

# 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



**FEBRUARY 16, 2025 FIFTH SUNDAY OF 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.



17 Monday	18 Tuesday	19 Wednesday	20 Thursday	21 Friday	22 Saturday	23 Sunday
Gn 4:1-15, 25 Mk 8:11-13 (335)	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5,10 Mk 8:14-21 (336)	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 Mk8:22-26 (337)	Gn 9:1-13 Mk 8:27-33 (338)	Gn 11:1-9 Mk 8:34-9:1 (339)	1 Pt 5:1-4 Mk 16:13-39 (535)	1 Sm 26:2, 7-9 12-13 22-23 1Cor 15:45-49 Lk 6:27-38 (81)
Presidents' Day				St. Peter Damian	The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	

## PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
Feb 15	5:00 pm	William S. White By Sherman & Vivian White	Lisa Desposito	Midge Butler (X) Helen Musrock (C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Dave DeLuca
Feb 16	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mita Larson	Bill Tabor (X) Mark Muchow (C) Shaun Lopez (C)	Ethan Knapp Mairin Knapp Hadley Heumann	Tom Williams
Feb 17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Feb 18	6:00 pm	Miguel Matheus By Family	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
Feb 19	8:15 am	Miguel Matheus By Family	Tom Liberatore	Tom Liberatore	—	—
Feb 20	8:15 am	Miguel Matheus By Family	School Students	Lynn Fenimore (X)	School Students	—
Feb 21	6:00 pm	C. T. Sanney By Bob & Mary Sanney	Dawna Kessler	Suzanne Farley	—	—
Feb 22	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore (X) Leslie Huffman (C) Midge Butler (C)	Volunteers	Midge Butler
Feb 23	11:00 am	Brenda Kincaid Beatty By Tiffany Ngo	Mark Muchow	Paul Niedbalski (X) Mary Sanney (C) John Carnell (C)	Mary Pauley Rylee Fenimore Emma Vaughan	Leslie Huffman

### 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

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  
 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**



## MAKE CHOICES THAT LEADS TO BLESSINGS



Every day, we make choices—big and small. Some choices have immediate consequences, while others shape the course of our entire lives. The readings of 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that the most important choice we can make is whether to put our trust in God or in worldly things.

The prophet Jeremiah lays it out plainly: those who trust in themselves, in human power, or in material wealth will ultimately find themselves like a barren desert bush—parched, lifeless, and without true joy. But those who place their trust in God are like a tree planted by the water—flourishing, secure, and unshaken by life’s trials.

Jesus echoes this in the Gospel, showing us a deep contrast between those who are truly blessed and those who are spiritually impoverished. Jesus keeps teaching us that his kingdom, the kingdom of God, reverse many of our expectation and stereotypes. His is a kingdom where the typical marking of “blessing” – health, wealth, prosperity, power – are doomed to woe, and the typical, markings of ‘curse’ – weakness, sickness, poverty, humiliation – are signs of happiness and rejoicing. Jesus’ teaching “upsets our apple cart,” and forces us to think more deeply about who God is and who we are.

**The Illusion of Self-Reliance:** We live in a culture that glorifies self-reliance. The modern-day concept that teaches us that success comes through hard work and determination. While these qualities are not bad in themselves, they can become dangerous when they lead us to believe that we don’t need God.

Consider how modern society measures success: wealth, status, comfort, and power. Yet, how often do we see how such people, despite having everything, struggle with various types of problem. The world offers temporary happiness, but it cannot provide the lasting fulfilment that comes from trusting in God.

Jeremiah warns that putting our trust in human strength leads to dryness and emptiness. Jesus reinforces this by saying, “Woe to you who are rich now, for you have received your consolation.” If all we seek is comfort and security in this world, we risk losing the eternal joy God desires for us.

**True Happiness in Trusting God:** The Beatitudes present a different way of living—one where true happiness isn’t found in wealth or status but in a relationship with God. Blessed are the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful, and the persecuted. Why? Because they recognize their need for God, and they trust in Him rather than in their own strength.

