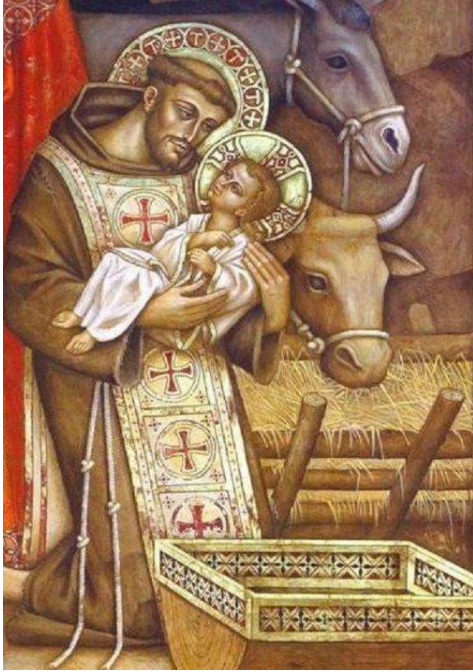


**JANUARY 10, 2016**  
*The Baptism of the Lord*  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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](mailto: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 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.

**WE REJOICE** in the Baptism of Elizabella Lynn Stevanus and congratulate her parents, Godparents and family as they celebrate the beginning of her new life with Christ.

**THANK YOU** to all who helped in any way with the Fish Fry on January 8. Your dedication is greatly appreciated. Our next Fish Fry will take place on Ash Wednesday, February 10 and will continue on Friday, February 19, 26, March 4, March 11. A great deal of help will be needed to keep up the pace for Lent. **PLEASE:** *if you have not yet volunteered to lend a hand, any amount of time you can spare will make the job easier for all involved.*

**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. 28 -#150 – Gail Fecko; Dec. 29 - #961 – Joseph Fatula; Dec. 30 - #416 – Michele Bloom; Dec. 31 - #562 – no winner. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser and congratulations to all the winners.



**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.

**MEN'S CLUB** Valentine's Day tickets are now available in the vestibule of the Church. Cost: \$2.00. Your support is greatly appreciated. Winning number based on the first pick three evening drawing of the PA Lottery on February 14, 2016.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for Living & Deceased members of the Rosary Society by Rosary Society. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the death of +Michael R. Toth by son, Ray & Jeanne Toth and family.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$384.25; Adults - \$3,787.00; Children - \$29.00; Monthly - \$402.00; Christmas - \$150.00.00; Candles - \$136.89; St. Vincent de Paul - \$443.00; First Offering - \$570.00; Holy Day - \$1,371.78; Misc. - \$111.00 Total Collection - \$7,384.92. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

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...* Today concludes the Christmas Season. The Church prays at Mass, "...we humbly entreat Your mercy, O Lord, that, faithfully listening to Your Only Begotten Son, we may be Your children in name and in truth." On this celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, we recall our Baptismal identity in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. By God's mercy and love we have been claimed for Jesus Christ. We are children of light and seek to live this new life of Faith through God's mercy. 2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgical Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA

*Families and the Gospel...* January 10 – Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 – In today's Gospel Jesus was publicly affirmed by His Father: "You are My Beloved Son, with You I am very pleased." As parents we can become so focused on misbehaviors we overlook the good behaviors. Jesus needed affirmation and so do our children.

*Stewardship Reflection...* "Jesus was led by the Spirit of God to a life of preaching and service to the giving of Himself in Sacrifice. Jesus Christ sends that same Spirit upon everyone who is Baptized in His Name. This not a Spirit of timidity or fear, but a bold Spirit of life, truth, joy and grace." Go and Make Disciples. USCCB 1992

**ON THURSDAY**, January 21, at 7:00PM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Bishop Mark Bartchak will lead a prayer service for the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe vs. Wade* (1973). There will be a blessing for the pilgrims attending

the March for Life in Washington, D.C. the next day, Friday, January 22. All are welcome to participate in this prayer service. All who have a respect for life from conception to natural death are welcome to join our brothers and sisters at the Altoona Cathedral.

**Consider this:** We currently have 58 active Diocesan Priests in our diocese (under the age of retirement of 75). We have 88 churches in our diocese. At the present moment we have 6 men preparing to become priests for our diocese. If these men all persevere they will be ordained by the year 2023. However, by that same year at least 14 of our active priests will reach the age of retirement. That is a net loss of 8, which does not take into account extraordinary circumstances like unexpected deaths, etc. These are the numbers we face in our diocese, and everyone will be affected by the dwindling number of diocesan priests here in Altoona-Johnstown. Ultimately, a call to priesthood is God's grace, but we need to cooperate with that grace! All clergy and laity must be challenged to do vocational work in their own ministries and parish communities and not rely on others to do it for them! If we are not actively seeking new vocations to the priesthood, how do we expect these numbers to change for the better? *From Rev. Matthew A. Reese, Vocation Director, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown*

*The Baptism of the Lord* – Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. This brings an end to the Season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His Baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget Sons of God. The event takes place on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes. In the Eastern Church this Feast is called Theophany because at the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The Baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the Baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves," He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world. "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world." Many of incidents which accompanied Christ's Baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's Baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His Baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we became the adopted sons of God. At Christ's Baptism the Heavens were opened; at our Baptism Heaven was opened to us. At His Baptism Christ prays; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

#### **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.

---

#### **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, The Presidio, Monterey, CA.

*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.

**CALLING ALL STUDENTS GRADE PRE-K – 8** – Exciting new changes await for the new Johnstown Catholic Regional School System beginning fall 2016. Be a part of this exciting new educational initiative with advanced learning, tech labs, and so much more! An informational meeting will be held Sunday, January 11, at St. Andrew School at 6:30PM. All are welcome to attend the following Open House-Registration Details/Informational Meetings at these locations and dates: Jan. 14 from 6:00PM – 8:00PM and January 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00PM – 4:00PM at East Campus Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 2306 Bedford St. (St. Benedict School Building), contact: 814-266-3837, ext. 210. West Campus Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 430 Tioga Street (Our Mother of Sorrows School Building, contact: 814-539-5315. Middle School 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades, 1621 Ferndale Ave. (St. Andrew School Building), contact: 814-288-2811 or 814-255-1964. Website: [www.JohnstownCatholicRegional.org](http://www.JohnstownCatholicRegional.org).

**CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** – Turkey Dinner, Sunday, January 17 from 11:00AM – 2:00PM. Cost: \$9.00. For take outs call 535-2698.

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!