

# 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



MARCH 22, 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## 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. 1039 (YEAR A)

# Lazarus, Come Out!

## JOHN 11:1-45

23 Monday	24 Tuesday	25 Wednesday	26 Thursday	27 Friday	28 Saturday	29 Sunday
Dn 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 Jn 8: 1-11 (251)	Nm 21: 4-9 Jn 8: 21-30 (252)  St. Oscar Romero, Bishop & Martyr	Is 7: 10-14; 8:10 Heb 10: 4010/Lk 1: 26-38 (545)  The Annunciation of the Lord	Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8: 51-59 (254)	Jer 20: 10-13 Jn 10:31-42 (255)	Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56 (256)	Mt 21: 1-11 (37) Is 50: 4-7 Phil 2: 6-11  Palm Sunday

# PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
<b>SAT MAR 21</b>	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Fred Heindl	Leslie Huffman(X) Midge Butler (C) Dave DeLuca(C)	Volunteers	Pat Romanosky
<b>SUN MAR 22</b>	11:00 am	Nanette Martin By Fred & Jean Ann Heindl	Youth Group	Tom Liberatore(X) Mary Sanney (C) Suzanne Farley(C)	Joey Sikora Reagan Buscher Nathan Serna	Sarah Palmer
<b>MON MAR 23</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TUE MAR 24</b>	6:00 pm	Peace in the World	Pat Romanosky	Midge Butler	—	—
<b>WED MAR 25</b>	8:15 am	Jo Taylor By Joe & Vicki Gruse	Helen Musrock	—	—	—
<b>THU MAR 26</b>	8:00 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	School Students	Lynn Fenimore	School Students	—
<b>FRI MAR 27</b>	6:00 pm	Reconciliation in Families	Dawna Kessler	Midge Butler	—	—
<b>SAT MAR 28</b>	5:00 pm	Bertha DeLuca By Dave & Terry DeLuca	Jacque Switzer	Dave DeLuca (X) Leslie Huffman(C) Midge Butler (C)	Volunteers	Jacque Switzer
<b>SUN MAR 29</b>	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Mark Muchow Tom Williams	Paul Niedbalski(X) Tom Liberatore(C) Bill Tabor (C)	Matt Matheny Fred Heindl Jack Palmer	Tom Williams

## 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

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 Director.....  
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

## OPEN THE BURIED PLACES OF OUR HEARTS TO THE VOICE OF CHRIST



Lent is a pilgrimage toward life. Week by week we've been walking with Christ from the wilderness of temptation toward the fullness of Easter joy. By now, the journey has grown

more intense. The call to conversion has become more urgent. Today's Scriptures pull together one of the most profound themes of the Christian faith: God's power to bring life out of death. When all seems lost, when the grave seems final, our God speaks a word that restores hope and breathes new life into what was dead.

**The Lord's mercy reaches every buried corner of our lives:** The prophet Ezekiel offers Israel a breathtaking promise. Speaking to a nation exiled and crushed by despair, God declares, "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." His vision of dry bones coming to life is not just a metaphor for national restoration — it is a declaration of God's limitless faithfulness. Even if His people have fallen into the "graves" of sin, exile, or spiritual ruin, God will not abandon them. He will act to fulfill His covenant promises. For Israel, this meant coming home from exile. For us, it means that the Lord's mercy reaches into every buried corner of our lives. When we believe we're too far gone, too wounded, or too broken, God whispers again: I will bring you back to life.

**Lent: a wake-up call to a deeper truth:** In the second reading, St. Paul invites us to reflect on what this divine power means in our everyday lives. To live "in the flesh" is to remain turned in on ourselves — chasing self-interest, seeking worth in temporary things, and forgetting that we belong to God. But to live "in the Spirit" is to draw every breath from Christ himself. The Holy Spirit, Paul says, is the very breath of God dwelling within us, the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead. Therefore, the resurrection is not a distant event we await only at the end of time; it begins now, in these moments of grace when our souls come alive again through faith, repentance, and love. Lent calls us back into that life — out of spiritual slumber and into the vitality of communion with Christ.

Yet Paul reminds us that God's promise does not stop with spiritual renewal. The Spirit who gives life to our souls will also give lift to our mortal bodies. We are not

destined to float away as formless spirits in the afterlife; our Christian hope is far greater. It is the resurrection of the body — redeemed, transformed, and radiant with the glory of God. Our entire being, body and soul, is meant for eternal life. This belief affirms the sacredness of creation and the dignity of our human bodies. They are not disposable but destined for glory.

