

NOVEMBER 30, 2014
First Sunday of Advent
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**



ST. FRANCIS

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
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@atlanticbbn.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. / Sat; 8:00AM; Tues. –6:30PM
First Friday 8:00AM and 5:30 PM

Confession - Tues., 6:00PM, Sat. 3:15 - 3:45PM
First Friday 5:00PM

Rosary Society – First Sunday of the Month – 2:00PM

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

Finance Council President – Lynn Rován

Cemetery Council President - William Heim

Music Minister - Gale Bala

Director of Religion Education - Carol Pisula

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 2nd Sunday of Advent and 3rd 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.

Annual Catholic Appeal Goal: \$24,795.00

As of Nov. 24: 10,004.00 was pledged for 29% of goal by 96 families/342 households

WE REJOICE in the Baptism of Olivia Lee Mattes and congratulate her parents, godparents and family as they celebrate the beginning of her new life with Christ.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Florence Sakmar who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

MANY THANKS to one and all for my birthday remembrances, the singing and birthday greetings this past Sunday on my 33rd anniversary of my 39th birthday. May the Lord grant unto you all His Peace! *fr. Anthony Francis*

LITTLE BLUE BOOKS for Advent are available in the vestibule of the church.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will take place immediately following the 8:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Please use the sign-up sheet located in the vestibule of the Church. There should be two adorers present for each time slot. Begin the Season of Advent by spending some time with our Eucharistic Lord.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Sunday, December 7 at 2:00PM.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 - is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. Please note: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated that a Vigil Mass for the Holy Day CANNOT be celebrated on Sunday, December 7. The schedule of Masses for Monday December 8 is: 8:00AM and 5:30PM.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 6 and the 7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses on Sunday, December 7. According to Church guidelines this sacrament is available to Catholics who have: reached the age of reason and begin to fall in danger of death as a result of illness or old age; who are undergoing surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; who are elderly if they have been notably weakened even though there is no serious illness present; sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament. We will celebrate this Sacrament of the Sick during Mass so that the gathered community can pray for our sisters and brothers who are being anointed.

CHRISTMAS GOB SALE – Get your gobs for Christmas! Gobs will be sold in tray form (12 gobs per tray) decorated beautifully for special Christmas gifts. Chocolate gobs will be available with red, green and white icing. Placed on decorative red & green doilies on a nice tray. Candy will be included on the tray. Cellophane wrapped and tied with a beautiful bow, these trays will make nice gifts for your “special” loved ones. Order now by calling: Margaret or Betty Scott – 539-7921; Betty Spisak – 539-4934 or the Parish Office at 539-1632. **Deadline for orders is Sunday, November 30.** Pick up for orders is Saturday, December 13 from 9AM – 12Noon. A sample tray is available for viewing in the vestibule of the church.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE THE GOBS! – Gob icing will be made on Tuesday, December 2 beginning at 8:00AM and gobs will be filled on Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00PM. Icing will also be made on Saturday, December 6 at 7:30AM and gobs will be filled on Monday, December 8 at 6:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on Sunday, December 7 in the Activity Center for children ages 12 and under. Festivities will be held from 12:30 – 3:30PM. A sign-up sheet will be available in the vestibule of the Church. Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, November 30.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be celebrated on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00PM. A light social will take place in the Activity Center following Lessons and Carols.

THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH are invited to take part in the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. The children will dress in costume and portray the Nativity Scene and sing Christmas Carols. We ask that if your child/children wish to participate that they be in the vestibule of the Church by 3:30PM in order for us to dress everyone and begin Mass on a timely basis.

WINNERS OF THE CANDY CANE CASH TICKET will be paid on a weekly, not daily basis. If you are a lucky winner, your check will be mailed within a week. Thank you to all who participated in this endeavor.

REMINDER – Gifts from our Giving Trees should be returned to the Church or the Parish Office no later than Monday, December 8.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for the Living and Deceased Members of the Rosary Society by the Rosary Society.
CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for the Health of Helen Malysko by Ray & Jeanne Toth.

THE MEMBERS MEN'S CLUB would like to thank all who helped and participated in any way with the Meat Raffle on Sunday, November 9.

