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/stfrancisofassisisaintalbans



MARCH 24, 2024

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

Vigil Service: 8:00 pm

Sunday

Rosary: 10:30 am Mass: 11:00 am

Weekdays

Tue: 6:00 pm Wed: 8:15 am Thurs: 6:00 pm

Adoration/Stations

No Adoration Live Stations: Friday 5:00 pm

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm







"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

OUR MISSION

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~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~



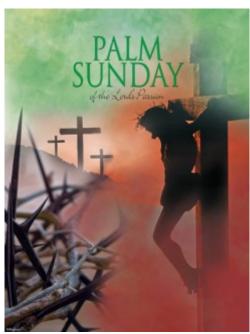
"IF GOD CAN WORK THROUGH ME, HE CAN WORK THROUGH ANYONE." - SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@sfswv.com
Kelly Oxley, School Office Manager	(304)727-5609 / koxley@sfswv.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.

25 Monday	<u> 26 Tuesday</u>	27 Wednesday	28 Thursday	29 Friday	30 Saturday	31 Sunday
Is 42:1-7	Is 49:1-6	Is 50:4-9a	Ex 12:1-8, 11	Is 52:13-	Gn 1:1-2:2, 26-	Acts 10:34a,
Jn 12:1-11	Jn 13:21-33,	Mt 26:14-25	-14	53:12	31a, Gn 22:1-8, Ex14:15-15:1, Is	37-43/Col 3:1-
(257)	36-38	(259)	1 Cor 11:23-	Heb 4:14-16,	54:5-14, Is 55:1-	1 01 1 001 5.00
(20 /)	(258)	(20)	26	5:7-9	11, Bar 3:9-15,	-8/Jn 20:1-9
	()		Jn 13:1-15	Jn 18:1-19:42	32-4:4, Ez 36:16	(42)or Mk 16:1-7 (41)
			(39)	(40)	-17a, 18-28, Rom 6:3-11, Mk	10.1-7 (41)
				(,	16:1-7	Easter Sunday
			Holy Thursday	Friday of the	(41)	of the Resur-
			1101y Thursday	Passion of the		rection of the
				Lord	Holy Saturday	Lord

RELIVE THE EVENT OF OUR REDEMPTION AND DEEPEN OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST



The Church celebrates this Sixth Sunday in Lent as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is on this Sunday that we enter Holy Week. This is the time of the year when we stop to remember and relive the which events about brought our redemption and salvation. The Holy Week liturgies present us with the actual

events of the dying and rising of Jesus. These liturgies enable us to experience in our lives here and now what Jesus went through then. In other words, what we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own lifetime of dying and rising in Him, which result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Just as Jesus did, we, too, must lay down our lives freely by actively participating in the Holy Week liturgies. In doing so, we are allowing Jesus to forgive us our sins, heal the wounds in us caused by our sins and the sins of others, and transform us more completely into the image and likeness of God. In this way, we will be able to live more fully the Divine life we received at Baptism. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgies will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become "holy" for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. During this Holy week of the Passion — passionate suffering, passionate grace, passionate love, and passionate forgiving – each of us is called to remember the Christ of Calvary and then to embrace and lighten the burden of the Christ Whose passion continues to be experienced in the hungry, the poor, the sick, the homeless, the aged, the lonely, and the outcast.

On Palm Sunday of the Pasion of the Lord, we remember the two contrasting moments: one of glory, with other of suffering — the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem, with the drama of His trial which ended in His condemnation, crucifixion, and death. And the readings for this Sunday are sequenced accordingly. In the first reading, Jesus Christ is presented as the "suffering Servant" of Isaiah's prophecy. In the second reading, taken from Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Jesus' saving

mission is highlighted. In the first part of today's Gospel reading, we have the details of Jesus' triumphant reception to the city of Jerusalem. We are told that Jesus' followers welcomed him (riding on a donkey), as king and savior. We are also told how Jesus wept over Jerusalem, cleansed the Temple of Jerusalem, and cursed a barren fig tree. But in the second part of the Passion reading from the Gospel we reflect on Jesus' unjust trial, humiliating, cruel torture, suffering, and crucifixion.

