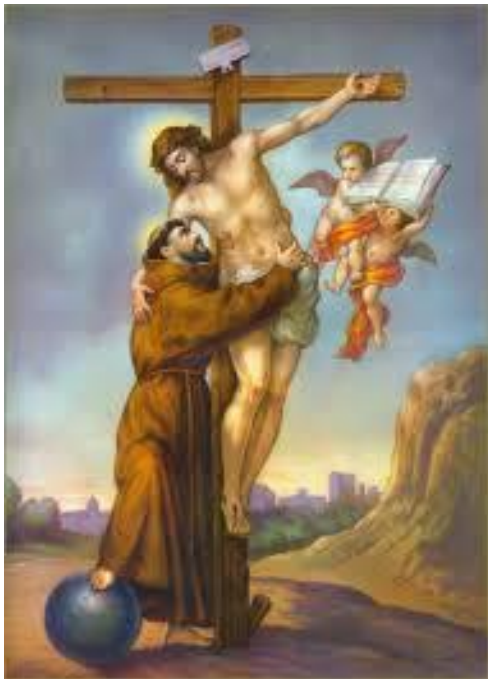


FEBRUARY 22, 2015
First Sunday of Lent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@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 – Robert Bimeal
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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Mary Kesslak and +Charles Wisz who were laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

GOBS will be filled on Monday, February 23 beginning at 6:00PM. Thank you in advance for your help!

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 has been CANCELLED. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25 at 6:30PM.

LENT FISH FRIES will continue starting Friday, February 27 and continue each Friday thru March 27. Please plan to share some of your time and talent helping with this event. Your help is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU to all helped with the Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday.

“SPRING FLING” giveaway tickets will be available for purchase in the vestibule of the Church or at the Fish Fries. Donation: \$3.00. Chance to win \$150.00 on April 6, 7, 8, 9 & 11. Good Friday, April 10 - \$250.00 and Easter Sunday, April 12 - \$500.00!

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration begins at 8:30AM until the Noon Mass and then from 12:30PM until 5:30PM. Please plan to spend some time with Our Lord during the season of Lent. Sign-up sheet for adoration is located in the vestibule. At least two adorers are needed for each half hour time slot.

LIMITED COPIES OF “Rediscover Catholicism” by Matthew Kelly are now available for those who would like to discover the beauty, genius, and modern relevance of Catholicism. “Rediscover Catholicism” takes us on an adventure of life-changing proportions. Beginning with our common yearning for happiness, Kelly reveals the essence of authentic Catholic spirituality while addressing some of the most important questions we face today both as individuals and as a Church. The books have been donated to the Parish. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to reserve a copy. *What a wonderful book for spiritual reading during this Lenten Season.*

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, February 20 – Stations of the Cross – will continue all Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM

Sunday, February 22 – Lamentations with Benediction– 3:00PM (every Sunday of Lent)

Friday, February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, - Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Friday, March 6 – First Friday, Adoration begins at 8:30AM until Noon and 12:30PM until 5:30PM.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Adults: \$1,593.01; Loose: \$488.93; Children: \$24.00; Candles: \$66.00; Monthly - \$55.00.00; Catholic Register - \$18.00; Misc. - \$14.50. Total Collection: \$2,259.44. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish. Thank you for attending despite the horrible weather conditions.

CANDLE BY OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for the Health of all Cancer Patients and Survivors. **SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for +Elizabeth Christner by Family.

GABRIEL PROJECT –“Pizza and Subs for Pampers Sale”, Saturday, March 7. Conzatti’s Italian Medium Pizzas are \$6.00, Cheese and/or Pepperoni; Sub with/without onions are \$7.00. New for Lent – Medium Italian Style White Pizza and/or Paguch Potato Pizza onion/no onion are \$8.00. Call Stephanie to order by Sunday, March 1 at 7:00PM at 814-254-2211. Pick up on Saturday, March 7 at St. Francis of Assisi Activity Center.

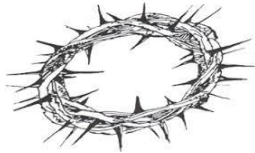
THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL begins in a few weeks. This is our opportunity to support more than 20 ministries that serve God’s people throughout our eight county Diocese. All contributions received over our parish goal of \$24, 795 will be returned to the Parish. Thank you for supporting the Diocesan Church of Altoona-Johnstown.



