

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



APRIL 14, 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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. You are witnesses of these things.”

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

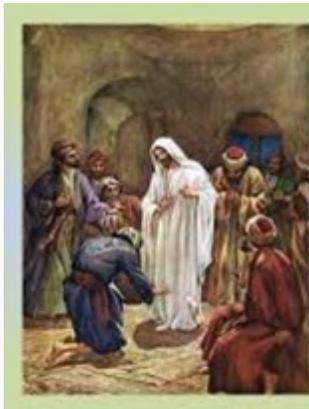
Father Sojan Xavier, Administrator..... (304) 435-4342 / sxavier@dwc.org
 Jessica Davis, Parish Secretary..... (304) 727-3033 / parish@stfranciswv.org
 Gwen Muchow, Bookkeeper..... (304) 727-3033 / gwenbmuchow@stfranciswv.org
 Nanette Martin, Music Director..... (304) 727-3033 / nmartin@stfranciswv.org
 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>15 Monday</u>	<u>16 Tuesday</u>	<u>17 Wednesday</u>	<u>18 Thursday</u>	<u>19 Friday</u>	<u>20 Saturday</u>	<u>21 Sunday</u>
Acts 6:8-15 Jn 6:22-29 (273)	Acts 7:51-8:1a Jn 6:30-35 (274)	Acts 8:1b-8 Jn 6:35-40 (275)	Acts 8:26-40 Jn 6:44-51 (276)	Acts 9:1-20 Jn 6:52-59 (277)	Acts 9:31-42 Jn 6:60-69 (278)	Acts 4:8-12 1 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18 (50) World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The Gift of Peace – The Lord's Gift of Forgiveness



Peace
be
with
you

There was a mood of regret in the first disciples because of what they did during the final days of Jesus' journey. They had all deserted him. And in

fact, they must have felt that their relationship with Jesus was over after all that had happened. But in the gospel for today is the account of Jesus appearing to the disciples, and the first words the risen Jesus spoke to them were, 'Peace be with you'. These words demonstrate the Lord's willingness to recognise the frailty of his disciples and the gratuitous offer of His forgiveness. The disciples found it difficult to comprehend that the Lord would offer them this gift even after what they had done to him. That's why when Jesus said, 'Peace be with you', they responded with alarm and fright and thought that they might be seeing a ghost. But Jesus reassured of his offer of forgiveness when he says, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?' It took the disciples a while to realize that they were forgiven.

After the disciples had come to receive this gift of forgiveness and having assured them that they were forgiven, Jesus went on to commission them to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations.

We see that it is forgiven sinners who are entrusted with the task of proclaiming the good news of God's forgiving love to all. This is what we find Peter doing in today's first reading. He declares to the people of Jerusalem that, although they had handed Jesus over to Pilate, God's forgiveness was available to them if they turned to God by believing in Jesus.

The church has been faithful to the mission entrusted to the disciples, proclaiming down the centuries the good news that God's forgiveness is stronger than human sin. In raising Jesus from the dead and sending him back to those who had rejected him and failed him, God was declaring that he can raise anyone from their sins. The risen Jesus reveals a faithful, forgiving God. This is what John states in his letter: 'If anyone does sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just'.

However, before we can receive the Easter gift of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the risen Lord, we must first acknowledge our need of that gift. John in his letter tells us that we need to admit the truth. The truth is that we are always in need of the gift of God's forgiveness. Recognizing our need and asking God for the gift of forgiveness is what

we call repentance. Peter in the first reading calls on the people of Jerusalem to repent and turn to God so that their sins may be wiped out. The risen Lord in the gospel sends out his disciples to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a privileged opportunity to admit the truth, to acknowledge our need of God's forgiveness and to ask directly for it. In that sacrament that the risen Lord says to us, 'Peace be with you'. The words of absolution include the prayer, 'through the ministry of the church may God grant you pardon and peace'.

The first disciples, having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, were sent to spread that forgiveness to others. In a similar way, we who receive the same gift are sent out on the same mission. As forgiven sinners we proclaim with our lives the presence of a forgiving and faithful God. We extend to others the gift we ourselves have received from the Lord. This will not always come easy to us. It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that apostles would be able to engage in the task that Jesus was entrusting to them. We need the same Spirit if we are to forgive as we have been forgiven. In the weeks ahead that lead up to the feast of Pentecost, our prayer could be, 'Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart and enkindle in me the fire of your love'. We could pray this prayer especially during those times when we find ourselves struggling to pass on to others the gift of forgiveness that we continue to receive from the Lord. May the Lord help us in our effort.

Laugh with Family

"The peace-making meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict."

"After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons.

'Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!'

The pastor was thrilled. 'No one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why.'

'Well – it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!'

"If we could just get everyone to close their eyes and visualize world peace for an hour, imagine how serene and quiet it would be until the looting started."

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.

“Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart and enkindle in me the fire of your love.”

