

DECEMBER 14, 2014  
*Third 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@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. / 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 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.

**Annual Catholic Appeal Goal: \$24,795.00**

**As of Dec. 9: 10,004.00 was pledged for 29% of goal by 96 families/342 households**

**PLEASE REMEMBER** fr. Anthony Francis in your prayers as he recovers from recent surgery. Thank you all for your patience, understanding and willingness to help during this time.

**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

**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. **Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 21 in the Church immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.**

**MANY THANKS** to all who helped and participated in any way with the Christmas Gob Sale. It proved to be a very popular and successful endeavor!

**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. Winners: Dec. 1, # 609 – Christie Haynal; Dec. 2, #436 – Chris Falduto; Dec. 3, #802 – Bob Symon; Dec. 4, #920 – Mary Kuzminsky; Dec. 5, #662 – Diane Shoup; Dec. 6, #479 – Marge Plowchin; Dec. 7, #355 – Patricia Gorman.

**THANK YOU** to all who have contributed so generously to our Giving Tree Project. Your concern for those in need is heartwarming. May God Bless you!

**OPLATEK** – Christmas Wafers are available in the vestibule of the Church in packages of 3 & 5.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – are available for pick-up in the Parish Office, Monday thru Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.

**MINISTRY** sign-up sheets for Christmas are located in the vestibule. Please consider participating in these liturgies honoring the Birth of Our Lord and Savior.

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week in memory of +Margie Saloka by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Adults: \$2,502.96; Loose: \$395.05; Children: \$33.00; Candles: \$94.50; Monthly - \$825.00; Catholic Charity - \$10.00; Thanksgiving - \$5.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$20.00; Holy Day: \$465.51; Flowers - \$614.00; Misc.: \$169.94. Total Collection: \$5,134.96. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Christmas Mass Schedule: Wednesday, December 24: 4:00PM. Thursday, December 25 – Midnight, 7:30AM and 9:30AM  
Friday, January 9 – Fish Fry  
Saturday, February 14 – Mardi Gras

May your spiritual preparations for Christmas include preparing your soul with the Sacrament of Penance. In preparation for Christmas, Catholics are encouraged to seek God's healing and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **The following is a schedule of Communal Penance Services at various parishes in the Greater Johnstown area:**

December 14 – 5:00PM – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1127 McKinley Ave.  
December 17 – 7:00PM – St. Patrick, 609 Park Ave.  
December 17 – 7:00PM – Transfiguration, 340 Second Street, Conemaugh  
December 18 – 5:00PM – Resurrection, 324 Chestnut St.  
December 21 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict, 2310 Bedford St.

**Year of Consecrated Life** “The One Who calls you is faithful.” Will you be faithful to His call? If God may be inviting you to nourish His people as a Priest, Deacon or in the consecrated life, call the Vocation Office at 718-510-5822 or mail: [vocations@olaprovince.org](mailto:vocations@olaprovince.org).

*Liturgical Reflection...* It is by Baptism that the Christian people have a right and duty to participate at Mass. When the Eucharist is arranged in such a way that the fruits of the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection are remembered, then the assembled believers are led to a conscious, active, and full participation in the Sacred Mysteries. This is a participation in body and in mind, a participation fervent with Faith, Hope, and Charity that is required by the very nature of the Eucharist. Thus the ecclesial nature of the Mass is made manifest and the Body of Christ becomes one in the celebration of the Eucharist. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Number 18. 2014, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

*Stewardship Reflection*...Just as the pink candle of the Advent Wreath is shining on in Joy, may we “shine on” as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and gratitude.

**Call to Action – Your Neighbors Need your Help!** – When we come together to help those most vulnerable, we do the work of Christ. For families living in poverty, the Christmas season is a time of year when the bills are piling up, heating costs are rising, and the stress is overwhelming. One in three households in our eight-county Diocesan area are struggling to afford basic human necessities. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown embraces the responsibility of supporting these individuals and families through heating assistance, emergency financial assistance, affordable counseling services, and emergency shelter services. Faithful parishioners can answer the call to love and care for their neighbors in need by supporting Catholic Charities with contributions of any size made online at [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org) or by mail to: GUILD OF GUARDIANS C/O CATHOLIC CHARITIES, INC 1300 12TH AVENUE P.O. BOX 1349 ALTOONA, PA 16603

A new giving society, the Guild of Guardians, was recently developed to make a bigger impact on Catholic Charities’ efforts to fight poverty on a local level. Guild of Guardians members commit \$1,000 annually, and can make monthly or quarterly payments toward their pledge. Membership is open to individuals, families, and groups within our parish. Catholic Charities relies on generous support from our parishioners to keep our doors open to those in need, and to provide them with help and hope. Contact our executive director Jean Johnstone at [jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org](mailto:jjohnstone@dioceseaj.org), or visit [www.catholiccharitiesaj.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesaj.org) to learn more.

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

Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamio, 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 Sobbecky, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Rován**, Kyrgystan Transfer Base; **Lt. Gen. Raymond Palumbo**, US Army; **HMC David Bakos**, US Navy; **PFC; Lance Corporal Jacob Taylor**, USMC; **Private 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Class Maxwell Schutte**, F. E. Warren, WY; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **1<sup>st</sup> Lt Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas; **Spec Jacob T. Stone**, Army National Guard, Austin, Texas; **2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer Heather L. Dovala**, USS William P. Lawrence, DDG 110, San Diego, Ca., **Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT** – an Advent of Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 20, at 7:00PM at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Cathedral Catholic Academy Chorale under the direction of Cathedral music director, Evonne Yanzetich-Homway. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Brass and Vivace Strings. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

**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. Please call Heidi at 536-7335 for more information or to reserve your seat.

**JOIN** the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for an evening with Mary Caster as she performs title from her album, By Faith, along with some new songs. The concert will be held Saturday, January 3, 2015 at 7:30PM. For more information on Mary, visit her website at <http://marycastnermusic.com/>. Her album is available for download in iTunes, Amazon, eMusic, GooglePlay, and Spotify. A free will offering will be received afterwards.