

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



FEBRUARY 8, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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.

SUNDAY READINGS P. 1121 (YEAR A)



National Marriage Week USA
MARRIAGE IS WORTH IT! • EVERY FEB 7-14

Man and Woman He Created Them:

TOGETHER
with purpose



09 Monday	10 Tuesday	11 Wednesday	12 Thursday	13 Friday	14 Saturday	15 Sunday
1 Kgs 8: 1-7, 9-13 Mk 6: 53-56 (329)	1 Kgs 8: 22-23, 27-30 Mk 7: 1-13 (330)	1 Kgs 10: 1-10 Mk 7: 14-23 (331)	1 Kgs 11: 4-13 Mk 7: 24-30 (332)	1 Kgs 11: 29-32; 12:19 Mk 7: 31-37 (333)	1 Kgs 12: 26-32; 13: 33-34 Mk 8: 1-10 (334)	Sir 15: 15-20 1 Cor 2: 6-10 Mt 5: 17-37 or 5: 20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37 (76)
	Saint Scholastica	Our Lady of Lourdes			Saints Cyril, Monk and Methodius	

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
SAT FEB 07	5:00 pm	Sara Garska By Mark & Gwen Muchow	Lisa D'Esposito	Helen Musrock(X) Tom Liberatore(C) Midge Butler C)	Volunteers	Pat Romanosky
SUN FEB 08	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Tom Williams	Suzanne Farley(X) John Carnell (C) Paul Niedbalski(C)	Lily Palmer Sadie Palmer Eliza Berry	Tamara Buel
MON FEB 09	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUE FEB 10	6:00 pm	Bernard Grubler By Sarah & Jack Palmer	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
WED FEB 11	8:15 am	For the Sick People of the Parish	Helen Musrock	Helen Musrock	—	—
THU FEB 12	8:00 am	Mary Jane Gerts By Susan Allspack	School Students	Lynn Fenimore	School Students	—
FRI FEB 13	6:00 pm	Sara Garska	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
SAT FEB 14	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Helen Musrock	Dave DeLuca(X) Midge Butler (C) Leslie Huffman(C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
SUN FEB 15	11:00 am	Jim Liberatore By Sarah & Jack Palmer	Mark Muchow	Shaun Lopez (X) Jennifer Lopez(C) Mary Sanney(C)	Gia Lopez Sagrada Lopez Aubree Wriston	Mark Muchow

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

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, Parish Bookkeeper	:(304) 727-3033 / gwenbmuchow@stfranciswv.org
Angela Marie Pugh, School Bookkeeper	:(304)807-5160
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.

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

Mary Nichols
304-727-9832

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

PASTOR'S NOTE

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY



The readings for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time remind us that faith is never meant to be hidden or practiced only when it is convenient. Faith is not a private possession reserved for quiet moments alone; it is a way of life meant to be lived daily, shared generously, and made visible through love. Authentic faith naturally expresses itself in action—through compassion, service, and trust in God—so that others may encounter God's presence through us.

In the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah (58:7–10), the people are challenged to look beyond outward religious practices and examine how they live their faith. They believed they were honoring God through fasting and ritual, yet they neglected justice and mercy. Isaiah reminds them—and us—that true devotion to God must overflow into care for others. Feeding the hungry, sheltering the oppressed, and clothing the naked are not optional acts of kindness; they are at the heart of living faith. When love is put into action, God's light breaks into darkness and healing begins, touching both those who give and those who receive.

Psalm 112 continues this message by describing the righteous person as generous, compassionate, and just. This person is not fearful in difficult times because their heart is firmly

rooted in trust in the Lord. Such trust allows generosity to flourish even in uncertainty. A life grounded in God produces courage, stability, and quiet confidence, leaving a lasting witness that honors God beyond the present moment.

In the Second Reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (2:1–5), Paul reminds us where the strength for this way of life comes from. He did not rely on eloquence or human wisdom, but came in humility, proclaiming Jesus Christ and trusting in the power of the Spirit. Paul wanted the community's faith to rest on God's power, not human ability. This assures us that God works through our weakness when we place our trust in Him.

The Gospel from Matthew (5:13–16) draws these themes together as Jesus calls His disciples to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Salt gives flavor and preserves; light dispels darkness and guides the way. Our good works are not meant to bring attention to ourselves, but to reflect God's goodness so that others may give glory to our heavenly Father. Faith that is alive cannot remain hidden.

As we celebrate **World Marriage Day** this Sunday, these readings take on special meaning. Marriage is one of the most powerful and visible ways Christians are called to be salt and light. Through daily acts of patience, forgiveness, sacrifice, and faithful love, married couples reveal God's presence in ordinary life. A marriage lived with generosity and trust becomes a quiet but powerful witness to God's enduring love.