This doesn’t mean we should seek poverty or suffering for its own sake. Rather, it’s about having the right priorities. Wealth, comfort, and success are not evil, but when they replace God as our source of happiness, they become obstacles to grace.

St. Paul reminds us that our hope is in the Resurrection of Jesus. This means that whatever suffering we endure now is temporary, and true happiness awaits those who remain faithful. If our faith is only about this life, we have missed the point. Our ultimate hope is in eternity with God.

**Living the Beatitudes in Today’s World:** So how do we apply this message to our daily lives

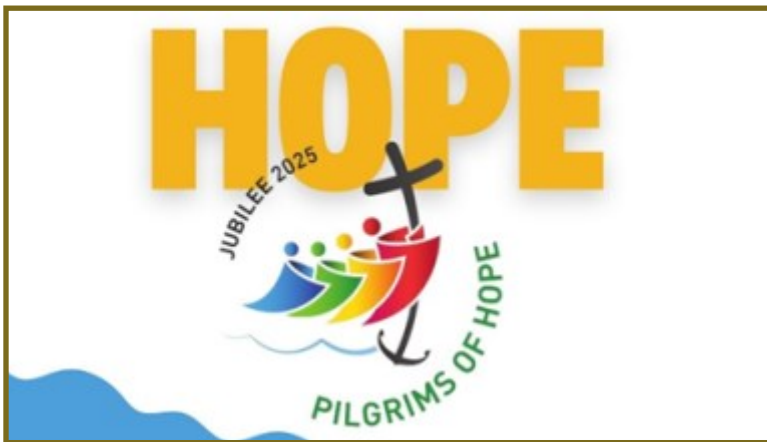
**Live a Detached life:** In a society obsessed with consumerism, we must reflect on how we define success—not by what we own, but by how we love. We should strive to be generous with our blessings rather than hoard them.

**Seek God First:** We are called to put our trust in God through prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments, not only turning to Him when things go wrong. A strong faith is built through daily choices to rely on Him.

**Care for the Poor and Marginalized:** Jesus calls us to love and serve the poor, the suffering, and the rejected. We are urged to advocate for justice and reach out to those in need, rather than avoid them.

**Live with Eternal Perspective:** We must build our lives around eternity, not temporary happiness. This means making choices that reflect our faith—choosing honesty over dishonesty, love over selfishness, and faithfulness over convenience.

The readings today remind us that we are constantly making choices—choices that lead to blessing or to woe. Where do we put our trust? In ourselves? Or in God’s promises? True happiness comes from being like the tree planted by the water—rooted in God, drawing strength from His grace, and producing the fruits of faith, love, and joy. As we continue this journey of faith, may we choose wisely, trusting that God alone is our ultimate source of security and happiness.



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025: A YEAR OF *HOPE* IN CHRISTIAN LIFE

As the Church prepares to enter the Jubilee Year 2025, the theme of "Hope" stands as a beacon for all Christians. Hope is not just optimism or wishful thinking; it is a theological virtue rooted in faith in God's promises. This Jubilee Year invites us to reflect on hope as a divine gift that sustains us through challenges and points us toward God's eternal promises. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us, "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises" (CCC 1817).

**The Biblical Foundation of Hope:** Hope is central to the Christian faith, and Scripture repeatedly highlights its importance. In Romans 5:3-5, Paul writes, "We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us." This verse shows that hope is forged through challenges, growing from suffering into a deeper reliance on God's love, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. The Catechism echoes this, stating, "Hope is the virtue by which we trust that God will give us the graces to attain eternal life" (CCC 1818).

Hope, as described by Paul in Romans 8:24-25, is not for what we see, but for what we wait for in patience—the fulfillment of God's Kingdom. Christian hope looks forward to eternal life, rooted in Christ's resurrection, which assures us that our hope will not disappoint.

**Hope in the Life of Jesus Christ:** The ultimate source of hope is found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His resurrection from the dead proved that hope is not in vain, conquering sin and death. As Christians, we are called to imitate Christ, living out hope in our relationships and service to others. The Catechism teaches, "The resurrection of the dead is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ" (CCC 989). Through Christ's resurrection, we are given an enduring hope that transforms even the darkest situations.

