



**DECEMBER 21, 2014**  
**Fourth 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**  
**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 - [stfrancisich@atlanticbn.net](mailto:stfrancisich@atlanticbn.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**

– 4:00PM / Sunday – 7:30AM / 9:30AM

**Parish Secretary – Carol Pisula**

**Office Hours – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. thru Thurs**

**President - Ryan Woodruff**

**Finance Council President – Lynn Rovon**

**Cemetery Council President - William Heim**

**Music Minister - Gale Bala**

**Director of Religion Education - Carol Pisula**

Saturday

**Parish Council**

**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**

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** Wednesday, December 24 – 4:00PM; Thursday, December 25 – 12Midnight, 7:30AM & 9:30AM. **MASS SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD** – Wednesday, January 31 – 4:00PM; Thursday, January 1 – 8:00AM and 10:00AM. Please note that both celebrations are Holy Days of Obligation.

**MINISTRY** sign-up sheets for Christmas and The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God are located in the vestibule. Please consider participating in these liturgies honoring the Birth of Our Lord and Savior. *Schedules for January are now available for pick-up in the vestibule.*

**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.***

**DECORATING** of the Church for the Christmas Season will take place on Tuesday, December 23 beginning at 10:00AM. All help is greatly appreciated. Many hands make less work!

**ALL THOSE** who serve as Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, Religious Education Teachers & Aides, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Oremus Ministry, Choir, Parish Council and Finance Council, Cemetery, Money Counters, Generations for Life, are asked to please pick up their Christmas gifts in the vestibule of the Church. Thank you for all that you do for the Parish! May God Bless you for giving of your time and talent throughout the year.

**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.

**PARISH OFFICE** will close at Noon on Wednesday, December 24 and re-open on Monday, December 29.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES** will **NOT** be held on Sunday, December 28.

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week in memory of +Albert Dadey, Sr. by Bea Ann, Jim, and Tom & Families.

**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. 8, #738 – Flo Hicks; Dec. 9, #135 – Carole Vogel; Dec. 10, #251 – Karel Sutter; Dec. 11, #056 – Marcia Swarney; Dec. 12, #423 – Roberta Janciga; Dec. 13, #935 – Loretta Sefcik; Dec. 14, #008 – Kathryn Carney.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Adults: \$2,332.01; Loose: \$283.21; Children: \$36.27; Candles: \$79.40; Monthly - \$233.00; Thanksgiving - \$5.00; Holy Day: \$223.00; Flowers - \$35.00; Retired Priest - \$433.25; Misc.: \$16.50. Total Collection: \$3,676.64. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

Friday, January 9 – Fish Fry  
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Sunday, January 19  
Friday, February 6 – Fish Fry  
Saturday, February 14 – Mardi Gras  
Ash Wednesday, February 18 – Lent Fish Fries begin

**THANK YOU** – A very heartfelt thank you to all of the amazing friends and church co-workers of our mom, Margie Saloka. She enjoyed working with all of you! Thanks for all of your kind, thoughtful words and hugs. We appreciate all of you! *Kathy Gorchesky, Karel Sutter & E.J. Saloka*

**Year of Consecrated Life** “Be it done unto me according to your word.” Docile obedience to the Lords’ will is the fruit of humble prayer. If God is inviting you to a deeper consecration as a Priest, Deacon, Brother or Sister, call the Vocation Office at 718-510-5822 or mail: [vocations@olaprovince.org](mailto:vocations@olaprovince.org).

*Liturgical Reflection...*The General Instruction of the Roman Missal directs that during Advent the *Glory to God* is not prayed in anticipation of the great Feast of Christmas. The floral decoration of the Altar is marked by a moderation suited to the character of this time of year, without expressing the full of the Nativity of the Lord. In Advent the use of the organ and other musical instruments is marked by a moderation suited to the character of this season. The four Sundays of Advent must always be celebrated and can never be

replaced by any other alternative Mass selection. The choice of songs, the Scriptures in the Lectionary, and the prayers in the Roman Missal all give witness to the nature of the season of Advent which is hope and anticipation. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Numbers 53, 305, 313, and 374. 2014 Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

*Stewardship Reflection...* "After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call." [*To Be a Christian Steward, USCCB, 1992.*]

*Families and the Gospel...* December 21 – Lk 1:26-38 – Question: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen, had a twelve year old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal? Answer: HOLY! Two lessons in today's Gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

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

Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamiok, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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 Sobocky, Veronica Smith, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, Emily Turkovich, Katherine Twardziak, Irene Virus, and Agnes Warhul.

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### **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 Rovon**, 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.

*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.*

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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.

**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. Seats for the bus are \$15.00/adults, \$10.00/students and free will offering for families. Please call Heidi at 536-7335 for more information or to reserve your seat.

**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.