

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/stfrancisofassisisaintalbars



FEBRUARY 11, 2024

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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 & Fri: 6:00 pm

Wed & Thur: 8:15 am

Adoration

Fridays

5:00 pm—6:00 pm



By the sweat of your brow
you shall eat bread,
Until you return to the
ground,
from which you were taken;
For you are dust, and to dust
you shall return.



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

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday

9:00 am to 1:00 pm



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.

<u>12 Monday</u>	<u>13 Tuesday</u>	<u>14 Wednesday</u>	<u>15 Thursday</u>	<u>16 Friday</u>	<u>17 Saturday</u>	<u>18 Sunday</u>
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) Thursday after Ash Wednesday	Is 58:1-9a Mt 9:14-15 (221) Friday after Ash Wednesday	Is 58:9b-14 Lk 5:27-32 (222) Saturday after Ash Wednesday	Gn 9:8-15 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15 (23) First Sunday of Lent

OVERWHELM OURSELVES WITH THE TOUCH OF THE LORD!



The readings of today, the first and the Gospel, revolve around leprosy and how it was dealt

with in the past. Yet they do teach us some important spiritual truths.

The book of Leviticus deals with some of the most ordinary matters, and it does so with some spiritual objectives: to live a life centred on God.

Leviticus 13:1-2, 45-46, given for our reflection on the 6th Sunday in Ordinary time discusses the identification and isolation of individuals with skin diseases, often referred to as leprosy. The verses outline the procedure for priests to examine and diagnose such conditions, emphasizing the necessity for those afflicted to dwell outside the vicinity of people until their healing or purification. Their life was a living hell. They were required to live in a perpetual state of mourning, public disgrace, exclusion. They could not approach the sanctuary to worship (the sanctuary was the most public place and was where their disease could be most easily transmitted). Therefore, they felt cut off from God and such situation was considered a punishment from God.

Although the Scriptures recognize that leprosy and other skin disease were not the result of moral offence on the part of the sufferer, at the same time, these kinds of diseases were viewed as a powerful symbol of the effects of sin. Sin is a clinging contagion that contaminates the sinner and those he contacts. It destroys human relationships and our communion with God. Sin is spiritual leprosy.

The gospel passage presents before us Jesus' interaction with a leper. The leper approaches Jesus and expresses faith in his ability to heal. The words of the leper, "if you choose, you can make me clean" acknowledges that healing rests within the will of God. When Jesus looked at this poor, wretched man and saw his condition, his heart was stirred to action. He disregards all the social and religious customs stretches out his hands and touches him.

Just imagine what this gesture itself would mean to a man who has been isolated from his own family and society and even the community of worship for years. This gesture conveys a very important thing for us all. Jesus loves us just the way we are. He loves us with all our imperfections and weakness. His touch comes before the healing, his love for us comes before our conversion. It is interesting to note that the man does not ask to be healed, medically speaking, but rather to be made clean. So, what is the difference between being healed and being made 'clean'? To be made clean has a spiritual and social dimension. He believes that Jesus can make him whole again, return to his family, allow him to go back to his work, and back to worshipping God in the temple along with all others. This leper was not asking for mere healing. He wanted to be CLEAN! Through a simple touch, the man is healed of his leprosy and his place is established within the community, within his family and the religious life of God's people. Jesus raises the leper from the wretched situation and gives him dignity and he acknowledges it and freely makes Jesus known. And after his healing, Jesus did not just send him away. He sends him to the priest at the temple. This man was told to go and fulfil the requirement of the Law for his cleansing. This leper was to go and present himself to the priest and get a certificate of cleansing based on the ceremony in Leviticus 14.

We may not suffer from physical leprosy, but we surely can suffer from spiritual leprosy. Hurts, pains, baggage keeps us from experiencing the fullness of life. What keeps us separate from communion with God and others is not something outside of ourselves. Jesus is still willing to touch our lives today. He is waiting to heal and cleanse us only if we let him. The leper in the Gospel let the Lord touch him. Let us pray that we may grow to learn more about our spiritual leprosy and experience the cleansing touch of Jesus. Christ present in the Eucharist is able to do the cleansing.

We see the change in the leper after he was cleansed, though Jesus asks him to go and get his cure certified, the man becomes an enthusiastic preacher of the favour of God. It is not that the man deliberately wants to disobey the command of Jesus, but he is so overwhelmed by his cure that he wants to be grateful to the healer. We have innumerable favours for which we have to be grateful to God and to testify. May the Lord help us in our effort.

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.**

Jesus is still willing to touch our lives today. He is waiting to heal and cleanse us only if we let him.

