

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

(Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston)

524 Holley Street, St Albans, WV 25177 304-727-3033

www.stfranciswv.org parish@stfranciswv.org www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisisaintalbans



APRIL 12, 2026 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

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-



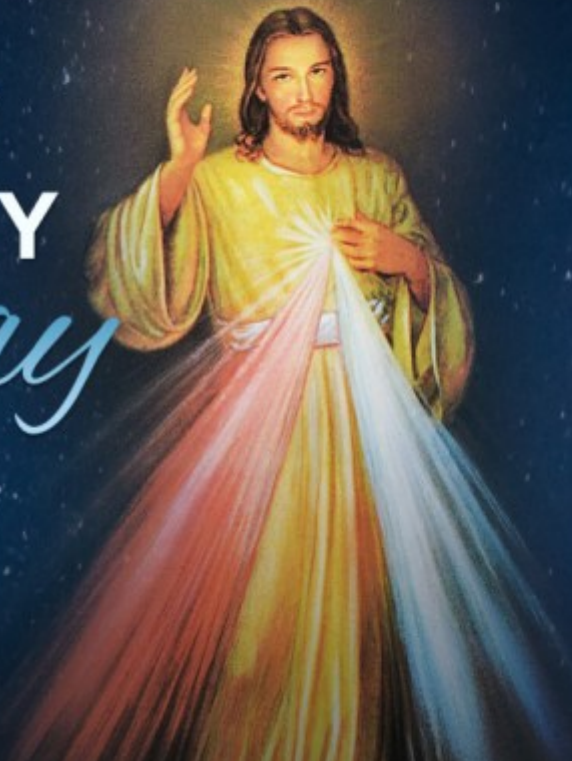
"IF GOD CAN WORK THROUGH ME, HE CAN WORK THROUGH ANYONE." - SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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.

SUNDAYS READINGS P. 1081 (YEAR A)

DIVINE MERCY *Sunday*



<u>13 Monday</u>	<u>14 Tuesday</u>	<u>15 Wednesday</u>	<u>16 Thursday</u>	<u>17 Friday</u>	<u>18 Saturday</u>	<u>19 Sunday</u>
Acts 4: 23-31 Jn 3: 1-8 (267)	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)	Acts 5: 34-42 Jn 6: 1-15 (271)	Acts 6: 1-7 Jn 6: 16-21 (272)	Acts 2: 14, 22-33 1Pt 1: 17-21 Lk 24: 13-35 (46)

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
SAT APR 11	5:00 pm	James Bump	Helen Musrock	Tom Liberatore(X) Midge Butler (C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
SUN APR 12	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Shaun Lopez	Suzanne Farley (X) Mary Sanney (C) John Carnell (C)	Mary Pauley Ruby Pauley Mairin Knapp	Mark Muchow
MON APR 13	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUE APR 14	6:00 pm	Fr. Matthew	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
WED APR 15	8:15 am	Fr. George N.A.	Helen Musrock	Helen Musrock	—	—
THU APR 16	8:00 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	School Students	Tom Liberatore	School Students	—
FRI APR 17	6:00 pm	For Peace	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
SAT APR 18	5:00 pm	Frances Liberatore By Mary Dilley	Lisa D'Esposito	Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca (C) Helen Musrock (C)	Volunteers	Lisa D'Esposito
SUN APR 19	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Tom Williams	Shaun Lopez (X) Jennifer Lopez (C) Mark Muchow (C)	Eliza Berry Reagan Buscher Evelyn Winiesdorffer	Jacque Switzer

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

Fri: 5:00 pm

For rental of church facilities (parish center, gym, cafeteria), please contact:

Mary Nichols

304-727-9832

St Francis of Assisi Parish And School Staff

Father Sojan Xavier, Pastor..... (304) 435-4342 / sxavier@dwc.org

Liz Liberatore, Parish Secretary..... (304) 727-3033 / parish@stfranciswv.org

Gwen Muchow, Bookkeeper..... (304) 727-3033 / gwenbmuchow@stfranciswv.org

Sophia Chaskes-Vecchio, Music Direct..... 304-727-3033

Sandi Hudson, Religion Director.....(304) 549-4009 / shudson@stfranciswv.org

Erin Sikora, Principal..... (304) 727-5690 / esikora@sfsww.com

Kelly Oxley, School Office Manager..... (304)727-5690 / koxley@sfsww.com

Matthew Matheny, Knights of Columbus.....(304)545-8534/ mlmatheny1@gmail.com

Shaun Lopez, Pastoral Council President.....(681)439-0421 / shnlopez@gmail.com

Fred Heindl, Property Manager.....(304) 415-5942

Pastoral Availability

Father Sojan is available any time of day or night for spiritual guidance. If you or a family member is sick /homebound & require Communion or Sacrament of Anointing, contact him (304-435-4342) or the parish office.