**Christian Life: Hope in Action:** In the Christian life, hope is not a passive concept but an active force. Every day, we are invited to live in hope, trusting in God's promises and sharing His love. As the Catechism teaches, "By the virtue of hope, we expect from God both eternal life and the graces we need to attain it" (CCC 1818). Hope calls us to acts of charity, justice, and compassion, bringing God's light to those who suffer.

St. Teresa of Calcutta is a powerful example of hope in action. Despite immense challenges, she remained a beacon of hope, demonstrating that even in the darkest places, Christ's love can shine brightly. Christian hope also calls us to perseverance, as James 1:12 says, "Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a person has stood the test and will receive the crown of life."

**Hope for the Future:** As we enter the Jubilee Year of 2025, we are reminded that hope is not an abstract idea but a living force in our daily lives. The Catechism reminds us, "The hope of the new heavens and the new earth is the deepest drive of the human heart" (CCC 1047). In a world filled with division and uncertainty, Christians are called to be witnesses of hope, trusting in God's promises. Let us remember Paul's words in Romans 12:12: "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

The Jubilee Year 2025 is a time to renew our hope in God, share it with the world, and live it boldly. As the Catechism states, "Christian hope takes us beyond the limits of human experience and opens us to the certainty of God's promises" (CCC 1818). Let this year be a time to rekindle that hope, knowing that our ultimate hope is found in Christ.

## Catechetical Corner

# “DELIVER US, LORD, WE PRAY, FROM, EVERY EVIL”

### **Priest:**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The prayer that follows the Lord's Prayer, often referred to as the "Prayer for Deliverance" or "The Prayer for Protection," holds profound biblical significance. The priest's words, "Deliver us from every evil, and grant peace in our days," express a deep longing for both spiritual and physical well-being, rooted in the biblical understanding of peace (*shalom*) and divine protection.

**Shalom: The Biblical Understanding of Peace:** In the Bible, *shalom* is a rich, multifaceted term that goes beyond merely

the absence of conflict or hostility. It encompasses the fullness of peace—wholeness, harmony, well-being, prosperity, and reconciliation. Shalom is God's design for creation, a state where individuals, communities, and even creation itself are in perfect harmony with God, one another, and the world. It signifies an inner well-being that is a gift from God, flowing from faithfulness to His covenant.

The Jewish understanding of peace in the Old Testament often centers on both personal and communal peace. *Shalom* includes not only spiritual peace but also peace of mind, relational peace, and physical safety. In essence, shalom embodies the fullness of God's blessings in all areas of life.

When the priest asks the Lord to "free us from sin and distress," it highlights two major sources of unrest that cause us to lose our peace. First, breaking God's law leads to a loss of peace, as God's law is the pathway to happiness. Second, when we give in to selfishness, pride, envy, lust, or greed, we never find true happiness. We remain insecure, restless, constantly seeking more control, more attention, more wealth, or more pleasure, while fearing the loss of what we already possess.

However, when individuals entrust their lives to the Lord and follow His plan, they discover deep inner peace. This peace then flows into the world through right-ordered, harmonious relationships with others.

### **Breaking Down the Prayer: "Deliver Us From Every Evil..."**

The phrase "Deliver us from every evil" asks God for protection from all forms of harm and danger. This request can be understood in spiritual, emotional, and physical terms:

**Spiritual Protection:** The evil referenced here is primarily spiritual. It calls for protection from the evil one (Satan) and all forces that lead to sin, temptation, and separation from God. In Ephesians 6:10-18, Paul speaks about the armor of God, which protects believers from spiritual warfare. This line reflects the need for God's divine safeguarding in a fallen world.

**Physical Protection:** This petition also asks for deliverance from tangible threats—violence, injustice, and suffering. The Psalms, often prayers for protection, frequently appeal to God for safety from enemies and physical danger (e.g., Psalm 23).

"...And Grant Peace in Our Days..."