Today we give thanks for all married couples in our parish. May the Lord strengthen your commitment, renew your love, and bless your homes with His peace and light. And may all of us—married and single, young and old—live our faith through loving action, so that God's glory may shine brightly in our world.

Catechetical Corner—CATHOLIC MARRIAGE: TOGETHER WITH PURPOSE

Theme: “Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose” (Gen 1:27)



The basic cell of society is the family, founded upon marriage. The Catholic bishops of the United States recognize the importance of promoting holy and healthy marriages. The observance of **National Marriage Week (February 7–14)** and **World Marriage Day** offers the Church a special opportunity to reflect on the beauty, dignity, and sacredness of marriage. In a world where the meaning of marriage is often misunderstood or weakened, the Church joyfully proclaims that marriage is not merely a social arrangement or private contract, but a **divine vocation, a sacrament, and a lifelong covenant of love and life.**

Why National Marriage Week? National Marriage Week in the **United States is promoted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** in union with the universal Church’s celebration of **World Marriage Day**, which is observed on the Sunday closest to February 14. These celebrations were encouraged to help couples deepen their commitment, to support families, and to strengthen the foundation of society itself.

The bishops recognized that **strong marriages build strong families**, and strong families are essential to forming a **culture of life and love**. In a time marked by increasing divorce, cohabitation, and confusion about marriage, the Church seeks to reaffirm God’s original plan for humanity—revealed from the beginning of creation.

“So God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27) Marriage, therefore, is not a human invention but a **gift from God**, woven into the very design of creation.

Marriage: A Permanent Covenant: At the heart of Catholic teaching is the truth that marriage is permanent. Jesus Himself reaffirmed God’s original intention when He said: “Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.” (Matthew 19:6)

In the Catholic understanding, marriage is a **covenant**, not merely a contract. A contract can be broken when conditions change; a covenant is a lifelong bond of faithful love. When a man and a woman freely consent to marriage, they give themselves to each other **totally and irrevocably.**

The Church teaches that this permanence reflects God’s own faithful love for His people. Just as Christ remains faithful to His Church, so too are spouses called to lifelong fidelity.

Marriage as a Sacrament: For baptized Christians, marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. As a sacrament, marriage is not only a sign of God’s grace but also a means through which that grace is given.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life, is by its nature ordered toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring; this covenant between baptized persons has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.” (CCC 1601)

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the spouses become **ministers of grace to one another**. Their love, sacrifices, forgiveness, and openness to life become a living sign of Christ’s love in the world.

Marriage Celebrated in the Church: Catholic marriage ordinarily takes place in a church, before a priest or deacon and witnesses. This is not merely a rule, but a profound theological statement.

Marriage is a **public reality**, not a private affair. By celebrating marriage in the Church:

- The couple professes their faith before God and the community
- The Church officially witnesses and blesses the union
- The marriage becomes part of the sacramental life of the Church

The priest or deacon does not “marry” the couple; rather, he **officially witnesses** the exchange of vows on behalf of the Church and invokes God’s blessing. This public celebration highlights that marriage is meant to serve not only the couple, but also the Church and society.

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE: TOGETHER WITH PURPOSE Cont...

Marriage Open to Life: Catholic marriage is inherently ordered toward the **gift of life**. God's first command to the married couple was: "Be fruitful and multiply." (Genesis 1:28)

Openness to children is not an optional element but an essential dimension of marital love. Through welcoming and educating children, spouses participate in God's creative work and pass on faith, values, and love to the next generation.

Irregular Unions and Participation in the Sacraments: With pastoral care and compassion, the Church also addresses situations where individuals find themselves in **irregular unions**, such as:

- Divorced and civilly remarried without an annulment
- Couples living together without sacramental marriage

The Church teaches that marriage is indissoluble. Therefore, when a person who is validly married divorces and enters a new union while the first spouse is still living, the new relationship is **not recognized as a valid marriage** by the Church.

Regarding reception of Holy Communion, the Church teaches: "Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion." (CCC 1385)

Because an ongoing marital relationship outside a valid marriage contradicts the sacramental sign of Christ's faithful love, such individuals are ordinarily **not admitted to Holy Communion**.

However, it is important to emphasize:

- The Church does not exclude these persons from the community
- They are encouraged to participate in Mass, prayer, and parish life
- They are invited to seek pastoral guidance, discernment, and healing

Pope Francis reminds us that the Church is both **truthful and merciful**, holding fast to Christ's teaching while walking patiently with those in complex situations.

Together with Purpose: This year's theme, "*Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose*," reminds us that marriage is part of God's loving plan. Catholic marriage reveals:

- God's faithful love
- The dignity of man and woman
- The call to lifelong commitment
- The sacredness of family life

During National Marriage Week and World Marriage Day, the Church celebrates couples who strive daily to live their vocation with faith, sacrifice, and love. Their witness strengthens the Church and builds a civilization of love.

