

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



APRIL 07, 2024 SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday

Rosary: 4:30 pm
 Mass: 5:00 pm

Sunday

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

Weekdays

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

Adoration

Friday 5:00 pm

Confession

Saturday 4:00 pm



“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

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.

08 Monday	09 Tuesday	10 Wednesday	11 Thursday	12 Friday	13 Saturday	14 Sunday
Is 7:10-14, 8-10 Heb 10:4-10/ Lk 1:26-38 (545) The Annunciation of the Lord	Acts 4:32-37 Jn 3:7b-15 (268)	Acts 5:17-26 Jn 3:16-21 (269)	Acts 5:27-33 Jn 3:31-36 (270) Saint Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr	Acts 5:34-42 Jn 6:1-15 (271)	Acts 6:1-7 Jn 6:16-21 (272) Saint Martin I, Pope & Martyr	Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48 (47) Third Sunday of Easter

REACH OUT WITH THE GIFT OF PEACE AND FORGIVENESS OF THE RISEN LORD



On the second of Easter, the gospel passage provides us with the instance where the first disciples—dispirited and terrified

after the death of Jesus—are in a huddle, having locked themselves away in a room. They have to confront their failure to be faithful to Jesus in the hour of his passion and death. Suddenly Jesus stands among them, says to them, 'Peace be with you' and breathes the Holy Spirit upon them. The risen Lord was reconciling his failed disciples to himself; they came to recognize themselves as forgiven, and, so their hearts were filled with joy. Having experienced the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, they are sent out in the power of the Spirit to offer to others the gift of forgiveness they have received.

There is an interesting part in the gospel of today, namely, the absence of Thomas when the Lord appeared to the apostles. Thomas had not been in the room when the risen Lord appeared to the other disciples. He had missed out on the Lord's bestowal of the gifts of peace and forgiveness. Thomas seems to have cut himself off from the community of the disciples. He had gone off on his own to nurse his wounds, and so he missed out on the Lord's presence in the midst of the fearful and failed disciples.

Many people cut themselves off from the Church for a variety of reasons like the Apostle Thomas who kept away from the other disciples. As a result of Thomas keeping himself away from other apostles he missed something very precious—the gift of peace and forgiveness.

When we cut ourselves off from the community of believers, we lose out greatly. For all its flaws and failings, the church is the place where we encounter the risen Lord. The Lord continues to stand among the community of disciples, especially when we gather in worship and pray, when we gather to serve others in the Lord's name. It is there that we hear the Lord say, 'Peace be with you', that we experience his forgiveness for our past failures, that we hear the call to go out in his name as his witnesses, that we receive the Holy Spirit to empower us to be faithful to that mission.

The community of disciples reached out to Thomas; they shared their newfound faith with him, their Easter faith, 'We have seen the Lord'.

Well, those first disciples remind us of our calling to keep reaching out in faith to all those who, for whatever reason, have drifted away from the community of believers or no

longer have fire in them to follow the Lord's footstep. We may start with our children, dear and near ones and extend it to all those whom we encounter in our daily lives. When we do so, we may encounter the same negative response that the first disciples experienced from Thomas, 'I refuse to believe'.

Yet, even though our efforts seem to fail, as the efforts of the disciples failed, we know that the Lord will keep reaching out to them just as the Lord reached out to Thomas. 'Doubt no longer', he said to him, 'but believe'. Then, out of the mouth of the skeptic came one of the greatest acts of faith in all of the gospels, 'My Lord and my God'.

Our duty as the faithful followers of Jesus is to reach out to people around us with the message of His peace and forgiveness and the rest the Lord will do.

Thomas Merton wrote in his book *Asian Journal*, 'Faith is not the suppression of doubt. It is the overcoming of doubt, and you overcome doubt by going through it. The man of faith who has never experienced doubt is not a person of faith'. There was a great honesty about Thomas; he didn't pretend to believe when he didn't. The gospel suggests that such honesty is never very far from authentic faith.

