

MARCH 26 2017
4th 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

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

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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Dorothy Sheridan, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

THE CHILDREN OF OUR PARISH will experience the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, April 1 at 9:00AM. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to prepare to receive Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7. The class this year includes: *Paisley Britt, Kylie Durst, Anna Glennon, Kayla Lee and Annika McClintock.*

FRIDAY, April 7 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the **12Noon 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 need our prayers for a rejuvenated America.



LENTEN FISH FRIES will continue on Friday, 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.**



SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Health of Ray & Jeanne Toth by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$461.55; Adults - \$2,814.47; Children - \$34.00; Monthly - \$90.00; Candles - \$114.75; Ash Wednesday - \$15.00; Mandeville - \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$5.00. Total Collection - \$3,544.77. 178 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...*The Church believes in the indissolubility of the marriage bond. Jesus Christ restored the original order of creation that was disturbed by sin. Christ Himself gives the strength and grace to live marriage in the new dimension of the Reign of God. It is by following Christ, renouncing themselves, and taking up their crosses that spouses will be able to live the original meaning of marriage and live it with the help of Christ. This grace of Christian marriage is a fruit of Christ's cross, the source of all Christian life (Catechism of the Catholic Church Number 1615). 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

*Stewardship Reflection...*May you be a light in the darkness of your world by generously sharing your time, talents, and material resources in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord.

Families and the Gospel –March 26 – Jn 9:1-41 – Failure to forgive blinds us to another's goodness. Lent provides an opportunity to wash away our blind spots in the pool of forgiveness. Listen to Jesus in today's Gospel: "Go wash and see."

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.

Monday of Holy Week, April 10 Mass will celebrated at 8:00AM. No Noon Mass.

DEACON BRUCE will be conducting a Lenten Course on the Resurrection Experience to be held Wednesday, March 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

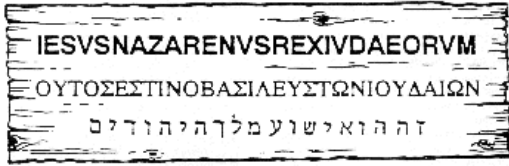
Lenten Fish Fries Friday, March 31. The final Lenten Fish Fry will be held on Friday, April 7.

Lenten Course – Wednesday, March 29, April 5 – 6:30PM – 7:30PM

Easter Egg Hunt – Sunday, April 9 – 12:30PM

Seder Meal – Holy Thursday, April 13 – 5:00PM

SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS



During the Fourth Week of Lent, our focus is on the SIGN that was placed above the head of Jesus. First thought to be a SIGN OF CONDEMNATION, but now thought to be a SIGN OF VICTORY. The SIGN stands as a continued testimony of God's love for us. I.N.R.I. – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. The first letters of the Latin inscription which, by Pilate's order was placed on the Cross of Christ's Crucifixion (John 19:19). The words JESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM

were taken from Pilate's sentence. It was written in Latin, the language of the administration in Judea and also in Hebrew/Aramaic, the common language of the Jews of the days and Greek, the language of the intellectual community. Because of the irrevocability of a Roman sentence, this inscription stood as written against the protest of the Jews who wished to disclaim Christ's Kingship (John 19:21). Thus, the inscription has become a lasting testimony of the Kingship of Jesus (Matthew 27:37). Above His Head they had put the charge against Him in writing:

THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS (Mark 15:26). The inscription proclaiming His offense read: THE KING OF THE JEWS (Luke 23:28).

There was an inscription over His Head: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS (John 19:19-22). Pilate had an inscription place on the Cross which read: JESUS THE NAZOREAN, THE KING OF THE JEWS. This inscription in Hebrew, Latin and Greek was read by many of the Jews, since the place was near the city. The Chief Priests of the Jews tried to tell Pilate, "You should not have written the King of the Jews." Write instead, "This Man claimed to be King of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, 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 Rovan 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.**

WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP- Thursday, April 6, please join us for our first meeting of 2017 at 6:00PM at Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Sheridan St. & Chandler Avenue. Saturday, April 8 – Annual Egg Hunt, at the skate park, corner of J St. and Fairfield Ave. Registration begins at 12:30. Hunt starts at 1:00. Candy in every egg, free to everyone, 4 age groups (3-4, 5-6, 7-8 & 9-10). Bring a basket or bag for your eggs. Rain date, April 9th.

SPAGHETTI DINNER to benefit Resurrection Parish Mission Trip, Saturday, April 22 from 3:00PM – 8:00PM at St. Francis of Assisi Activity Center. Adults - \$8.00; children (4-12) - \$5.00, under 3, free.

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.

ALL LIVES MATTER – INSIDE THE WOMB AND OUTSIDE THE WOMB