

**December 17, 2017**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*Mission Statement: St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic worshipping community, dedicated to ministering to our members and to the greater community in the image given to us by Jesus. This ministry is centered on the Sacraments and our Acts of Faith, Hope and Charity.*



**Pastor – Fr. Anthony Francis Spilka, OFMConv**  
**Permanent Deacon Bruce Becker**  
**St. Francis of Assisi, 120 Barron Avenue**  
**Johnstown, PA 15906**  
**Rectory Phone – 814-539-1632**  
**Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518**  
**Fax: 814 – 539-5888**  
**Email – [sfassisich@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbnn.net)**  
**Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632**  
**Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com>**  
**Daily Mass Schedule at St. Francis of Assisi**  
Mon., Wed.; Thurs., Fri. – 8:00AM; Tues.–6:30PM;  
Sat - 8:00AM  
First Friday 8:00AM and 5:30 PM  
**Confession – Tues., 6:00PM, Sat. 3:15 – 3:45PM**  
First Friday 5:00PM  
**Weekend Mass Schedule**  
Saturday – 4:00PM / Sunday – 7:30AM / 9:30AM  
**Parish Secretary – Carol Pisula**  
**Office Hours – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. thru Thurs**  
**Parish Council President – Ryan Woodruff – 659-9781**  
**Acting Finance Council President – Brian Mayko**  
**Cemetery Council President - William Heim – 254- 2942**  
**Director of Religious Education – Carol Pisula 254-1961**

**Baptism** – Parents are expected to be registered members of the Parish and to attend a class for new parents in preparation for the Baptism of their child. It is encouraged that this be done prior to the birth of the child. Please call the Rectory to make early arrangements.

**Reconciliation** – The Sacrament of God’s merciful love and compassion is celebrated Tues at 6 PM and Sat 3:15 PM at St. Francis of Assisi. Communal Penance Services - Advent and Lent.

**Anointing of the Sick Communal** – Celebration 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent.

**Marriage in** accordance with Diocesan directives, arrangements must be made at least 9 months before the marriage date. All couples are required to attend Diocesan sponsored Pre-Cana sessions and to participate in the FOCCUS inventory. Call the Rectory for information and schedules.

**Christian Initiation (RCIA)** – Those who are interested in becoming Catholic, as well as those who are interested in learning more about their Catholic Faith, may call the Parish office for more information.

**Parish Membership** – We are always happy to welcome new parishioners. You may register at the Parish office. Registration, the practice of stewardship (the regular use of envelopes) and regular participation in the Eucharist indicates active membership and eligibility to act as a Godparent or Sponsor. Your stewardship of time, treasure and talent is essential for the common good and provides a stable income for the Parish, enabling us to prepare a budget.

**Ministry to the Sick** - If you or someone you know are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive the Sacrament of Penance or Holy Eucharist please contact the Parish Office to schedule a visit.

**First Friday** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM – 5:30PM.

**Rosary Society** – First Monday of the month at 6:00PM. Recitation of the Rosary, Reflection, Benediction.

## CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

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| Sunday, December 24 – Vigil of the Nativity – 4:00PM Mass, 11:45PM Christmas Carols, 12Midnight Mass |
| Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord – 9:00AM Mass   |
| Sunday, December 31 – <b>NO VIGIL MASS</b> for Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God                  |
| Monday, January 1 – 9:00AM Mass – <b>Not</b> a Holy Day of Obligation                                |

**SPECIAL DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS WEEK:** Wednesday, December 27 – 9:00AM; Thursday, December 28 – 9:00AM; Friday, December 29 – 9:00AM; Saturday, December 30 – Regular 8:00AM.

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00PM. Plan to be present as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Nine volunteers are needed to proclaim the 9 Scriptures. Signup sheet is located in the vestibule.

**DECORATING OF THE CHURCH** for the Christmas Season will take place beginning at 9:00AM on Friday, December 22. Please come and share your talents in preparing the Church for the Christ Child.

**ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH** are asked to participate in the 4:00PM Liturgy on Sunday, December 24. *Religious Education classes will be held in the Church on Sunday, December 17 following the 9:30AM Mass to prepare for this Liturgy. This will count as a class!*

**PARISH OFFICE** will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, as well as Monday, January 1.

**CAROLERS NEEDED** – Wednesday, December 27 – 6:00PM. Meet at the Barron Avenue Entrance of the Church and dress for caroling in the neighborhood. Bring a flashlight! Refreshments afterwards in the Church Hall. Please call Gale at 539-0155 or Dawn at 244-2385 so we can get a count. Start humming!



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5** is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the **8:00AM Mass** and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the vestibule of the Church. There should be at least two adorers present for each time slot. (This is also a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament – adorers adore and protect.)

**WINTER SPECIAL** tickets for the month of January 2018 will be available for purchase this weekend. Chance to win \$500 on New Year's Day, \$100 on Saturdays and Sundays and \$50 each weekday, \$200 – Martin Luther King. Cost: \$5.00. **ALL TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 in order for winners to be paid.** Any unsold tickets become the property of the Parish.

**MARDI GRAS** – Saturday, February 3, 2018 featuring “Flood City Brass” from 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Delicious Turkey Dinner, great door prizes, chances to win all evening with qualifiers, baskets, 50/50 tickets, etc. Tickets: Adults - \$20, children 6-17 - \$10, under 5 – free. “All You Can Drink” Beer bracelet for \$5.00. Cash bar available – no outside beverages. Doors open at 5:00PM. Tickets go on sale this weekend.

**MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE** is asking for donations of baskets valued at a minimum of \$25 or donations of items for baskets. Please call Alice at 536-0948 for more information.

**CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for God's blessings and good health for Frank Bazyk from Ray & Jeanne Toth.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$281.00; Adults - \$2,287.42; Children - \$24.00; Monthly - \$393.00; Candles - \$78.75; Donation - \$10.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$5.00; Holy Day - \$876.02; Christmas - \$80.00; Christmas Flowers - \$98.00; Missalettes - \$3.00; Religious Retirement - \$507.52; Misc. - \$16.65. Total Collection - \$4,660.36. 143 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION:**

Sunday, December 17 – St. Benedict – Johnstown – 5:00PM  
Monday, December 18 – Visitation – 5:30PM  
Monday, December 18 – St. Francis of Assisi – 6:30PM  
Tuesday, December 19 – Our Mother of Sorrows – 6:30PM



*Liturgical Reflection...* We await the coming of the Eternal Word of God. When a believer dies we find comfort and consolation in the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures. Death may fill the Christian with fears and questions. Scripture firmly grounds us in the Faith that death is not the end, that the promise made at Baptism assures us that we who have died with Christ in the waters of Baptism remain with the Lord into Eternal Life. The Word of God assures us that death, a result of sin, does not have power over one claimed for Christ. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Number 2 and 4. 2017, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

*Stewardship Reflection...* How do we respond to St. Paul’s challenge to give thanks to God in all circumstances? With an attitude of gratitude Christian stewards give their time, talents, and treasure in response to an internal need to give in thanks for God’s blessings, and not because someone has a need to receive. Like the rose candle of the Advent Wreath may we “shine on” as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and joy.

*Families and the Gospel* –December 17 – John 1:6-8, 19-29 – Today’s Gospel reports “there is one among you whom you do not recognize.” It is hard to believe Christ is present in a family with crazy schedules, suppers that start too late and end too early, cars that don’t start, misunderstandings, frustrations, piles of laundry, unmatched socks and stretched food budgets. The list is endless. The words spoken at Mass, “The Lord is with you,” are not a hope, they are a fact.

*Last Days of Advent* – by Pope St. John Paul II – “The liturgy of Advent...helps us to understand fully the value and meaning of the mystery of Christmas. It is not just about commemorating the historical event, which occurred some 2000 years ago in a little village of Judea. Instead, it is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an “advent,” a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ. To predispose our minds to welcome the Lord Who, as we say in the Creed, one day will come to judge the living and the dead, we must learn to recognize Him Who already came, Who will come, and Who comes continuously.”

***UPCOMING EVENTS***

Sunday, Dec. 17 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon  
Sunday, December 17 – Lessons & Carols – 3:00PM  
Monday, December 18 – West End Penance Service – 6:30PM – St. Francis of Assisi  
Wednesday, December 27 – Christmas Caroling – 6:00PM  
Friday, January 12 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM  
Saturday, February 3 – Mardi Gras – 6:00PM – 11:00PM

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Larry Olek, Ed Popovich, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Bernadette Solomon, Fr. John Slovikovski, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Irene Virus, and Sheila Weppner, Helen Yursky.

**SALUTE TO THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY AND A REMEMBRANCE IN OUR PRAYERS**

*May God bless these brave men and women who serve God and Country.*

Ensign Adam Guarino, USCG; Master at Arms 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Izeke W. Pinkas, Fallon, NV; Lt. Col. Joshua P. Higgins, US Army; Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Rambish, US Navy, Coronado Naval Base, San Diego; Major Melinda Rován Corallo, Lakenheath Air Force Base, England; HMC David Bakos, US Navy; PFC; Lance Corporal Jacob Taylor, USMC; Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Zack Taylor, US Army; Trista L. Urban, PFC, Army National Guard; Jared N. Dull, HM3, US Navy, Quantico, Va.; Stefanie Kollar, TSgt. Air Force, Hurlburt Field, Fort Walton

Beach, Fla., **Fr. Don Fullerton**, USS Enterprise, **Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Maxwell Schutte**, F. E. Warren, Wy; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **Captain Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Stewart, GA; **Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Heather L. Dovala**, Great Lakes, IL.; **Spec Jarod Pisarchik**, Army National Guard; **Ens. Kara Yingling**, Pentagon; **Lt. JG Shannon Yingling**; **Pvt Daniel Maslo**, Camp Geiger, NC; **Senior Airman Devon Gilbert**, Deployed to Middle East; **Senior Airman Daniel Christner**, USAF, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ryan Powers**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **Senior Airman Anthony Rosage**, USAF; Fort Gordon, GA; **Tech Sgt. Daniel Bracken**, USAF, deployed to Kobal Afghanistan; **Adken Torchia**, US Army, Fort Benning, GA; **PVT. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lucas Tomak**, US Army, Fort Hood, TX; **Lt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, Afghanistan; **Cpl Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, New River, NC.; **A1C Jeremy Williams**, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

*To add a name to our Salute to those in the Military, please call 539-1632. If a person is no longer serving on active or reserve duty, please call the Parish Office to remove his/her name.*

**A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY:** Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline and courage, and bring them home safely to their loved ones. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**PRO LIFE VIGIL** Every Thursday from 4:00PM - 5:00PM we hold a prayer vigil across from the Franklin Street Planned Parenthood facility here in Johnstown. For more information, call Gale at 539-0155.

**AN ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be held at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 23 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Youth Chorale under the direction of Cathedral music director, Evonne Yanzetich-Homway. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:** Connect with your Creator, Redeemer, and Spiritual Guide in a stress free environment at the Eucharistic Adoration every First Friday of the month from 8:30AM until 5:30PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

*Come Lord Jesus*