

JANUARY 24, 2016
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
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*

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Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518

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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

Saturday –

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.

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. Many thanks to all who help our Parish in any way! May God continue to Bless all of you!



DEACON BRUCE BECKER will lead a *Bible Study Group* for 8 consecutive Tuesdays from 3:30PM – 4:30PM beginning January 26 and ending on March 15. The Bible Study will focus on the power and Mercy of Jesus' Miracles as a focus on the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Please use the signup sheet in the vestibule if you are interested in attending.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 8:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the vestibule of the Church. There should be at least two adorers present for each time slot. (This is also a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament – adorers adore and protect.)

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.* We will be missing quite a few of our "regulars" and this would be a good time to "learn the ropes." This is also an opportunity for students needing service hours to fulfill that obligation. Profit for Fish Fry held on Friday, January 8: \$3,577.86.



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.

LENT SCHEDULE: Ash Wednesday, Mass will be celebrated at 8:00AM, 12Noon and 6:30PM. During Lent, daily Mass (Mon. thru Fri.) will take place at 12Noon (Tues. - Mass with the Novena to St. Anthony will also be celebrated at 6:30PM). Stations of the Cross will be prayed on all Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM. Lenten Lamentations will be held on Sundays of Lent at 3:00PM.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health of Dolores & Paul Gresik by Pansy, Betty, and Margaret Scott. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for God's Blessings and Good Health for Judy Widrig by Jeanne & Ray Toth.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$398.65; Adults - \$2,051.01; Children - \$34.00; Monthly - \$110.00; Candles - \$81.09; First Offering - \$17.00; Holy Day - \$5.00; Catholic Register - \$5.00. Total Collection - \$2,701.75. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND – For over a month now we have been witnessing the devastation caused by the tornados, the storms and floods in the Mid-West, the South, and the Southwest. A second collection will be taken this weekend to help in alleviating the suffering that these disasters have and are causing. All monies collected will be sent to Catholic Charities USA who will distribute these donations. In this Year of Mercy, please be as generous as possible in responding to this request. Thank you for whatever you are able to do to be of help to our brothers and sisters in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 24 – Volunteer Appreciation Party – Holy Hour – 3:00PM – 4:00PM, Dinner – 4:00PM
Tuesday, January 26 – Bible Study 3:30PM – 4:30PM
Saturday, January 30 – Mardi Gras Madness – 6:00PM – 11:00PM
Tuesday, February 2, 9, 16, 23, Mar. 8, Mar. 15 – Bible Study – 3:30PM – 4:30PM
Wednesday, February 10 – Ash Wednesday, Lent Fish Fries begin and will continue on Friday, February 19, 26, March 4, March 11.
Thursday, February 11 – Confession – 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Liturgical Reflection... As Jesus proclaims the reading from the prophet Isaiah at the synagogue in Nazareth, we hear the divine announcement of God's mercy. This is a year acceptable to the Lord, a Jubilee Year of Mercy. Glad tidings are brought to the poor. Liberty is proclaimed to captives. The blind recover their sight. And the oppressed are set free. God's mercy is celebrated when the poor experience the Lord's joy; when those held captive are set free; when the lost receive true sight; and when those held down firmly stand in the presence of God. 2016, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.

Families and the Gospel... January 24 – Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21 – In today’s Gospel Jesus was “praised by all” except at home in Nazareth where the “eyes of all were intently on Him.” Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal expectations. Jesus challenges us to “proclaim liberty” to anyone oppressed or captive by our expectations.

Stewardship Reflection... “Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body’s health and well-being are the responsibility of the members – the personal responsibility of each of us. We all are stewards of the Church.” [*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, USCCB, 1992.]

CONFESSIONS TO BE OFFERED throughout the Diocese – Observing the Jubilee of Mercy and welcoming the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Local Church will make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, an encounter with the compassionate mercy of God, available throughout our eight counties the day following Ash Wednesday on Thursday, February 11. Holy Father Francis states that God’s mercy knows no limits. The Lord’s mercy gives hope and renews one’s love for God and for our sisters and brothers. In a new book, *The Name of God is Mercy*, published in January 2016, Pope Francis explains, “The Church condemns sin, because it has to tell the truth: this is a sin. But at the same time, it embraces the sinner who acknowledges what he is.” He also explains how sin is “more than a stain” that can be removed by a trip to “the dry cleaner” – but a wound that “needs to be treated, and healed.” The place for the treatment and healing of sin is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In his new book Pope Francis expresses his own need for the Sacrament. He says very plainly, “I am a sinner; a man who is in need of God’s mercy.” Pope Francis urges us to pray, “Lord, I am a sinner. Come with your mercy.” God’s mercy is everlasting. We receive the mercy and love of God in a very special way in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sinners that we are we find forgiveness and mercy in this great Sacrament when truly sorry and wanting to do better. With the gift of mercy within us, we then are able to go forth and share God’s mercy, understanding, and compassion with others. We become instruments of Divine Mercy to our sisters and brothers. **On Thursday, February 11, from 6:00PM – 8:00PM**, the faithful are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

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.

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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, 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.

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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.

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!

VALENTINE’S PRAYER AND LUNCHEON for Widows and Widowers throughout our Diocese – Remember your loved ones on Wednesday, February 3 with Mass at 11:00AM. All spouses will be mentioned and remembered at Mass. Luncheon at Noon, followed by a special musical presentation. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. Widows and widowers throughout our Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to attend. Sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and hosted by the Immaculate Conception Church, 1640 New Germany Road, Summerhill. Reservations required by January 26. Contact the Family Life Office at 814-886-5551 or familylife@dioceseaj.org.

THE CONCERTS UNDER THE DOME SERIES will present the Indian Brass Band on Sunday, February 7 at 2:00PM. This pre-Civil War era band will perform period music on pre-Civil War instruments such as keyed bugles, quinticlave, ophicleide, as well as a

variety of early valved instruments. Concerts are held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. There will be a free-will offering.