

# 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/stfrancisofofassisaintalban



**APRIL 21, 2024 GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

## 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



“I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”



## 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.

22 Monday	23 Tuesday	24 Wednesday	25 Thursday	26 Friday	27 Saturday	28 Sunday
Acts 11:1-18 Jn 10:1-10 (279)	Acts 11:19-26 Jn 10:22-30 (280)  Saint George, martyr Saint Adalbert, bishop & martyr	Acts 12:24-13:5a Jn 12:44-50 (281)  Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, priest & martyr	1 Pt 5:5b-14 Mk 16:15-20 (555)  Saint Mark, evangelist	Acts 13:26-33 Jn 14:1-6 (283)	Acts 13:44-52 Jn 14:7-14 (284)	Acts 9:26-31 1 Jn 3:18-24 Jn 15:1-8 (53)  Fifth Sunday of Easter

# THE GOOD SHEPHERD: OUR EXAMPLE FOR SHEPHERDING

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. This is also World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The most beautiful and meaningful comment on the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II was made by the famous televangelist, the late Billy Graham. In a TV Interview he said: "He lived like his Master, the Good Shepherd, and he died like his Master, the Good Shepherd." How did the Master live and how did the Master die? In the gospel of the fourth Sunday of the Easter Season, Jesus himself explains to us.

To the questions raised by the Jews whether he was the Christ or simply one of the many wandering preachers and leaders, Jesus—instead of giving a straightforward answer—tells them that he is the Good Shepherd.

The first striking quality of Jesus the Good shepherd is that he knows his sheep and his sheep hear his voice. One of the images of Jesus found in the catacombs of San Callistus in Rome is that of the Good Shepherd, where there is a young beardless man with a sheep draped around his shoulders and holding a bucket of water in his right hand. This image appealed to the Christians because it conveys the personal nature of the relationship between Jesus and his followers; it portrays the close personal care that the shepherd has for the sheep. The shepherd has gone looking for the one sheep that was wandered off and having found it, he carries it home to the flock upon his shoulders. There is a bond between the shepherd and this one sheep. Jesus declares that he knows his own and his own know him, just as the Father knows him and he knows the Father. It is an extraordinary statement to make. Jesus is saying that the very personal relationship he has with his heavenly Father is the model for the equally personal relationship he has with each one of us. Jesus knows us as intimately as the Father knows him, and he wants us to know him as intimately as he knows the Father.

There is a great deal to ponder there. When it comes to the Lord, we are not just one in a crowd, lost in a sea of faces. In a way that we will never fully understand, the Lord knows each one of us by name. He relates to us in a personal way, and he invites us to relate to him in a personal way. He wishes to enter into a personal relationship with each one of us. I am often struck by a line in Saint Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia, where he says, 'I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me'. We can each make our own those words of Saint Paul. When Jesus says in today's gospel that, as the good shepherd, 'I lay down my life for my sheep', he is saying that he lays down his life for each one of us individually.

The second striking image of the Good shepherd is that He dies for his sheep: This element of Jesus' teaching that the Lord would submit to death is something very unique. He says, "I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own" (John 17-18). Peter asserts unequivocally before the Jewish assembly that there is no salvation except through Christ the Good Shepherd, whom the Jewish leaders have rejected and crucified, and in whose name the apostles preach and heal. The savior-God loves us to the point of death. By doing so He sets an example for us: an example we often balk at following.

Jesus gives eternal life: Jesus is ready to submit to death: "I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own" (John 17-8). A savior-God who loves us to the point of death. To my knowledge, no Buddha, Mohammad, or other religious leaders have ever offered to do it. Jesus our Shepherd readily lays down his life in love and sets an example for us, an example we are called to imitate.

All of us—Bishops, pastors, parents, teachers, doctors, nurses, bosses, government officials, and politicians etc.—are called to be shepherds in one way or the other. Following the example of the

Good shepherd calls for dedication, commitment, sacrifice, and vigilance every day.

The priest in charge of a parish is called pastor because "pastor" means shepherd. As shepherd, he is expected to lead the flock by example, feed, nurture, comfort, correct, and protect Christ's sheep, the people of the parish. On this Sunday, when I am installed as pastor, I feel how unworthy I am and yet I rely on the grace of the Lord. What gives me strength is the words of Paul's letter to Corinthians, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9), which is also ordination motto. On 26 April, 2024, I will be completing my 27 years in the vineyard of the lord and it was the grace of the Lord that brought me thus far.

Today is Vocations Sunday. We each have a unique, equally significant vocation. Each one of us is vitally important to the Lord. When we respond to our unique vocation, we give a lift to everyone else. When one of us fails to respond to that vocation, we are all a little bit impoverished. We become good shepherds by responding to our vocations. It may be by loving those entrusted to us, praying for them, spending our time and talents for their welfare, and guarding them from physical and spiritual dangers. Parents must be especially careful of their duties as shepherds, becoming role models for their children by leading exemplary lives and living out what they are trying to teach their children.

