

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/stfrancisofofassisaintalbens



MAY 3, 2026 FIFTH 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. 1088 (YEAR A)



"Since Christ himself has said, "This is my Body," who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?" ~St. Thomas Aquinas



CONGRATULATIONS, BEST WISHES & PRAYERS TO MOST REV. EVELIO MENJIVAR-AYALA, THE NEWLY APPOINTED BISHOP OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON.

"A BIG THANK-YOU TO BISHOP MARK BRENNAN, WHO SHEPHERDED THE DIOCESE IN THE MODEL OF HIS MASTER, JESUS"

<u>04 Monday</u>	<u>05 Tuesday</u>	<u>06 Wednesday</u>	<u>07 Thursday</u>	<u>08 Friday</u>	<u>09 Saturday</u>	<u>10 Sunday</u>
Acts 14: 5-18 Jn 14: 21-26	Acts 14: 19-28 Jn 14: 27-31a (286)	Acts 15: 1-6 Jn 15: 1-8 (287)	Acts 15:7-12 Jn 15: 9-11 (288)	Acts 15: 22-31 Jn 15: 12-17 (289)	Acts 16: 1-10 Jn 15:18-21 (290)	Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17 1Pt 3: 15-18 Jn 14: 15-21 (55)
			WORLD DAY OF PRAER			MOTHER'S DAY

PARISH INFORMATION

Date	Mass Time	Mass Intention	Lector	Extraordinary Minister(s)	Altar Servers	Rosary Leader
SAT MAY 02	5:00 pm	Intentions of the people of the parish	Fred Heindl	Midge Butler (X) Dave DeLuca (C) Leslie Huffman (C)	Volunteers	Midge Butler
SUN MAY 03	11:00 am	Pete Palmer By Sarah & Jack Palmer	First Communicants	Mark Muchow (X) John Carnell (C) Mary Sanney (C)	Mighty Lopez Miguel Matheus Diondrae Johnson	Pat Romanosky
MON MAY 04	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUE MAY 05	6:00 pm	Healing of Jayce	Pat Romanosky	—	—	—
WED MAY 06	8:15 am	Mary Jane Gertz By Tony Gertz	Helen Musrock	—	—	—
THU MAY 07	8:00 am	No Mass Rosary for Children	School Students	—	—	—
FRI MAY 08	6:00 pm	Sick Members of The Parish	Dawna Kessler	—	—	—
SAT MAY 09	5:00 pm	James Bump By Bob & Margaret Bump	Helen Musrock	Leslie Huffman (X) Midge Butler (C) Helen Musrock (C)	Volunteers	Helen Musrock
SUN MAY 10	11:00 am	Intentions of the people of the parish	Dawna Kessler	Bill Tabor (X) Mary Sanney (C) Jennifer Lopez (C)	Mary Pauley Ruby Pauley Mairin Knapp	Mary Sanney

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

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

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) 415-594
Kim Williams, Finance Chair.....kim@ellisepea.com

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.

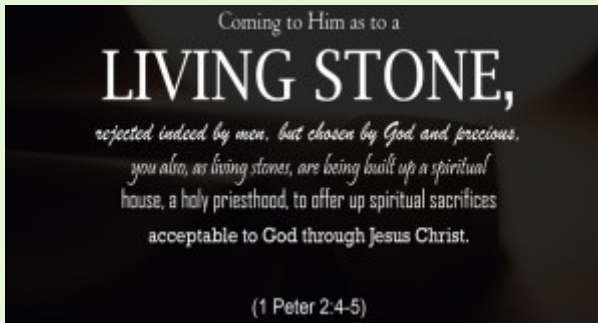
Marriage Preparation-Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Francis of Assisi Church are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program before the marriage. At least six months advance notice is required for the marriage.

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.

PASTOR'S NOTE

BE A LIVING STONE IN HIS HOLY CHURCH BY A LIFE OF FAITH AND SERVICE



We are now in the Fifth Sunday of Easter, and the readings place us before the living

mystery of the risen Lord who continues to build His Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles, the early Christians are filled with courage and zeal, and the apostles preach the risen Christ with boldness, while many respond by becoming disciples. The Church is not growing by human effort alone, but by grace, faith, service, and unity in Christ.

