

**MARCH 15, 2015**  
**Fourth 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](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**

– 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 – Robert Bimeal**

**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.

**LENT FISH FRIES** have started and will continue each Friday thru March 27. Please plan to share some of your time and talent helping with these events. Your help is greatly appreciated. **THANK YOU** to all who have volunteered their time.

**GOB ICING** – Help is needed especially during Lent making gob icing. Those who are currently making icing also are committed to the Fish Fry. Can you spare some time to help? Please call Fran King at 241-3666 or Cindy Shorto at 539-3128 or during the day at 539-3518 if you are willing to help out. Our gobs are a very popular item at the Fish Fry and we need to keep up with demand. **ICING will be made beginning at 7:00AM on Monday, March 16. GOBS will be filled on Tuesday, March 17 beginning at 6:00PM.**

**CHILDREN’S EASTER EGG HUNT** will take place on Sunday, March 29 from 12:30PM – 2:30PM in the Activity Center. Please use the signup sheet in the vestibule.

“**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. Friday, April 10 - \$250.00 and Sunday, April 12 - \$500.00! Please note: Due to a printing error, we will honor the **DATES** printed on the tickets for drawing.

**WINNERS** of the Men’s Club Valentine Special Ticket: #470 – Cathy Tompkins; #469 – Lynn Rovani; #471 – Joyce Smith. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser.

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP** – Please remove all items from St. Francis of Assisi Cemetery by Sunday, March 29. Any items left after March 29 will be discarded. Thank you for your cooperation.

**ANNUAL COMMEMORATION** of the Seder Meal will be held on Holy Thursday, April 2 at 5:00PM in the Activity Center. This will be a covered dish event with the Parish providing the meat. Bring your favorite dish to share and join other parishioners in this celebration of the Passover Meal. Signup sheets are located in the vestibule of the Church.

**MINISTRY SIGN UP SHEETS** for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday are in a binder in the vestibule. Please consider taking part in these very solemn liturgies. You may sign up for more than one liturgy.

**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. 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, March 20 – Stations of the Cross – will continue all Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM  
Sunday, March 22– Lamentations with Benediction– 3:00PM (every Sunday of Lent)  
Friday, March 20, March 27, - Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM  
Wednesday, March 18 – West End Penance Service – St. Francis of Assisi – 5:00PM  
Saturday, March 28 – First Reconciliation – 9:00AM  
Sunday, March 29 – Easter Egg Hunt – 12:30PM – 2:30PM  
Holy Thursday, April 2 – Seder Meal – 5:00PM

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Adults: \$2,516.01; Loose: \$218.30; Children: \$35.42; Candles: \$106.50; Monthly - \$183.00; Mandeville - \$12.00; Ash Wednesday - \$11.00; Mandeville - \$12.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$12.00 First Offering - \$15.00; Misc. - \$14.00. Total Collection: \$3,135.23. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week in memory of +Jack Bazyk by Frank & Alice.



**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 and can be reached in their Altoona office at 814-201-2080 or at [www.icfdaj.org](http://www.icfdaj.org). You will also find a link to the foundation website on our webpage – [www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com](http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com).

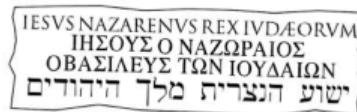
**THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL** has begun. Your gift supports more than 20 ministries that serve God's people throughout our eight counties. Please review Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives and place your Lenten gift in the offertory basket next weekend. All contributions received over our parish goal of \$24, 795 will be returned to the Parish. Thank you for supporting the Diocesan Church of Altoona-Johnstown. **As of February 28 - \$540.00 was pledged for 1% of goal by 2 families/332 households.**

**YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE** "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." Are you being invited to the mission of Jesus Christ as a Priest, Deacon, or in the Consecrated Life? Call the Vocation Office by contacting Fr. Matthew Reese, 814-472-5441, or email: [vocations@dioceseaj.org](mailto:vocations@dioceseaj.org), or call Our Lady of the Angels Province at Conventual Franciscan Friars 718-510-5822, or email [vocations@aolprovince.org](mailto:vocations@aolprovince.org).

### **SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS**

During the Fourth Week of Lent, our focus is on the SIGN that was placed above the head of Jesus. First thought to be a SIGN OF CONDEMNATION, but now thought to be a SIGN OF VICTORY. The SIGN stands as a continued testimony of God's love for us. I.N.R.I. – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. The first letters of the Latin inscription which, by Pilate's order was placed on the Cross of Christ's Crucifixion (John 19:19). The words JESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM were taken from Pilate's sentence. It was written in Latin, the language of the administration in Judea and also in Hebrew/Aramaic, the common language of the Jews of the days and Greek, the language of the intellectual community. Because of the irrevocability of a Roman sentence, this inscription stood as written against the protest of the Jews who wished to disclaim Christ's Kingship (John 19:21). Thus, the inscription has become a lasting testimony of the Kingship of Jesus (Matthew 27:37). Above His Head they had put the charge against Him in writing: THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS (Mark 15:26). The inscription proclaiming His offense read: THE KING OF THE JEWS (Luke 23:28).

There was an inscription over His Head: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS (John 19:19-22). Pilate had an inscription place on the Cross which read: JESUS THE NAZOREAN, THE KING OF THE JEWS. This inscription in Hebrew, Latin and Greek was read by many of the Jews, since the place was near the city. The Chief Priests of the Jews tried to tell Pilate, "You should not have written the King of the Jews." Write instead, "This Man claimed to be King of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."



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

Bill Babik, Rose Blaschak, Mary Chamiok, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czymnik, 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 Sobecky, Veronica Smith, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, 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 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; **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.*

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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.

**ST. THERESE 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.

**WEST END PICKERS/TRASH TO TREASURES** Indoor Yard Sale, Saturday, March 21 at Lower Yoder Fire Hall, 515 Fairfield Ave. Doors open at 8:00AM. If you have items to donate, call 535-2499 or 539-0181 for pickup or drop off Friday, March 20 at the Fire Hall beginning at 6:00PM.

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** – sponsored by West End Improvement Group, Saturday, March 28 at the skate park, corner of J St. and Fairfield Ave. Registration at 12:30PM, hunts starts at 1:00PM. Candy in every egg, free to everyone 4 age groups (3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10). Bring a basket or bag for your eggs.

**ST. ANDREW SCHOOL** – will be hosting a Luck Leprechaun Cash Bash on Saturday, March 28, 6-10PM. You must be 21 to attend. \$20.00 ticket includes food & drinks and 17 chances to win a cash prize every 15 minutes beginning at 6PM. Winners need not be present to win. Doors open at 5PM. Please contact 288-2811 for more information or to purchase a ticket.