

JANUARY 1, 2017
Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
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.

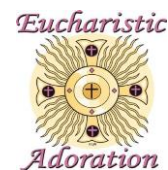
PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Edward Petak and +Andrew Belko who were laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

WE REJOICE in the Baptism of Lilliana Sophia Marrow and congratulate her parents and Godparents as she begins her new life in Christ.

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

PLEASE NOTE: The Office will 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.) America and our President-Elect need our prayers for a rejuvenated America.



GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, January 3 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be put together on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 at 9:00AM**. YOUR help is greatly needed and appreciated.

MEN'S CLUB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5 at 7:00PM in the Activity Center. New members are always welcome.

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

VALENTINE SPECIAL – The Men's Club will begin selling Valentine Special Tickets next weekend in the vestibule of the Church.



MADRI GRAS MADNESS will take place on Saturday, February 18, 2017. Doors will open at 5:15PM and festivities begin at 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Admission includes: appetizers, soda, a turkey dinner with all the fixings and eligibility for Grand Prizes. A cash bar will be available. Music by Flood City Brass. Tickets are \$20 and will be available in the near future. There will be a \$5 cover charge for beer, cash bar for wine and mixed drinks. No outside beverages allowed.

THANK YOU to Francis Ozog Funeral Home for the generous Christmas gift to the Parish and for supplying the 2017 calendars. May God Bless you!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Christmas - \$4,006.02; Oplatek - \$113.00; Loose - \$964.10; Adults - \$2,661.27; Children - \$59.00; Monthly - \$61.00; Flowers - \$3.00; Candles - \$138.00; St. Vincent De Paul - \$5.00; Holy Day - \$38.00; Donations - \$400.00; Misc. - \$211.97. Total Collection - \$8,660.36. 162 out of 328 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the Parish.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +M/M Albert Dadey, Sr. & M/M Stephen J. Prebehalla by James & Sue Ellen Dadey. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for God's Blessings and Good Health for Mary Subich by Raymond and Jeanne Toth.

THANK YOU to all who have participated in the Annual Catholic Appeal. As of December 13, \$11,007.54 was pledged toward our goal of \$23,864.00 with 92 of 328 families contributing (25% participation). If the remaining 236 families contributed \$58.21 our goal would have been reached. The 2016 ACA is concluded as of December 31, 2016.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 18

DISCIPLES ON A JOURNEY – Within the next couple of weeks you will receive a Summary Report detailing the results of our Disciples on a Journey. Several weeks ago we began this program. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this very important program. Your generosity shows your willingness as faithful stewards to be a part of the ongoing mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

*Liturgical Reflection....*This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Today the Church acclaims Mary with her most ancient title, Mother of God. Mary showers her maternal love on her Son. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony (Number 3) states that the institution of Marriage itself and conjugal love are ordered to the procreation and formation of children. Children are thus truly the supreme gift of Marriage and contribute greatly to the good of the parents themselves. Motherhood and fatherhood are integral to married love. *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

*Families and the Gospel...*January 1 – Lk 2:16-21 – Would the birth of Jesus have gone un-noticed if the shepherds had been “too busy” to travel to Bethlehem to spread the word about Him? The shepherds, the first missionaries, played a major role in human history. Every family is called to be missionary by “glorifying and praising God for all they have heard and seen.”



The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God is a liturgical celebration observed on January 1st. The use of the word “Solemnity” here is not a statement about Mary’s personality. It is a designation used for certain days within the liturgical (Church-based) calendar of the Church. Solemnities are highest rank of liturgical celebration, higher than Feast days or memorials. By celebrating a solemnity dedicated to Mary’s motherhood, the Church highlights the significance of her part in the life of Jesus, and emphasizes that He is both Human and Divine. Though New Year’s Day may seem more like a day for football and hangover than for Mary, there’s a beautiful spiritual significance in celebrating her during the heart of the Christmas season. Pope Paul VI, in his apostolic exhortation *Marian Devotion* (1974), called the Solemnity of Mary “a fitting occasion for renewing adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels (cf. Lk 2:14), and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace.”

Christmas 2016

I am truly humbled and grateful for all the Christmas cards and gifts that I received from you. May God Bless You and Keep You! fr. Anthony Francis.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Rose Blaschak, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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 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; **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.

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.