Serving One Another: The first reading from Acts 6:1-7 shows us that a healthy Church is one that listens, organizes, and serves. When the apostles saw that some members of the community were being neglected, they did not ignore the problem; instead, they invited the community to choose men filled with the Spirit and wisdom so that the ministry of service could continue faithfully.

The Church becomes stronger, fairer, and more faithful to the Gospel through a life of service. The Church teaches that all the baptized share in Christ's mission. While some are called to ordained ministry, every Christian is called to holiness, to service, and to the building up of the Body of Christ. The Second Vatican Council reminds us that the Church is the People of God, where each member has gifts to offer for the common good. In this way, ministry is not the work of a few, but the shared responsibility of the whole Church.

Living Stones in Christ: In the second reading, Saint Peter gives us a beautiful image: we are "living stones" being built into a spiritual house, with Christ as the cornerstone. A stone by itself is only one part, but together with other stones it becomes a strong and beautiful house. In the same way, each baptized person has a place and purpose in the Church, and all are called to contribute their gifts for the good of the whole Body.

The Church teaches us that through Baptism, we are made members of Christ and incorporated into His Body, the

Church. We do not belong to Christ as isolated individuals, but as a people gathered, strengthened, and united in Him. The Eucharist nourishes this unity, for it is Christ Himself who sustains the Church and makes her one.

Saint Augustine said, "The whole Christ is Head and Body," reminding us that the Church is not complete without the living members who belong to Christ. Saint Teresa of Calcutta often reminded us that small acts done with great love build up the Church more than grand words alone. Saint John Chrysostom taught that if we wish to honor Christ's body, we must first show reverence and care for His Body in the poor and in one another. Their witness reminds us that true faith is always visible in charity, humility, and service. I see that Our parish truly demonstrates this aspect of the Church.

Message: The above readings teach us that the Church grows when every member takes part in the mission. The apostles remained focused on prayer and the ministry of the Word, while others served the community in practical ways; both were necessary for the life of the Church. Likewise, 1 Peter 2:4-9 reminds us that all believers are called to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices and proclaiming God's Marvelous light.

We are reminded that evangelization begins with witness. People are drawn to Christ not only by preaching, but also by the way Christians love, forgive, serve, and remain faithful in daily life. When the Church lives this way, she becomes what she is meant to be: a sign of Christ's presence in the world. This is the kind of evangelization Bishop Mark Brennan envisions when he says, "If your faith matters, do something about it."

A Parish Call: For our parish today, these Scriptures are a call to unity, generosity, and active faith. We are called to build the Church by serving one another and by living as living stones in Christ. When we worship faithfully, care for one another, and use our gifts for the good of the community, we help make the Church a true spiritual home where Christ is known, loved, and served. May the risen Lord continue to bless our parish family, strengthen our hands for service, and make each of us a living stone in His holy Church.

CATECHETICAL CORNER

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: CELEBRATING THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST



A Joyful Moment for the Parish: This year, we are blessed with 14 children who come forward to receive Holy Communion for the very first time. It is a moment filled with joy, wonder, and quiet reverence—not just for them, but parents, for all of us who witness it, and for the whole parish community.

The Church's Teaching on the Eucharist: Holy Communion is not simply a symbol or a tradition. The Church teaches that it is truly Jesus Himself—His Body and His Blood—given to us under the appearance of bread and wine. At the Last Supper, Jesus said, “This is my body... this is my blood,” and He commanded us to “do this in memory of me.” He did not say, “This represents my body.” He meant what He said. From that moment on, the Eucharist has been the heart of the Church's life.

The saints echo this truth with deep conviction. St. Thomas Aquinas taught that the Eucharist is “the sacrament of love.” St. John Vianney said, “There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.” St. Teresa of Calcutta reminded us that in receiving the Eucharist, we receive Jesus Himself—not a symbol, but a living presence.