JOE BARTKO MEMORIAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD KITCHEN DRIVE –Thank you to all who contributed to the Food Drive this year. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. May God Bless you! Thanks you to Francis Anthony Bazyk for all his coordination of this Parish event.

THANK YOU to Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home for donating the 2015 calendars.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Adults: \$2,207.31; Loose: \$379.48; Children: \$29.10; Candles: \$98.50; Monthly - \$145.00; Catholic Charity - \$614.00; Misc.: \$258.33. Total Collection: \$3,731.72. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 6 – Anointing of the Sick at 4:00PM Mass
Sunday, December 7 – Anointing of the Sick at all Masses
Sunday, December 7 – Children's Christmas Party
Saturday, December 13 – 9:00AM – Noon – Pick up Christmas Gob Orders
Sunday, December 14 – A Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by social
Friday, January 9 – Fish Fry
Saturday, February 14 – Mardi Gras

Year of Consecrated Life – “Father, we are the work of Your hands.” Is God's work in you to be of service to Him as a Priest, Deacon or in the Consecrated Life? Call the Vocation Office at 718-510-5822 or mail: vocations@olaprovince.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamiok, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, Baby Grayson Esposito, Stephen Fabina, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Susan Keselyak, Kathryn Legat, Helen Malysko, Marci Nickels, Bernard Picklo, Betty Rerko, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Carol Sobecky, Veronica Smith, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, Emily Turkovich, Katherine Twardziak, Irene Virus, and Agnes Warhul.

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 Guaro, USCG; Brandon Burdett, USMC; Master at Arms 2nd Class Izeke W. Pinkas, El Centro CA; Lt. Col. Joshua P. Higgins, US Army; Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Rambish, US Navy, Coronado Naval Base, San Diego; Ret. SMSgt. Michael A. Caddy, Captain Melinda Rovon, Kyrgystan Transfer Base; Lt. Gen. Raymond Palumbo, US Army; HMC David Bakos, US Navy; PFC; Lance Corporal Jacob Taylor, USMC; Private 1st Class Zack Taylor, US Army; Spc. Cody Holloway, US Army, Afghanistan; 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 1st Class Maxwell Schutte, F. E. Warren, WY; Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath, 1st Lt Aaron Donahey, US Army, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas; Spec Jacob T. Stone, Army National Guard, Austin, Texas; 2nd Class Petty Officer Heather L. Dovala, USS William P. Lawrence, DDG 110, San Diego, Ca., Pvt. 1st Class Kegan Solomon, Camp Lejeune, NC; Spec Jarod Pisarchik, Army National Guard; Ens. Kara Yingling, USS Higgins; Lt. JG Shannon Yingling; Pvt Daniel Maslo, Camp Geiger, NC; Sgt. Anthony Urban, 252 Engineer, National Guard, Afghanistan.

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.

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.

WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP will host our Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 8. Parade will begin at 5:00PM from the Johnstown Middle School across Garfield St. to the Skate Park. Santa will be on hand to give out candy canes. There will be free hot chocolate. Everyone is invited to attend. It's still not too late for groups, clubs, and church groups to participate. Call 539-4725 for more information.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL – Christmas will soon be upon us, and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 711 Chestnut St. is gearing up for their Christmas Community Meal, to be held December 22 at Holy Cross. From 4:30PM – 5:00PM there will be a Liturgy, and from 5:00PM – 6:30PM the meal will be served. Menu: Ham, stuffed cabbage, sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, cranberry relish, corn pudding and assorted pies. As usual, the event is completely free to those who attend, and no questions are asked.

RESERVATIONS are now being taken for the Annual March for Life 2015. The March will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2015. There will be a 6:30AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi and the bus will leave at 7:00AM. The bus will be in front of the church at

6:00AM for those not wishing to go to Mass. Seats for the bus are \$15.00/adults, \$10.00/students and free will offering for families. Your seat will be held upon payment. You will be responsible for your own breakfast and lunch on the bus. We will make a pit stop or two as needed on the way down. The bus will stop in Frederick, MD for supper on the way back. The bus usually arrives back at St. Francis by 10:00PM depending on weather conditions. Please call Heidi at 536-7335 for more information or to reserve your seat.