AT THE FEBRUARY, 2015 Finance Council Meeting our Parish received a \$500.00 grant from the Altoona Office of the Independent Catholic Foundation. How we plan to use the funds will be announced at a later date. The Foundation was created in 1990 and supports the various ministries of our Diocese through permanent endowments. Please consider remembering our Parish or your favorite Catholic ministry (i.e. Parochial School Education, Cemetery, etc.) in your estate planning. The Foundation can assist you with this can be reached in their Altoona office at 814-201-2080 or at www.icfdaj.org. You will also find a link to the foundation website on our webpage – www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE “Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.” Is He prompting you to suffer with Him, bringing others to God as a Priest, Deacon or in the Consecrated Life? Call the 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, or call Our Lady of the Angels Province at Conventual Franciscan Friars 718-510-5822, or email vocations@aolprovince.org.

SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS



During the First Week of Lent, a CROWN OF THORNS is placed on the cross to remind us that Jesus was crucified. He was crowned with of crown of thorns as a King “of a Kingdom that is not of this world” (John 18:36). The thorns were embedded in the head of Jesus causing excruciating pain. He allowed this to happen for you and me. My heart hears the stanza of the hymn WHEN I BEHOLD THE WONDROUS CROSS “Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.”

Matthew 27:30 – Weaving a CROWN out of THORNS they fixed it on His head, and stuck a reed in His right hand. Then they began to mock Him by dropping to their knees before Him saying, “All hail the King of the Jews.”

Mark 15:17-18 – They dressed Him in royal purple, then wove a CROWN OF THORN and put it on Him and began to salute Him, “All hail, King of the Jews.”

John 19:2-3 – The soldiers then wove a CROWN OF THORNS and fixed it on His head, throwing around His shoulders a cloak of royal purple. Repeatedly they came up to Him and said, “All hail, King of the Jews, slapping His face as they did so.

LENT SCHEDULE

Daily Mass will be celebrated at 12Noon

N.B. - Tuesdays at 12Noon and 6:30PM, Saturdays at 8:00AM

Stations of the Cross – Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM

Lamentations with Benediction on Sundays of Lent at 3:00PM

A Journey Through Lent

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamio, 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, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Carol Sobacky, Veronica Smith, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, 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 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 Rovin**, 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^d 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; **Airman Devon Gilbert**, Lackland Air Force Base, Tx.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 1066 - Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, March 1 from 8:30AM to Noon at Resurrection Roman Catholic Church Hall, 4th Avenue. Adults - \$5.00, children 12 & under – free.

ST. TERESE LENTEN PIROGHI SALE- Hand-made/home-made potato and cheese piroghi made fresh each week during Lent. Call in orders Monday until March 23 from 9:00AM – 11:00AM. Cost is \$6.50 dozen (with or without onions). Pick up your order on Fridays from 9:00AM – 2:00PM at our Social Hall.

ST. JOSEPH TRIDUUM- A Triduum in honor of St. Joseph will be held March 17-19 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Mass and devotions will be held at 7:00PM each evening with confessions following Mass on Tuesday & Wednesday. On Thursday, everyone is invited following the final liturgy to the St. Joseph Table at the parish activity center.

ST. ANDREW SCHOOL will be hosting a Lucky Leprechaun Cash Bash on Saturday, March 28 from 6:00PM – 10:00PM. You must be 21 to attend. The \$20 ticket includes delicious food and drinks and 17 chances to win a cash prize every 15 minutes beginning at 6:00PM – a total of \$3,400 will be chanced off. Winners need not be present to win. Doors will open at 5:00PM. Please contact the school office at 814-288-2811 for more information or to purchase tickets.

WEST END Pickers/Trash to Treasures Indoor Yard Sale, sponsored by the West End Improvement Group, Sat., Mar. 21 from 8AM to 1PM, Lower Yoder Fire Dept. Social Hall. Get your Spring cleaning going and donate your items. Every little bit helps (would prefer no clothing, large appliances or large furniture). Call 535-2499 or 539-0181 for pick-up of your items or drop off on Fri., March 20 (evening).