

**DECEMBER 11, 2016**  
*Third 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**  
**Deacon Bruce Becker**

*St. Francis of Assisi, 120 Barron Avenue*  
*Johnstown, 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. – 8:00AM; Tues.–6:30PM;  
Sat - 8:00AM

First Friday 8:00AM and 5:30 PM

**Confession** – Tues., 6:00PM, Sat. 3:15 – 3:45PM

First Friday 5:00PM

**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 – 659-9781

**Finance Council President** – Robert Bimeal – 536-5114

**Cemetery Council President** - William Heim – 254-2942

**Director of Religious Education** – Carol Pisula – 254-1961

**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.

**First Friday** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM – 5:30PM.

**WE REJOICE** in the Baptism of Aubrey Lillian DeArmitt and congratulate her parents and Godparents as she begins her new life in Christ.

**THANK YOU** to Jack Rován, President and members of the Men's Club of St. Francis of Assisi for the delightful Christmas dinner and get-together. It was fabulous.

**THANK YOU** so very much to Mary Beth and Jeff Konieczny and the many other elves for the Children's Christmas Party last Sunday. Thank you to Jason "St. Nicholas" for his time and energy.



**STILL NEEDED:** Altar Servers for the Midnight and 7:30AM Masses for Christmas. For Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (January 1): Server for 7:30AM Mass and two Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at the 9:30AM Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to serve.

**CHRISTMAS GOB TRAYS!!** St. Francis Church "Famous" Gobs will be sold in tray form. Bakers Dozen (13) on each tray decorated beautifully for special Christmas Gifts! Chocolate Gobs will be available with red, green and white icing. Placed on a decorated tray, cellophane wrapped and tied with a beautiful bow. **Deadline for orders: Sunday, December 11.** Pick up for orders is Saturday, December 17 from 9:00AM - 12Noon. Order forms may be found in the vestibule. Orders can also be placed by calling Betty Spisak at 536-4934 or Alice Havers at 536-0948. Our Gobs are "world famous."



**FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be presented on Sunday, December 11 at 3:00PM followed by a light social in the activity center. Plan to be present as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Nine volunteers are needed to proclaim the 9 Scriptures. Signup sheet is located in the vestibule.



**WEST END PENANCE SERVICE** will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on **Monday, December 19 beginning at 5:00PM.** Prepare for the Christmas Season by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent. Additional Penance Services in our area:

Monday, December 12 – 7:00PM – St. Anne, Davidsville  
Monday, December 12 – 6:30PM – Our Mother of Sorrows  
Wednesday, December 14 – 6:00PM – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Windber  
Wednesday, December 14 – 7:00PM – Transfiguration, Conemaugh  
Thursday, December 15 – 5:30PM – Visitation  
Sunday, December 18 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict, Geistown

**BRICK PAVER** project continues! Please be aware that all engraved bricks may not be installed at this time due to a delay at the engravers. Thank you for your patience. The deadline to purchase bricks at the initial cost of \$40.00 has passed. If you would still like to participate in this project you may do so at the increased price of \$75.00 per brick.

**SECOND COLLECTION** this weekend will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This appeal is for the Religious men and women and all of our brothers and sisters in Christ, present and past, who have dedicated their lives to prayer, ministry and service to the Universal Church and to the Diocesan Church of Altoona-Johnstown.

**CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn this week for Return to Good Health for Patti & Ray Toth, Jr., by Ray & Jeanne Toth.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING** will take place at Atrium Manor on Monday, December 12 at 6:00PM. Call Gale Bala at 539-0155 or Fran at 241-3666 for details.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$503.00; Adults - \$3,570.52; Children - \$35.00; Monthly - \$713.02; Candles - \$101.00; Holy Day - \$10.00; Catholic Charities - \$10.00; Oplatek - \$78.00; Flowers - \$500.02; Cemetery - \$10.00 Misc. - \$351.50. Total Collection - \$4,480.41. 185 out of 328 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish. All registered parishioners should be using parish envelopes.

**THANK YOU** to all who have participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal. As of November 29, \$10,201.04 was pledged toward our goal of \$23,864.00 with 87 of 328 families contributing (25% participation). If you do not have a pledge card, you may place your gift (made payable to "Annual Catholic Appeal") in the collection basket. If the remaining 243 families contributed \$58.21 our goal would be reached.

All Children of the Parish in grades K – 8 are asked to participate in the 4:00PM Liturgy on Saturday, December 24. **Religious Education classes will be held in the Church on Sunday, December 18 following the 9:30AM Mass to prepare for this Liturgy.**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Anointing of the Sick – Saturday, December 10 – 4:00PM, Sunday, December 11 – All Masses  
Festival of Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 11 – 3:00PM  
Gob Tray Order Pick up – Saturday, December 17 – 9:00AM – Noon  
West End Penance Service – Monday, December 19 – 5:00PM – St. Francis of Assisi

**DISCIPLES ON A JOURNEY** – Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted their Commitment Card to the Parish Office. As a reminder, all commitment cards need to be submitted no later than December 11 in order to be accounted for the final Summary Report. Please complete and submit your card to the Office even if you are unable to make a change to your current level of giving.

*Liturgical Reflection*....Advent prepares us for Christmas. In the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, the couple is directed to diligently prepare for the celebration of their marriage. The couple participates in Diocesan sponsored marriage preparation programs. Couples take the FOCCUS (Facilitation Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) inventory; this is reviewed with the Priest or Deacon celebrating the marriage. Couples meet with the Priest or Deacon to discuss the theology of Matrimony. And a time is scheduled to prepare the marriage celebration itself. Marriage is a serious life vocation and invites serious preparation. *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

**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...*

*The animals are in place and are at rest waiting...*

*The Shepherds are arriving and are settling down with flocks in preparation for the great event...*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Rose Blaschak, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, Stephen Fabina, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Susan Keselyak, Kathryn Legat, Helen Malysko, Sophie Regula, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Mary Subich, 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 Guarno, 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; 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; 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, Captain Aaron Donahey, US Army, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas; Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Heather L. Dovala, Great Lakes, IL.; Spec Jarod Pisarchik, Army National Guard; Ens. Kara Yingling, USS Higgins; Lt. JG Shannon Yingling; Pvt Daniel Maslo, Camp Geiger, NC; Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class 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; Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Anthony Rosage, USAF, The Presidio, Monterey, CA.; Tech Sgt. Daniel Bracken, USAF, deployed to Kobal Afghanistan.

*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.

**AN ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be held at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 17 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Youth Chorale under the direction of Cathedral music director, 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.

**WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP** is sponsoring a Christmas Decorating contest. West End residents should turn on outside Christmas Lights on from 6:00PM – 8:00PM on December 19, 20 and 21. Celebrity judges will search for the best decorated house in different categories: Best Techno Theme, Classic Christmas Theme, Over the Top Decorations, Spirit of Christmas (Religious), Decorations Through a Child’s Eye. Prizes will be awarded on December 22 and will be announced on our Facebook page.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:** Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM – 5:30PM. Our nation needs our prayers. Come before Jesus in the Eucharist with our hopes and concerns.

***ALL LIVES MATTER – INSIDE THE WOMB AND OUTSIDE THE WOMB  
IT'S NOT ABOUT A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KILL HER BABY...  
IT'S ABOUT HER BABY'S RIGHT TO BE BORN***