Marriage Preparation

Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Francis should be practicing Catholics & are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. 6 months notice is required. Contact the office to discuss date of marriage.

Order of Christian Initiation

Children ages 7-17& adults who have not been baptized or baptized but not confirmed go through a faith formation program before they are admitted to the sacraments.

Parish Office Hours Tues-Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

PASTOR'S NOTE

FROM LENT TO MERCY" A TIME OF GRACE AND GRATITUDE



2nd Sunday of **EASTER** and Divine Mercy Sunday

The journey of the Lenten season has now reached its fulfillment in the joy of Easter, and with grateful hearts we thank everyone for your faith-filled participation in the many important moments of this holy season. Your prayer, presence, and devotion helped make this Lenten journey meaningful and grace-filled for our parish community.

A special word of thanks goes to all who contributed your time, talent, and generosity to make our Easter celebration so beautiful. Whether by offering flowers for Easter, serving at the altar, proclaiming God's Word as lectors, distributing Holy Communion as Eucharistic ministers, participating in the Living Stations, choir offering beautiful singing, or helping as ushers, with decorations and arrangements, each of you played an important role. Truly, the beauty of the celebration reflected the generosity and dedication of so many hearts working together in faith.

As we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday—the readings remind us of our deep need for God's Divine Mercy. This mercy is offered to us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the forgiveness of our sins, and through every sacrament, all of which were instituted to sanctify us when we receive them in trusting faith. The first reading, **Acts 2:42–47**, shows how the early Church grew each day through works of mercy: sharing their goods, living sacrificial **agápe** love, and caring for one another in faith. In the second reading, **1 Peter 1:3–9**, Saint Peter blesses God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for His mercy shown to us in Jesus, who

rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, giving us the hope and assurance of our own resurrection. Today's Gospel reminds us that the risen Lord instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy, when He gave the apostles the authority to forgive sins: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20:19–23). The Gospel also presents Thomas and his profession of faith, "My Lord and my God," revealing Jesus' mercy toward the doubter and the importance of faith for all believers.

May the Lord's Divine Mercy continue to strengthen and guide our parish family in the days ahead.



OLIVE BRANCH MINISTRY

Olive Branch

Charleston

April 25

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Mark your calendars and keep an eye on social media for more info!

This one-day retreat is designed for those in your parish who are currently going through separation/divorce. This can be a very lonely, painful and confusing time for those going through the process. Let us help you, help them get the information and resources that they need to find healing within their faith and church community.

More details to come.

If you would like to host an Olive Branch in your parish, contact Kathy Barton at kbarton@dwc.org.

CATECHETICAL CORNER

EASTER AND THE GIFT OF MERCY



Introduction: On this second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy. It is a Catholic celebration of God's mercy, centered on trust in Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins. It is celebrated close of the Easter Octave, so that the mercy of God is seen in the light of Christ's Resurrection.

This feast reminds the Church that the risen Lord is also the merciful Lord. Easter proclaims that Jesus has conquered sin and death; Divine Mercy Sunday shows that this victory is offered to every sinner who comes to Him with repentance and trust.

Origin: The feast began with the private revelations of Jesus to **Saint Faustina Kowalska**, a Polish nun, in the 1930s. In her diary, Saint Faustina recorded Jesus asking that a Feast of Mercy be established

on the Sunday after Easter. The devotion was later approved and promoted in the Church, and **Pope St. John Paul II** established **Divine Mercy Sunday** for the universal Church in 2000.

What Jesus told Saint Faustina: In Saint Faustina's diary, Jesus repeatedly speaks of mercy, trust, and conversion. Some of His best-known words include:

- "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners."
- "Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy."
- He also taught that those who turn to His mercy should not despair, because He delights in those who trust in His goodness.

OUR LADY PRAYS

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

DICATED BY JESUS TO ST. FAUSTINA, SEPT. 14TH, 1935

BEGIN WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FATHER xi
Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

HAIL MARY xi
Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED xi
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

ON EACH OF THE 5 "OUR FATHER BEADS" SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: →

Eternal Father, I Offer You The Body and Blood, Soul And Divinity Of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, In Atonement For Our Sins And Those Of The Whole World.

