

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 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

Rosary: 4:30 pm

Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday

Rosary: 10:30 am

Mass: 11:00 am

Weekdays

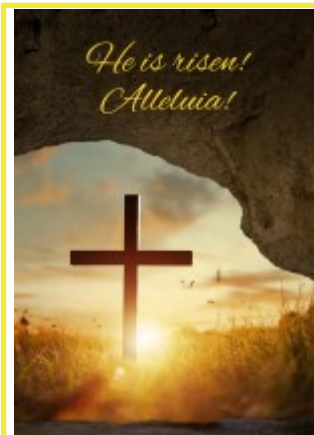
Tue: 6:00 pm

Fri: 6:00 pm

Adoration/Stations

Adoration

Friday 5:00 pm



"The Lord is risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!"

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>01 Monday</u>	<u>02 Tuesday</u>	<u>03 Wednesday</u>	<u>04 Thursday</u>	<u>05 Friday</u>	<u>06 Saturday</u>	<u>07 Sunday</u>
Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15 (261)	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18 (262)	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35 (263)	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48 (264)	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14 (265)	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15 (266)	Acts 4:32-25 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31 (44)
Monday within the Octave of Easter	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter	Thursday within the Octave of Easter	Friday within the Octave of Easter	Saturday within the Octave of Easter	Sunday of Divine Mercy

THE RISEN CHRIST DISPELLED DARKNESS & EVIL – LIVE THE NEW LIFE OF LIGHT



We have the dramatic presentation of the story of Easter. It begins very early in the morning of the first day of the week while it is still dark. John, the apostle in his old age wrote, 'the darkness is passing away and the true light is already

shining'. But he says then, 'Whoever loves his brothers and sisters, 'lives in the light.' On the other hand, 'whoever prefers to hate... is still in the darkness.' (1 Jn 2:8-11).

On Good Friday, as we remembered the sufferings and death of the most marvellous human being the world has ever known, we came face to face with the dark side of human nature, the darkness that led the enemies of Jesus to hate, torture, humiliate, and finally murder him on a cross. It was pity that black day in Jerusalem, the capacity of human beings to hate, hurt and harm one another went completely out of control. It's no wonder, then, as it is written, 'darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon', that 'the sun's light failed', and that 'the curtain of the temple was torn in two' (Lk 23:24).

There is mighty struggle going on even today between light and darkness, between good and evil. It's going on in the physical cosmos, in human societies, and within our own personalities. However, it has been proved beyond doubt that although the darkness often appears to be stronger than the light, it has not yet triumphed. The light is remarkably resilient. Often in danger of being extinguished, it manages to survive, and even to win many victories. Once Mahatma Gandhi, the father of modern India, remarked, 'When I despair I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but, in the end, they always fall.' This is the same truth that the Exultet at the Easter Vigil liturgy proclaims, 'The power of this holy [Easter] night,' 'dispels all evil, washes guilt

away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy. It casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride.' Our celebration of Easter reminds us that the darkness of evil and hatred will never have the last say. For the resurrection of Jesus proclaims the ultimate triumph of light over darkness and goodness over evil, both in us and in our world.

Jesus was buried at sunset, as darkness was once again creeping over the earth, to all appearances a victim and a failure. But on the third day afterwards the sun came up on him victorious and triumphant, alive, powerful and influential. Once again, 'the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world' (Jn 1:9)

So, we celebrate his resurrection today by rising from darkness and death ourselves. The Risen Lord himself is represented by the beautiful Easter candle burning in our midst. At the renewal of our Baptismal promise, we are invited to leave behind us the works of darkness, to renounce and reject anything in our lives

which is dark, sinister and evil and sin in every form and to 'walk always as children of the light', following in His footsteps of life of light, goodness and love, a life shaped by his own powerful example, a life supported and guided by the Holy Spirit, whom he first gave us at baptism and whom he gives us again right now.

May you feel the
love of Christ this
Easter and
celebrate the
new life that He
promises for
those who
believe.

**May you have a Grace-filled
Easter and May the light
Christ shine through You. I
wish all of you the peace and
new life in Christ.**

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.**

We are invited to leave behind us the works of darkness to 'walk always as children of the light', following in His footsteps.

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar 30	8:00 pm	Marilyn & Sam Arose	By Keiffer & Arose families
Sun Mar 31	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—
Mon Apr 01	—	No Mass	—
Tues Apr 02	6:00 pm	Cecil Broom	By Donna Hebb
Wed Apr 03	8:15 am	No Mass	—
Thur Apr 04	8:15 am	No Mass	—
Fri Apr 05	6:00 pm	Norbert & Peggy Eagloski	—
Sat Apr 06	5:00 pm	Martha Huck	By Grace Randolph & family
Sun Apr 07	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
Mar 30	8:00 pm	Dave DeLuca	Midge Butler (X) Leslie Huffman (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Mar 31	11:00 am	Shaun Lopez	Jennifer Lopez (X) Tom Liberatore (C), Bill Tabor (C)	Mighty Lopez, Sagra da Lopez, Gia Lopez
Apr 01	—	—	NO MASS	—
Apr 02	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Tom Liberatore (C)	
Apr 03	8:15 am	—	NO MASS	
Apr 04	8:15 am	—	NO MASS	
Apr 05	6:00 pm	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 06	5:00 pm	Lisa D'Esposito	Helen Musrock (X) Leslie Huffman (C), Tom Liberatore (C)	
Apr 07	11:00 am	Tom Williams	Bill Tabor (X) John Carnell (C), Suzanne Farley (C)	Tom Liberatore, Lily Palmer, Mary Pauley

Sharing our Treasure

Church3,088.00
School.....0.00
Candles.....52.00
Flowers.....400.00
Total Collection- \$ 3,540.00

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat 03/23 73
Sun 03/24 128

Total attendance 201

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

Easter Is a Season!

