

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 19, 2026 THIRD 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.

(THE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI -2026)

SUNDAY READINGS P. 1082 (YEAR A)



<u>20 Monday</u>	<u>21 Tuesday</u>	<u>22 Wednesday</u>	<u>23 Thursday</u>	<u>24 Friday</u>	<u>25 Saturday</u>	<u>26 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) Saint George, Martyr Saint Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr	Acts 9: 1-20 Jn 6: 52-59 (277) Saint Fidelis, Priest and Martyr	1 Pt 5: 5b-14 Mk 16: 15-20 (555) SAINT MARK EVANGELIST	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41 1 Pt 2: 20b-25 Jn 10: 1-10 (49) World Day of Prayer for Vocations

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
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
MON APR 20	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUE APR 21	8:15 pm	Teresa Ballengee By Parks Siblings	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
WED APR 22	8:15 am	Mary E. Moran By Tony Gertz	Helen Musrock	Helen Musrock	—	—
THU APR 23	8:00 am	William G. Gertz By Tony Gertz	School Students	Midge Butler	School Students	—
FRI APR 24	6:00 pm	Mary Jane Gertz By Susan Alspach	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
SAT APR 25	5:00 pm	Unchurched Catholics	Jacque Switzer	Dave DeLuca (X) Helen Musrock(C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Sandy Williams
SUN APR 26	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Youth Group	Suzanne Farley(X) John Carnell (C) Paul Niedbalski(C)	Gia Lopez Sagrada Lopez Aubree Wriston	Youth Group

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 Director.....(304) 727-3033/music@stfranciswv.org
 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
 Angie Pugh, School Bookkeeper.....(304)727-5690/bookkeeper@stfranciswv.org
 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
 Kim Williams, Finance Chair.....kim@elliscpa.com

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
 Friday 5:00 pm

Confession

Saturday 4:00 pm

Pastoral Availability

Father Sojan is available at any time 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.

NB: Information regarding Baptism, Marriage and other Sacraments are updated on page 5 of the bulletin.

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

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

Mary Nichols
304-727-9832

PASTOR'S NOTE

FAITH IS NEVER MEANT TO BE PURELY PRIVATE



One fact that clearly distinguishes Jesus from other religious figures who have appeared throughout history is that Jesus rose from the grave after His death, appearing and speaking at length to His followers. His Resurrection is not a mere legend or metaphor; the Church proclaims it as a historical and saving event that defines Christian faith. If Christ has not been raised, our faith is in vain (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14). Because He is risen, we have new life and unshakable hope. That calls every Christian to proclaim this risen Christ boldly, not only in words but in the way we live, love, and serve others. The Sunday readings invite us to experience the Risen Lord in our Eucharist, to live that encounter, and to proclaim it to others.

In the Gospel, Luke 24:13–35, we walk with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They are sorrowful and confused, yet the Risen Lord draws near and walks with them, though they do not at first recognize Him. As He opens the Scriptures to them and then breaks bread, their eyes are opened and their hearts burn within. They recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, the same sacred mystery we celebrate at every Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that in the Eucharist, “the Church ‘lives’ by the Eucharist,” for it is the source and summit of our Christian life (CCC 1324). In the consecrated bread and wine, the risen Christ is truly present—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—nourishing us and drawing us into deeper communion with Him and with one another.

Let us recognize Jesus Christ as truly present with us in the Sacrament of the Altar, just as the disciples recognized Him in the breaking of the bread. We pray for the grace to no longer be “slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken” (Luke 24:25). May we also desire to make a daily effort to read the Bible, to grow in familiarity with what God has spoken, and to allow the Scriptures to form our hearts and minds.

This Sunday also highlights the mission of the Church. The risen Lord sends His disciples forth as witnesses to the Resurrection, just as the first apostles proclaimed the Good News in Jerusalem and beyond. The Church teaches that every baptized Christian is called to be a missionary disciple, sharing the saving power of the Gospel in word and deed. Our faith is not a private comfort or hidden sentiment; it is a public witness to the truth that Jesus Christ is Lord, the one whom God raised from the dead.

Faith is never meant to be purely private. It begins in the heart, but it is meant to be lived in communion, confessed with the mouth, and expressed in concrete acts of love and service. The Church is the visible body of Christ; faith is nourished in the sacraments, in Scripture, and in the life of the Christian community. When faith remains only an interior feeling or a personal preference, without expression in worship, service, and mission, it risks becoming subjective sentiment rather than a real transformation by the living God.