Let's remember that Jesus taught us, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23). The path of salvation is the path of the cross—a life of self-denial even to the point of death. This message may be terribly unpopular, because living out a shepherding role ultimately amounts to this. It takes great faith to believe that self-sacrifice is, in fact, the one and only way to experience resurrection and eternal life.

May the grace that we receive from communing with Christ in the Eucharist empower us to lay down our lives in love for those who are entrusted in our care.

## Reflect with Your Family

Rev. Tony Campolo tells of a census taker visiting the home of a poor family in the mountains of WV to gather information. He asked the mother how many dependents she had. She began, "Well, there's Rosie, Billy, Lewella, Susie, Harry, & Jeffrey. There's Johnny, Harvey, and our dog, Willie." The census taker interrupted her: "No, ma'am. I only need the humans." "Ah," she said. "Well, there's Rosie, Billy, Lewella, Susie, Harry, and Jeffrey, Johnny, and Harvey." Once again, the census taker interrupted her. Slightly exasperated, he said, "No, ma'am, you don't seem to understand. I don't need their names, I just need the numbers." The old woman replied, "I don't know them by numbers. I only know them by name." Jesus, the Good Shepherd, says that he knows his sheep by name.

## Smile with Your family

A man comes upon a shepherd guarding his flock & proposes a wager: "I will bet you \$100, against one of your sheep, that I can tell you the exact number in this flock." The shepherd accepts. "973," says the man. The shepherd, astonished at the accuracy, says "I'm a man of my word; take the sheep you have won." The man picks a sheep & begins to walk away. "Wait," cries the shepherd, "Let me have a chance to get even. Double or nothing that I can guess your exact occupation." "Sure," replies the man. "You work for the Tax Bureau," says the shepherd. "Amazing!" responds the man, "How did you deduce that?" "Well," says the shepherd, "if you will first put down my dog, I will tell you."

**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.**

It takes great faith to believe that self-sacrifice is, in fact, the one and only way to experience resurrection and eternal life.

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Sat Apr 20</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Sam &amp; Marilyn Arose</b>	<b>By Keiffer &amp; Arose families</b>
<b>Sun Apr 21</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Intentions of the people of the parish</b>	—
<b>Mon Apr 22</b>	—	<b>No Mass</b>	—
<b>Tues Apr 23</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Phyllis Gualtieri</b>	—
<b>Wed Apr 24</b>	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Father Robert Parks</b>	—
<b>Thur Apr 25</b>	<b>8:15 am</b>	<b>Father Pat McDonough</b>	<b>By Nilda Ramella</b>
<b>Fri Apr 26</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Father Patrick McDonough</b>	<b>By Kay Solomon</b>
<b>Sat Apr 27</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Bob Dilley</b>	<b>By Mary Dilley &amp; family</b>
<b>Sun Apr 28</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Intentions of the people of the parish</b>	—

		<b>Reader</b>	<b>Extra-ordinary Minister(s)</b>	<b>Altar Server(s)</b>
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
Apr 22	—	—	NO MASS	—
Apr 23	6:00 pm	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 24	8:15 am	Pat Tabor	Suzanne Farley (C)	
Apr 25	8:15 am	SFS Students	Lynn Fenimore (C)	
Apr 26	6:00 pm	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler (C)	
Apr 27	5:00 pm	Dave DeLuca	Leslie Huffman (X) Tom Liberatore (C), Helen Musrock (C)	
Apr 28	11:00 am	Mita Larson	Mark Muchow (X) John Carnell (C), Bill Tabor (C)	Mairin Knapp, Evelyn Wini- esdorffer, Hadley Heumann

**Sharing our Treasure**

Church.....2930.70  
 School.....358.00  
 Candles.....33.00  
 DWC.....104.00  
 Youth Group.....100.00  
**Total Collection - \$3,525.70**

**Weekly Mass Attendance**

Sat 04/13 86  
 Sun 04/14 109

**Total attendance 195**

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

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations, April 21**

*God our Father,*

*we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons.*

*Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call.*

*May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Saint George, April 23**



Tradition holds that he was a Roman soldier, tortured & decapitated under Diocletian's persecution of Christians in 303. Richard I of England ("the Lionheart") invoked him as the protector of all soldiers. The story of St George serves to remind the world of a fundamental idea, that good ultimately triumphs over evil.

**Saint Adalbert, April 23**



He was trained in theology at Magdeburg, Germany. Elected as bishop in 982, Adalbert extended the influence of the church beyond the borders of the Czech kingdom. In 994 he left Bohemia to become a missionary along the Baltic coast, where he was martyred three years later.

**Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen, April 24**



Born Mark Roy or Rey in 1577, Fidelis was a Capuchin friar who was involved in the Catholic Counter-Reformation, and was martyred in 1622 by his opponents at Seewis im Prättigau, now part of Switzerland. He was known for his modesty, meekness and chastity.

**Saint Mark, April 25**



Mark the Evangelist is the person who is traditionally ascribed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark. Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. Some scholars feel that Mark is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane. Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Mark fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the Good News that is the source of salvation.