Mass Intentions

Sat Feb 10	5:00 pm	Margie Broom	By Donna Hebb
Sun Feb 11	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—
Mon Feb 12	—	No Mass	—
Tues Feb 13	6:00 pm	Helen Brown & Don Gay	By Vi Kura Franchi
Wed Feb 14	8:15 am 6:00 pm	Dr. Larry & Mrs. Dierdre Dunworth Intentions of the people of the parish	—
Thur Feb 15	8:15 am	Charlotte Webb	—
Fri Feb 16	6:00 pm	Joan McAteer	—
Sat Feb 17	5:00 pm	Bertha DeLuca	By Dave & Terry DeLuca
Sun Feb 18	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
Feb 10	5:00 pm	Lisa D'Esposito	Helen Musrock (X) Leslie Huffman (C), Tom Liberatore (C)	
Feb 11	11:00 am	Tom Williams	Suzanne Farley (X) John Carnell (C), Bill Tabor (C)	Mary Pauley, Brendan Perry, Emma Vaughan
Feb 12	9:00 am	—	NO MASS	
Feb 13	5:30 pm	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler (C)	
Feb 14	8:15 am 6:00 pm	SFS Students Jacquie Switzer	Suzanne Farley (C) Tom Liberatore (C)	SFS Students Brendan Perry, Fred Heindl
Feb 15	8:15 am	SFS Students	Jennifer Lopez (C)	
Feb 16	6:00 pm	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Feb 17	5:00 pm		Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Feb 18	11:00 am		Jennifer Lopez (X) John Carnell (C), Paul Niedbalski (C)	Mighty Lopez, Gia Lopez, Sagrada Lopez

Sharing our Treasure

Church..... 4090.62
Diocese..... 100.00
School 10.00
Candle Offering..... 22.00
Total Collection..... \$4222.62

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat 02/03 76
Sun 02/04 118
Total attendance 194

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

Visiting the Sick

Winter can be a difficult time for parishioners with limited mobility or lowered immunity to attend Mass. 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. Are there folks who should be on the list, but aren't? Do you see names that are healed, but still listed? Please contact the church office to add or remove names. Thank you!

304-727-3033 or parish@stfranciswv.org



Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston St John XXIII Pastoral Center Employment Opportunities

St John XXIII Pastoral Center is currently seeking to fill the following three positions – Cook, Housekeeper, Maintenance Worker.

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

Contact the Director, Gerri Wright at 304.342.0507 or gwright@dwc.org to schedule an interview or for more information.

Happy Birthday and Anniversary!

Blessings to our February birthday parishioners & anniversary couples. Not everyone is pictured, but we extend you all good wishes.



Stations of the Cross

Fridays at 6:30 pm

All are encouraged to volunteer to lead!



Adoration Friday evenings 5:00 pm

Could you not stay awake with me for even one hour? (Matthew 26:40)

CCD/PSR

Sundays at 10:00 am before Mass

Youth Group after 11:00 am Mass

RCIA Class

February 21

6:00 pm in the Henderson Room

Rite of Election

February 18 at 3:00 (Sacred Heart)

LECTIO DIVINO/ BIBLE/FAITH STUDY

FEBRUARY 13 6:30-7:30

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MASS

In the Henderson 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, Mary Alice Maynard, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Leandra Morlan, Barbara Murray, Jack Myatt, Kristin Natoli, Sarah Newcomb, Michael Paige, Jamie Peterson, Maddox Potter, Susan Robinson, 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:

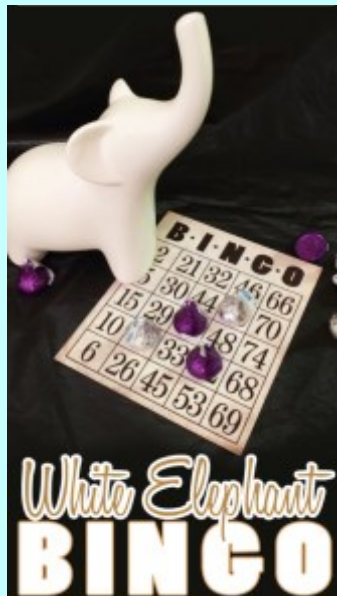
Donna Hebb	Becky Baire	Barbara Hager
Jeremy Dillon	Rick Robinson	Elizabeth Davis
Nanette Martin	Terry DeLuca	
Alaina Rae Gilbert	Josephine Fletcher	
Derrick D.	Margaret McEvoy	

“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

Woman's Club Meeting

The St Francis Women's Club meets **Monday, February 12 at 6:00 pm** in the school cafeteria. Our program for the evening will be White Elephant Bingo. Bring something from your house that you no longer want, wrapped, for bingo prizes. This is always a fun event and we invite all women of the parish to be part of our social gathering. Hostesses for the evening will be Diane Niedbalski, Mary Dilley, and Mary Nichols. Put the date on your calendar and we hope to see you!



Rite of Election

Catechumens & candidates, (supported by their sponsors and families) gather at the cathedral to express their desire for baptism/confirmation to Bishop Brennan. They are called the Elect. This rite marks the period of final preparation for the sacraments of initiation. **You are invited to support our Elect at the Co-Cathedral on February 18 at 3:00 pm!**

St Francis School News

It was a banner day at school! Congratulations to all of the children receiving awards during School Mass.



Mrs. O'Leary with Good Samaritans Evie Ervin and Harper Chapman



Congratulations to the Perfect Attendance Award winners!