Jesus suffers innocently. There are sufferings of different kinds we experience daily. When we undergo sufferings, we ask the question, why? Why do I have to undergo suffering? What wrong have I done? There is also a question of, why a loving God allows us to suffer in the first place. On the question of why Christ was silent on the persecution of Japanese Christians, the novelist, Shusaku Endo, in his novel, 'silence' writes, "God was not silent, he suffered beside them'. Even though the question of suffering is being reflected over the centuries, suffering continue remain a mystery. But in Christ suffering is transformed into love with ultimate resurrection and salvation. When we face sufferings, we can look at cross and attempt to see our lives through the eyes of Jesus. Our suffering does not go away but contemplating the sufferings of Jesus on the Cross helps us to look at our suffering with a new perspective. Our attitude to our life begins to change and that gives us the courage to carry cross to our Golgotha.

As we reflect on the passion of Christ this Palm Sunday, we are also challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the story like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience, Herod who ridiculed Jesus, and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus and also women who anointed Jesus or the women near the cross sympathized and mourned for him. Are we people who sometimes resemble some of these characters? The challenge for us is to see ourselves as Jesus who humbly and obediently submitted himself to the will of his Father in heaven, preferring to die to oneself and willing to sacrifice for others.

As we journey through the Holy week, just as the centurion at the cross who declared, 'truly this man was God's Son', so too we are called to affirm our faith in him. We pray that we have the courage to carry our own crosses, that we may experience the presence of God even amid our suffering and fortify our faithful in the Lord. I wish you a very grace-filled Holy Week.

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.

Holy Week can become "holy" for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week.

Mass Intentions					
Sat Mar 23	5:00 pm	Jane Duran	By Paul Duran		
Sun Mar 24	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	_		
Mon Mar 25	4:00 pm	Join in the Chrism Mass at Co-Cathedral	_		
Tues Mar 26	6:00 pm	Jim Romeo	By Phyllis Romeo		
Wed Mar 27	8:15 am	Josephine Taylor	By Vickie & Joe Gruse		
Thur Mar 28	6:00 pm	Intentions of Sam Ewing	By Nell Phillips		
Fri Mar 29	7ri Mar 29 5:00 pm 6:00 pm Good Friday Service	_			
Sat Mar 30	5:00 pm	Marilyn & Sam Arose	By Keiffer & Arose families		
Sun Mar 31	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	_		

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
Mar 23	5:00 pm	Fred Heindl	Dave DeLuca (X) Midge Butler (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Mar 24	11:00 am	Dawna Kessler	Paul Niedbalski (X) John Carnell (C), Mary Sanney (C)	Brendan Perry, Mary Pauley, Emma Vaughan
Mar 25	_	_	NO MASS	_
Mar 26	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Tom Liberatore(C)	
Mar 27	8:15 am	Pat Tabor	Suzanne Farley(C)	
Mar 28	6:00 pm	Helen Musrock	Paul Niedbalski (X) Midge Butler (C), Mary Sanney (C)	Tom Liberatore, Lily Palmer, Mary Pauley
Mar 29	6:00 pm	Lisa D'Esposito Pat Romanosky	Helen Musrock (X) Midge Butler (C), Lynn Fenimore (C)	Fred Heindl, Ethan Knapp, Emma Vaughan
Mar 30	8:00 pm	Dave DeLuca	Midge Butler (X) Leslie Huffman (C), Helen Musrock (C)	Danny Kessler, Carlee Stone, Lourdes Stone
Mar 31	11:00 am	Shaun Lopez	Jennifer Lopez (X) Tom Liberatore (C), Bill Tabor (C)	Mighty Lopez, Sagrada Lopez, Gia Lopez

Sharing our Treasure

Church .4308.72 School .100.00 Candles .77.00 Altar Society .15.00 Flowers .248.00 Youth Group .500.00

Total Collection- \$5,248.72

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat 03/16 68 Sun 03/17 120

Total attendance 188

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

An Introduction to the Holy Week

(compiled from www.catholicnewsagency.com)

Holy Week observances began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout people traveled to Jerusalem at Passover to reenact the events of the week leading up to the Resurrection. The purpose of Holy Week is to reenact, relive, and participate in the passion of Jesus Christ. Holy Week is the same in the eastern and western Church, but because eastern Christians use the Julian Calendar to calculate Easter, the celebrations occur at different times.

