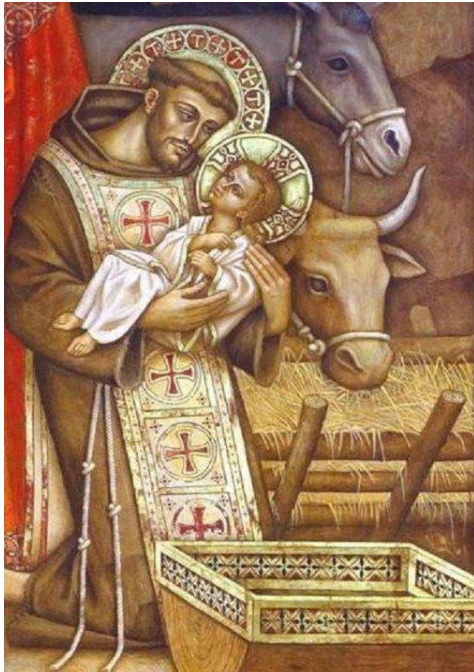


DECEMBER 27, 2015
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 – stfrancis@atlanticbbn.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.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Thursday, December 31 – 4:00PM

Friday, January 1 – 7:30AM & 9:30AM

This Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will NOT be held on Sunday, January 3.

FISH FRY will be held on Friday, January 8 from 11:00AM – 6:00PM. Once again, we are asking for your help. Many hands make light work!

THANK YOU for your continued generosity to our poor box. The outpouring of your treasure to those less fortunate is heartwarming.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY will take place on Sunday, January 24 beginning with a Holy Hour in the Church at 3:00PM followed by dinner at 4:00PM. All who volunteered their time in any way during the past year (Fish Fries, Gobs, Religious Education, Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Oremus Ministry, Choir, Pastoral & Finance Council, Money Counters, Ushers, etc.) are invited to attend and spend some time relaxing with fellow co-workers. Please use the sign-up sheet in the vestibule.

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. 15 - #455 – Jack Heider; Dec. 16 - #102 – no winner; Dec. 17 - #069 – Bob Bimeal; Dec. 18 - #197 – Helen Delic; Dec. 19 - #290 – Carol Obara; Dec 20 - #199 – Audrey Hrbal. Thank you to all who 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. Music by Flood City Brass.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Living & Deceased members of the Rosary Society by Rosary Society. **CANDLE BY THE SACRED HEART** will burn for the health of Rose Zvonik. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for +Albert Dadey, Sr. by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH DECEMBER 8 – Adults - \$2,840.01; Loose - \$472.20; Monthly - \$56.00; Candles - \$126.94; Oplatek - \$107.00; Flowers - \$70.00; Thanksgiving - \$3.00; Holy Day - \$24.00; All Souls - \$20.00; Retired Religious - \$15.00; Misc. - \$290.88. Total Collection - \$4,063.03. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$424.22; Adults - \$2,051.01; Children - \$27.00; Monthly - \$170.00; Christmas - \$30.00; Flowers - \$47.00; Holy Day - \$82.00; Candles - \$82.25; St. Vincent de Paul - \$10.00; Religious Retirement - \$300.00; Oplatek - \$88.00. Total Collection - \$3,311.48. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 8, 2016 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Sunday, January 24 – Volunteer Appreciation Party – Holy Hour – 3:00PM – 4:00PM, Dinner – 4:00PM

Saturday, January 30 – Mardi Gras Madness – 6:00PM – 11:00PM

Wednesday, February 10 – Ash Wednesday, Lent Fish Fries begin!

THANK YOU to the family of Rudy Janisko – A 4ft by 3ft San Damiano Crucifix has been purchased by the family of Rudy Janisko in his memory and will have a place of honor in the St. Francis Activity Center.

Liturgical Reflection... Always located between Christmas and January 1st is the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Where does mercy show itself so clearly – when parents show love and understanding to children; when sons and daughters show mercy to each other, and give reverence and love to parents; when the wisdom of grandparents enlightens the family to God's eternal mercy. Patience, compassion, and mercy, these are gifts every family celebrates. 2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA

Stewardship Reflection... The birth of our Savior has caused us to become members of one family – the Family of God. May our love and actions toward all humanity place us in our Father's house.

Families and the Gospel... Lk 2:41-52 – Because Jesus did not tell His parents His plans to stay in Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph were distraught and probably felt negligent and guilty. Like the Holy Family, parents today operate with the same deficit because children don't disclose all their plans. Despite the centuries, the problems of parenting are the same.

Prayer of Blessing – Feast of the Holy Family

*O God,
You have created us in love and saved us in mercy,
And through the bond of marriage
You have established the family
And willed that it should become a sign of
Christ's love for His Church.
Shower Your blessings on these families
Gathered here in Your Name.
Enable those Who are joined by one love
To support one another
By their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer.
Make them responsive to the needs of others
And witnesses to the Faith in all they say and do.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

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 Sobecky, 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 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.

BIBLE STUDY to FOCUS on the YEAR OF MERCY – THEOLOGY of DIVINE MERCY – From the diary of a young Polish nun, a special devotion began spreading throughout the world in the 1930s. The message is nothing new, but it is a reminder of what the Church has always taught through Scripture and traditions: that God is merciful and forgiving and that we, too, must show mercy and forgiveness. But in the Divine Mercy devotion, the message takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God’s love is unlimited and available to everyone – especially the greatest sinners. The message and devotion to Jesus as **The Divine Mercy** is based on the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska. The first session will include the viewing of the award winning film “Faustina: Apostle of Divine Mercy (Polish with English subtitles).” Deacon Michael will the Bible Study group in the discussion “The Theology of Divine Mercy” beginning Saturday, January 9 at 9:30AM – 11:30AM in the music room of St. Benedict School, 2306 Bedford St. The book that will be used is “*Divine Mercy in My Soul: Diary of St. Maris Faustina Kowalska.*” If you plan to attend this 6-week course, please contact Deacon Michael to register so that books can be ordered (814-288-3036 or email: Michael.russo@atlanticbb.net).