This part of the prayer seeks the gift of *shalom* in the present, expressing a desire for:

**Internal Peace:** Christians can experience fears and anxieties that cause their hearts to lose the peace of God. We might worry about situations at work, within our families, or concerning the future. We might be afraid of suffering or of making major decisions. Christians, of course, should attend to our human responsibilities. However, when preoccupation dominates our hearts and robs us of peace, it indicates a spiritual misalignment. At that moment, we are not truly trusting God with our lives. During this part of the Mass, the priest asks Jesus to deliver us from these distressing thoughts, so we may experience the deep peace He offers.

The request for peace includes a sense of calm and contentment that comes from knowing God's presence and trusting in His provision. In the New Testament, Jesus offers His peace to His followers: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives" (John 14:27). This peace transcends worldly circumstances, giving believers strength during times of trial.

**Relational Peace:** *Shalom* also encompasses peace in relationships—between individuals, within communities, and between nations. In a world full of conflict, this prayer expresses a longing for the return to the harmony and reconciliation that God intended at creation. The

Continued.....



# NEWS AND UPDATES

Continued...

Apostle Paul urges believers to live at peace with one another (Romans 12:18) and to seek reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

**Eschatological Peace:** There is also an eschatological aspect to this prayer, referring to the future peace that will be fully realized when God's kingdom comes in its fullness. In the Bible, peace is often associated with God's final restoration of the world and the reign of His Messiah (Isaiah 9:6-7). The peace we seek now is a foretaste of the ultimate *shalom* that will prevail in the new heaven and new earth.

**Why This Prayer Matters:** This prayer is significant because it acknowledges both the realities of evil and suffering in the world, as well as the hope for divine intervention. It is a plea for God's ongoing protection, a longing for His peace to reign in the hearts of believers, and a prayer for the restoration of the world to the harmony that God originally intended.

By praying for peace and deliverance from evil, we align ourselves with God's will for the world: a world free from sin and its consequences, a world filled with His presence and peace. The prayer, therefore, is not just for personal safety and tranquility but a plea for the cosmic restoration of all things under God's reign, as seen in the *shalom* that Jesus offers and promises in the gospel.

This prayer also recognizes that true peace and safety can only come through God's action. As Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Our peace is not found in the absence of difficulty but in the presence of the One who overcomes evil.

Thus, this prayer serves as both a plea for protection in the present and a hope for the fullness of peace in the coming kingdom of God.



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, toi-

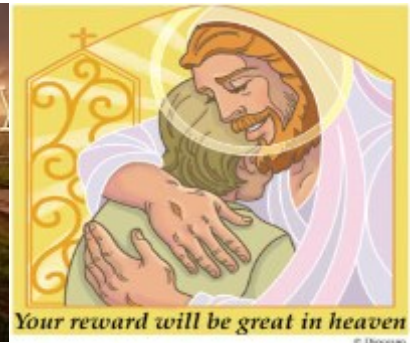
"Whatever you are, be a good one."

— Abraham Lincoln

## Saint Peter Damian, February 21



Peter was born in 1007 in Ravenna, Italy. There is not much record of his early life, but some letters written by St Peter Damian and a biography give a little history. 'Beginning in his early teens, Damian spent at least 10 years studying the liberal arts at Ravenna, Faenza, and Parma. His writings throughout his life indicate a broad knowledge of Classical and Christian works, training that helped make Damian one of the finest Latin stylists of the Middle Ages.' (Britannica.com) He became a teacher for several years before becoming a hermit at Fonte Avellana in the Apennine mountains. Saint Peter Damian was a vocal advocate of papal reform, supporting clerical celibacy and speaking out against the purchase of ecclesiastical office. He was made cardinal-bishop in 1057 by Pope Stephen IX. He made many missions to act as ambassador and arbiter between church offices, attempting to restore good relations. He died in 1072 at the monastery of Faenza.