As we gather this weekend, let us open our hearts to the risen Christ, ask Him to show us how He has been traveling with us all along, and commit ourselves to share His peace, mercy, and love with our families, our parish, and our suffering world. May this Third Sunday of Easter deepen our faith, renew our hope, and strengthen our love for the Lord who walks with us every step of the way.

“Since Christ Himself has said,
‘This is My Body,’
who shall dare to doubt
that it is His Body?”
St. Thomas Aquinas

CATECHETICAL CORNER

THE POWER AND PEACE OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

“Could you not watch with me for one hour?” Matthew 26:40



In our fast-paced and distracted world, silence has become rare and scary, and sacred silence even rarer. Yet in the quiet presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we rediscover the

stillness our souls crave. “Eucharistic Adoration”, or the “Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament”, is the simple yet profound act of spending time before Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—usually displayed in a monstrance on the altar.

During adoration, we come face-to-face with the living Christ. We may pray silently, read Scripture, say the Rosary, or simply rest in His presence, much like sitting beside a dear friend on a beautiful couch. It is not about ‘doing’, but ‘being’. As Christ Himself invited His disciples in Gethsemane, “Could you not watch one hour with me?”—adoration is our response to that same eternal invitation.

Why It Matters in a Busy World: In an age of constant motion, adoration teaches us to “be still and know that He is God”. People rush from one obligation to another, often feeling spiritually scattered. People also spend hours and hours on social media, wasting time, perhaps to fill the empty space in their hearts. But when we kneel before the Eucharist, time slows down. Worries fade into perspective. We regain peace, clarity, and strength to live out our faith in daily life.

Saint John Paul II called Eucharistic adoration “an inexhaustible source of holiness.” Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, who spent a “Holy Hour” before the Blessed Sacrament every day, once said, “The only time I was ever able to be alone is before the Blessed Sacrament. That’s where I got all my best ideas.” He urged every priest and layperson to keep that hour—not as obligation, but as love.

Moving Beyond Routine Faith: Many Catholics attend

Sunday Mass faithfully but still feel something missing. The Eucharist we receive on Sunday is the same Jesus who waits for us in the tabernacle throughout the week. Spending even a single hour a week—or a month—in adoration changes how we live Sunday Mass, because we begin to carry that presence within us.

Your hour with Jesus might begin awkwardly or filled with distractions. But God works powerfully in the silence. Many who spent their time adoration testify that through time, peace replaces anxiety, direction replaces confusion, and love replaces indifference. Adoration draws us from the routine into relationship.

Why Our Parish Needs Adoration: Every parish thrives when it becomes not just a community of activity but a “community of presence”. Adoration keeps Christ at the center—grounding ministries, family life, and personal growth in prayer. When parishioners commit together to keep vigil before the Blessed Sacrament, even for one hour a week or month, a spiritual renewal begins.

If your schedule feels too full, remember this truth: time spent with Christ is never lost. He multiplies it—bringing focus, peace, and joy into all other areas of life. ““Could you not watch with me for one hour?” is what Jesus asked his disciples. That is the same question I place before you today. Think about it: you can be the channel through which the Lord uplifts and renews our parish family.”

We have placed the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle at the confessional. If anyone, at any time, feels a longing or desire, please enter that sacred space and spend some time with the Lord present, praying for your personal needs, your family, your community, suffering humanity, and the



**First Friday of the month
Adoration is 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

NEWS AND UPDATES

Pastoral Availability

Father Sojan is available at any time 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. Please contact the church office a few week's in advance.

Confirmation

Those who would like to be Confirmed, please register.

Marriage Preparation

Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Francis of Assisi Church are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program before the marriage. At least six months advance notice is required for the marriage.

Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)

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 OCIA program before they are admitted to the sacraments.

Faith Formation

Faith formation programs are offered for children, youth and adult. For all programs, please contact the office for more details.

The Church celebrated the Feast of Divine Mercy on the second Sunday of Easter. Below are pictures of our Eucharistic procession after the 11:00am Mass.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

GENERAL PARISH MEETING—April 26th, following the 11:00am Mass.

- The gathering will provide an opportunity to evaluate parish activities and share ongoing goals and projects. Refreshments will be provided.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER—May 21st to thank all parish volunteers for their support and service throughout the year.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC— July 26th, Mass will be celebrated at the picnic shelter.

MOTHER'S DAY TEA PARTY—May 9th, following the 5:00pm Mass

MOTHER'S DAY TEA PARTY—May 10th, following the 11:00am Mass

FATHER'S DAY BBQ LUNCHEON—June 21st, following the 11:00am Mass

THANK YOU TO THE YOUTH GROUP FOR HOSTING

Bread Sharing—Wednesday, April 29th, 6:00pm—2nd grade.

