

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)



1023 6th Avenue, St Albans, WV 25177 304-727-3033
www.stfranciswv.org parish@stfranciswv.org www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisisaintalbens



MARCH 10, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

Confession: 4-4:45pm

Rosary: 4:30 pm

Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday

Rosary: 10:30 am

Mass: 11:00 am

Weekdays

Tue: 6:00 pm

Wed/Thur/Fri:

8:15 am

Adoration/Stations

Fridays

6:00 pm (Adoration)

6:30 pm (Stations)

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm



LENT
 "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."



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



Father Sojan Xavier, Administrator..... (304) 435-4342 / sxavier@dwc.org
 Jessica Davis, 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
 Theresa O'Leary, Principal..... (304) 727-5690 / toleary@sfsww.com
 Kelly Oxley, School Office Manager..... (304)727-5609 / koxley@sfsww.com

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.

11 Monday

Is 65:17-21
 Jn 4:43-54
 (244)

12 Tuesday

Ez 47:1-9, 12
 Jn 5:1-16
 (245)

13 Wednesday

Is 49:8-15
 Jn 5:17-30
 (246)

14 Thursday

Ex 32:7-14
 Jn 5:31-47
 (247)

15 Friday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22
 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 (248)

16 Saturday

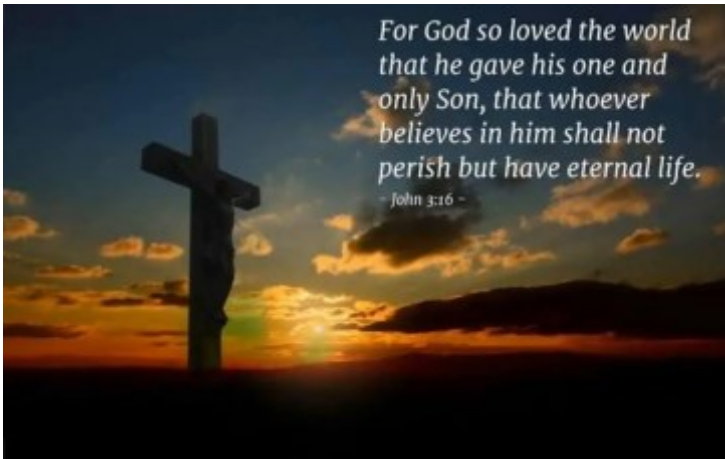
Jer 11:18-20
 Jn 7:40-53
 (249)

17 Sunday

Jer 31:31-34
 Heb 5:7-9
 Jn 12:20-33
 (35)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Gaze at Jesus who gives our life-giving grace



The cold and frosty days are slowly receding, and the days are getting longer. We are half-way through March and already there is light in the evenings beyond six o'clock. We have longer daylight to look forward to, especially when the clock goes forward shortly. With the increase in light and warmth, there is also an increase in growth. The first blossoms of spring are already coming out. Thus, nature is coming to life after a time of hibernation.

Today's Gospel echoes what is happening in nature, for 'light has come into the world.' The light refers to God's revelation brought into the world by Jesus. The gospel declares that God's light is the light of love. The central gospel truth is that God so loved the world that He sent his only Son Jesus because He wanted it to be saved. And in the 'light' of Jesus, we find mercy, compassion, great love, kindness, and infinite grace.

As such, in the words of Jesus to Nicodemus, there is an invitation to us to gaze on Christ. Jesus speaks to Nicodemus about the purpose of his coming. He begins by citing an example in the history of Israel. The incident is the raising of the serpent on a pole. Israel was virtually in a state of death: the people were in danger of being destroyed by a plague of snakes. Moses raised the serpent on the pole, and all

who looked to it were restored to life. And Jesus says, "Just as Moses lifted the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." It illustrates how Jesus is our lifeline as we pass from earth to heaven. Jesus is the one who supplies life-giving grace. Saint Paul says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God".