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle used during the Easter Vigil is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and lit for all liturgical celebrations. "The word, 'Pascha,' or 'Pasch,' comes from the Greek word for the 'Passover.' The early Christians used the word to describe the resurrection of Jesus as the Christian Passover. Today, we sometimes refer to the death and resurrection of Jesus as the Paschal Mystery, which is derived from the word, 'Pasch.' Orthodox Christians still use the word, 'Pascha' when referring to Easter.

The Easter Vigil is the "Mother of All Vigils" and Easter Sunday is the greatest of all Sundays. The season of Easter is the most important of all liturgical times, which Catholics celebrate as the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday (also known as Divine Mercy Sunday). The Church celebrates each of these eight days as solemnities of the Lord — a direct extension of Easter Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14)

Among the popular Easter symbols, the lamb is by far the most significant of this great feast. The Easter lamb, representing Christ, with the flag of victory, may be seen in pictures and images in the homes of every central and eastern European family. In Christian times the egg had bestowed upon it a religious interpretation, becoming a symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of His Resurrection. The custom of using Easter eggs developed among the nations of northern Europe and Christian Asia soon after their conversion to Christianity.

Visit <https://www.catholicicing.com/50-days-of-easter/> for activities and ideas to celebrate all 50 days with your little ones!



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 Leros, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Brenda Lucas, 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	Brenda Lucas
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 Bread Sharing
Thursday March 28th - what a special day!



Congratulations and welcome to the Church!



Thank you for all your hard work and time to make our Live Stations of the Cross such a wonderful, powerful experience!



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

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 Parish Life

Easter Flowers at the altar are in honor/memory of...

In memory of Louis and Norma Paulin/ Bill, Betty, and Mark Heindl by Fred and Jean Ann Heindl

In memory of Loretta Jane Duran/Mary and John Duran/ Gladys Collier by Paul Duran

In memory of Sam and Marilyn Arose by Kim Keiffer

In memory of Mary Jo Hannah by Bobbi Hannah

In memory of Bill Oxley by Marie Oxley and family

In memory of Peduzzi and Ramella families by Nilda Ramella

In memory of Jamey and Judy by Ivan Swanson

In memory of the Marra family/ the Groom family/Marion Hillabold by Dave and Micki Marra

In memory of George, Teddy and Timmy Gabbert by family

In memory of Jack and Betty Farley, Keith Farley, Judy Leach and Nancy Kaczmarzyk by Suzanne Farley

In memory of Matthew Tabor, Andrew Elsea by Bill and Pat Tabor

In memory of Bill and Jo Taylor, Rudy and Lou Gruse by Joe and Vicki Gruse

In memory of McGrath and Young families by Joe and Tracy McGrath

In memory of Michael and Bertha DeLuca, Fred and Ruth Barnhill, Rose Xavier by David and Terry DeLuca

In memory of Roger Randolph by Grace Randolph

In memory of Margie and Cecil Broom by Donna Hebb

In memory of Sam and Angie LeRose by Mike and Cay Hoh

In memory of William S. White by Sherman and Vivian White

In memory of the deceased members of the LeDonne and Kovac families by Marianne LeDonne

By Chris and Kelly Oxley

In memory of the Rogers and Vannatter Families by Howard and Margaret Rogers

In memory of Mario Mendez Jr. by Mario and Phyllis Mendez

In memory of Venturino and Sanney families by Mary Sanney

In memory of Ray and Helen Rogers by John and Kelley Rogers

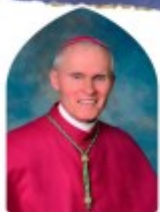
In memory of the Phillips and Muchow families by Nell Phillips



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

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.

Summary of Catholic Social Teaching: A 4-week course is offered through the University of Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF). This is an in-person course held at Ascension Parish in Hurricane, on four consecutive Wednesdays (April 10 – May 1, 2024). Two times will be offered: 5:00pm-6:30pm and 7:00pm-8:30pm. The course, Summary of Catholic Social Teaching, is a basic introduction to the Church's "best kept secret". Course is underwritten by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, who pays 100% of the tuition / cost of any materials associated with the course. The course facilitator is Gerri Wright. To register /questions, please contact Gerri at gwright@dwc.org or 304.342.0507 with your name, address, phone, and email no later than Friday, April 5, 2024.

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.

St. Francis Parish Life—Happenings

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.



Next Sunday April 7!

**Please stay after
each Mass next
weekend to join in
reciting the
Divine Mercy Chap-
let
for Divine Mercy
Sunday.**



Women's Club Meeting

Join the St Francis Women's Club on Monday April 8th at 6:00 pm in the school cafeteria. Program for the meeting will be BUNCO. BUNCO is a fun, fast-paced team dice game. This will be our last official meeting of the year—we hope you will join us before we break for the summer. Hostesses for the evening will be Midge Butler, Jean Ann Heindl, and Liz Liberatore. Plan to come for an evening of Bunco and social activities. See you there!

PASTA The Youth Group needs your support!

Dinner

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!**

Save the Date

**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