## Feast of the Chair of St Peter the Apostle, February 22



While the Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, celebrated on June 29, focuses on the martyrdom of St. Peter, this celebration draws attention to his role in the Church. The "Chair of St. Peter" is an image of his seat of authority—an authority that was given not for his own personal gain but so that he could be a source of unity for the Church. Jesus told Peter, "I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers" (Lk 22:32). Today, this feast reminds us of the significance of the ministry of St. Peter and the succession of popes who followed in his footsteps. (usccb.org)

"Make sure you are doing what God wants you to do—then do it with all your strength"

—George Washington

# NEWS AND UPDATES


**DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON**



**PRIESTHOOD**  
**Discernment**  
**Retreat**

- Open to men 18 and older
- Pray, share meals, and meet with current WV seminarians
- Hear talks about priestly life and discernment

**ST. JOHN XXIII PASTORAL CENTER**  
 100 Hodges Rd., Charleston, WV 25314

FRIDAY MARCH 7 → SATURDAY MARCH 8

Apply today! 



For more information:  
 Joe King  
 304-206-8292

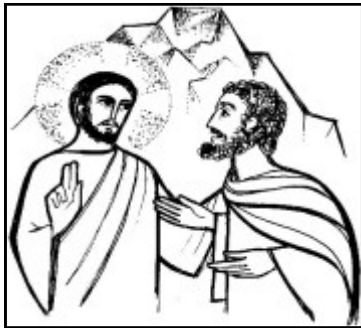
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**FREE THROW**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Boys and Girls Ages 9-14**  
 Age as of December 31, 2024

**Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**1:00 pm**  
**St. Francis Parish Center**  
**Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. & Park St. – St. Albans**



**Confirmation Class**  
**in Progress**



After Mass Fellowship takes place in the School Cafeteria on the First Sunday of the month. If you would like to host Fellowship, contact the Church office at 304-727-3033.

**Share your special dates with the church community, Birthday or Anniversary**

The community would love to celebrate and rejoice with you on special occasions. We would be delighted to congratulate you during church services and include your wedding anniversary—or any other significant anniversary—in our monthly bulletin.

To make this possible, please share the date of your wedding or any important occasion with us. We'll ensure it's included in the bulletin each month, so we can honor and celebrate with you.

Thank you, and we look forward to celebrating these special milestones together!

**-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 Lerosé, 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, Patricia Ruddle, 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, Barbara Jackson

**Immediate Prayer Needs:**

Chad Wilbanks	Margaret McEvoy	Matt Sowers
Nanette Martin	Anna Ng	Dave Lucas
Alaina Rae Gilbert	John Carnell	Ralph Holand
Rick Robinson	Josephine Fletcher	Darlene Holland
Terry DeLuca	Chuck Powers	Mary Sanney



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Sharing our Treasury

Listed below are collections for February 9 & 10, 2025

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$3,111.08
School.....	\$260.00
Diocese.....	\$344.00
Votive Candles.....	\$121.00

**Total.....\$3,863.08**

**Weekly Mass Attendance**

**Sat- 77      Sun- 110      TOTAL-187**

## Second Collections

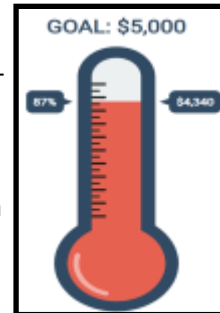
**February 15/16th**

**School Support**

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

## WORSHIP: HYMNAL/MISSALETTE

You have an opportunity to donate toward the purchase of the new, hardbound Missalettes (\$30 per book). We will place a bookplate in each Missalette that is fully sponsored by a parishioner with their name & the in memory of/in honor of that they wish. Donation envelopes available at the back of the church—please place completed envelopes in collection basket. Thank you for your tremendous response to our campaign. Our goal is \$5,000.00, to date we have raised \$4,340.00. We are almost to goal!



**St. Francis School February PTO Meeting**



**SFC Women's Club Meeting!**  
Meetings are held the second Monday of the month. All women of the Parish are encouraged to join!

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL**

**NOW ENROLLING FOR 6TH GRADE**

525 Holley St.  
St. Albans, WV 25177  
304-727-5690

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO APPLY  
[WWW.SFSWV.COM](http://WWW.SFSWV.COM)

*-Providing Excellence in Education-*

## 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.