

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



MAY 4, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

OUR MISSION

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



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

A WARM WELCOME TO SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH!

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

SUNDAYS READINGS P. 1084 YEAR C



| <u>05 Monday</u> | <u>06 Tuesday</u> | <u>07 Wednesday</u> | <u>08 Thursday</u> | <u>09 Friday</u> | <u>10 Saturday</u> | <u>11 Sunday</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Acts 6: 8-15 Jn 6: 22-29 (273) | Acts 7: 51—8:1a Jn 6: 30-35 (274) | Acts 8: 1b-8 Jn 6:35-40 (275) | Acts 8: 26-30 Jn 6:44-51 (276) | Acts 9: 1-20 Jn 6: 52-59 (277) | Acts 9: 31-42 Jn 6: 60-69 (278) | Acts 13:14, 43-52 Rv 7:9, 14b-17 Jn 10:27-30 (51) |

PARISH INFORMATION

| Date | Mass Time | Mass Intention | Lector | Extraordinary Minister(s) | Altar Servers | Rosary Leader |
|---------------------------|-----------|---|-----------------|---|---|---------------|
| SAT MAY 03 | 5:00 pm | James Venturino By Bob & Mary Sanney | Jacque Switzer | Midge Butler (x) Leslie Huffman (C) Helen Musrock (C) | Volunteers | Helen Musrock |
| SUN MAY 04 | 11:00 am | Fr. Patrick McDonough By Nilda Ramella | Dawna Kessler | Shaun Lopez (X) Mark Muchow (C) Bill Tabor (C) | Mary Pauley Reagan Buscher Jonah White | Tom Williams |
| MON MAY 05 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| TUE MAY 06 | 6:00 pm | Ralph McGrath By Liz Gadd | Pat Romanosky | Suzanne Farley | | |
| WED MAY 07 | 8:15 am | George & Mary Klaene By Tony & Mary Jane Gertz | School Students | Lynn Fenimore | School Students | |
| THU MAY 08 | 8:15 am | — | — | — | — | — |
| FRI MAY 09 | 6:00 pm | Larry and Dierdre Dunworth | Dawna Kessler | Midge Butler (C) | | |
| SAT MAY 10 | 5:00 pm | Roe Grubler By Sarah & Jack Palmer | Helen Musrock | Helen Musrock (X) Leslie Huffman (C) Midge Butler (C) | Volunteers | Pat Romanosky |
| SUN MAY 11 | 11:00 am | Intentions of the people of the parish | Mark Muchow | Jennifer Lopez (X) Shaun Lopez (C) Bill Tabor (C) | Sagrada Lopez Reed Wriston Rylee Fenimore | 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

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

GOD NEVER STOPS CALLING US



Today's Gospel paints one of the most tender and powerful scenes in all of Scripture: The disciples in the story have returned to fishing — their old profession — perhaps because they didn't know what else to do after the trauma of the cross. But after a long night of labor, they have caught nothing. Their nets, like their hearts, are empty. And then, at dawn, they hear a voice from the shore: "Children, have you caught anything?" It is the voice of Jesus — the same Jesus who called them years earlier beside this very sea.

He is calling again, because God never tires of calling us back to life. His call was very gentle. He does not say, "Why did you leave your mission?" He does not say, "Why did you fail me?" He simply offers an invitation: "Cast your net to the right side." And when they obey, the nets are so full they can hardly haul them in!

This episode reveals many truths. firstly, it tells us that God's call is not based on our success; it is based on His love. Even when we feel like failures, even when we feel empty, Jesus still sees potential for abundance. And then comes the most moving moment: Around a charcoal fire — the same setting where Peter once denied Him three times — Jesus invites Peter to profess his love three times. Each "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," is met with a new commission: "Feed my sheep."

God's call transforms our failures into new beginnings is another truth this episode reveals to us. Where Peter once fell, now he rises. Where he once denied, now he is entrusted. God doesn't erase our past; He redeems it. And finally, Jesus speaks the simple, life-changing words: "Follow me." Not just once, but again — as if to say, "The invitation still stands." It stood by the lake years ago, it stands now after Peter's denial, and it stands today for each one of us.

