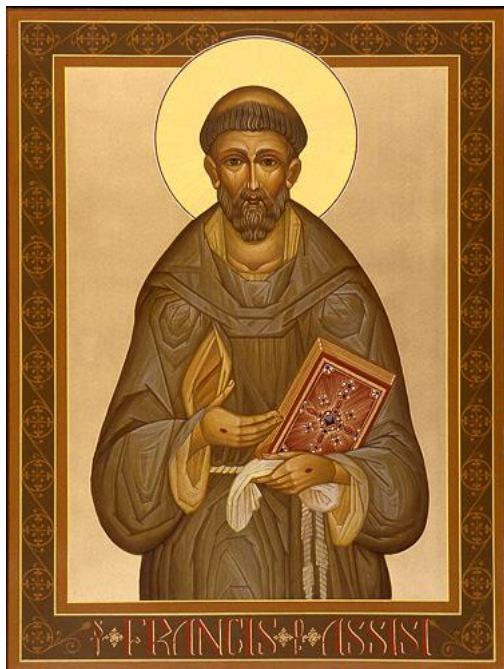


NOVEMBER 29, 2015
First Sunday of Advent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 (Hockeyville), 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION classes will not be held this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 8:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the vestibule of the Church. There should be at least two adorers present for each time slot. (This is also a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament – adorers adore and protect.)

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 12:30PM – 3:30PM for children 12 & under. A signup sheet is located in the vestibule of the Church. Deadline for signup: Sunday, November 29.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8 is the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 7 at 5:30PM and on Tuesday, December 8 at 8:00AM and 5:30PM.

GOB ICING will be made on Wednesday, December 9 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be filled on Thursday, December 10 at 6:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 12 and the 7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses on Sunday, December 13. 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 notable 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 sisters and brothers who are being anointed.



CANDY CANE CASH TICKETS - Chance to win 31 times! *Donation of \$5.00 – chance to win \$100 on December 8; \$200 on December 24; \$500 on December 25; and \$250 on December 31; and \$50 for all other days in December.* Winning number based on the first 7PM drawing of the PA 3 digit daily number (straight). ***If each family would buy or sell 5 tickets we could realize a profit of \$2,600.00 with minimal work. Thanks to those who have already done their part! THERE IS ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT TO SELL TICKETS!***

CHRISTMAS GOB TRAYS – Gobs will be sold in tray form Baker's Dozen (13) decorated beautifully for that special Christmas gift. Cost: \$18.00 per tray. Chocolate gobs will be available with red, green and white icing. Order now by calling Margaret or Betty Scott at 539-7921 or Betty Spisak at 536-4934. You may also drop order forms in the collection basket. Deadline for orders: Sunday, November 29. Pick up: Saturday, December 19 from 9AM – 12Noon.

GIVING TREE for children is located in the rear of the Church. Gifts must be returned to the Church no later than Sunday, December 6. **GIANT EAGLE GIFT CARDS** should be returned as soon as possible and may be placed in the collection basket. Thank you for your generosity to those among us who are less fortunate.

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2016 are now available in the vestibule. If you or someone you know did not receive envelopes, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you for your cooperation.

THANK YOU to Francis. G. Ozog Funeral Home for donating the 2016 calendars. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Living & Deceased of the Rosary Society by Rosary Society.

IF ANYONE is interested in signing the petition to grant St. Faustina the title of Doctor of the Church: the petition is in the front vestibule.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND –will be published next week. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL is ongoing until December. Your gift supports more than 20 ministries that serve God's people throughout our eight counties. 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. If you do not have a pledge card, you may send your gift (made payable to the "Annual Catholic Appeal") directly to the parish office. **As of November 9 - \$15,867.00 was pledged by 145 families/331 households for 44% participation. Thank you for your generosity! If the remaining 192 households would pledge \$50.39, St. Francis of Assisi would make its goal.** Monies received over goal will most likely be used toward the cost of the sign for the front of the Church. Monies not received thus not making the assigned goal becomes a bill.

