



JANUARY 11, 2015
The Baptism of the Lord
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 – 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

4:00PM / Sunday – 7:30AM / 9:30AM

Parish Secretary – Carol Pisula

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

Saturday –

President – Ryan Woodruff

Parish Council

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 Dec. 23: 10,076.00 was pledged for 29% of goal by 97 families/342 households

PLEASE KEEP in your prayers the friends and family of +Emily Turkovich, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

THANK YOU to all who helped in any with the Fish Fry and Gob making sessions last week. Your dedication to these projects is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY will take place on Sunday, January 18 beginning with a Holy Hour in the Church at 3:00PM followed by dinner at 4:00PM. All who volunteered their time in any way last year (Ministries, Fish Fries, Gobs, Religious Education, etc.) are invited to attend and spend some time relaxing with fellow co-workers. A sign-up sheet is located in the vestibule. **Deadline for sign-up is Sunday, January 11.**

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. 29, #777 – Shirley Ziewacz; Dec. 30, #964 – Mary Ann Sojak; Dec. 31, #490 – Stephanie Neighbors.

MEN'S CLUB Valentine's Day tickets are now available in the vestibule of the Church. Cost: \$2.00. Your support is greatly appreciated.

MADRI GRAS MADNESS will take place on Saturday, February 14, 2015. Tickets are now on sale after the Masses or at the Parish Office. Doors will open at 5:15PM and festivities begin at 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$10.00 for ages 6 thru 17, and under 5, free. There will be a \$5.00 cover charge for beer if desired. Admission includes: appetizers, soda, a turkey dinner with all the fixings and eligibility for Grand Prizes. A cash bar will be available. Music by Flood City Brass.

OREMUS PRAYER MINISTRY – We are looking for volunteers for our Oremus Prayer Ministry. If you are willing to offer prayers for those in need and forward requests for prayer via the telephone, please contact Margaret Scott at 539-7921. This is a wonderful ministry, especially for those who are unable to participate in the more physical ministries of the Parish.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30PM in the rectory. New members are always welcome.

CANDLE BY OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for the return of good health of Sue Ellen Dadey by Jeanne & Ray Toth. **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn for Living & Deceased Members of the Rosary Society by Rosary Society.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Adults: \$2,233.00; Loose: \$421.75; Children: \$29.00; Candles: \$107.39; Monthly - \$494.00; Christmas - \$104.00 Christmas Flowers: \$6.00; Holy Day: \$1,440.40; Missalettes - \$179.00; First Offering - \$517.00. Total Collection: \$5,531.54. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

THANK YOU from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the donation of \$1,072.91. Your continued support and concern for the less fortunate is greatly needed and sincerely appreciated. It is through kind-hearted individuals, in which our gracious God works, that allows the needs of the indigent to be met.

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Sunday, January 18 –Holy Hour from 3:00PM – 4:00PM, Dinner – 4:00PM
Friday, February 6 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, February 14 – Mardi Gras – 6:00PM – 11:00PM
Ash Wednesday, February 18 – Lent Fish Fries begin

FROM THE BISHOP – Because of the seriousness of this flu season, Bishop Bartchak has asked that the Precious Blood of the Lord not be offered at Mass temporarily. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. Also, the exchange of the sign of peace should avoid bodily contact. A reverent nod with eye contact and a smile will be the temporary practice. Reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. These norms are in effect throughout the winter months or until the flu season is over.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE – “Behold the Lamb of God.” Could it be that you are being called to point out the Lord to others as a Priest, Deacon or in the Consecrated Life? Call the Vocation Office at 718-510-5822 or email: vocations@olaprovince.org, or the Diocesan Vocation Office by contacting Fr. Matthew Reese, 357 St. Mary, Street, P.O. Box 99, Loretto, PA 15940, 814-472-5441, or email: vocations@dioceseaj.org.

The Role of Deacons - All ordained ministers (Bishop, Priest, Deacon) act *in persona Christi* – that is, in the person of Christ – and solely by Christ’s power and authority, not their own.

A Deacon is an ordained cleric and, just as Bishops and Priests, he is ordained to Holy Orders in order to serve the People of God. There are two types of Deacons: permanent and transitional. A transitional Deacon is on the path to Priestly ordination, whereas a permanent Deacon – who is usually married – will not be ordained a Priest. Only the Bishop can administer all of the Sacraments; a Priest ordinarily administers all of the Sacraments except Holy Orders and Confirmation. Confirmation maybe administered by a Priest only with special permission of the Bishop, e.g., Holy Saturday. A Deacon can administer Baptism and assist at marriages, but he cannot administer the Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick, Penance, the Eucharist, Holy Orders or Confirmation.

Typically, a permanent Deacon is assigned to assist the pastor of a parish, just as a Priest is ordained to help the Bishop. The Bishop makes the assignment of the Deacon, and it is usually for a period of six to twelve years. The Deacon can distribute Holy Communion, preach the homily, assist at Masses and celebrate Baptisms, weddings and funerals. Depending on his availability, he can do much more than Sacramental work: he can visit the sick, the elderly, shut-ins; he can organize assistance for the poor and promote visits to those in prison; he can organize Catholic education classes for members of the Parish.

But the most important contribution a Deacon can make is his own personal holiness. A Deacon must strive to be a man of prayer, poor in spirit; clean in thought, word and action; and an example of humility within the Church. He must be a faithful husband and a caring father. If the Deacon is not a man of prayer, truly humble and united to the Lord and Bishops of the Church, then he will not be helpful.

From fr. Anthony Francis – I am completely overwhelmed by the outpouring of get well wishes from so many of you but I am even more grateful for all the Christmas gifts, Novena of Masses, Prayer Enrollments and your generosity. Please know that I hold you all lovingly in the depths of my heart and in my prayerful uplifting of your intentions at Mass and in my daily prayers. I pray the Lord to grant you all His Choicest Blessings of Good Health, Much Happiness, Profound Holiness and Shalom! Prayerfully yours in Christ and His Blessed Mother, fr. *Anthony Francis*.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamiok, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, 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 Sobacky, Veronica Smith, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, Katherine Twardziak, Irene Virus, Charles Wisz, 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.

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.

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.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS Council 1106 at Resurrection Roman Catholic Parish will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, January 18 from 8:30AM until 12Noon in the Church Hall. Adults - \$5.00, children 12 and under, free. Take outs available.

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION – 201 Third St, Conemaugh, Turkey Dinner, Sunday, January 18, 2015, 11:00am – 2:00pm. Take-Outs Available. Call (814)535-2698. Cost: \$9.00/meal

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, Bishop Mark Bartchak of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will host an ecumenical service at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, PA. The service begins at 3:00PM. All are invited to participate in this ecumenical prayer service.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – Bishop Gregory of Nyssa of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox tradition will host an ecumenical service at Christ the Savior Cathedral, Garfield St., Johnstown, PA. The service begins at 3:00PM. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this ecumenical prayer service.