Moreover, it also reveals the truth that God's call is constant, but following Him is a daily choice. It may lead us where we do not wish to go. It may demand courage, sacrifice, and surrender. But it will lead us to a life more abundant than anything we could have planned for ourselves.

This Easter season, we are reminded that no matter how empty our nets, no matter how broken our hearts, the Risen Christ still stands on the shores of our lives, calling out: "Come to me. Let me fill your nets again. Let me heal your heart. Let me lead you to life." The God who called Peter after failure is calling you and me today — lovingly, patiently, and with a fire already burning, ready to feed and forgive. Will you answer His call?

CATECHETICAL CORNER

MARY'S FIRST COMMUNION



Pope John Paul II draws a beautiful connection between Mary carrying Jesus in her womb and a person receiving Holy Communion. In a profound way, every time we receive the Eucharist, we become like Mary. As John Paul II explains: *“Mary lived her Eucharistic faith even before the institution of the Eucharist, by the very fact that she offered her virginal womb for the incarnation of God’s Word.”*

For nine months, Mary carried within her the very Body and Blood of Jesus. Similarly, at every Mass, we receive the sacramental Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist. Pope John Paul II further reflects: *“At the Annunciation, Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord’s body and blood.”*

In other words, just as Mary physically bore Jesus within her, we spiritually welcome Him into our bodies through Holy Communion.

Mary’s Understanding of the Eucharist: Pope John Paul II also invites us to consider how Mary must have felt when she first heard about the Eucharist. Though she was not present at the Last Supper, she likely learned about the institution of the Eucharist from the Apostles. Imagine her awe and deep love when she realized that, through the Eucharist, she could once again welcome her Son into her very being.

John Paul II beautifully expresses this idea: *“For Mary, receiving the Eucharist must have somehow meant welcoming once more into her womb that heart which had beat in unison with hers.”*

What an extraordinary thought! Every Holy Communion for Mary was a moment of reunion with her Son, a chance to experience the intimate closeness she once had with Him during His earthly life. With what devotion and love she must have received the Eucharist!

Mary as Our Model: Mary’s profound love for Jesus in the Eucharist serves as a model for us. Just as she received Christ with perfect faith and devotion, we too are called to receive Him with open hearts. Every time we partake in Holy Communion, may we welcome Jesus as Mary did, with love, reverence, and joy.

After Communion, the priest prays for the spiritual fruits of the Eucharist to take effect in our lives. Let us pray that, like Mary, our hearts may beat ever more in unison with Christ’s, drawing us deeper into His love and presence.

NEWS AND UPDATES

MAY BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Kylie Abbott | Matthew Matheny |
| Matthew Arcadipane | James McElwee |
| Theodore Bailey | Dee McGrath |
| Tamara Buel | Karah McKinney |
| Ellie Dillon | James Milstead |
| Pat Fenimore | Diane Mitchell |
| Amy Flemming | Nora Palmer |
| Mary Gallagher | Deborah Parsons |
| Jim Goolsby | Kristina Raynes |
| Tensley Heumann | Richard Rittinger |
| Taylor Higginbotham | Kelley Rogers |
| Jennifer Hinton | Phyllis Romeo |
| John Huffman | Madilynn Scarberry |
| Ethan Knapp | Nathan Serna |
| Bridget Landers | Liams Cheryl Snyder |
| Brianda Lopez | Emma Vaughan |
| Jelena Lopes | Elizabeth Vaughan |
| Linda Lynch | |

Happy Birthday

OUR FIRST COMMUNION PARTICIPANTS

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Luke Buscher | Michaela Hardy |
| Henry Cutlip | Emmett Heumann |
| Elizabeth Davis | Diondrae Johnson |
| Emmett Guthrie | Georgia A Kail |
| Bella Hardy | Ruby Pauley |



The month of May is dedicated to

*The Blessed
Virgin Mary*

May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary refer to special Marian devotions held in the Catholic Church during the month of May honoring Mary, mother of God, as “the Queen of May”. These services may take place inside or outside. A “May Crowning” is a traditional Roman Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May.

