

MARCH 8, 2015
Third 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

– 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 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.

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? There are basic jobs anyone can do. Any time you can spare would be greatly appreciated even if only for an hour or two. 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.

“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.

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.

OREMUS MINISTRY - New and current members of the Prayer Chain Ministry may pick up materials in the sacristy. May God bless you for your concern for others in this ministry.

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, March 13 – Stations of the Cross – will continue all Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM
Sunday, March 15– Lamentations with Benediction– 3:00PM (every Sunday of Lent)
Friday, March 13, March 20, March 27, - Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15– Anointing of the Sick at all Masses
Wednesday, March 18 – West End Penance Service – St. Francis of Assisi – 5:00PM
Holy Thursday, April 2 – Seder Meal – 5:00PM

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Adults: \$2,789.12; Loose: \$329.14; Children: \$38.00; Candles: \$89.75; Monthly - \$795.01; Mandeville - \$16.00; Ash Wednesday - \$59.00; Missalettes - \$5.00; Building - \$69.00; Catholic Register - \$16.00; First Offering - \$15.00; Misc. - \$643.61. Total Collection: \$4,864.63. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Health of Leann Donahey by family.



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. You will also find a link to the foundation website on our webpage – www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, March 14 and the 7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses on Sunday, March 15. According to Church guidelines this sacrament is available to Catholics who have: reached the age of reason and begin to fall in danger of death as a result of illness or old age; who are undergoing surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; who are elderly if they have been notably weakened even though there is no serious illness present; sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this Sacrament. We will celebrate this Sacrament of the Sick during Mass so that the gathered community can pray for our sister and brothers who are being anointed.

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.

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE "We proclaim Christ crucified...the power and wisdom of God." Could Jesus be calling you to proclaim His life, death and resurrection 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, 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 Third Week of Lent, NAILS are fastened to "that Old Rugged Cross" on which Our Lord and Savior was nailed to remind us that it was for our sins that He was nailed to the Cross. Can you imagine what a crucifixion is? Jesus' thoughts: "My executioners stretch My arms; they hold My hand and wrist against the wood and press the nail until it stabs My flesh. Then with one heavy hammer smash, they drive it through and pain bursts like a bomb of fire in My brain. They seize the other arm and agony again explodes. Then raising My knees so that My feet are flat against the wood, they hammer them fast too."

My God, I look at You and think – is my soul worth this much? What can I give You in return? I here and now accept for all my life whatever comes my way. To every Cross, I touch my lips and kiss Your nailed hands and feet. To CRUCIFY, according to Webster's Seventh Collegiate Dictionary, means, "To put to death by NAILING or binding the hands and feet to a cross." The four Gospels do not specifically say that Jesus was nailed to a cross, but each Gospel says that they led Him out to crucify Him.

Gospel references: **Matthew 27:33-36; Mark 15:22-26; Luke 23:33-34 and John 19:16-18.**

WHY A SKULL AT THE BASE OF THE CROSS? Matthew 27:33-34; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33 and John 19:17-18.

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, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Carol Sobocky, 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 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, Wv; 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; 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.

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. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY will be sponsored by Resurrection Parish on March 14 in the church hall. Music will be provided by Full Kilt from 7:00PM – 10:00PM. Doors open at 6:00PM. For more information or to purchase a \$5.00 admission ticket, call Greg Babik at 322-6884 or the parish office at 539-5788, Ext. 3. Plenty of Irish food, soda and beer will be available for purchase.

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 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.