The Beginning of a Lifelong Friendship: For these children, this day marks the beginning of a deeper friendship with Jesus. In receiving Holy Communion, they are not just remembering Him—they are welcoming Him into their very lives. Jesus comes to them personally, lovingly, and completely. This is why the Eucharist is called the “source and summit” of our faith: it is both where our life in Christ begins and what sustains it.

A Personal Memory of First Communion: I still remember my own First Holy Communion many years ago. It was a very exciting day. I went with my father to get a new white dress a few days beforehand, and it was stitched just in time for the celebration. On the day itself, the church was crowded with people. We were all lined up prayerfully, wearing white crowns and holding bouquets in our hands.

That memory has stayed with me over the years—not because of the clothes or the celebration, but because

of the encounter with Jesus. There was a sense of awe I could not fully explain—a quiet awareness that something sacred was happening. I remember the stillness of the moment and the realization, even as a child, that I was receiving something far greater than I could understand. I am sure these children will carry a similar memory in their hearts today.

The Responsibility of Parents: This beautiful moment is not only about the children—it is also a call to all of us. While we rejoice and cherish this occasion, parents carry a sacred responsibility to nurture the faith of their children, especially a love for the Eucharist.

By their example—bringing their children to Mass each Sunday, praying with them, and showing reverence for Holy Communion—they teach far more than words ever could. The home becomes the first place where children learn that Jesus is real, present, and worthy of love, especially through the love parents show for one another and the importance they give to prayer.

The Role of the Parish Community: The wider parish community also shares in this responsibility. As a parish family, we are called to support these children by the witness of our own faith. Our participation in the Mass, our reverence before the Eucharist, and our kindness toward one another help shape the faith of the youngest among us. The saints remind us of this as well. St. Paul teaches that “because there is one bread, we who are many are one body.” The Eucharist unites us—not only with Christ, but with one another—and calls us to live as true disciples.

A Lifelong Gift of Grace: The Church reminds us that every time we receive Holy Communion, we are united more deeply with Christ and with one another. We are strengthened to live with love, to forgive, to serve, and to grow in faith. The Eucharist is not a one-time event, but a lifelong gift—one that calls us back again and again.

A Prayer for Our Children: As these children receive Jesus for the first time, we pray that their hearts remain open, their faith continues to grow, and that this day becomes a memory they will carry throughout their lives. May they always recognize the great treasure they have been given, and may we, as a community and as families, faithfully guide them to return to the Eucharist with love and devotion.

For in the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us completely—and invites us to do the same.

NEWS AND UPDATES



BABY BOTTLE DRIVE

Little Blessings Baby Pantry is sponsoring a baby bottle drive fundraiser!

PLEASE PICK UP A BOTTLE, FILL IT WITH CHANGE AND BILLS, AND RETURN IT ON FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND.

Thank you for your support of local mothers and children!



We welcomed Sophia Shaw into the Church on April 19th. Sophia is the granddaughter of Dennis and Debbie DiFilippo.

Thank you to all who came to the General Parish Meeting after the 11:00pm Mass last Sunday. It was a very enriching. Pizza was served.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May Crowning—May 8th at 9:00am.

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

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

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC— July 26th, Mass will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by the picnic .

FORMED—“Forming Catholics for Life”

What is Formed? Formed guided Catholics and those they evangelize to a fully Catholic life through faith-informed content. As a faithful authority and helpful guide, which draws people closer to Christ, the Formed platform provides a captivating experience that is comprehensive, customizable, educates and moves with you wherever you are in your Faith journey. Formed empowers and satisfies curiosity by forming Catholics for life.

If you want more information go to Formed.org.

Blessed Mary and May Crowning

May is known as the Month of Mary, a time to honor the Blessed Virgin as the “Queen of Heaven” and the “Mystical Rose”. This Marian devotion has roots in the 18th century, promoted by Jesuits to encourage piety and spiritual growth. Catholics celebrate Mary through prayers, hymns, rosaries, and floral offerings. Reflecting both the natural renewal of spring and the spiritual flourishing of the faithful. A popular tradition is the May Crowning, where a statue of Mary is adorned with flowers, symbolizing her queenship and maternal care.

