

MARCH 19, 2017
3rd Sunday of Lent
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
Permanent Deacon Bruce Becker
St. Francis of Assisi, 120 Barron Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15906

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Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518

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Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632

Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com>

Daily Mass Schedule at St. Francis of Assisi

SEE LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINNING THURSDAY, MARCH 2

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 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.



LENTEN FISH FRIES will continue on Friday, March 24, March 31. The final Lenten Fish Fry will be held on Friday, April 7. There will NOT be a Fish Fry on Good Friday. All help is greatly appreciated, especially during Lent. *Donations of baked goods for a Bake Sale will be accepted as well as donations of soda and water.* Thank you to the “new” helpers who have joined us. **REMINDER:** This is an excellent opportunity for students in need of service hours to fulfill that obligation after school on Friday. Profit for the Fish Fry will be published at the conclusion of the Lenten Season.

SEDER MEAL – Annual Commemoration of the Seder Meal will take place on Holy Thursday, April 13 at 5:00PM in the Activity Center. This will be a covered dish event with the Parish providing the meat. Bring your favorite dish to share and join other parishioners in this celebration of the Passover Meal. Signup sheets are in the vestibule. **Deadline for signup: Sunday, April 2.**



HOLY WEEK SPECIAL TICKETS are ALL SOLD! Thank you to all who participated in this fund raiser!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$351.40; Adults - \$2,474.22; Children - \$28.00; Monthly - \$50.00; Candles - \$126.60; First Offering - \$5.00; Ash Wednesday - \$35.00; Mandeville - \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$7.00; Donation - \$50.00. Total Collection - \$3,172.22. 147 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish. All registered parishioners should be using parish envelopes.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY signup sheets for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday are located in the vestibule. Please consider participating in these Solemn Liturgies.

Liturgical Reflection... Seeing God’s covenant with Israel in the image of exclusive and faithful married love, the prophets prepared the Chosen People’s conscience for a deepened understanding of the unity and indissolubility of marriage. The books of *Ruth* and *Tobit* bear moving witness to an elevated sense of marriage and to the fidelity and tenderness of spouses. Tradition has always seen in the *Song of Solomon* a unique expression of human love as a reflection of God’s love (Catechism of the Catholic Church Number 1611). Married love is solidly grounded in the tradition of our Faith. 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... May I experience a conversion much like that of the Samaritan woman after her personal encounter with Jesus Christ, proclaiming daily – in all of my actions – that He is the Messiah.

Families and the Gospel – March 19 – Jn 4:5-42 – Our children are like the Samaritan woman. They need more than material things. They need the “living water” only the adults can give. It will teach them how to make decisions, take responsibility, respect others and themselves and live their commitments. With this “living water” they will “never thirst.”

LENT SCHEDULE

During Lent, daily Mass (Mon. thru Fri.) will take place at 12Noon (Tues. – Mass with the Novena to St. Anthony will also be celebrated at 6:30PM). Stations of the Cross will be prayed on all Fridays of Lent at 7:00PM. Divine Mercy Chaplet and Lenten Lamentations will be held on Sundays at 3:00PM, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

DEACON BRUCE will be conducting a Lenten Course on the Resurrection Experience to be held Wednesday, March 22, 29 and April 5 from 6:30PM – 7:30PM. This presentation takes up the starting point for engaging Jesus then and now, namely the distinctive Christian understanding of the Resurrection. The Course will take place at the Activity Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lenten Fish Fries Friday, March 17, March 24, March 31. The final Lenten Fish Fry will be held on Friday, April 7.
Lenten Course – Wednesday, March, 22, 29, April 5 – 6:30PM – 7:30PM
Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, April 9 – 12:30PM
Seder Meal – Holy Thursday, April 13 – 5:00PM

THE SHROUD OF TURIN TALK will be held at St. Benedict Parish, Sunday, March 26 at 3:00PM. In 2013 Bill Wingard established “**Shroud Talks**” to present the history and science of the Shroud of Turin and tackle the biggest mystery...Is the Shroud the actual burial cloth? Personal research coupled with knowledge and help of the original photographer, Barrie Schwartz, for scientific evaluation in 1978 make for a powerful and comprehensive presentation that will not disappoint. You are invited to hear the talk and see the full size replica of the Shroud of Turin. Attendees are encouraged to bring their cameras. No tickets are required; a love offering will be collected. For more information, contact Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or email: michael.russo@atlanticbb.net. All are welcome!

SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS



During the Third Week of Lent, NAILS are fastened to “that Old Rugged Cross” on which Our Lord and Savior was nailed to remind us that it was for our sins that He was nailed to the Cross. Can you imagine what a crucifixion is? Jesus’ thoughts: “My executioners stretch My arms; they hold My hand and wrist against the wood and press the nail until it stabs My flesh. Then with one heavy hammer smash, they drive it through and pain bursts like a bomb of fire in My brain. They seize the other arm and agony again explodes. Then raising My knees so that My feet are flat against the wood, they hammer them fast too.”

My God, I look at You and think – is my soul worth this much? What can I give You in return? I here and now accept for all my life whatever comes my way. To every Cross, I touch my lips and kiss Your nailed hands and feet.

To CRUCIFY, according to Webster’s Seventh Collegiate Dictionary, means, “To put to death by NAILING or binding the hands and feet to a cross.” The four Gospels do not specifically say that Jesus was nailed to a cross, but each Gospel says that they led Him out to crucify Him.

Gospel references: **Matthew 27:33-36; Mark 15:22-26; Luke 23:33-34 and John 19:16-18.**

WHY A SKULL AT THE BASE OF THE CROSS? **Matthew 27:33-34; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33 and John 19:17-18.**



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, 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, Larry Olek, Sophie Regula, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Mary Subich, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, 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 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**, Pentagon; **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; **Adken Torchia**, US Army, Fort Benning, GA; **PVT. 1st Class Lucas Tomak**, US Army, Fort Hood, TX; **Lt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, 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.

ST. THERESE LENTEN PIROGHI SALE – Hand-made/Home-made potato and cheese piroghi made fresh each week during Lent. Call in orders every Monday until April 3 from 9:00AM – 11:00AM. Cost is \$6.50 dozen (with or without onions). Pick up your order on Fridays from 9:00AM – 2:00PM at our Social Hall, Upper Decker Avenue. **No orders will be taken during Holy Week.**

ST. ANDREW CHURCH ANNUAL NOVENA to the Infant of Prague will begin on Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 7:00PM and will continue every evening until Monday, March 27, 2017 at 7:00PM. We will have additional Priests to hear Confessions after every Mass.

A RETREAT FOR WOMEN, ages 25 & older – March 24 (6:00PM) – March 26 (12:30PM) – Sponsored by the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at Sacred Heart Novitiate, 1872 Munster Rd., Portage, PA. Theme: The Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Starts at 6:00PM on March 24 with dinner and concludes on March 26 with Mass at 11:00AM. Suggested donation - \$50. Overnight accommodations are available but limited. For reservations please call Mother Jacinta at 814-505-2290 or email at sisterjacinta@gmail.com by March 21.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Every 1st Friday there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Lent from 12:30pm – 5:30PM. Our nation needs our prayers. Come before Jesus in the Eucharist with our hopes and concerns.