

DECEMBER 13, 2015
Third 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

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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Carol Fris, a former employee of St. Francis of Assisi. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

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 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 sisters and brothers who are being anointed.

SPECIAL THANKS to Jeff & Mary Beth Konieczny and their committee members, cooks, bakers and bottle washers for a fantastic St. Nicholas Party for our youngsters. God Bless You All!

MAY GOD BLESS Mrs. Barb Bimeal for the beautiful banner for the Jubilee Year of Mercy and ambo banner of Mercy. They exquisite and add an air of elegance to our Parish Church.

THANK YOU to all who contributed so generously to the St. Vincent de Paul food drive and to the Giving Tree and Giant Eagle gift card projects. Your concern for those in need is heartwarming. May God Bless You!

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00PM. Why not take an hour of your busy schedule to relax and enjoy this beautiful program as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child?

CHILDREN OF THE PARISH are invited to participate in the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. They should dress in their "Sunday best" and be in the vestibule by 3:30PM in order to begin Mass on a timely basis. ***Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 20 in the Church immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.***

OFFERING ENVELOPES - Beginning this week, the envelopes will be at the Parish Office Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY ministry signup book is located in the vestibule. Please plan to take part in these liturgies celebrating the Birth of the Christ Child.

CHANGE FOR LIFE BABY BOTTLES can still be returned to the Church until the weekend of December 19 & 20. There is a bin in the vestibule of the Church for the bottles. Thank you for supporting the JPPI Youth Group and helping us to cover taking a student bus to the March for Life. Any additional proceeds will go to support one or more of the other Pro-Life organizations in town.

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. Dec. 1 - #223 – no winner; Dec. 2 - #026 – Geraldine Hiborik; Dec. 3 - #810 – Donna Fabry; Dec. 4 - #338 – Corey Leech; Dec. 5 – #043 – no winner; Dec. 6 - #521 – no winner; Dec. 7 - #558 – Susan Davis. Thank you to all participated in this fundraiser.

MARDI GRAS MADNESS is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2016. Tickets are now available after the Masses or by CALLING the Parish Office. Doors will open at 5:15PM and festivities will be held from 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Tickets are \$18.00 for adults, \$10.00 for ages 6 thru 17 and under five – free. There will be a \$5.00 cover charge for beer if desired. No outside beverages allowed. Cash bar available for wine and mixed drinks. Admission includes: Appetizers, turkey dinner, jambalaya rice, soda, and coffee.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Bill Babik, Rose Blaschak, Geraldine Caddy, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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 Sobocky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Rose Trapanotto, 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 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^d 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.

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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.

AN ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 19 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton St. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Cathedral Catholic Chorale under the direction of Evonne Yanzetich-Homway. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING – two hard cover mystery novels by Bishop Joseph based on his Dinner Mysteries and experiences from his youth. Now available at Catholic Charities with all proceeds allocated for their ministry of assisting the needy. Please contact Catholic Charities – (814) 944-9388 for copies of *Flight of the Beetle* or *Heir Non-Apparent* - \$25.00 each (if to be picked up) or \$28.00 each (if to be mailed).

Stewardship Reflection... In today's Gospel of Luke, St. John the Baptist gives clear advice on ways to show mercy. To the crowds John says, "Share your clothes and your food." To the tax collectors, he advises, "Care for those people." And to the Roman soldiers, he warns, "Be fair. Don't abuse your power." Good advice to us. When people share with each other; when they care that all are justly treated; and when they see that have what is necessary to live a life with dignity, then God's mercy is made evident. 2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648