May the Lord invigorate our faith in His living presence in our midst, and also give us the courage to reach out to others with His peace and Forgiveness.

I wish you a Blessed Divine Mercy Sunday!

Laugh with Family



Resurrection is very real

Former presidential candidate Mike Huckabee was once asked if he believed in the resurrection. "Of course I do." replied Huckabee. "Dead people vote in every election we have in Arkansas. Resurrection is very real to us."

Thank Goodness for Family

Age is a relative thing. All my relatives keep reminding me how old I am.

Bottle Number 43

A new miracle doctor comes to town, who people say could cure anything. John, the local doubting Thomas, decides to prove the doctor a fraud. He goes to the doctor and says: "Hey, doc. I've lost my sense of taste." The doctor thinks a while, scratches his head and tells John: "What you need is bottle number 43." He brings out a bottle and tells John to taste it's contents. John does, and immediately spits it out. "Yuck, gross!" he yells. "I just restored your sense of taste," says the doctor. John is furious. A month later, John goes back to the doctor. "Doc," he says, "I can't remember anything!" The doctor starts thinking again and John is thrilled. Aha! Got him. The doctor mumbles to John, "What you need is bottle number 43..." Even before he finishes his sentence, John had fled the clinic.

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.

Do our part in reaching out to people in doubt of their faith and the rest the Lord will do.

Mass Intentions

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	—
Mon Apr 08	—	No Mass	—
Tues Apr 09	6:00 pm	Barbara Murray	By the Women's Club
Wed Apr 10	8:15 am	James Venturino	By Kay Solomon
Thur Apr 11	8:15 am	Rita Ramella Lawson	By Nilda Ramella
Fri Apr 12	6:00 pm	Teddy Gabbert	—
Sat Apr 13	5:00 pm	Peter Maruish	By Mike & Karen Maruish
Sun Apr 14	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
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
Apr 08	—	—	NO MASS	—
Apr 09	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 10	8:15 am	Helen Musrock	Pat Tabor (C)	
Apr 11	8:15 am	SFS Students	Jennifer Lopez (C)	
Apr 12	6:00 pm	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 13	5:00 pm	Jacque Switzer	Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Apr 14	11:00 am	Dawna Kessler	Tom Liberatore (X) John Carnell (C), Paul Niedbalski (C)	Danny Kessler, Evelyn Winiesdorffer, Hadley Heumann

Sharing our Treasure

Church.....6761.88
School.....10.00
Candles.....0.00
DWC.....25.00
Flowers.....60.00
Holy Land.....98.00
Total Collection - \$6856.88

Weekly Mass Attendance

Thurs 03/28 72
Fri 03/29 82
Sat 03/30 71
Sun 03/31 221

Total attendance 446

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

This Sunday is the second Sunday of Easter or Sunday of Divine Mercy. At the Mass for the Canonization of St. Faustina Kowalska, Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter be called "Divine Mercy Sunday." St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions from Jesus, including one of Jesus wearing a white garment with beams of red and white (representing the blood and water that flowed from his side at his crucifixion) coming from His heart, which came to be known as the image of Divine Mercy. According to the vision, those who receive communion & attend confession on the Feast of Mercy receive total forgiveness of sins. Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

It is important to understand that this is not a new feast day in the Church. Divine Mercy Sunday gives an additional name to the day that is already a solemnity of the liturgical year. The previously established liturgical readings for the Second Sunday of Easter fit in perfectly with the theme of mercy. In the Gospel, the Lord imparts to the apostles His authority to bind and release the sins of men, thereby instituting the Sacrament of Penance. The feast of Divine Mercy, then, is a continuation of the celebration of Easter (as Pope John Paul once said, Christ's "Easter gift" to the world).