Friday: Preparation Passover Day, the The disciples arranged for the Passover meal, which took place after sundown on Thursday. We might call it Friday Eve, because by Jewish reckoning, the day begins with the previous sunset. That's why we call 24 December "Christmas Eve." Jesus and the disciples ate the Passover in the upper room. They ate it early, which was not uncommon. In that era, most Passover Seders did not include lamb, because most Jews lived too far away from the Temple to obtain a lamb that was kosher for Passover. Therefore the disciples, who were from Galilee, would have been accustomed to a Passover Seder without lamb. Judas left during the meal. Jesus and the remaining disciples adjourned to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed and the disciples kept falling asleep. Judas arrived to betray Jesus, who spent the rest of the night being tried by the Sanhedrin and by Pilate. The following morning, which was still the same day by Jewish reckoning, the Crucifixion significantly took place just as the Passover lambs were being slaughtered in the Temple. Matthew 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:55-56, and John 19:31 all inform us that this took place on Preparation Day, which is the Jewish name for Friday. Mark and John explain that the next day was the Sabbath. Later the disciples realized that in giving them the bread and pronouncing it His body, Jesus Himself had been the Passover lamb at the Last Supper. Thus Jesus, our Passover lamb, was sacrificed for our sins on Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7), and His blood protects us from the angel of death. Jesus died on the cross and was buried before sunset. So Friday was first day that Jesus lay in the tomb.

Saturday: the Jewish Sabbath Jesus rested in the tomb on the Sabbath. According to Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-3, and Luke 23:56-24:3, the day before the Resurrection was a Sabbath. This is the second day that Jesus lay in the tomb.

Sunday: the first day of the week, the Festival of First Fruits

On the third day, Jesus rose from the grave. It was the first day of the week and the day after the Sabbath, according to Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-3, Luke 23:56-24:3. John 20:1 says the Resurrection took place on the first day of the week. He does not explicitly say that the previous day was the Sabbath, but there is no room in his narrative for any intervening days. The first day of the week is the Jewish name for Sunday. Sunday is also the eighth day after the creation in Genesis, so Paul describes Jesus' Resurrection as the first fruits of the new creation in 1 Corinthians 15:20-23.

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



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

CCD/PSR

Sundays at 10:00 am before Mass Youth Group after 11:00 am Mass

LECTIO DIVINO/ BIBLE/FAITH STUDY

RESUMES THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL

-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 Lerose, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Jenn Husack McGrath, Nanette Martin, Sue Martin, Brent Marstellar, 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

Margaret McEvoy

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

Derrick D.

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

St. Francis Parish Life—Info



Don't miss this experience! Spend Good Friday with your fellow parishioners for a moving live Stations of the Cross performed by our St Francis Youth Group and friends. Please come out to support their hard work to make a powerful Good Friday for our parish.

You're Invited!

New Parish Office Open House Sunday, April 21

following 11:00 am Mass

Join us for a blessing of the offices by Father Don Higgs and an open house to see our beautiful space. Refreshments will be served.

Thank you for bearing with us during the move. Due to delays in shipments of network equipment, the move should take place the week of April 8-12.

