

DECEMBER 7, 2014
Second 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 - 539-35 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 Rovon
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

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

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.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS, an Advent Service and Musical Presentation will be celebrated on Sunday, December 14 at 2:00PM. Why not take an hour of your busy schedule to relax and enjoy this beautiful program as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child? 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.

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

OFFERING ENVELOPES – if you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, this will be last weekend that they will be available in the vestibule. Beginning next week, the envelopes will be in the Parish Office.

PROFIT from the Fish Fry held on November 14: \$4,074.47. Many thanks to all who helped in any way with the Fish Fry. See you on January 9, 2015!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Adults: \$2,363.01; Loose: \$425.00; Children: \$31.00; Candles: \$94.60; Monthly - \$6.00; Catholic Charity - \$61.00; All Souls - \$6.00; All Saints - \$6.00; Thanksgiving - \$737.17; St. Vincent de Paul - \$1,052.91; Missalettes - \$26.00 Misc.: \$743.61. Total Collection: \$5,552.30. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, December 13 – 9:00AM – Noon – Pick up Christmas Gob Orders

Sunday, December 14 – A Festival of Lessons and Carols, followed by social

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

Year of Consecrated Life –“He will feed His flock like a shepherd.” If God may be calling 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.

Liturgical Reflection... Monday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation for the faithful in the United States. The Church confesses that she who was to bear the Eternal Word of God was immaculate, free from Original Sin, from the moment of her conception. Mary’s Immaculate Conception is directly connected to the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. In Mary’s womb a worthy dwelling was prepared for God’s Son. Mary was preserved from the stain of sin by virtue of the Death and Resurrection of her Son. Catholics are obligated to participate at Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

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 9 – 6:30PM – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 605 Graham Ave., Windber
December 11 – 7:00PM – St. Clement, 114 Lindberg, Ave.
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.

HOW ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM?

Our homes are being readied...
Our trees are being decorated...
Our gifts are being bought and wrapped...
Our Christmas cards are being sent...
“But the Son of God has nowhere to lay His Head.” Matthew 8:21

We at St. Francis of Assisi are preparing a place for the Christ Child...

Our stable with fresh hay is made and is in place...
The animals are in place and are at rest waiting...



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 Rován**, 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.

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.

WEST END CLERGY HYMN SING will take place on Sunday, December 7 at 7:00PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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.