Mass Intentions

Sat Apr 13	5:00 pm	Peter Maruish	By Mike & Karen Maruish
Sun Apr 14	11:00 am	Peter Maruish	By the Fletcher family
Mon Apr 15	—	No Mass	—
Tues Apr 16	6:00 pm	Beth & Bob Cremering	—
Wed Apr 17	8:15 am	Ann Henderson	By Vi Kura Franchi
Thur Apr 18	8:15 am	Father Pat McDonough	—
Fri Apr 19	6:00 pm	Jack, Keith, & Betty Farley	By Suzanne Farley
Sat Apr 20	5:00 pm	Sam & Marilyn Arose	By Keiffer & Arose families
Sun Apr 21	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	—

		Reader	Extra-ordinary Minister(s)	Altar Server(s)
Apr 13	5:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	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 Win-iesdorffer, Hadley Heumann
Apr 15	—	—	NO MASS	—
Apr 16	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Suzanne Farley (C)	
Apr 17	8:15 am	Helen Musrock	Pat Tabor (C)	
Apr 18	8:15 am	SFS Students	Lynn Fenimore (C)	
Apr 19	6:00 pm	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 20	5:00 pm	Helen Musrock	Dave DeLuca (X) Midge Butler (C), Leslie Huffman (C)	
Apr 21	11:00 am	Shaun Lopez	Lynn Fenimore (X) Jennifer Lopez (C), Mary Sanney (C)	Mighty Lopez, Gia Lopez, Sagrada Lopez

Sharing our Treasure

Church.....3345.00
School.....85.00
Candles.....107.00
DWC.....45.00
Total Collection - \$3,582.00

Weekly Mass Attendance

Sat 04/06 80
Sun 04/07 95
Total attendance 175

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

Father caught some of our birthday and anniversary folks at Mass! We are so thankful that you are part of our parish and that we can celebrate you.



Father Sojan would like to thank all those who wished him well for his birthday and were able to join him for dinner. Blessings to each of you!

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.



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 16 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 Marsteller, Mary McNeely, Joe McQuaide, Lillian Matheny, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Leandra Morlan, Barbara Murray, Jack Myatt, Kristin Natoli, Sarah Newcomb, Jamie Peterson, Maddox Potter, Susan Robinson, Mary Sanney, Scarlett (child), Lillian Schilling, Becky Vannatter Smith, Elizabeth Stonestreet, Joseph Swanson, Valerie Tabit, Pat Tabor, Mark Thomas, Colleen Ullmer, Joyce Weiskircher, Roberta VanHorn, Pat Vannatter, Robbie Vannatter, Stan White, Barbara Yeager, Toma Young, Jason Zemaitis

Immediate Prayer needs:

Donna Hebb	Becky Baire	Barbara Hager
Jeremy Dillon	Rick Robinson	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

SPECIAL COLLECTION APRIL 20 & 21

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held the weekend of April 20-21, 2024, to support recovery efforts related to the series of disasters that have occurred. **Checks should be made out to St Francis Parish with "Disaster Relief" on the memo line. Donations can also be made at <https://dwc.org/disaster-relief/>.**

Proceeds from this collection will support the long-term humanitarian and recovery efforts of Catholic Charities West Virginia. Their offices assist families long after other organizations have moved out. The role of Catholic Charities will last months and years as they help families and individuals in the rprocess to restore safe, secure, and sanitary living conditions. All of the money raised will stay in West Virginia to assist our neighbors.

Please remember in prayer all those whose lives have been changed in the wake of these disasters. Let us come together now to support our brothers and sisters in Christ who have been injured and lost their homes, cars, employment, and access to food and water.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Mr. Vincent LeRose

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



Mass of Christian Burial
Monday, April 15 11:00 am

Rosary for Flood and Tornado Victims

SFS Students, led by Father Sojan, said a rosary for victims of the recent floods and tornados, seeking the powerful hand of our blessed Mother. We pray that all have the support they need to recover fully.



**You're Invited!
Sunday, April 21
at 11:00 am Mass**

**Father Sojan
Installed as Pastor**

and a blessing/open house of the new parish office by Fr Don Higgs.

Join us to congratulate Fr Sojan & see our beautiful new space. Refreshments will be served.



**Bless You
DAY**

**EVERYONE WELCOME
EVERYTHING FREE**

April 20

9AM - 1PM

Free

**CLOTHING
KIDS' ITEMS
SHOES**

**LUNCH
MISCELLANEOUS
HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

**LOCATION: BACK PARKING LOT KING'S RIVER WORSHIP CENTER
777 MALLORY LANE, ST ALBANS, WV**

FACEBOOK: COMMUNITY BRIDGE



St. Francis Parish Life

YOU can make a DIFFERENCE!
Your parish school needs your support! Mark your calendars for this day of giving.

May 7, 2024
OneMissionOneDay.org

Support West Virginia Catholic Schools!