NB: If you have fresh cut flowers from you garden and would like to place them in front of Mary during the month of May a vase has been provided.

May Crowning & Living Rosary Friday, May 8, 9:00 am. May Queen is Evelyn Winiesdorffer and Crown Bearer is Lucy Forrester.



NEWS AND UPDATES

Bread Sharing gives a fore-taste of what takes place at the Mass on Sunday.



We welcomed through Baptism into our Church Kaysen Hughes, Kimber Hupp, Casey Pinson, Carter Smith and Skylar Smith Thursday, April 30th during the 8:00 Children's Mass.

Congratulations and God's Blessing on them!



Kaysen Hughes



Kimber Hupp



Casey Pinson



Skylar Smith



Carter Smith



Young Adult Night

Open to those in their 20s to 30s

Friday, May 8th 6:30PM

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

St Albans, WV



Guest Speaker- Msgr Dean Borgmeyer

“What Christians Believe and What Catholics do”

Main entree provided please bring a side!

NEWS AND UPDATES



One Mission One Day is one of the most exciting days for our St. Francis School and students.

Over the past two years, funds raised have supported our outdoor learning space. We have now shifted our focus to an exciting new project—a playground and play area for our students. All funds raised during the past two years have been earmarked for this and we will continue working toward this goal again this year.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and will help us meet our goal! Thank you in advance from the students at St. Francis!



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,

WOMEN'S CLUB

The May Women's Club meeting will be held at the Eagle's Nest Restaurant on Wednesday, May 13th at noon.

All women of the parish are welcome. It is an excellent way to meet other women of the parish.

EVANGELIZATION PRAYER MEETING-Monday, May 4th

The Evangelization Committee meets to share and care, pray the Rosary, pray for the sick, plan visits to those who are ill, prepare birthday and well-wish cards, and discuss evangelization efforts. The meeting concludes with light refreshments. All who feel called to join this group are warmly welcome.

The Meeting will be in the home of Brenda Dlugos, 134 Leslie Place, Scott Depot. For more information, contact Mary Sanney at 304.932.5674.

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, Jo Kirk

Immediate Prayer needs:

Carolyn Hanson	Josephine Fletcher	Peggy Shelton
Rick Mullins	Matt Sowers	Allison Grinstead
Rick Robinson	Dave Lucas	Brody Fulk
Terry DeLuca	Landen Chin	Pam Burton White
Margaret McEvoy	Michele Stugeon	Brandi Authur
Anna NgJohn Carnell	Patty Young	Jayce Smith

NEWS AND UPDATES

Sharing our Treasure

Listed below are collections for
April 18 & 19, 2026

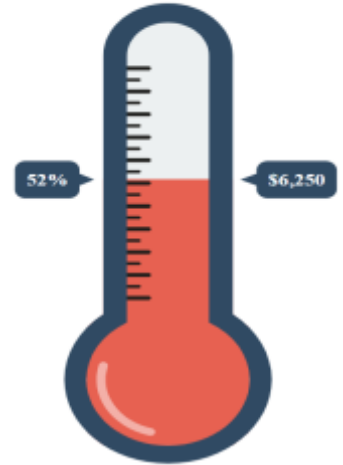
Collection for Church Operation.....	\$4,336.00
School-Includes McDonough Scholarship..	753.00
Diocese.....	00
Votive Candles.....	85.00
Total.....	\$5,174.00

Weekly Mass Attendance
Sat – 68 Sun – 128
Total – 196



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



SECOND COLLECTIONS

MAY 10th—School Support
MAY 24th— Catholic Relief Services

Collections for Church Operations



Collections for Church Operations as of
April 26, 2026

Congratulations to our First Communicants

Maggie Browning, Rylee Bush, Gabriel Guridis, Paley Hanshaw, Kaysen Hughes, Kimber Hupp, Timothy Jackson, Marlee Kersey, Everett Miller, Jack Palmer, Casey Pinson, Solomon Schoen, Carter Smith and Skylar Smith

“The gift of the Eucharist is the greatest gift you will ever receive” —Pope John Paul III

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.