

**JANUARY 8, 2017**  
*The Epiphany 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@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbnn.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** - TBA

**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.

**COMING UP:** Fish Fry is scheduled for Friday, January 13 from 11AM until 6PM. All help is greatly appreciated. Donations of soda are needed and may be brought to the Activity Center on Thursday, January 12 from 9AM until Noon, or anytime on Friday, January 13.

**VALENTINE SPECIAL** Members of the Men's Club are selling Valentine Special Tickets in the vestibule of the Church. Thank you in advance for your support.

**WE WELCOME** Dolores Fatula & Brian Britton as new members of the Finance Council.



**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.

**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 - \$365.25; Adults - \$2,825.77; Children - \$36.00; Monthly - \$429.52; Candles - \$67.00; Holy Day - \$714.52; Oplatek - \$33.00; Flowers - \$7.00; Christmas - \$654.00; Religious Retirement - \$7.00; Missalettes - \$115.02; Misc. - \$400.00; Donations - \$160.00. Total Collection - \$6,204.10. 156 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish. All registered parishioners should be using parish envelopes.

**WINNERS OF THE CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BONANZA TICKET:** December 25 - #754 – Kaitlyn Leech; December 26 - #740 – Agnes Swarney; December 27 - #471 – Ron Lechak; December 28 - #114 – Sandy Rager; December 29 - #300 – Anthony Petak; December 30 - #589 – Tom Dadey; December 31 - #033 – Rayford Horner; January 1 - #518 – Margaux Pisula. Thank you to all who participated in this endeavor!

**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.



*Liturgical Reflection...* Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, Monday, January 9, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the East that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and Crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout all the world to all inhabitants. *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

*Families and the Gospel...* January 8 – Mt 2:1-12 – There are two different perspectives in today's Gospel: For Herod, the Child Jesus was expendable because He interfered with Herod's personal goals but the Magi risked all to protect the same Child. Do you imitate Herod or the Magi? Are children a priority in your life or are they sacrificed for career, convenience and possessions?

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 18

**PILGRIMAGE** – In commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Milita Immaculata, a Pilgrimage to Rome and Poland is being organized to depart on August 7-18, 2017 under the Spiritual direction of Fr. James McCurry. This special pilgrimage includes 3 days in Rome with excursion to Assisi and 7 days in Poland visiting Warsaw, Niepokalanow, Czestochowa, Auschwitz – site of St. Maximillian Kolbe martyrdom, Wadowice, Krakow, Wieliczka, Lagiewniki. For Pilgrimage flyer contact the Parish Office or the tour operator, PAT Tours at 1-800-388-0988, email:info@pattours.com

*Feast of the Epiphany*

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different from the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod...” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentile’s search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because Priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death. The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.

**Epiphany Household Blessing**

To take the celebration of Epiphany from church and the parish family to your home, all you need is holy water. Take the sign and place it above your doorway:

**20 + C + M + B + 17**  
20 + C (asper) + M (elchoir) + B (althazar) + 17

*Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation: by the guidance of a star You led the Magi to Your Child and by the light of Faith You bring us to know Christ as Lord, the Messiah You have sent. Bless us as we mark our doors in Your honor.*

While the house is being blessed:

*Bless us as we sprinkle our homes with this water, sign of Lord Jesus’ Baptism in the River Jordan.*

*May our homes where these things are used in Faith, be dwelling places of goodness, humility, self-control, mutual respect for one another, hospitality toward strangers and loving obedience to Your Word.*

*May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ among us; and may we seek and serve everyone we meet.*

*We ask this 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, Scott Lanz (Godson of fr. Anthony Francis), 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 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 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.

**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***