First Reconciliation for Communicants—May 1st.

First Communion—May 3rd, 11:00am Mass.

May Crowning—May 8th.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

April 26, 2026 will be observed as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This day is also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday" and emphasizes the importance of praying for vocations in the Church.

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.

NEWS AND UPDATES



Charles Armstead, Ian Burns, Katherine Buscher, Jocelyn Buscher, Margaret Crouch, Maria Forrester, Lucy Forrester, Cay Hoh,

Barbara Jackson, Danny Kessler, Katie Lago, Kay Landers, Susan LaRose, Mary Nichols, Owen Oxley, Madeline Oxley, Kelly Oxley, Susan Pagan, Jack Palmer, Nilda Ramella, Hector Ruiz, Tim Sneeringer, Theresa Stankus, Abby Waldorf, Sherman White, Jennifer Wilson, Elizabeth Winter, Tricia Taylor and Fr. Sojan



HAPPY 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO JOHN AND LESLIE HUFFMAN. CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to all who received a reading award!

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 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 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 Murdered by his opponents in Switzerland. He was known for his modesty, meekness and chastity.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH

Mother's Day TEA PARTY

Sat., May 9 ☘ Sun., May 10

Please join us in honoring the mothers of our parish family. Following Mass, we invite you to the Parish Center for tea, an assortment of sweet and savory treats, refreshments and a time of fellowship.

HOSTED BY THE ST. FRANCIS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

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.

NEWS AND UPDATES



WHEELING UNIVERSITY

**West Virginia Catholic High School Graduates
\$6,000 Annual Scholarship**

Learn More

304-243-2359 or admiss@wheeling.edu



**Christ's Kitchen
Food Pantry**

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

The Pantry is in need of Tuna, Pudding, Hamburger Helper, Cake Mix, Pasta Sides.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this critical outreach!



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, tuna, canned pastas, noodles, peanut butter, jelly, bread, and soups,



THANK YOU!
Whether you cooked, served, baked a dessert, worked the front table, the 5th graders, the clean up crew, and all who came to eat, the Knights of Columbus would like to **THANK EVERYONE** for your support in making this years fish fries such a success.

We look forward to seeing everyone next Lenten season!

MASS INTENTIONS

Please contact the church office if you would like to have a Mass for a loved member of your family. The schedule is filling up.

If in the past you have arranged an annual Mass intention, please contact the office so we can review your intentions.

You may offer a Mass stipend of \$10.00 for a weekday Mass and \$20.00 for a weekend Mass. However, if you are unable to do so, Father will gladly offer Mass for your loved one.

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

-Uphold them in your prayers-

David DeLuca, Jay Dlugos, Suzanne Farley, Nona Fields, Jo Fletcher, Debbie Flinner, 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 Lerose, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Sue Martin, Brent Marsteller, Mary McNeely, 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, 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 | Brody Fulk |
| Margaret McEvoy | Landen Chin | Pam Burton White |
| Anna Ng | Michele Sturgeon | Brandi Authur |

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure

Listed below are collections for
April 11 & 12, 2026

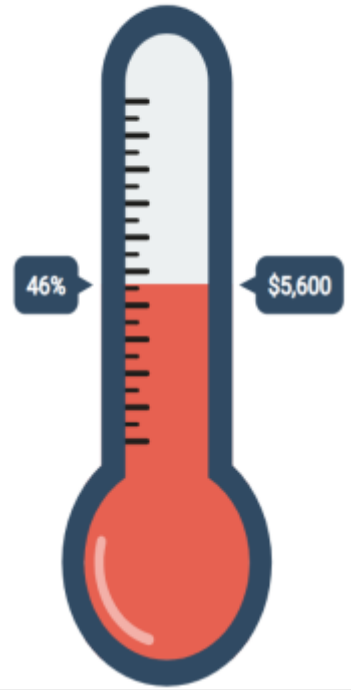
Collection for Church Operation.....	\$4,788.00
School.....	769.80
Diocese.....	70.00
Votive Candles.....	152.00
Total.....	\$5,779.80

Weekly Mass Attendance
Sat – 72 Sun – 118
Total – 190



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



Collections for Church Operations as of
April 12, 2026

YOUTH GROUP—UPCOMING EVENTS

April 26th— Youth Mass and gathering follows.

May 24th- Youth Mass and gathering follows.

All youth are welcome—bring a friend and come as you are! We'd love to see you there!

“Strong youth build a strong Church”

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.