St. John Paul II not only declared Divine Mercy Sunday a universal feast of the Church, but attached a plenary indulgence to it. A plenary indulgence is a particularly powerful way to obtain remission of punishment -- on earth or in purgatory -- that would have resulted from sins that were already forgiven. It covers all sins, mortal or venial, that the recipient has committed up to that time, if the person sincerely repents, detests their sins and fulfills all requirements of the indulgence. There are the usual 3 conditions of: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff. And specific conditions required: "On Divine Mercy Sunday...

- in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy
- or, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!")"

Annunciation of the Lord

(transferred from March 25 to April 8)



Celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord recalls the historical event of the Angel Gabriel appearing to the Virgin Mary, as found in Luke 1:26–38. It also celebrates the Church's faith in the underlying reality that took place at that moment in time. It celebrates the Incarnation, making this solemnity not only a Marian solemnity, but first and foremost a Christological one. Though Christmas commemorates the birth of Christ, the Annunciation commemorates the Incarnation within the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Saint Stanislaus, April 11

Stanislaus was born near Kraków in 1030. He became bishop of Kraków in 1072. He spoke out against the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. The king killed Stanislaus with his own hands.

Saint Martin I, April 13

Born in Umbria somewhere around 590-600, he became the bishop of Rome in July of 649 to his death in 655. As Pope, Martin summoned the Lateran Council of 649, attended by 105 bishops & held five sessions. He published the decrees of the Lateran Council in an encyclical. He was arrested and banished to Greece where he died.

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.

CCD/PSR

Sundays at 10:00 am before Mass

Youth Group after 11:00 am Mass

**LECTIO DIVINO/
BIBLE/FAITH STUDY**

Tuesday April 9 6:30-7:30

Immediately following Mass

-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 Lerosé, 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

Congratulations and Welcome!



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.

HOLY THURSDAY WASHING OF THE FEET



Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

St. Francis Parish Life



Wishing a happy and blessed April birthday to our parishioners!

Gloria Correa
Susan Pagan
Nilda Ramella
Cay Hoh
Sherman White
Barbara Jackson
Kay Landers
Margaret Crouch

Charles Armstead
Danny Kessler
Hector Ruiz
Theresa Stankus
Jennifer Wilson
Kelly Oxley
Elizabeth Winter
Abby Waldorf

Jack Palmer
Katie Lago
Katelyn Lucas
Maddy Oxley
Owen Oxley
Ian Burns
Katherine Buscher
Jocelyn Buscher



Thank you to everyone that shared in the preparation & execution of our Holy Week ministries and Masses. Your participation allowed our parish to experience a meaningful, faith-enriching Holy Week!

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who work the Lenten Fish Fry! You are ambassadors for community and our Catholic faith. Each Friday is a time of evangelization and fellowship that brings Saint Albans together. Thank you!



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

**Bible Study and Faith Sharing
resumes 6:30 pm every Tuesday**

**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!

Upcoming Parish Events

55 & Over Luncheon — April 16

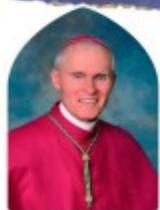
Installation of Father Sojan as Parish Pastor by
Fr Don Higgs—
April 21

Visit to Father Pat's gravesite—April 27

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.



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 April 2024

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

The LARCUM Planning Team has been meeting in anticipation of LARCUM 2024. We will gather under the theme, "Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions," at John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV, 20-22 May 2024. Rather than rehashing past conversations, the attendees of LARCUM 2023 asked for a conversation about Holy Communion that looked at recent questions, thought, and practice. Be sure to spread the word and invite your local ecumenical partners.

Social media users, we do have a Facebook event for Holy Communion: Contemporary Questions. RSVPing on the FB event is a great way to be kept abreast of developments. Sharing the FB event (and inviting people through the FB event) is a great way to spread the word.

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.



This weekend April 6 & 7!



Please stay after each Mass this weekend to join in reciting the Divine Mercy Chaplet 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