to commitment and faithfulness, even in difficult circumstances.

**Love and Human Relationships:** The Church teaches that romantic love and attraction are **good and God-given**, but they are meant to mature into something deeper:

- **Marriage**, a sacrament in which a man and a woman freely give themselves to one another in lifelong fidelity, mirroring Christ's love for the Church (cf. Eph 5:25).
- **Chastity**, which orders love rightly, respecting the dignity of oneself and others, and allowing love to grow in freedom and truth.

Valentine's Day can therefore be a moment to affirm love that is **pure, respectful, faithful, and open to God's plan**.

**Love Beyond Romance:** Christian love is not limited to romantic relationships. On Valentine's Day, we are also called to celebrate:

- Love within families
- Friendship
- Compassion for the poor and lonely
- Acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service

In this way, the day becomes a broader celebration of charity, the highest form of love.

**A Christian Way to Celebrate Valentine's Day:** From a Catholic perspective, Valentine's Day can be celebrated by:

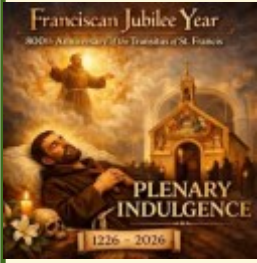
- Praying for loved ones and for vocations to marriage and religious life
- Expressing love through service, generosity, and forgiveness
- Reflecting on how our relationships reflect Christ's love
- Renewing commitments rooted in faith, respect, and self-gift

**Conclusion:** Valentine's Day, when seen through the eyes of faith, is not merely a cultural event but an opportunity to rediscover love's true meaning. The Church invites us to move beyond sentimentality and embrace love as a call to holiness—a love that reflects God's own faithful, sacrificial, and life-giving love for humanity. "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12)

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

800th Anniversary of the Passing of St. Francis of Assisi (January 10, 2026 – January 10, 2027)



Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Franciscan Jubilee Year from January 10, 2026, through January 10, 2027, to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the passing of St. Francis of Assisi. This Jubilee holds a deeply personal meaning for us at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, because the spirituality of St. Francis is not merely part of our history—it is at the heart of our parish life today.

Our parish is blessed to be guided by the Franciscan Friars in the past, who faithfully carried forward the charism, mission, and joyful Gospel witness of St. Francis. Through their leadership, we continue to hear Francis’s greeting, “May the Lord give you peace,” not as a polite phrase, but as a profound invitation to encounter Christ and His reconciling love.

In his letter announcing the Jubilee, Pope Leo XIV wrote: “The Lord revealed to me that we should say this greeting: ‘May the Lord give you peace.’ ... Peace is not a formula of courtesy, but the certain proclamation of Christ’s victory over death.”

This theme of peace is deeply Franciscan—and deeply needed in our world today. During this Jubilee Year, the faithful throughout the world are invited to rediscover the simplicity of the Gospel, renew their commitment to mercy, and embrace reconciliation with God, with one another, and with all creation.

For our parish community, this Jubilee is a special invitation to deepen our Franciscan identity and to live more fully the charism that shapes our worship, prayer, service, and outreach.

As a parish under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi, and as a community formed and shepherded by the Franciscan spirituality, we are uniquely positioned to receive this Jubilee Year with joy, gratitude, and hope. In the months ahead, we will share more about how our parish will celebrate this year of grace through opportunities for prayer, catechesis, and works of mercy.

May St. Francis, our patron and brother, inspire us to reflect on his life and teachings, to imitate his virtues, and to live the Gospel more faithfully in our daily

### ASH WEDNESDAY AND THE BENNINGING OF LENT



Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Lenten season, falls this coming week on February 18. We will celebrate two Masses that day — one

at **8:00 a.m. and another at 6:00 p.m.** All parishioners are warmly invited to begin this sacred season together in prayer and reflection.

The annual observance of Lent is our special season for the spiritual ascent toward the holy mountain of Easter. Through its twofold theme of repentance and renewal through baptism, Lent prepares our hearts to celebrate the Paschal Mystery with deep faith and devotion. It is truly a grace-filled time, offered to us as an opportunity to turn away from sin, renew our commitment to the Gospel, and grow closer to Christ through prayer, fasting, and works of mercy.

**There will also be time for individual confessions on March 18, at 6pm, inviting everyone to experience God’s mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** In addition, Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent, helping us to meditate on the Lord’s Passion and love for us.

Let us enter this sacred season with open hearts, ready to be transformed by God’s grace.

### IMPOSITION OF ASHES FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Please be advised that on Ash Wednesday, Father will visit homebound and sick members of our parish to administer the Imposition of Ashes on the forehead. If you or someone you know would like to receive this ministry, please contact the parish office and provide your name, phone number, and address.

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## UPDATING THE PARISH DATABASE

Dear Parish Family,

We would like to kindly inform you that we are in the process of updating our parish database. It has come to our notice that some members are not receiving important information sent through text messages or emails via Flocknote. This may be because our records do not contain complete or updated contact details.