In what follows, there is a personal application to us. Just as Israel was restored to life by gazing at the serpent lifted, we may be restored to eternal life by gazing at Christ. What does 'gaze' mean? The answer is found in the last verse of the passage, "But whoever lives the truth comes to light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." It underscores the fact that genuine, righteous deeds are a manifestation of a person's commitment to truth and goodness. All in all, we are encouraged to deepen our faith in Jesus and acknowledge the transformative power of belief in Jesus Christ. The evangelist makes it amply clear that God wants every one of His children to be saved. And salvation comes through belief in His Son. Jesus is the light that enlightens everyone.

As we journey toward Easter, we are exhorted to take a stoke of our life and walk toward "the light" bestowed through Baptism at the Easter liturgy. May the Lord help us in our efforts.

Communal Penance Service

**Thursday March 21st
6:00 pm**

Pastoral Availability

Father Sojan is available at any time of the day or night for spiritual guidance. Additionally, if you or your family member is sick or homebound and require Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing, you may contact him at 304-435-4342 or the parish office.

Baptism

(Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be registered and attending Sunday Mass.

Marriage Preparation

Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Francis of Assisi Church should be practicing Catholics. They are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program before the marriage. At least six months advance notice is required for the marriage. Please contact the office in person to set the date for marriage.

Order of Christian Initiation

Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults who have not been baptized or have been baptized and not confirmed go through a faith formation program before they are admitted to the sacraments.

Faith Formation

Please contact the church office for Faith/ Bible Study, Youth Group, and CCD programs and registration.

For rental of church facilities (parish center, gymnasium, Henderson Room, cafeteria), please contact:
**Mary Nichols at
304-727-9832.**

Genuine and righteous deeds are a manifestation of a person's commitment to truth and goodness.

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 09	5:00 pm	Richard Stump	By Gwen Muchow
Sun Mar 10	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—
Mon Mar 11	—	No Mass	—
Tues Mar 12	6:00 pm	Al Romanosky	—
Wed Mar 13	8:15 am	Bob Dilley	—
Thur Mar 14	8:15 am	Harriet Perks	—
Fri Mar 15	8:15 am	John Hebb & Cecil Broom	—
Sat Mar 16	5:00 pm	William White	By Sherman & Vivian White
Sun Mar 17	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
Mar 09	5:00 pm	Dave DeLuca	Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Mar 10	11:00 am	Tom Williams	Mary Sanney (X) John Carnell (C), Shaun Lopez (C)	Fred Heindl, Gia Lopez, Sagrada Lopez
Mar 11	—	—	NO MASS	
Mar 12	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Suzanne Farley (C)	
Mar 13	8:15 am	Helen Musrock	Lynn Fenimore (C)	
Mar 14	8:15 am	SFS Students	Jennifer Lopez (C)	
Mar 15	8:15 am	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Mar 16	5:00 pm	Lisa D'Esposito	Helen Musrock (X) Dave DeLuca (C), Leslie Huffman (C)	
Mar 17	11:00 am	Shaun Lopez	Lynn Fenimore (X) Mark Muchow (C), Bill Tabor (C)	Ethan Knapp, Mairin Knapp, Carlee Stone

Sharing our Treasure

Church.....3,325.92
Diocese.....406.00
School 0.00
Candle Offering.....44.00
Total Collection..... 3,775.92

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat 03/02 76
Sun 03/03 126

Total attendance 202

OUR PARISH DEPENDS ON THE TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURE OF OUR PARISHIONERS. WE HOPE YOU WILL SHARE THEM WITH US!

Parish Life—Saints of the week..Faith Formation..Prayer Intention

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday

- The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem".
- The fourth Sunday marks the half-way point of the Lenten season, even though the Thursday before Laetare Sunday is the actual middle day of Lent.
- Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.
- Symbolizing joy, rose-colored Mass vestments may be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays of Lent. According to the Roman Missal, instrumental music is permitted and the altar may be decorated with flowers.
- The tradition of using the color rose is thought to come from the tradition of the Golden Rose; at one time popes sent golden roses to Catholic heads of state in Europe on this Sunday.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was once called Refreshment Sunday, or the Sunday of the Five Loaves, for the miracle of the boy with loaves and fishes in the Gospel of John.
- The Fourth Sunday of Lent was also previously observed as Mothering Sunday, in reference to Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, where the faithful are called "sons and daughters of God". Families visited the church where they were baptized, or made offerings to the cathedral, or mother-church, on this Sunday.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mrs. Barbara Murray



Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Choir Practice
Wednesdays at
5:30—Please
lend your voice
to our choir!**



Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6:30 pm

LEADERS FOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Mar. 15—The Hudsons

Mar. 22---St. Francis Youth Group

Living Stations Mar. 29---St Francis Youth Group

Note: during Lent, Friday Mass will be at 8:15 am!