Consider participating in the **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** in support of the St Albans Food Pantry by collecting soup, canned goods and other nonperishable food items in these weeks leading up to Super Bowl Sunday February 11. See below for the pantry's most needed items.



Pastor's Charity Account

The church maintains an account for the purposes of assisting parishioners in times of financial need. If you would like to make a donation to this account to help fellow parishioners at times of struggle, please mark your donation "Pastor's Charity" and include in regular collection or mail to the parish office.



Look at all these Accelerated Readers! These children have reached individual reading goals set for them by their teachers. Way to go!

St. Francis Parish Life



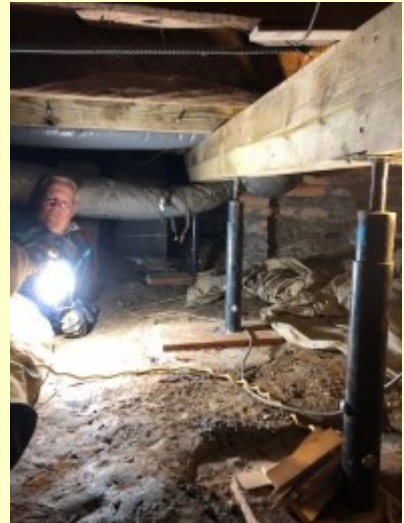
Work is underway to prepare the house at 524 Holley Street for service as the parish office. As mentioned after the properties were purchased, the target date to have the house functioning as the office was set as on or before April 1. All of the work done to date has been provided by volunteer labor. Completed work includes:

- The interior has been painted.
- Lighting in all of the rooms has been updated.
- Installed blinds on all of the windows.
- Resolved plumbing problems with low flow to certain faucets.
- Additional electrical outlets added.
- A vintage door has been located and refurbished for the bathroom.
- Hot water heater installed.
- CO2 detectors added.
- Washer and dryer acquired and installed.
- Structural repairs made under the house to resolve a sagging floor issue.

Next steps include insulating the attic, installing vinyl plank flooring, installing an ADA required access ramp and having internet and communication systems set up.

A big thanks to Fred and Jean Ann Heindl, Tom and Liz Liberatore and John Huffman for their work on the property. To date, they have saved the parish approximately \$10,000 in out-of-pocket expense.

If you are interested in helping, please contact either Fred or Tom. Your time and talent are much appreciated!!



Diocesan Info & Catholic News

Women's Retreat

Co-sponsored with the DWC Office of Evangelization & Catechesis

Hold on to Hope!

Presented by Sr Sallie Latkovich, CSJ

March 8-10, 2024

St John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston

The focus of this retreat will be on HOPE! We will reflect together on the experience of hope in each of our lives, remembering that the single source of our hope is in God, and relying on the Scriptures that provide us hope. We will be renewed in the call to be bearers of hope in our families, our Church, our world. May we indeed hold on to hope!

For information contact:

Gerri Wright 304.552.3662 gwright@dwc.org

Sandi Hudson 304.549.4009 shudson0155@gmail.com

Anna Marie Troiani 304.907.0171 atroiani@csjoseph.org

<https://dwc.org/2024-womens-retreat/>

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.

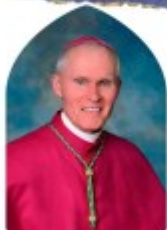
April 13-14, 2024 or July 13-14, 2024

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

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!



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 Feb 2024

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

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



Diocesan Collection this weekend

The second collection this weekend is in support of the Church Mission within the United States (Black and Indian missions and the Catholic Home Mission Appeal). We encourage your support of the Diocesan Collection this weekend.



BLACK AND INDIAN
MISSION OFFICE EST. 1884

\$15

PER PERSON
KIDS 5-11 \$5

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
525 HOLLEY ST. SAINT ALBANS
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY

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!

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

Enjoy Every Crunchy Bite of It

Dine-in or Carry out



Martin Luther King, Jr Day Celebration

Monday, February 12 7:00 pm

Saint Paul Missionary Baptist

821 B St

Join the St Paul congregation & our SFS choir for a celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

REMINDER! All parish volunteers **MUST** be Virtus trained. Please contact the parish office (parish@stfranciswv.org or 304-727-3033) to verify your status! Thank you for keeping our young ones safe!




Ash

Wednesday

February 14
Mass 8:15 am and 6:00 pm

Ashes for Homebound Parishioners

For those homebound or assisted living parishioners who are unable to attend Ash Wednesday Mass, please contact the parish office at 304-727-3033. Father Sojan is happy to visit and bring ashes to our parishioners in their homes or assisted living facility. Please contact us ASAP so Father can be sure to visit you on Ash Wednesday!

Fridays of Lent

Mass 6:00 pm

Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm

Families and individuals are requested to volunteer to lead the Stations of the Cross.

Lenten and Easter Dates—Note your calendars!

Palm Sunday March 24

Chrism Mass March 25

Holy Thursday March 28

Good Friday March 29

Easter Vigil March 30

Easter Sunday March 31