ON EACH OF THE 50 "HAIL MARY BEADS" SAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: →

For The Sake Of His Sorrowful Passion, Have Mercy On Us And On The Whole World.

FINAL CLOSING PRAYER (REPEAT X3)
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, Have Mercy On Us And On The Whole World.



The Divine Mercy Chaplet: The **Divine Mercy Chaplet** is a prayer given to Saint Faustina as part of this devotion. It is prayed on ordinary rosary beads and focuses on offering Jesus' Passion to the Father while asking mercy "for us and for the whole world." The Chaplet is especially connected with prayer for sinners and the dying.

Why Catholics pray it: Catholics pray the Chaplet to ask for mercy, to grow in trust in God, and to intercede for others. The devotion teaches that no sinner is beyond God's mercy if he or she turns to Him with repentance and trust. It is often prayed at **3:00 p.m.**, the Hour of Mercy, because that hour is associated with the death of Christ on the Cross.

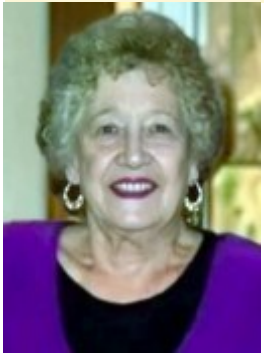
Why it falls on the Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the **Second Sunday of Easter** because Jesus asked that the feast be observed on the first Sunday after Easter. The timing is deeply meaningful: the Resurrection reveals God's victory over sin and death, and Divine Mercy Sunday shows that this victory is offered to sinners as mercy and forgiveness.

Why it matters: For Catholics, this feast is spiritually important because it invites people to trust in God rather than fear His judgment. It reminds us that mercy is not weakness, but one of the clearest expressions of God's love in Jesus Christ. Celebrating the feast, attending Mass, receiving the sacraments, and praying the Chaplet are all ways of responding to that mercy with faith and gratitude.

Conclusion: The Feast of Divine Mercy tells us that Easter is not only about Christ's victory, but also about the gift of that victory to us. The Risen Lord does not turn away from sinners; He invites them to trust in His mercy and begin again.



NEWS AND UPDATES



Our thoughts and prayers are with Judy Moore on the passing of her mom Mary McNeeley.

After mass, we will have a Eucharistic procession around the church, followed by a brief period of adoration and the recitation of the divine mercy chaplet.

**Easter Flowers at the altar in memory of:
In memory of Ray and Helen Rogers by Dave, John and Family**

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will meet Monday April 13th at 6:00pm for yoga with Carol. The hostesses for the evening will be Brenda Dlugos, Suzanne Farley and Billie Kirk.

All Women of the parish are welcome!

St. Francis of Assisi School is seeking a Pk-5th Grade Principal

The Candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with Church precepts and act as an example and motivator toward the fulfillment of the Catholic philosophy of the school.

The ideal candidate would have an earned Master's Degree in Educational Leadership or Administration or begin the process of completing degree requirements; or hold a valid Educational Leadership certification from the state of West Virginia or be eligible for such certification.

The candidate will have a minimum of three years of successful educational experience with a preference for administrative experience.

A resume with three references may be emailed with all attachments in PDF to Father Sojan Xavier: sxavier@dwc.org Applications will be accepted through Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Jennifer Hornyak
Superintendent of Catholic Schools
Department of Catholic Schools
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston
E-mail: jhornyak@dwc.org
Phone: 304-233-0880 x208

First Friday of the month Adoration will resume Friday May 1st at 12:00pm- 6:00pm!



Please enter through the school.

If you would like to volunteer to sit with the Lord during the time period contact Pat Tabor at 304.552.8614

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR WONDERFUL CHOIR UNDER THE DIRECTION OF SOPHIA CHASKES-VECCHIO



-Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinger, Liz Gadd, Barbara George, Robin Gothard, Aubrie Hebb, Donna Hebb, Nancy Hillen, Diane Holley-Brown, Jane Howley, Max Huck, Kenny Huck, Virgil Huck, Carmelina Kessler, Dawna Kessler, Tooter Kirk, Barbara Lambert, Larry Lerosé, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Sue Martin, Brent Marsteller, Mary McNeeley, Joe McQuaide, Lillian Matheny, Kim McBurney, Mario Mendez, Susan Robinson, Diana Rossi, Patricia , Scarlett (child), Lillian Schilling, Michael Scott, Peggy Shelton, Matt Sowers, Becky Vannatter Smith, Joseph Swanson, Valerie Tabit, Pat Tabor, Colleen Ullmer, Joyce Weiskircher, Roberta Van Horn, Pat Vannatter, Robbie Vannatter, Barbara Yeager, Gordon Holbrook, Alaina Rae Gilbert, Tracy McGrath, Nico Sayre, Pearl Thompson, Ralph Holland, John Hebb III, Jan Quinlan, Kate Lichtenfels, Brody Fulks, Darlene Holland, Ty Laughery, Steve McGrath, John May