Visiting the Sick

Please contact the parish if you would like a visit from Father Sojan and Communion to be brought to your home. This is also available for those who are temporarily homebound—please don't hesitate to reach out so we may visit with you or your loved one.

Prayer List

Please review our prayer list published in the bulletin. Contact the church office to add or remove names. Thank you!

304-727-3033 or parish@stfranciswv.org

Lenten & Easter Dates—Note your calendars!

Palm Sunday March 24 at 11:00 am

Chrism Mass March 25 at 4:00 pm

Holy Thursday March 28 at 6:00 pm

Good Friday March 29 at 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross March 29 at 5:00 pm

Easter Vigil March 30 at 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday March 31 at 11:00 am

CCD/PSR

Sundays at 10:00 am before Mass

Youth Group after 11:00 am Mass

RCIA Class

March 13

6:00 pm in the Henderson Room

LECTIO DIVINO/BIBLE/ FAITH STUDY

MARCH 12 6:30-7:30

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS

In the Upper Room

-Uphold them in your prayers-

Becky Baire, Jim Carey, Kianna Cottrill, Gina Crist, David DeLuca, Jeremy Dillon, Jay Dlugos, Polly Downey, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Jose Flores, Barbara George, Alaina Rae Gilbert, Robin Gothard, Barbara Hager, Ms. Heidi, Diane Holley-Brown, Max Huck, Kenny Huck, Bud Humphreys, Jeannette Humphreys, Jim Johnson, Carmelina Kessler, Dawna Kessler, Tooter Kirk, Mike Landis, Larry Leros, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Jenn Husack McGrath, Nanette Martin, Sue Martin, Brent Marsteller, Mary McNeely, Joe McQuaide, Lillian Matheny, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Leandra Morlan, Barbara Murray, Jack Myatt, Kristin Natoli, Sarah Newcomb, Jamie Peterson, Maddox Potter, Susan Robinson, Mary Sanney, Scarlett (child), Lillian Schilling, Becky Vannatter Smith, Elizabeth Stonestreet, Joseph Swanson, Valerie Tabit, Pat Tabor, Mark Thomas, Colleen Ullmer, Joyce Weiskircher, Roberta VanHorn, Pat Vannatter, Robbie Vannatter, Stan White, Barbara Yeager, Toma Young, Jason Zemaitis

Immediate Prayer needs:

Donna Hebb	Becky Baire	Barbara Hager
Jeremy Dillon	Rick Robinson	Elizabeth Davis
Nanette Martin	Terry DeLuca	Kevin Corbett
Alaina Rae Gilbert	Josephine Fletcher	
Derrick D.	Margaret McEvoy	

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

Matthew Todd Bacchus, Nicholas Fletcher, Daniel Huffman,
Will Knox, Brian Zachary Miller

St. Francis Parish Life—Info

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL NEWS

St Francis School students participate in the Stations of the Cross each Friday. This Friday March 15 you are invited to join our school in a living Stations of the Cross at 9:15 am in the school gym.



Congrats to our February Good Samaritans!



Father Sojan caught some of our anniversary and birthday celebrants out and about at this weekend's Masses!



Mark Larson, John Carnell, Sandy Williams, Lily Palmer, Noreen Unger, Bill Unger

Jeff & Dee McGrath



Joe and Vicki Gruse



Dave DeLuca

Parish Office Construction/Renovation

Things are picking up steam and it is looking beautiful in the new parish offices. Flooring has been installed (thank you Tim Sayre for your hard work on the floors!) and doors have been refinished and hung (thank you John Huffman and Tom Liberatore!).