**The Gospel: called from the tomb:** Then comes the Gospel, one of the most moving encounters in all of Scripture: the raising of Lazarus. Jesus stands before the tomb, weeps for his friend, and then commands, "Lazarus, come out!" Death must yield to the voice of the Lord of life. The miracle is more than a sign of compassion — it is a preview of Easter. What happened to Lazarus prepares us for what will happen to Jesus Himself, and ultimately, to all who believe in Him. The stone rolled away from Lazarus' tomb anticipates the stone rolled away from Christ's own tomb.

**Called to let go of the old ways:** St. Paul writes that when we are baptized, we are "buried with Christ" so that we might rise with Him to newness of life. The waters of Baptism are both tomb and womb — a place where the old self dies and the new self is born. Lent is our yearly opportunity to live this baptismal mystery anew: to let go of the old ways of sin and allow God's Spirit to call us forth into life again.

**Look ahead with Faith and Hope:** As we approach Holy Week, the readings invite us to look ahead with faith and hope. The power that raised Lazarus from the tomb and Israel from exile will soon burst forth from the tomb of Jesus Himself. The message is clear and deeply personal: no grave is too deep, no sin too great, no heart too far gone for God's redeeming power. In His mercy, God will bring us back to life — again and again — until His promises are fulfilled in us completely.

So, as we enter these last days of Lent, let us open the buried places of our hearts to the voice of Christ. Let us let go of fear, resentment, and despair. We are the people called out of our graves by name. And when God's Spirit breathes upon us once more, we, too, shall rise and live. "O my people, I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord." (Ez 37:14)

## CATECHETICAL CORNER

# THE CROSSES IN OUR LIFE: THE MEANING OF THE CROSS



One morning, a young mother sat beside her child's hospital bed. The monitors beeped softly as she held a worn rosary in her hand. Months of sleepless nights and anxious visits

had exhausted her. Yet each day, she looked up at the crucifix above the hospital door and drew strength from Christ. Her cross was heavy—but she carried it with love. Her story mirrors what many of us live daily, even if our crosses look different. Some are visible, some hidden in the heart, but all are invitations to walk beside Jesus.

During this grace-filled season, we are called to bring our attention to the Cross of Christ and how His Cross gives meaning to our own daily crosses. Every one of us—none exempt—carries crosses in life. It may be illness, family struggles, loneliness, misunderstandings, failures, or hidden burdens that no one else sees. Often, we try to avoid these crosses or ask, “Why me?” But our faith invites us to look at them differently—with the eyes of Christ.

**The Cross: God's Love Revealed:** The Cross, for a Christian, is not just a religious object; it is the deepest sign of God's love. On Calvary, Jesus shows that God's love is not distant or abstract, but willing to enter our pain, sin, and death. By stretching out His arms on the Cross, Christ embraces all humanity, turning an instrument of torture into a sign of total self-gift. The Cross tells us that no sin is too great and no darkness too deep for God to enter and redeem.

Through His death on the Cross, Jesus takes upon Himself the consequences of our sin and opens for us the way back to the Father. The Cross is where justice and mercy meet: justice, because sin is taken seriously; mercy, because God Himself bears what we could not. From His pierced side, the Church sees the beginning of the sacraments, the channels of grace flowing from His sacrifice.

**“Take Up Your Cross”:** **The Call of Jesus:** Jesus clearly tells us: “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). Carrying the cross is not optional—it is part of discipleship. To “take up the cross” means to say yes to God's will when it is hard, to remain faithful in trials, to respond to hurt with forgiveness and to hatred with love. The Cross is not merely a past event; it becomes a present way of life.

Saint Paul reminds us: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God” (Romans 8:28). This is not easy faith, but trusting faith: a faith that believes that even suffering, when united with Christ, has purpose and meaning. God does not always remove our crosses, but He never abandons us beneath their weight.

**The Church Teaches: Suffering Is Not Meaningless:** The Church teaches that suffering is not meaningless. When united with Christ, our suffering becomes redemptive.

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 618)** tells us that by His Passion, Jesus has given a new meaning to suffering—it can unite us with His saving work. Our crosses, therefore, are not punishments, but opportunities to grow in love, patience, and trust in God.

Before Christ, the cross was a symbol of shame, humiliation, and defeat. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus transformed the cross into a sign of love, sacrifice, and victory. On the Cross, He forgave His enemies, He entrusted Himself completely to the Father, and He loved to the very end. Because of this, our own suffering, offered in union with His, becomes a path to holiness and a hidden participation in His work of salvation.