Upcoming Parish Events

55 & Over Luncheon— April 16

Installation of Father Sojan as Parish Pastor by Fr Don Higgs— April 21

Visit to Father Pat's gravesite— April 27



St. Francis Parish Life

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH

(HOLY WEEK PROGRAM - 28 - 31 MARCH, 2024)



PALM SUNDAY, 23 - 24 MARCH

5.00pm: Holy Eucharist (Sat. 23 March)

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

11.00 am: Holy Eucharist

 Blessing of the Palms 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 the 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)

Easter Vigil, Saturday 30 March

8.00 pm: Easte Vigil Service

- Service of the light outside the Church
- Solem Holy Eucharist
- Baptism & Reception of New members





Penitential Service on 21 March at 6 pm

Easter Sunday, 31 March

11.00 am: Solemn Holy Eucharist





Join us on Saturday, April 6 after the 5 o'clock Mass to celebrate Father Sojan's 56th birthday.

Only 19 seats remaining, so please reserve your spot. 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.

Happy Birthday, Father!

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!

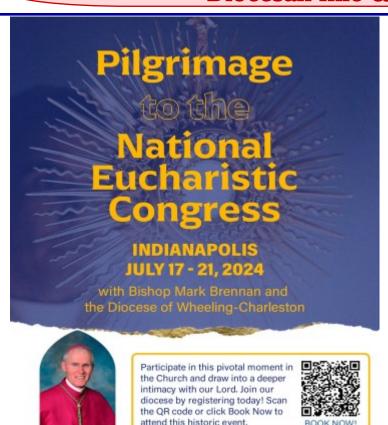
St Francis School Bread Sharing Thursday March 28 at 8:15 am

Parishioners are invited to support our children for this special service.

75th Reunion Celebration Saint Francis School Saturday May 18, 2024

Activities begin at 3:00 pm with tours of the school Mass with Bishop Brennan 5:00 pm 'St Francis Hot Dog' reception, program, social hour

Diocesan Info & Catholic News



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

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.

Pray for Bishop Brennan, Father Sojan, and his fellow Diocesan priests on Monday March 25 as they celebrate the Chrism Mass and Priesthood Day.



ONLY 22 SPOTS REMAIN TO JOIN BISHOP BRENNAN

"Your support makes a difference. Your parish could help (with package cost) by holding fundraisers, such as spaghetti dinners or fish fries, a special collection or seeking private donors. A parishioner attending the Congress is your parish's representative. I ask you to take this matter seriously. I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A STRONG CONTINGENT OF WV CATHOLICS WITH ME IN INDIANAPOLIS. May our love for the Lord in the Eucharist grow more fervent & may this year's National Eucharistic Congress stimulate that love." – Bishop Mark Brennan

Deadline for travel package extended to April 17 (paid in full), includes motorcoaches from regional points in WV, priority hotel block, shuttles to and from the events, special diocese event(s) in Indy, and more. Our travel package through the Corporate Travel not only eliminates the burden of our pilgrims having to juggle all the logistics of planning the trip and details once in the city, but also lets our faithful enjoy fellowship with WV Catholics during this significant moment in the Church.

> SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY! NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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. identity of the person reporting is protected.

St. Francis Parish Life—Happenings

Volunteers Needed

for this coming Holy Thursday's Mass. We only need 6 more feet

(3 people). Please contact the parish office to add your name to the Washing of the Feet list.

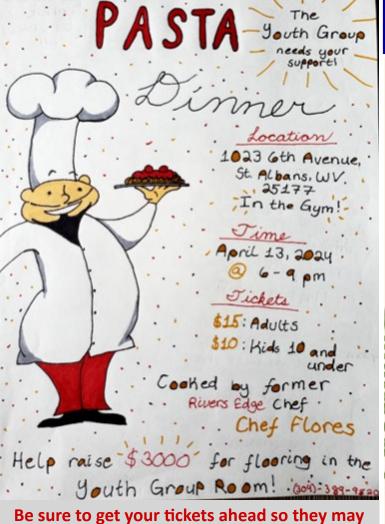


Easter Home Blessings

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.





prepare enough food!

St Francis Church and The Knights of Columbus

present the 2nd in a series of public meetings:

Home & Fire Safety Tuesday March 26 7:00 pm

Members of fire depts and Insurance carriers will be present. It will be open to all members of the community and questions are welcomed. Refreshments will be served.



