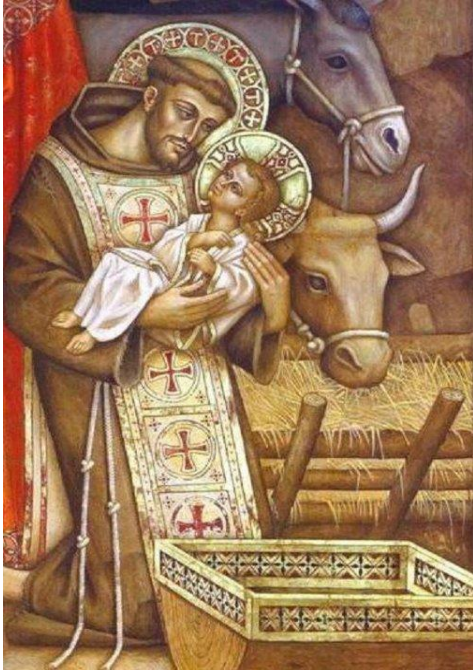


JANUARY 3, 2016
The Epiphany of the Lord
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@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

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.

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

MEN'S CLUB MEETING will take place on Thursday, January 7 at 7:00PM in the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome.

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 all who helped in any way with preparing the Church for the Christmas Season. May God Bless you!

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 signup 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. 21 - #920 – Susan Palor; Dec. 22 - #620 – Ron Lechak; Dec. 23 - #194 – Shasta Rovon; Dec. 24 - #702 – Joseph Mirilovich; Dec. 25 - #849 – Darlene Lovas; Dec. 26 - #229 – Lorene Yuran; Dec. 27 - #406 – Leonard Dudash. 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS – Loose - \$996.00; Christmas - \$5070.00; Oplatek - \$26.25. Total Collection: \$6,092.25. Thank you for your generosity!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$512.00; Adults - \$2,207.01; Children - \$88.00; Monthly - \$120.00; Christmas - \$55.00; Flowers - \$10.00; Candles - \$189.25; St. Vincent de Paul - \$3.00; Donations: \$500.00. Total Collection - \$3,684.26. 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!

Liturgical Reflection... The appearance of the Light of the World leads all to acclaim Jesus as the Lord of the nations. As the Collect for today's Mass prays, "O God Who revealed Your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in Your mercy that we...may be brought to behold the beauty of Your sublime glory." Through the mercy of God, believers are brought into the realm of mystery and Faith. The Eternal Word is present among us. Wise men and women seek to follow the light of God's Word. 2015, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA

Feast of the Epiphany

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different from the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod..." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they present the Gentile's search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because Priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death. The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.



Families and the Gospel...Mt 2:1-12 – After meeting Jesus, the Magi returned home by “another way.” What in your family needs to be done another way? Do you need another way to resolve differences, to communicate or show affection? This is a new year, time to change what isn’t working. Take a tip from some wise men, there’s always “another way.”

Family Ritual...Were the Wise Men really wise? Were they wise because they possessed a wealth of earthly knowledge? Or were they wise because they understood that even while having all of the world’s knowledge, something more was beckoning them to make the journey to the newborn King? Are we wise enough to hear the voice of God calling in our lives and, if so, do we have the courage to follow?

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

God of all time, at the beginning of this New Year we place the days and months of the New Year into Your Hands, we pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill our days with the blessings of family, friendship, laughter, and love, we pray: Lord hear our prayer.

Show us ways to spend our time serving Your children in need, we pray: Lord, hear our prayer.

Help us appreciate the time we have to listen to Your Word and to talk with You in prayer, we pray: Lord hear our prayer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

Bill Babik, Rose Blaschak, Geraldine Caddy, Jean Chase, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, 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 Sobacky, 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.

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).

A “SUPER BOWL” PORKETTE SALE will be held on Saturday, February 6 at St. Anthony of Padua, Windber. Porkettes are \$3.00 each and orders are due by January 24. To place an order, call the Parish Office at 467-7292. Sandwiches can be picked up from 9AM – Noon on February 6 in the Church Hall. Get ready for the Super Bowl and order your porkettes today!