St. Francis School will have a May Crowning on May 9th at 9AM in the church.



“Love our Lady and make her loved: always recite the Rosary and Recite it as often as possible.” ~Saint Pio

NEWS AND UPDATES



Holy Week Pictures

1. Father thanking Brendan Perry for his service and wishing him good luck on his move
2. Holy Thursday Adoration
3. & 4. Service of the Light
5. Beautiful Easter Flowers
6. Tamara's Ballet Dancers



SAVE THE DATE:
May 6, 2025
OneMissionOneDay.org

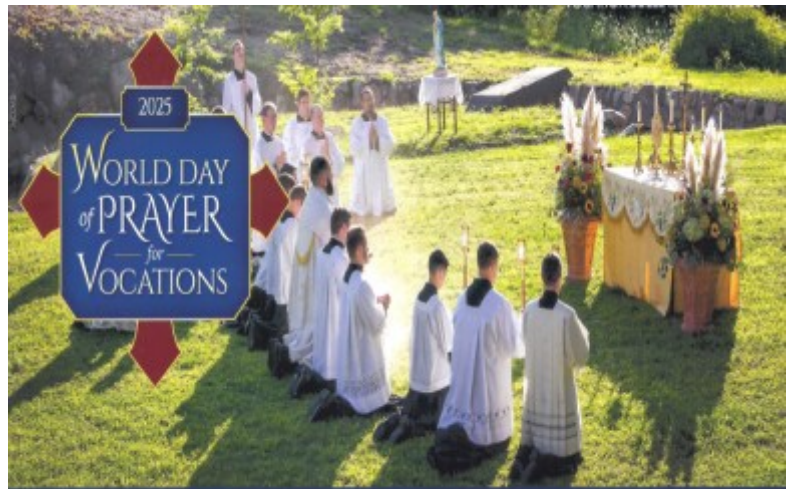
Support West Virginia Catholic Schools!
#OneMissionOneDay



NEWS AND UPDATES



Jack Palmer received the Good Samaritan Award for grades K-2 and.....



2025 JUBILEE YEAR ✠ "THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH." -ISAIAH 40:31

May 11, 2025

Is the **62nd World Day of Prayer for Vocations** also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday". The theme for this day is "Pilgrims of Hope: The Gift of Life:"

There are brochures on the table in the back of the Church.

Caleb Bradley received the Good Samaritan Award for grades 3-5

Congratulations boys!



CHURCH NURSERY

We will now have a nursery for our 11am mass. 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.

PLEASE NOTE

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

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

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



"Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands, especially those associated with St Francis of Assisi parish."

Daniel Huffman

-Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinger, 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, 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, Jack Myatt, Gordon Holbrook, Kraig Stutes, Allison Jones, Ralph Holland, Darlene Holland

Immediate Prayer needs:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Nanette Martin | John Carnell | Michele Sturgeon |
| Alaina Rae Gilbert | Josephine Fletcher | Patty Young |
| Rick Robinson | Matt Sowers | Peggy Shelton |
| Terry DeLuca | Dave Lucas | Katie Sayre |
| Margaret McEvoy | Pearl Thompson | |
| Anna Ng | Mary Sanney | |

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure

Listed below are collections for April 26 - April 27, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Collection for Church Operation. | \$2,968.00 |
| School..... | 00.00 |
| Diocese..... | 000.00 |
| Votive Candles..... | 67.00 |
| Total..... | \$3,035.00 |

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat -75 Sun -105
Total -180

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

Final meeting of the year for the Woman's Club will be a luncheon at Eagles Nest Restaurant at Noon on Wednesday, May 14th. Hope that you all can come. Have a good Summer and we will see you again in September.

Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of April 27, 2025

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, Pop Tarts, Bags of Noodles and Tea Bags.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this critical outreach!

EVANGELIZATION MEETING

The May Evangelization Meeting is Monday, May 5th at 9am at the home of Pat Tabor, 1209 Summit Circle. For more information call 304.932.5674. Thanks so much!

Second Collections for the month of May

May 11—School Support

May 25—Catholic Relief Services

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.