To ensure that everyone receives parish communications sent through Flocknote or other media, we humbly request your cooperation in updating your information. Please find the attached form, which you may download, print, and fill out. You may bring the completed form to the parish office during your visit or return it to us by email.

For your convenience, printed forms will also be available at the back of the church and in the parish office. We kindly ask you to consider this request as important and to take a few moments to complete the form. Thank you very much for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support.

**LAETARÉ**  
Charleston-Area Young Adults Group

**Our Charleston-Area Young Adult Group consists of members from all across the Charleston area. Please consider joining if you are interested in forming quality friendships with other Catholic Young Adults in the area!**

**Why Join???**

- Active Community
- Bible Studies
- Cookouts
- Game Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities

**JOIN NOW!**



Use your camera to scan the QR code if you want to keep up to date through our GroupMe chat!

**Christ's Kitchen Food Pantry**

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

**The Pantry is in need of Peanut Butter, Saltine Crackers, Hamburger Helper, Spam, Small boxes of raisins.**

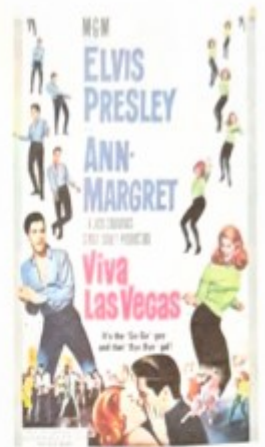
Thank you for your unwavering support of this critical outreach!



## FREE No-Hush Movie

Sunday February 22, 2025 @ 2pm

The Alban Theatre in St Albans



Dementia Friendly St Albans will be hosting its second No Hush Movie Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, thanks to our sponsor The Palliative Care Center. All caregivers and their family member or friend with dementia are invited to see the movie "Viva Las Vegas" at 2:00 pm at the Alban Theatre on Main Street in St Albans. This event is totally FREE to all attendees. Popcorn and other refreshments will be provided at no cost.

What is a No Hush Movie? This is a movie where the lights are on, the sound is down a bit, and the rule book is thrown out the window. Participants can talk, walk around, dance or sing to the music, or whatever they feel like doing. This type of movie has been done in other cities with much success. Below are a few testimonies from those who have attended.

One wife left smiling saying, "I'm so happy to see my husband feel VISIBLE again."

An adult daughter exclaimed that her mom had the time of her life and felt she belonged!

Another wife said through sobs, "I had SUCH a good time. I just had a date with my husband for the first time in 9 years. We shared popcorn and held hands. It was just like the old days."

Movie starts at 2 pm so please plan to arrive between 1:30-1:50!

# NEWS AND UPDATES

Thank you to Jason and Maria Forrester for having a VIRTUS training session and to all who came out to make sure they are able to volunteer!



## YOUTH CORNER

The Youth Group is planning a Souper Bowl Parish Event. Please check out the details!

## SOUPER BOWL PARISH EVENT

You're Invited!

The St. Francis Youth Group joyfully invites the entire parish to our Souper Bowl gathering!

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**3:00 PM**

**Parish Gym**

Come enjoy a variety of delicious soups, desserts, and great fellowship! We'll also have crafts for sale, making it a fun event for the whole family.

All are welcome!

Proceeds will benefit Christ Kitchen and PreBorn Ministries.

We look forward to sharing food, creativity, and community with you.



## 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.



**"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)**

## Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinger, 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

## Immediate Prayer needs:

Carolyn Hanson  
Rick Mullins  
Rick Robinson  
Terry DeLuca  
Margaret McEvoy  
Anna Ng

John Carnell  
Josephine Fletcher  
Matt Sowers  
Dave Lucas  
Landen Chin  
Michele Sturgeon

Patty Young  
Peggy Shelton  
Allison Grinstead  
Brody Fulk  
Pam Burton White  
Brandi Arthur

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## Sharing our Treasure Listed below are collections for February 7 & 8, 2026

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$8,553.00
School.....	145.00
Diocese.....	376.00
Votive Candles.....	18.00
 Total.....	 \$9,092.00

**Weekly Mass Attendance**  
Sat -49 Sun -96  
Total -145

### Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of  
February 8, 2026

### 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.



**\$15 PER PERSON**  
KIDS 5-11 \$5

FRIDAY  
FEB. 20<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH  
6, 13, 20 & 27<sup>TH</sup>  
5:00PM-7:00PM

**ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**FISH FRY**

Dinner Includes: Fish (baked or fried), Shrimp, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Homemade Desserts and Drinks

Homemade Desserts!

COME AND ENJOY THE BEST FISH FRY IN THE VALLEY

### SERVICE WANTED

We are looking for someone to mow the grounds. The grounds include the Rectory, School, Knights Hall, Church Office and lot. If interested, please contact Fred Heindl at 304.415.5942.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.