May all married couples be renewed in their commitment, and may our communities continue to support, protect, and promote the sacred vocation of marriage—**together with purpose, together in Christ**.



Week of National Marriage Week (7-14)

The observances of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 8) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "**Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose**."

Every diocese and parish is encouraged to offer a Eucharistic Holy Hour for engaged and married couples on **Saturday, February 14**. Accordingly, engaged and married couples are invited to participate in an hour of Eucharistic Adoration from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., which will be followed by the Saturday Vigil Mass. There will not be adoration of Friday, February 13.

NEWS AND UPDATES

UPDATING THE PARISH DATABASE

Dear Parish Family,

We would like to kindly inform you that we are in the process of updating our parish database. It has come to our notice that some members are not receiving important information sent through text messages or emails via Flocknote. This may be because our records do not contain complete or updated contact details.

To ensure that everyone receives parish communications sent through Flocknote or other media, we humbly request your cooperation in updating your information. Please find the attached form, which you may download, print, and fill out. You may bring the completed form to the parish office during your visit or return it to us by email.

For your convenience, printed forms will also be available at the back of the church and in the parish office. We kindly ask you to consider this request as important and to take a few moments to complete the form. Thank you very much for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support.

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

2026 Men's Discernment Retreat

WWW.WVPRIESTS.ORG

FEBRUARY 13 - FEBRUARY 15

PRIESTFIELD PASTORAL CENTER
4030 MIDDLEWAY PIKE, KEARNEYSVILLE, WV 25430

- OPEN TO MEN 18 AND OLDER
- PRAY, SHARE MEALS, AND MEET WITH CURRENT WV SEMINARIANS
- HEAR TALKS ABOUT PRIESTLY LIFE AND DISCERNMENT

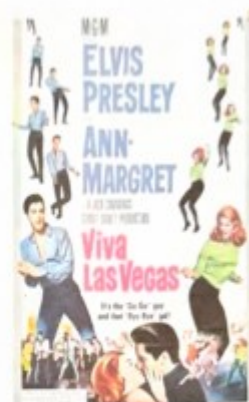
Register
Today!



FREE No-Hush Movie

Sunday February 22, 2025 @ 2pm

The Alban Theatre in St Albans



Dementia Friendly St Albans will be hosting its second No Hush Movie Sunday, February 22nd, thanks to our sponsor The Palliative Care Center. All caregivers and their family member or friend with dementia are invited to see the movie "Viva Las Vegas" at 2:00 pm at the Alban Theatre on Main Street in St Albans. This event is totally FREE to all attendees. Popcorn and other refreshments will be provided at no cost.

What is a No Hush Movie? This is a movie where the lights are on, the sound is down a bit, and the rule book is thrown out the window. Participants can talk, walk around, dance or sing to the music, or whatever they feel like doing. This type of movie has been done in other cities with much success. Below are a few testimonies from those who have attended.

One wife left smiling saying, "I'm so happy to see my husband feel VISIBLE again."

An adult daughter exclaimed that her mom had the time of her life and felt she belonged!

Another wife said through sobs, "I had SUCH a good time. I just had a date with my husband for the first time in 9 years. We shared popcorn and held hands. It was just like the old days."

Movie starts at 2 pm so please plan to arrive between 1:30-1:50!

NEWS AND UPDATES

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!



Happy February Anniversary to Claudia & Ed McDonald and Bob & Mary Sanney!



FEBRUARY SECOND COLLECIONS

**February 8— Church Missions within the United States
—School Support**



Hadley Heumann was the recipient of the Thomas Aquinas Award. Congratulations Hadley!



Father had a wonderful home visit with Michael Scott. If you know someone who is house bound and would like Father to visit, contact the office at 304.727.3033.

WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club Meeting will be held Monday, February 9th at 5:30 in the Church for a spiritual walk with Billie. Following the walk with Billie, we will go into the school cafeteria for a meeting. The hostesses for the evening will be Brenda Dlugos, Kathy Shomo and Suzanne Farley. All women of the parish are invited to come to this meeting. Looking forward to meeting some new woman parishioners.

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, hats, scarves, gloves and soups.



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

-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 Lerose, Madison Lopez, Susan Lopez, Sue Martin, Brent Marstellar, 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

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 Arthur

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure Listed below are collections for January 31 & February 1, 2026

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$3,606.00
School.....	00
Diocese.....	00
Votive Candles.....	51.00
 Total.....	 \$3,657.00

Weekly Mass Attendance
Sat -44 Sun -76
Total -120

COLLECTIONS FOR CHURCH OPERATIONS



Collections for Church Operations as of
February 1, 2026

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.



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

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.