\$15 per person
KIDS 5-11 \$5

EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT
FEB 16, 23
MAR 1, 8, 15, 22
5:00PM-7:00PM

House-battered Fried Fish
Baked Fish
Butterfly Shrimp
Oven-baked potatoes
House made mac & cheese
Housemade coleslaw
Green Beans
Fries
Hush Puppies
Housemade Tartar & Cocktail
Drinks included

Homemade Desserts!

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
122 DUNLEY ST. SAINT ALBANS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY

Dine-in or Carry out



Diocese of

Charleston

Wheeling-

St John XXIII Pastoral Center Employment Opportunities

St John XXIII Pastoral Center is seeking to fill the following three positions – Cook, Housekeeper, Maintenance Worker. Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

For more information, see the diocesan website <https://dwc.org/diocese/administrative/human-resources/employment-opportunities/>

Server Practice Sunday, March 17 immed. after 11AM Mass.

We will go over masses for Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) and Easter Sunday. Palm Sunday and Good Friday will not be included in this training. Required to attend include:

Holy Thursday (Mar 28 @ 6PM): **Easter Vigil (Mar 30 @ 8PM):**

Brendan Perry – Lead

Danny Kessler – Lead

Lily Palmer

Carlee Stone

Mary Pauley

Lourdes Stone

Easter Sunday (Mar 31 @ 11AM)

Hadley Heumann ??

Mighty Lopez – Lead

Sagrada Lopez

Gia Lopez

Spiritual Journey to Catholic Italy

Go on a 12-day pilgrimage to Catholic Italy October 14-25, 2024 under the direction of Very Rev. Donald X Higgs, V.F. Sites include Florence, Siena, Assisi, the Isle of Capri, Sorrento, Pompeii, Rome, the Vatican, & an audience with Pope Francis. The cost is \$5899 (includes most meals, tours, 4-5 star hotels, and round-trip flights from Charleston, WV). For a brochure or more information, contact Father Higgs at 304-685-2376 or visit <https://bit.ly/HiggsItaly>

St. Francis Parish Life

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH (28 – 31 MARCH 2024) (HOLY WEEK PROGRAM)



Palm Sunday 23 - 24 March

5.00pm: Holy Eucharist (Sat. 23 March)

- Blessing of the Palm outside the church, procession to the Church and the Holy Eucharist

11.00 am: Holy Eucharist

- Blessing of the Palm outside the church, procession to the Church and the Holy Eucharist

Good Friday 29 March

4.15 pm: Divine Mercy Novena

500 pm: Live Stations of the Cross outdoor (Youth)

6:00 pm Commemoration of Lord's Passion

- Liturgy of the Word
- Veneration of the Cross
- Holy Communion



Holy Thursday 28 MARCH

6.00 pm – The Lord's Supper

- Washing of the Feet
- Adoration in the place of the Reposition of Sacred Species (Upper Room)

Holy Saturday 30 March 2024

8.00 pm: Easter Vigil Service

- Service of the light – outside the Church
- Solemn Holy Eucharist
- Baptism & Reception of New members
- Confirmation



Easter Sunday 31 March 2024

11.00 am: Solemn Holy Eucharist



Want to volunteer? Signed up for a committee?

You **must** be VIRTUS compliant!!
Prefer to go through the process at home online?

Visit www.virtusonline.org and complete the 3 parts (background check, e-sign documents, and watch the video). Need assistance? Call the parish office at 304-727-3033
MUST BE COMPLETED IMMEDIATELY!



St Francis Church
and the Knights of Columbus
present the 2nd in a series of public meetings:

**Home and Fire Safety
Tuesday March 19
6:30 pm**

Members of fire depts and Insurance carriers will be present. It will be open to all members of the community.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
March 14th at 5:00 pm**

**Save the Date
75th Reunion Celebration
Saint Francis School
May 18, 2024**

Activities begin at 3:00 pm with tours of the school

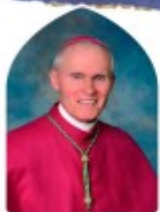


Join us on Saturday, April 6 after the 5 o'clock Mass to celebrate Fr Sojan's 56th birthday. Space is limited to 40 so please reserve a seat. It will be held at Angela's on the River. Please contact the rectory to ensure you will be there. At Angela's request, there will be limited items to choose from her menu (each family is responsible for the cost of their meals). Do not contact the restaurant directly as you may find yourself unfortunately without a seating.

Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress

**INDIANAPOLIS
JULY 17 - 21, 2024**

with Bishop Mark Brennan and
the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston



Participate in this pivotal moment in the Church and draw into a deeper intimacy with our Lord. Join our diocese by registering today! Scan the QR code or click Book Now to attend this historic event.



BOOK NOW!

Interested in attending the National Eucharistic Congress? Contact the parish office for information! Each parish was provided with a few tickets and we have information on travel and where to stay. Call the parish office for information! 304-727-3033.

Visit

<https://faithinwv.org/>

For a weekly e-bulletin of Catholic news in WV

The Catholic Sharing Appeal is one of many ways that we are united in God's love as Catholics and as members of our Diocesan Family. In addition to providing funding for our own parish community, the CSA also delivers essential support for shared ministries, Catholic education, and evangelization & outreach efforts across the state.

www.dwc.org/csa

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

This weekend retreat is a time for engaged couples to learn the Catholic understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage. Through theologically-based sessions, couples learn the 4 core aspects of Catholic marriage: faith, communication, sexuality, and stewardship. Retreat is FREE & includes four meals, one overnight stay, and one workbook.

April 13-14, 2024 or July 13-14, 2024

To register: <http://wvmarriage.org/pfcm-registration/>

Women's Discernment Retreat

June 21-23, 2024 St. Joseph Retreat Center, Wheeling, WV



The Office of Consecrated Life presents a discernment retreat for single Catholic women ages 18 and over. In a world that lacks moments of silence and reflection it can be easy for us to ignore our callings. Join us and take this time to get to know yourself, your heart, and how Christ is working in your life.

- ✦ Retreat is free.
- ✦ Be with other discerning women.
- ✦ Register now - space is limited!



To Register/More Info:

Sister Martha Gomez, RGS,
mgomez@dwc.org

Office of Consecrated Life
(304)233-0880 ext. 264

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention Mar 2024 For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

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 & 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; or Very Rev. Dennis Schuelkens, Jr., V.E., ext. 270. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504.

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.

St. Francis Parish Life—Happenings

Volunteers Needed

Father Sojan is asking for folks to sign up for the foot washing on Holy Thursday. Please contact the office to add your name.



St Francis Women's Club Meeting March 11

The March meeting of the Saint Francis Women's Club will be held Monday, March 11 in the school cafeteria at 6:00 pm. The program for the meeting will be "All Member" Birthday Party. Hostesses for the meeting will be Terry DeLuca, Helen Musrock, and Phyllis Romeo. All women of the parish are invited to join us at our Woman's Club functions! Come and see what you are missing.

Easter Home Blessings

It is a Catholic Easter tradition to have your parish priest bless your home during the Lenten or Easter season. Father Sojan is available to visit families in their homes and bless them. Please contact the parish office to schedule a time for Father to visit your home.



*Palm
Sunday
Bake Sale*

Sat March 23
before & after Mass

Sun March 24
before & after Mass

Delicious
homemade baked
goods for sale in the
school cafeteria

PASTA Dinner

The Youth Group needs your support!

Location
1023 6th Avenue,
St. Albans, WV.
25177
In the Gym!

Time
April 13, 2024
@ 6-9 pm

Tickets
\$15: Adults
\$10: Kids 10 and under

Cooked by former
Rivers Edge Chef
Chef Flores

Help raise \$3000 for flooring in the
Youth Group Room! (304)-389-3820

Be sure to get your tickets ahead so they may prepare enough food!

Employment Opportunity—Seeking a part-time Office Manager for St. Anthony and Our Lady of the Hills parishes. Responsibilities are varied and include maintaining parishioner records plus sacramental records, parish financial records, the bulletin, etc. A working knowledge of QuickBooks and Microsoft Office Word, Excel and Publisher is preferred. This position is limited to 20 hours each week. Successful candidate must be able to pass a background check prior to hiring. Equal opportunity employer. If you are interested in this position, please contact the church office at 304-342-2716 by Friday, March 22, 2024.