**The Saints and the Value of the Cross:** The saints, who lived holy lives in very real circumstances, understood the value of the Cross. Saint John Paul II urged us: “Do not waste your suffering.” He saw in suffering a mysterious place where we can be closely united to Christ. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux embraced small, daily sacrifices with love, showing that even little crosses—annoyances, disappointments, small acts of self-denial—can become great in God's eyes when offered with love.

Saint Francis of Assisi saw suffering as a way to be configured more deeply to Christ crucified. Rather than running from the Cross, the saints walked toward it with trust, convinced that the Cross is the true school of love. They teach us that holiness is often formed not in extraordinary miracles, but in the quiet endurance of everyday crosses carried with faith.

**Christ's Cross Gives Meaning to Ours:** From the first days of His earthly life, Jesus carried His own crosses: poverty in Bethlehem, flight into Egypt, misunderstanding from His relatives, rejection by His hometown, opposition from religious leaders, betrayal by a friend, denial by Peter, and abandonment by many disciples. Finally, He carried the wooden cross to His execution on Calvary.

Yet He accepted suffering freely, not as a cruel fate, but as a loving offering to the Father for our sake. He trusted the Father completely. He forgave even from the Cross. Through His Passion, Jesus shows us that love is stronger than suffering, and life is stronger than death. Because He has gone before us, no cross we carry is ever carried alone.

**Our Daily Crosses: Sharing in His Mystery:** When we look at our own crosses—illness, family tension, financial worry, loneliness, aging, disappointment—we can be tempted to see only pain or injustice. But in the light of Christ's Cross, our burdens can become places of encounter with Him. When we say, “Jesus, I unite this to Your Cross,” our suffering is drawn into His saving love and offered with His for the life of the world. In practical terms, this means:

- Accepting our struggles with faith rather than bitterness.
- Offering our sufferings, large and small, to God in prayer.
- Supporting others in their crosses with compassion, presence, and prayer.
- Choosing forgiveness over resentment, patience over anger, trust over despair.

# NEWS AND UPDATES

In this way, the Cross is not only something we look at, but something we live.

**The Cross as Victory and Hope:** From the outside, the Cross looks like defeat. Yet from God's perspective, it is the doorway to resurrection. Easter does not erase the wounds of Good Friday; in the Risen Christ, those wounds remain, but now they are glorious. Because of the Cross and Resurrection, we can say that death does not have the final word, and no suffering in Christ is ever wasted.

During this Lenten season, we are invited to stand at the foot of the Cross and to recognize both the immense love of God for us and the dignity of our own daily crosses. The Cross is not the end of the story. Just as Easter follows Good Friday, our crosses, when united with Christ, lead to new life. Let us not run away from our crosses, but carry them with courage, knowing that with Christ, every cross has meaning and every suffering can lead to hope.

**Young Adult Night**  
 Open to those in their 20s and 30s  
 Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
 St. Agnes in Charleston, WV



**Featuring: Allison Hadinger, RD**  
 A Talk on Natural Family Planning  
 Pizza Will Be Provided, Please Bring a Side to Share

**Please joins these programs and enrich yourself.**

**MARCH 22-24, 2026**  
 Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 pm  
 Mission at 6:30 pm

**ASCENSION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 2026 LENTEN MISSION  
 Featuring: Richard Deanda

**"THIS IS MY BODY: FROM THE UPPER ROOM TO THE EMPTY TOMB"**

FOLLOW JESUS FROM THE LAST SUPPER TO CALVARY TO THE EMPTY TOMB—AND DISCOVER HIS REAL PRESENCE WITH US IN THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22**  
**NIGHT 1 – THE SHROUD OF TURIN: A SILENT WITNESS**  
 AN ENGAGING PRESENTATION EXPLORING WHAT THE SHROUD REVEALS ABOUT THE SUFFERING OF JESUS AND THE REALITY OF CRUCIFIXION AND WHY IT CONTINUES TO STIR FAITH

**MONDAY, MARCH 23**  
**NIGHT 2 – THE PASSION OF JESUS: A REFLECTION ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS A GUIDED SPIRITUAL REFLECTION ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS MEANT NOT ONLY TO INFORM, BUT TO MOVE THE HEART TO PRAYER, GRATITUDE, AND TRUST.**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 24**  
**NIGHT 3 – THE RESURRECTION AND THE EUCHARIST: HE IS WITH US**  
 THE VICTORY OF THE EMPTY TOMB AND THE LIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST AN INVITATION TO DEEPER DEVOTION, WORSHIP, AND MISSION.



