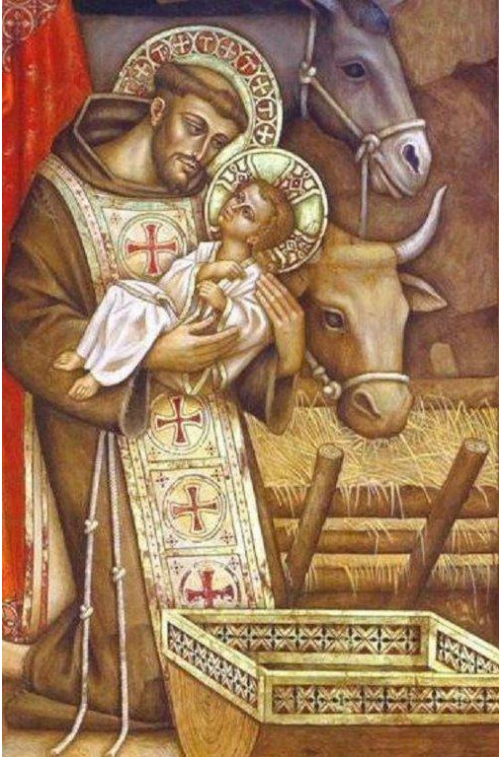


DECEMBER 25, 2016
The Nativity of the Lord
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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
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

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 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.

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



MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 1: Saturday, December 31 – 4:00PM; Sunday, January 1 – 7:30AM, 9:30AM.

NOTE: Mass on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2, 2017 will be celebrated at **9:00AM**.

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. The Office will also be **CLOSED** on Monday, January 2.

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.)



THANK YOU to all those who worked so diligently on the Christmas Gob Sale. Even though help was sparse, there were over 300 gob trays packed and ready to go! Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

YOUR GENEROUS contributions to our poor box and donations of Giant Eagle gift cards is overwhelming. The outpouring of your treasure to those less fortunate is heartwarming.

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

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +M/M Albert & M/M Stephen J. Prebehalla by James & Sue Ellen Dadey.

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 - \$417.00; Adults - \$2,577.97; Children - \$39.00; Monthly - \$140.00; Candles - \$125.00; Holy Day - \$18.00; Oplatek - \$49.31; Flowers - \$5.00; Christmas - \$251.00; Religious Retirement - \$43.00; Cemetery - \$5.00 Donations - \$85.00. Total Collection - \$3,815.28. 169 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.

The ACA will conclude on Saturday, December 31, 2016. Please re-consider a pledge to the ACA if you haven't already made a contribution to this Diocesan appeal.

ALL LIVES MATTER – INSIDE THE WOMB AND OUTSIDE THE WOMB

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fish Fry – Friday, January 13 – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 18



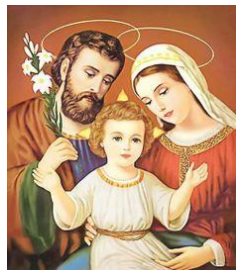
Liturgical Reflection.... Today the Church celebrates the arrival of the Word Made Flesh on this earth. Darkness is shattered; peace is proclaimed; Divinity has made a home with His people. The God Who has no beginning or no end, has arrived as an infant in a manger. We join the angels and shepherds in giving praise to God. All the earth is filled with wonder. May we be filled with that awe and wonder this Christmas Day. Salvation has arrived; we remember the beginnings of our redemption. *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... Jesus is God's gift of love to us. The countless other blessings that God rains down on us are nothing compared to the gift of His only Son. The only appropriate way for us to respond to God's generous love is with our own generous love. When sharing all the gifts God has placed in our hands, the peace of Christ truly will control our hearts and we will know Christmas joy every day!

Families and the Gospel... December 25 – Jn 1:1-18 – The birth of Jesus reminds us we have a choice. We can choose to not know Him or to see Jesus as the True Light Which enlightens everyone. Make this a Merry Christmas and choose well: your decision has eternal consequences.

***Prayer of Blessing – Feast of the Holy Family
Friday, December 30***

O God,
You have created us in love and saved us in mercy,
And through the bond of marriage
You have established the family
And willed that it should become a sign of
Christ's love for the Church.
Shower Your blessings on these families
Gathered here in Your Name.
Enable those who are joined by one love
To support one another
By their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer.
Make them responsive to the needs of others
And witnesses to the Faith in all they say and do.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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 Guarno, 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; Major **Melinda Rován Corallo**, Lakenheath Air Force Base, England; **HMC David Bakos**, US Navy; **PFC; Lance Corporal Jacob Taylor**, USMC; **Private 1st 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 1st Class Maxwell Schutte**, F. E. Warren, Wy; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **Captain Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas; **Petty Officer 1st 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 1st Class 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; **Airman 1st 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.

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.

MARCH ON THE MOUNTIAN AT ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY - In order to promote the Pro-Life message St. Francis University will hold its own March for Life on Friday, January 27 for those who can't attend the Washington D.C. rally. The Rosary will be recited prior to the March in the Immaculate Conception Chapel located on Loretto campus, beginning at 10:30AM. This will be followed by several guest speakers. The March itself will begin with a short prayer at 11:00AM in front of the Chapel. The walk will then commence around the mall in the center of campus and will conclude at approximately 11:55AM for those that wish to attend the 12:00PM Mass.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Every 1st 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.