

December 10, 2017
Second Sunday of Advent
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 – stfrancisich@atlanticbbn.net

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

Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofofassisijohnstown.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

Acting Finance Council President – Brian Mayko

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.

Rosary Society – First Monday of the month at 6:00PM. Recitation of the Rosary, Reflection, Benediction.

THANK YOU to the Konieczny family and all those who contributed in any way to the success of the Children's Christmas Party. May God Bless you for your continued good works! Thank you Jason for your role as St. Nicholas!

GOB ICING will be made on *Tuesday, December 12* beginning at 7:00AM and Gobs will be filled on *Wednesday, December 13* at 6:00PM. Any time you can share to help is greatly appreciated. **GOB SALE – Saturday, December 16.** *No orders will be taken – first come, first serve!*

MARDI GRAS PLANNING MEETING – Sunday, December 10 at 12Noon at the Activity Center. Anyone interested in helping with the event are encouraged to attend. Help is needed in all areas, especially the kitchen. Watch the bulletin for more details concerning the Mardi Gras!



SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK – will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 9 and at the 7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses on Sunday, December 10. According to Church guidelines this Sacrament is available to all Catholics who have reached the age of reason and begin to fall in danger of death as a result of illness or old age; who are undergoing surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; who are elderly if they have been noticeably weakened even though there is no serious illness present; sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this Sacrament. We will celebrate this Sacrament of the Sick during Mass so that the gathered community can pray for our sisters and brothers who are being anointed.



FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00PM. Plan to be present as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Nine volunteers are needed to proclaim the 9 Scriptures. Signup sheet is located in the vestibule.

ALL CHILDREN OF THE PARISH are asked to participate in the 4:00PM Liturgy on Sunday, December 24. *Religious Education classes will be held in the Church on Sunday, December 17 following the 9:30AM Mass to prepare for this Liturgy. This will count as a class!*

WINTER SPECIAL tickets for the month of January 2018 will be available for purchase this weekend. Chance to win \$500 on New Year's Day, \$100 on Saturdays and Sundays and \$50 each weekday, \$200 – Martin Luther King. Cost: \$5.00. Any unsold tickets become the property of the Parish.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS - Second collection December 9-10. Elderly Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals, and parishes – often for little or no pay. Now there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund provides funding for medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$267.00; Adults - \$3,004.77; Children - \$26.25; Monthly - \$618.02; Candles - \$111.75; Donation - \$145.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$20.00; Catholic Charities - \$10.00; Holy Day - \$21.00; Christmas - \$40.00; Christmas Flowers - \$478.02; Religious Retirement - \$10.00; Misc. - \$258.10. Total Collection - \$5,009.91. 197 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

ONLINE GIVING, a web-based electronic application is now being offered to our parishioners. We are providing this service so that you have the option to manage your contributions online or with your envelopes. This service is safe and secure. Sign up for Online Giving by visiting our website: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com> and selecting the Online Giving link.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION:

Monday, December 11 – All Saints – Howell – 7:00PM
Thursday, December 14 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – Windber – 6:00PM
Sunday, December 17 – St. Benedict – Johnstown – 5:00PM
Monday, December 18 – Visitation – 5:30PM
Monday, December 18 – St. Francis of Assisi – 6:30PM
Tuesday, December 19 – Our Mother of Sorrows – 6:30PM



Liturgical Reflection... Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the remembrance of the Lord's first coming and, also, recalling his final coming in glory at the end of time. As we celebrate our Funeral Rites, the goal is to bring hope to the living. We turn to the Lord of life at the time of death to find assurance in our Faith. We turn to the God of mercy in time of crisis and pain. To those who mourn and grieve, there is reason to have hope. In God is our hope and our salvation. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Number 7. 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... It is through repentance that we acknowledge our sins. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. Bishops proclaim that "the Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful that in the face of all their forgetting, the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus' disciples." As we prepare to celebrate God's greatest gift to us in the birth of our Savior, have we reconciled our sins so as to continue along the path to Eternal Life?

Families and the Gospel – December 10 – Mark 1:1-8 – Why is it so hard to forgive, yet so easy to get even? Listen to John the Baptist in today's Gospel and repent of the anger and ugly feelings which block your ability to forgive. This Christmas give a gift which makes a difference. Give forgiveness.

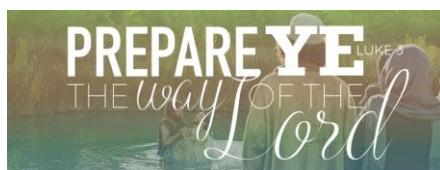
Grow in Prayer – Our prayer life can mature and grow when we pray for intentions that are outside ourselves. For example, we can pray for the victims of war, the sick, for the people who don't believe in God, and for those in jails and prisons, whether we know them or not. The best kind of prayer is the kind that comes from the heart.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 10, 17 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
Saturday, December 9 & Sunday, December 10 – Anointing of the Sick at all Masses
Sunday, December 10 – Confirmation Class – 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Saturday, December 16 – Christmas Gob Sale – 9:00AM – 12:00PM
Sunday, December 17 – Lessons & Carols – 3:00PM
Monday, December 18 – West End Penance Service – 6:30PM – St. Francis of Assisi

Christmas Season

Sunday, December 24 – Vigil of the Nativity – 4:00PM Mass, 12Midnight Mass
Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord – 9:00AM Mass
Sunday, December 31 – ***NO VIGIL MASS*** for Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Monday, January 1 – 9:00AM Mass – ***Not*** a Holy Day of Obligation



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Larry Olek, Ed Popovich, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Bernadette Solomon, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Irene Virus, and Sheila Weppner, Helen Yursky.

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; **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 Stewart, GA; **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; **Senior Airman Devon Gilbert**, Deployed to Middle East; **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; **Senior Airman Anthony Rosage**, USAF; Fort Gordon, GA; **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; **Cpl Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, New River, NC.; **A1C Jeremy Williams**, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

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.

A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline and courage, and bring them home safely to their loved ones. We ask this in Your Name. Amen.

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.

ULTREYA GATHERING – The Johnstown West Ultreya Group will meet on Thursday, December 14 from 6:30PM – 7:30PM at the Oratory located at Eighth Avenue and Chestnut Streets in Cambria City. Everyone is welcome.

AN ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 23 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and Youth Chorale under the direction of Cathedral music director, Evonne Yanzetich-Homway. The choral groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Every 1st Friday there is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30AM – 5:30PM. Our nation and the world needs our prayers. Come before Jesus in the Eucharist with our hopes and concerns.