

**DECEMBER 6, 2015**  
*Second 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 – [stfrancisich@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:stfrancisich@atlanticbnn.net)**

**Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632**

**Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofofassisijohnstown.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 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.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** the family and friends of +Genevieve Bagan. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet Sunday, December 6 at 2:00PM. Please join us in praying the Rosary followed by Benediction.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 12:30PM – 3:30PM for children 12 & under for those who have indicated that they will attend.

**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.

**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 (included with the bulletin) in the collection basket. **Deadline for orders: Sunday, December 12.** Pick up: Saturday, December 19 from 9AM – 12Noon.

**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.

**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?

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** – if you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes for 2016, this will be the last weekend they will be available in the vestibule. Beginning next week, the envelopes will be at the Parish Office.

**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.

**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. Thank you to all who participated in this fund raiser.

**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.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for +Mom Bazyk by Son, Frank.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH NOVEMBER 22** – Adults - \$2,525.06; Children - \$29.00; Loose - \$640.05; Monthly - \$6.00; Candles - \$98.75; Catholic Charities - \$350.57; Thanksgiving - \$42.00; Misc. - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$3,841.43. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH NOVEMBER 30** – Adults - \$2,512.51; Children - \$36.00; Loose - \$401.75; Monthly - \$49.00; Holy Day - \$6.00; Candles - \$97.25; St. Vincent DePaul - \$828.00; All Souls - \$11.00; Envelopes - \$5.00; Missalettes - \$6.00; Flowers - \$20.00; Thanksgiving - \$603.00; Catholic Charities - \$11.00. Total Collection - \$4,541.51. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS CONVENTUAL** had 2 Friars Beatified on Friday, December 4, 2015 in Peru, South America. There are two Franciscan Conventual martyrs: Michal Tomaszek and Zbigniew Strzalkowski. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, 1991, two of the first Krakow Friar Michal and Zbigniew died in Pariacotto, Peru, as martyrs at the hands of the Marxist "Sender Luminoso" ("*Shining Path*"). The third missionary, Jarek Wysocanski, was spared because he was on a home visit to Poland. High in the Andes, our confreres have lived, worked, suffered, and died in a mission of heroic charity. In fact, when the "Sender Luminoso" raided the village and forced the two friar-missionaries into a van, one of the religious Handmaids of the Sacred Heart insisted on going with them part of the way until she was forced out of the van. She later testified that the guerillas excoriated our Friars for their apostolate of "*caridad*" ("*charity*"). They the killers sealed the martyrs' death warrant with the Friars' blood. Minister General, Lanfranco Serrini said on the day after the killing of Michal and Zbigniew: *In the first moment of shock at this unimaginable news, I automatically thought of the words of St. Francis when he received the news of the death of the Protomartyrs of Morocco: 'Now I can say with certainty that that I have two friars minor!'* Truly to be a "Friar Minor" is to be a "Friar Martyr." The "martyr" witnesses – testifies to the Faith that underlies a life of selfless charity. One wonders what went through the minds of Michal and Zbigniew when they suddenly realized that they would be killed. They stared eternity in the face. Indeed St. Francis's optic on life was filtered through the lens of Eternity. Francis consciously adopted a "Perspective of Eternity" when before Bishop Guido in the Vescovado of Assisi he proclaimed: "*From now on I*

will say freely, not 'My Father Pietro di Bernadone,' but Our Father Who art in Heaven." (2 Celano 12). Fair play to Francis! Now every one of his Friar-sons is challenged to this same shift of optic – to see the world through the eyes of the "Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Lk 21:27). From such an optic, the threat of violent death holds no power to shake one's deep interior equilibrium. A Friar Minor [Friar Martyr] lives as a man whose bond to the Son of Man grounds him on earth to a Kingdom that is Eternal.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 6 – Children's Christmas Party – 12:30 – 3:30pm  
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



### HOW ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM?

*Our homes are being readied...  
Our trees are being decorated...  
Our gifts are being bought and wrapped...  
Our Christmas cards are being sent...  
"But the Son of God has nowhere to lay His Head." Matthew 8:21  
We at St. Francis of Assisi are preparing a place for the Christ Child...  
Our stable with fresh hay is made and is in place...*

### 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 Sobczyk, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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; Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; Lt. Col Steven Thomas, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Colin Harrington, US Army, Bethesda, MD; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**ULTREYA GROUP REUNION** - Attention Johnstown West Ultreya Group - Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 10, 6:30 - 7:30 at the Oratory, Eighth and Chestnut Streets in Cambria City. Any questions please call Diane or Scott Little at 341-6228

**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.

*Stewardship Reflection...* This Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a day of obligation for Catholics to participate at Mass. Mary who was called to be God's mother was immaculate, free from original sin, from the moment of her conception in her mother's womb. Today opens the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The year long celebration begins December 8, 2015, an end November 20, 2016. May the Immaculate Mother grace this Year of Mercy through her intercession. The Diocese has offered a concluding prayer for mercy to be prayed at the conclusion of the Universal Prayer for Sundays and Solemnities throughout the Jubilee. 2105, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.