Prayer at St Patrick Cemetery

In honor of Father Pat and his birthday, Father Sojan will offer a Rosary and Office of the Dead at Father Pat's graveside on

April 27th
at 11:00 am

St Francis School News

At school Mass on Thursday, April 11, Father Sojan and Mrs. O'Leary honored our Accelerated Readers that met their reading goal and the 2 Good Samaritan students for March. Congratulations to all!



PARISHIONER VISITS

Father Sojan and Dave Deluca spent Wednesday morning visiting some of our parishioners. We are so glad to see you Mary Annie, Mike Scott, and Diane Savageau!



Choir Practice

Wednesdays at 5:30—

Please lend your voice to our choir!



Bible Study and Faith Sharing
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!

Diocesan Info & Catholic News



NATIONAL Eucharistic Congress

Adult Pricing

\$919
Triple/Quad

\$1,119
Double

\$1,619
Single

Travel Insurance
Cancel for any reason ("CFAR") travel protection is highly recommended. See Travel Insured link: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=479078&pc=CT521

LAST CHANCE!

**Be part of our WV delegation!
Come to the NEC with us!**

"It is going to be invigorating to see the faithful of WV at the National Eucharistic Congress representing their local parishes. I'm happy we are partnering with Corporate Travel, a Catholic company that specializes in Catholic pilgrimages, to ease the travel logistics burden for us."
-Bishop Brennan

Tour Inclusions

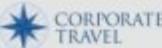
- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights' accommodations in or near Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily (pending hotel assignment)
- Roundtrip transportation via deluxe motorcoach
- Daily transportation from hotel to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium
- Gratuities payable to motorcoach drivers

3 Step Registration Process

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Follow the prompts to enter your personal information, select your rooming configuration, enter payment information, and acknowledge our terms and conditions.
3. Upon completion, you will receive a confirmation email with your diocesan code and a video tutorial providing instructions for finalizing your registration on the official National Eucharistic Congress' website.



Payment Schedule:
\$750 per person deposit due upon registration
Remaining balance due April 17, 2024
Travel Insurance: www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=479078&pc=CT521



866.468.1420 | NEC@CTScentral.net



CONGRATULATIONS!

Saint Francis Parish congratulates Jennifer Hornyak, named as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. She has served as interim superintendent since 07/01/23 with a total of 23 years in the Department of Catholic School. Visit <https://thecatholicspiritwv.org/> to read the article about Ms. Hornyak's appointment.

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

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.

POPE FRANCIS GRANTS PLENARY INDULGENCES FOR NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE, CONGRESS PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the National Eucharistic Congress and related National Eucharistic Pilgrimage now have opportunities to receive plenary indulgences, Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, president of the U.S. Conference for Catholic Bishops, announced April 9. The plenary indulgence for National Eucharistic Pilgrimage is granted to anyone who participates in the pilgrimage between May 17 and July 16, as well as to elders, people with infirmities and "all those who cannot leave their homes for a serious reason and who participate in spirit with the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, uniting their prayers, pains, or inconveniences with Christ and the pilgrimage," the USCCB statement said. To receive the indulgence, an individual must fulfill the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. In granting the indulgence, the Apostolic Penitentiary requests that all priests with appropriate faculties "present themselves willingly and generously in administering the Sacrament of Penance" to pilgrimage participants, according to the statement.

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.

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



SENIOR LUNCHEON

ALL PARISHIONERS 55 & OLDER ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. COME ENJOY FELLOWSHIP & GREAT FOOD!!

APRIL 16
NOON
RIO GRANDE, NITRO

WV CATHOLIC RADIO BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3



St. George Camporee

hosted by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston Catholic Committee on Scouting

The St. George Camporee will be held at Camp Mountaineer located outside of Morgantown, WV. **All Troops and Crews in Scouts BSA are welcome and encouraged to attend.** The camporee will feature the following activities: climbing, shooting sports, service, and Mass.

When: Friday, April 26 - Sunday, April 28, 2024
Where: Camp Mountaineer, Morgantown, WV
Cost: \$12 | \$25 after April 5

Includes: Saturday dinner, patch, and materials. All early-bird registrants will also receive a t-shirt, while supplies last.

Register at <https://scoutingevent.com/615-71430>



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MOUNTAINEER AREA COUNCIL

Thank you!

The Women's Club would like to express a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported their Palm Sunday Bake Sale. The Women's Club can enrich the life of other in our parish, our school, and our wider community with your support. Many blessings from the Women's Club to you!

The Saint Francis Youth Group thanks everyone who has supported their efforts to raise funds for new flooring in the Youth Group room. Our youth would like to expressly thank those to have made specific financial contributions to improvements! The youth would also like to shout their thanks to those who have purchased dinner tickets. We appreciate your blessings toward continuing improvement to our Youth Room and the young people of our parish!

thank you!

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