Richard C. Deanda is a Catholic writer, speaker, and theologian with more than twenty-five years of experience presenting the faith to audiences ranging from high school students to seniors.

Richard is known for engaging and reverent presentations on the Shroud of Turin, the Passion of Jesus, and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, often incorporating a museum-quality replica of the Shroud to help audiences connect history, Scripture, and Catholic tradition. His mission is to strengthen faith in Jesus Christ – touched, seen, and truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life.

Ascension Catholic Church  
 905 Hickory Mills Rd.  
 Hurricane, WV 25526  
 304-562-5856

Reading School Awards



First Music class by Sophia with future musicians and singers!



# NEWS AND UPDATES

## Volunteers Needed

Father Sojan is asking for folks to sign up for the foot washing on Holy Thursday. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the back table or call the office at 304.727.3033



## EASTER FLOWERS

Donations are now being accepted for Easter Flowers. If you would like to make a donation you can either use your "EASTER FLOWER ENVELOPE" or put your donation in an envelope with how you would like your donation directed, example: in memory of, and drop it in the collection basket.



## PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Council will meet on March 26th at 6:00pm. All members are requested to be present.

## WOMEN'S CLUB MEETING

The Women's Club will be selling baked goods at the Fish Fry on March 27th from 5:00– 7:00pm.

**\$15** PER PERSON  
**KIDS 5-11 \$5**

FRIDAY MARCH 27TH 5:00PM-7:00PM

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**FISH FRY**

Dinner Includes: Fish baked or fried, Shrimp, French Fries, Hush Puppies, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Homemade Desserts and Drinks

Homemade Desserts

COME AND ENJOY THE BEST FISH FRY IN THE VALLEY

## PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are now less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity, including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war and now the Iranian conflict have made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS!**

## BLESSING OF HOMES DURING LENT AND EASTER



It is a tradition in the Catholic Church for the pastor to bless the homes of parishioners. If you wish to have your

home blessed, Father will be available during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Please contact the parish office and provide your mobile number and address.

# NEWS AND UPDATES

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Our parish will be celebrating First Holy Communion shortly after Easter. If any of your children are preparing to

receive this beautiful sacrament, we kindly ask that you inform the parish office at your earliest convenience.

We also encourage them to begin attending the Sunday Religion classes as part of their preparation. Thank you for your cooperation and continued commitment to your children's faith formation.

## Lenten and Easter Dates—Note your calendars!

### Palm Sunday—March 28/29

- March 28th Mass @5:00pm
- March 29th Mass @ 11:00pm

### Holy Thursday—April 2nd

- 6:00pm Washing of the feet and Adoration in the place of the Reposition of Sacred Species

### Good Friday—April 3rd

- Stations of the Cross @ 5:30pm
- 6:00pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

### Easter Vigil—April 4th @8:00pm

### Easter Sunday -April 5th @ 11:00am

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The youth are invited to join us this Sunday after Mass for a special time of fellowship, and faith sharing. It's a great opportunity to connect, grow in faith, and encourage each other.

All youth are welcome—bring a friend and come as you are!

We'd love to see you there.

—Youth Director

“Strong youth build a strong Church”

## 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!



## 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



## 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, Carroll children

## 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  
March 14 & 15, 2026

Collection for Church Operation.....	\$4,714.00
School.....	319.00
Diocese.....	5.00
Votive Candles.....	94.00

Total.....\$5,681.74

**Weekly Mass Attendance**  
Sat –68 Sun –123  
Total –191

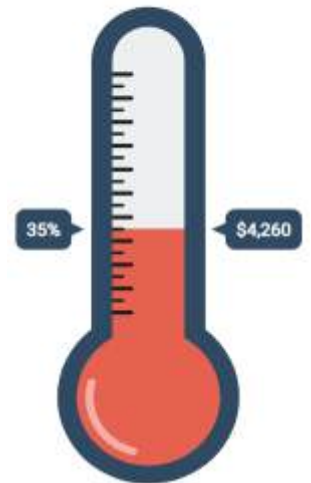
## STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS OF LENT

- 1:30 PM for Children
- ♦ 6:30 PM for Parishioners



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



## 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](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 and 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; 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](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.