FYI GOBS – It has been brought to the attention of the Gob Committee that people were wondering why we didn't sell gobs at the Feast Day Dinner or Vendor Fair. There are a couple of reasons. First, there is usually a bake sale at the Feast Day Dinner and that is clear profit for the Church. Vendor Fair also had a bake sale. Secondly, by having gobs at the Fish Fry we often attract new customers

to the Fish Fry and offer a nice dessert. We sell on an average 1700 gobs on Fish Fry day. The balance left are for wedding reception orders and our regular customers. During Fish Fry season we have no extra to sell for other events. In the summer when we have the extra freezer space from the fish freezers then we can sell an additional 1400 a month. If you would like to volunteer to help pack gobs we sure could use the help. We pack Wednesdays from 6:00PM – 8:00PM if enough help. If not we are packing until after 9:00PM. So please come help to make the job easier. Watch the bulletin for dates. If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to contact Cindy at 539-3128. We are happy to know that our gobs are in such great demand!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 29 – Deadline for Christmas Gob Tray Orders
Sunday, December 6 – Children's Christmas Party
Monday, December 7 – Vigil of the Immaculate Conception – 5:30PM Mass
Tuesday, December 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – 8:00AM & 5:30PM Mass
Saturday, December 12 - Anointing of the Sick at the 4:00PM Mass
Sunday, December 13 – Anointing of the Sick at all Masses
December 19 – Pickup for Christmas Gob Tray Orders

Liturgical Reflection... This new liturgical year the weekly liturgical reflections will look closely at God's mercy. Beginning this December 8, Pope Francis has named this to be a Holy Year of Mercy. As one of the prayers at Mass this Friday of the First Week of Advent proclaims, "...come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of Your mercy." As we prepare to celebrate the anniversary of the Savior's birth and as we ready ourselves to greet the Lord when He comes again, we place ourselves completely within the Divine Mercy of God. 2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Bill Babik, Rose Blaschak, Geraldine Caddy, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czrnyk, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, Stephen Fabina, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Susan Keselyak, Kathryn Legat, Helen Malysko, Nilay Parekh (Bishop McCort High School), Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, 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**, Okinawa, Japan; **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**, **Major Melinda Rovon Corallo**, Lakenheath Air Force Base, England; **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; **Petty Officer 1st Class Heather L. Dovala**, Bahrain.; **Spec Jarod Pisarchik**, Army National Guard; **Ens. Kara Yingling**, USS Higgins; **Lt. JG Shannon Yingling**; **Pvt Daniel Maslo**, Camp Geiger, NC; **Airman Devon Gilbert**, Tinker AFB, OK; **Senior Airman Daniel Christner**, USAF, 193rd Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **2nd Lt. Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2nd Lt. Ryan Powers**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **Anthony Rosage**, USAF, Lackland AFB, 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.

THE ATRIUM - On November 30, we will be hosting our first monthly Care Giver Support Group, which will subsequently be held every last Monday of the month from 5:30PM – 6:30PM. Come and find support, suggestions and encouragement through a private group sharing program. Contact 535-5347 for details.

BOTTLES FOR LIFE - John Paul II Youth Group, a regional Catholic Youth Group for the Johnstown area will be again sponsoring an overnight trip for Middle School and High School students to the March for Life in January. To pay for the cost of the trip, we are running a "baby bottle" campaign. Please take them home, fill them with your spare change, and bring them back to your parish for the weekend of Dec 6-7 when we will collect them. Anything we raise above the cost of our trip will be donated to our pro-life organizations here in Johnstown who support women in their time of need.

Stewardship Reflection... Let us begin this great season of Advent with a vow to be "vigilant" (Luke 21:36) in the wise stewardship of everything entrusted to us with the understanding that we will be held accountable for our actions, independent of the actions of others.

Families and the Gospel...Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 – At this time of the year we are very conscious of our family as we make preparations for Christmas. The Gospel warns us not to be consumed by all the consumer activity. This Advent appreciate the gift of people in your life. The best gift this season might be your appreciation of others.