**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 23 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 Lerose, 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

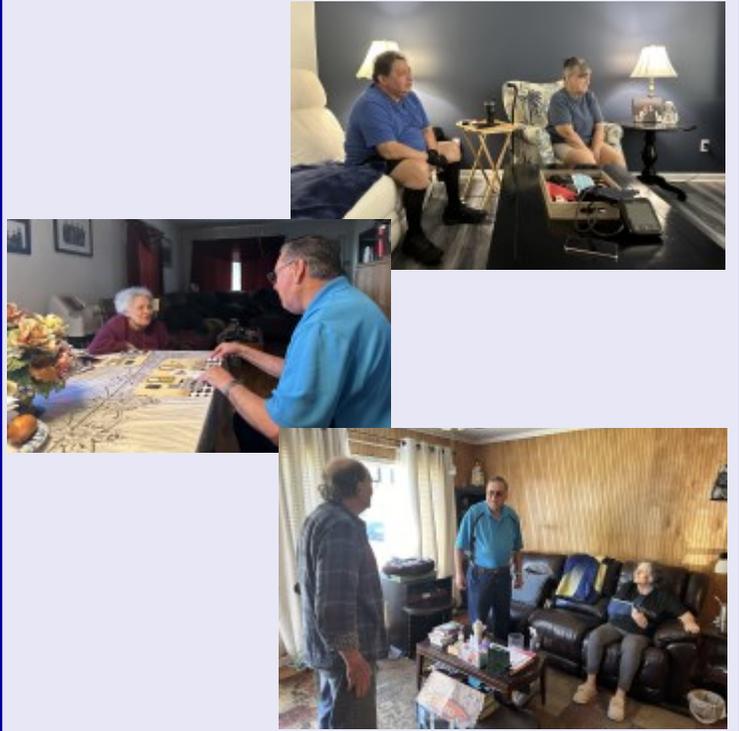
## ST FRANCIS YOUTH GROUP Fundraiser Dinner

This past Saturday evening our St Francis Youth Group hosted a Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for new flooring in our Youth Group Room. Many hands worked to make the dinner a rousing success! The Youth Group wants to express their appreciation for everyone who purchased tickets and/or made donations in support of the flooring project as well as thank everyone who volunteered for the dinner. Live music, delicious food, and wonderful fellowship made a Saturday evening to remember!



## SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!

Father Sojan and Dave DeLuca visited our parishioners in their homes. We are so thankful Father and Dave bring us news of our parishioners!



## SFS Choir Practice

Our sweet school children are working hard on their upcoming Choir Dinner Show material! Please plan to enjoy dinner and a musical in support of our children's choir.

Tuesday April 30th Dinner 5:00-6:45, Showtime 7:00 pm

Adults \$15, Children 12 & under \$5

Spaghetti & meatballs, Peppers in sauce, Salad, Bread, Dessert

Please contact the school at 304-727-5690 for tickets



## Congratulations and Welcome!

to Selena Forrester, baptized this past weekend.



# 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!



## 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**

### Christ's Kitchen Food Pantry

Collection: 2nd weekend of each month but accepted any time.

**The pantry needs all items, especially pancake syrup, sloppy joe mix, jelly, juice, and hamburger helper.**

Thank you for your unwavering support of this critical outreach!





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

## STAMP OUT HUNGER!

St. Albans Post Office Food Drive  
 Saturday, May 11, 2024  
 12:00-5:30pm at St Marks (405 B St)

**VOLUNTEERS GREATLY NEEDED!!**

You can come at any time and stay as long as you can.  
 (The times when there is the greatest need for volunteers is 4:00-5:30pm)

## Bible Study and Faith Sharing 6:30 pm every Tuesday

**Want to volunteer? Signed up for a committee?**

You **must** be VIRTUS compliant!!

**VIRTUS®**  
 Protecting God's Children

Prefer to go through the process at home online? Visit [www.virtusonline.org](http://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**

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**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](http://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**

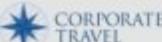
- NEC Congress Pass (5 Days)
- Four (4) nights' accommodations in or near Indianapolis
- Continental breakfast daily (pending hotel assignment)
- Roundtrip transportation via deluxe motorcoach
- Daily transportation from hotel to the Indianapolis Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium
- Gratuities payable 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](http://www.travelinsured.com/agency?agency=479078&pc=CT521)



866.468.1420 | [NEC@CTScentral.net](mailto:NEC@CTScentral.net)



Visit  
[www.dwc.org/synod](http://www.dwc.org/synod)  
for updates and news about the  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's  
implementation of Pope Francis's  
Synod

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](http://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.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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.

**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.

# St. Francis Parish Life—Happenings

## SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND APRIL 20 & 21

Most Rev. Mark Brennan, Bishop of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, has approved a special collection to be held this weekend, 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 process 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.

• *This weekend* •  
**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 immediately following Mass to congratulate Fr Sojan & see our beautiful new space. Refreshments will be served.



## 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

**In preparation for this momentous occasion, the reunion committee is asking that any pictures of church or school events, class pictures, etc be submitted to the committee for copying (your original image will be returned to you!). Please contact Sarah Palmer to submit your pictures.**

## 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 (2098 Joyce Rd, Scott Depot) on

**April 27th**  
**at 11:00 am**