

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**  
*Fourth 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@atlanticbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbn.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**

**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.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday, December 24 – 4:00PM  
 Sunday, December 25 – 12Midnight, 7:30AM, 9:30AM

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Saturday, December 31 – 4:00PM  
 Sunday, January 1 – 7:30AM, 9:30AM



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

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.**

**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 Service in our area:

Sunday, December 18 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict, Geistown

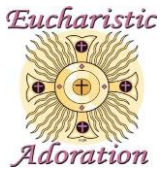
**WE REJOICE IN THE BAPTISM** of Gianna Rosemarie Petak and congratulate her parents and Godparents as she begins her new life in Christ.

**DECORATING OF THE CHURCH** for Christmas will take place on Friday, December 23 beginning at 9:00AM. All help is greatly appreciated.

**THANK YOU** to the Men’s Club for the generous donation to the Parish and for contributing to help defray the cost of the Children’s Christmas Party. May God Bless you!

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be *CLOSED* Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27. The Office will be open on Wednesday, December 28 thru Friday, December 31.

**NOTE:** Mass on Monday, January 2, 2017 will be celebrated at **9:00AM.**



**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6** 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.)

**COMING UP:** Fish Fry is scheduled for Friday, January 13 from 11AM until 6PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

**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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$524.25; Adults - \$2,868.77; Children - \$35.00; Monthly - \$352.00; Candles - \$97.50; Holy Day - \$906.52; Oplatek - \$18.00; Flowers - \$61.00; Christmas - \$60.00; Thanksgiving - \$10.00; Religious Retirement - \$478.02; Misc. - \$379.42; Donations - \$810.00. Total Collection - \$6,640.48. 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 December 13, \$10,737.54 was pledged toward our goal of \$23,864.00 with 91 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.

<p><b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>                  West End Penance Service – Monday, December 19 – 5:00PM – St. Francis of Assisi                  Fish Fry – Friday, January 13 – 11:00AM – 6:00PM                  Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 18</p>
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*Liturgical Reflection...* Christmas is very close. Everything must be ready for the great day commemorating the birth of our Savior. As couples approach their wedding day, the Order of Celebrating Matrimony (Number 29) directs that they be directly involved in planning the liturgy for their marriage. Among the choices and options, they may choose from the selection of Scripture readings presented by the Church; the form of expressing their mutual consent; the choice of Nuptial Blessing; the intentions of the Universal Prayer; and music that is God centered. Great preparation is made in getting ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony. *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

*Stewardship Reflection...* St. Joseph carried out God's will and embraced his fatherhood as a stewardship. May you allow God to change your plans in order to fulfill His.

*Families and the Gospel...* December 18 – Mt 1:18-24 – The Child born to Joseph and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Every child in EMMANUEL, reminding us “God is with us.” Children are signs of God's continuing presence in our lives.



*St. Francis and the Christmas Creche...* St. Francis of Assisi began the tradition of recreating the Nativity scene as a way of sharing the story of our Savior's birth with people who were not able to read the story. Here is the story as told by St. Bonaventure in his Life of St. Francis of Assisi: “It happened in the third year before his death, that in order to excite the inhabitants of Greccio to commemorate the Nativity of the Infant Jesus with great devotion, [St. Francis] determined to keep it with all possible solemnity; and lest he should be accused of lightness or novelty, he asked and obtained the permission of the sovereign Pontiff. Then he prepared a manger, and brought hay, and an ox and an ass to the place appointed. The brethren were summoned, the people ran together, the forest resounded with their voices, and that venerable night was mighty

glorious by many and brilliant light and sonorous psalms of praise. The man of God [St. Francis] stood before the manger, full of devotion and piety, bathed in tears and radiant with joy; the Holy Gospel was chanted by Francis, the Levite of Christ. Then he preached to the people around the Nativity of the poor King; and being unable to utter His Name for the tenderness of His love, he called Him the Babe of Bethlehem.”

**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.

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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 Guarino, 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; 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.*

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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.

**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.

**THERE WILL BE A BUS** going to Washington, D.C. for the annual March for Life on Friday, January 27, 2017. There will be a 6:30AM Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The bus will depart immediately after the Mass and make a pickup in front of St. John Gualbert Cathedral downtown. ALL seats are \$10.00 and must be paid to reserve your seats. The bus will return at approximately 10:00PM. Please call Heidi at 536-7335 to reserve your seat or for more information.

**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***