Immediate Prayer needs:

Carolyn Hanson	John Carnell	Patty Young
Rick Mullins	Josephine Fletcher	Peggy Shelton
Rick Robinson	Matt Sowers	Allison Grinstead
Terry DeLuca	Dave Lucas	
Margaret McEvoy	Landen Chin	
Anna Ng	Michele Sturgeon	



BLESSING BOX

St. Francis Blessing Box is located at the corner of 6th Avenue and Park Street. Your donation is a gift to someone in need. A blue bin has been placed in the back of church to collect donated items. Items greatly needed are canned goods, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, bread, mac and cheese, canned pastas and soups

ST. FRANCIS' PASCAL TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY—EAST SUPPER AND WASHING OF THE APOSTLES FEET



LIVING STATIONS



VENERATION OF THE CROSS



PASCAL TRIDUUM CONT.



Easter Vigil...The Church's most important liturgy.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT



Welcome Stella Friley



NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure

Listed below are collections for
April 4 & 5, 2025

Collection for Church Operation	\$5,100.69
School.....	00
Diocese.....	369.00
Votive Candles.....	106.00
Total.....	\$5,575.69

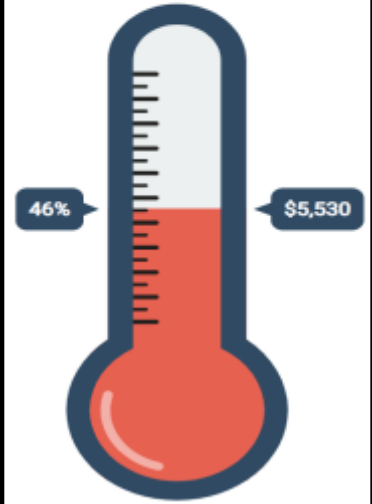
Weekly Mass Attendance

Holy Thursday—70 Good Friday—76
4/4- 8:00pm—67 4/5 11:00—213 Total—280

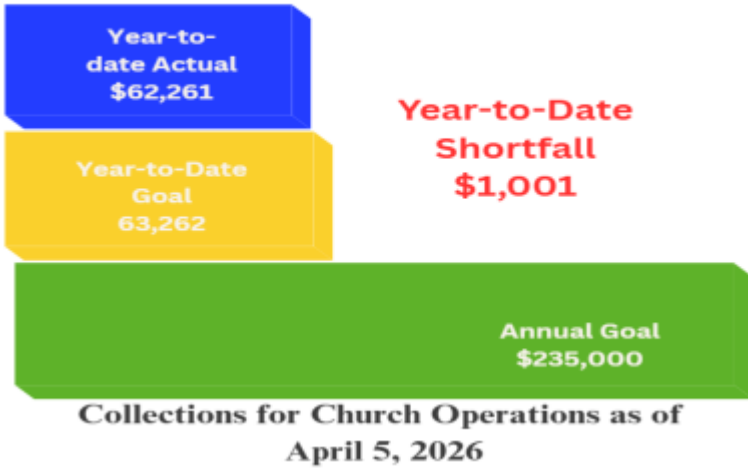


The Catholic Sharing Appeal (CSA) is an opportunity for us to come together as one diocesan family to support the vital ministries and initiatives that strengthen our parishes and communities. Through your generosity, the CSA assists our parishes, shared ministries, Catholic education, and outreach efforts.

GOAL: \$12,100



Collections for Church Operations



APRIL SECOND COLLECION

April 12— School Support

If you have any meetings or important information you would like in the bulletin, please email it to: parish@stfranciswv.org by Wednesday at noon to be printed in that weeks bulletin. Thank you

SHARE YOUR TREASURE

The Catholic Church emphasizes the importance of giving from the heart and encourages individuals to give according to their ability. Your donation, no matter how large or small, is significant to our Church. A QR code has been created for you as an option vs weekly envelopes for our parishioners and visitors.



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 and 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; Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. Or you may call Rev. Don Higgs, 304.685.2367, the Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504, or Victims Assistance Coordinator Erin McFarland at 304.559.6742. 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.