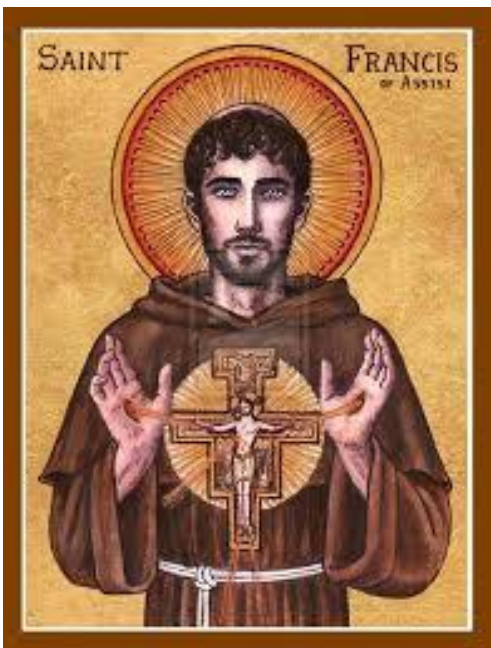


February 18, 2018
1st Sunday of Lent
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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

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 539-1632

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.

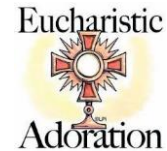
Rosary Society – First Monday of the month at 6:00PM. Recitation of the Rosary, Reflection, Benediction.

FISH FRY – will take place Friday, Feb. 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23 from 11:00AM until 6:00PM. *Donations of baked goods for a bake sale in conjunction with the Fish Fries are welcome! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED ON ASH WEDNESDAY. GOD BLESS YOU!*



SCHEDULE FOR LENT: Daily Mass (Monday through Friday) will be celebrated at 12Noon. Mass on Tuesday will be celebrated at 12Noon as well as at 6:30PM with the Novena to St. Anthony. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – each Friday of Lent at 7:00PM. **LENTEN LAMENTATIONS** –with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction - Sundays at 3:00PM.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 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.)



CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$302.76; Adults - \$2,633.27; Children - \$21.00; Monthly - \$370.00; Candles - \$108.63; First Offering - \$5.00; Ash Wednesday - \$27.00; Catholic Register - \$76.00; Mandeville - \$16.00; Donation - \$10.00; Misc. - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$3,719.66. 159 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

WALKING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS



In the Gospel passage from St. Luke we encounter a teaching on discipleship. As disciples of Jesus we need to keep Him first in our lives. Work, obligations, friendships, family responsibilities, social engagements and hobbies are all good things but they need to be placed in their proper context in our lives. Jesus must be central. Jesus teaches us that to follow Him we must follow Him to Jerusalem. Taking up His cross in our lives, as He reminded us is a “daily” activity. Discipleship continually entails a laying down of our lives in love of God and other human beings. We are encouraged to follow Jesus and to follow Him all the way to Jerusalem as we walk in His footprints to Calvary.

Liturgical Reflection... During these forty days of Lent we recall our sins and seek the Lord’s forgiveness, especially in the Sacrament of Penance. We are invited to fast, pray and give alms to the poor. These Lenten practices are to turn us from sin, and bring us closer to the Lord. It is part of our Catholic Faith to have a Mass for our faithful departed. When someone dies, family and friends have a Mass offered for the one who has died. Parishes list the Mass intentions each week. Usually these Masses are for the dead, praying that God will shed mercy and compassion on the deceased. Mass intentions for the deceased seek God’s mercy and peace for the faithful and, perhaps, not so faithful Christian. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998-1989, Number 129.

Families and the Gospel... February 18 – Mark 1:12-15 – Jesus went into the desert to put His life in perspective. This Lent, take a fresh look at a difficult relationship in your life. Concentrate on the positive things that a person does, not just the negatives. Try to understand why their behaviors “bug” you. Can you honestly share your feelings with them without attacking them? Make Lent a time to MEND and FORGIVE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, February 18, 25 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
- Wednesday, February 21, 27 – Lenten Spiritual Journey (Book Discussion) – 6:30PM – 7:30PM
- Friday, February 23– Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
- Friday, February 16, 23 – Stations of the Cross – 7:00PM
- Sunday, February 18, 25– Lamentations – 3:00PM

CRS RICE BOWL is a Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten faith in action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily in the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And, it’s an opportunity for us as a parish to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call to go out and help those most in need. **Please return Rice Bowls on Holy Thursday and place in the baskets that will be provided. DO NOT place in the vestibule.**



We continue to assist the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen with donations of food goods in the baskets in the main vestibule and the Barron Avenue entrance each week.

A Lenten Spiritual Journey

This Lent at St. Francis of Assisi Parish will be an opportunity to gather each Wednesday from 6:30PM – 7:30PM to discuss the book THE CASE FOR JESUS by Brant Pitre with a forward by Bishop Robert Barron. Discussions will take place at the Activity Center.

This book is FREE for the taking. This replaces a lapel pin this year. There should be sufficient books for each household or single person/widow.

Questions for discussion of chapters will be available on each Wednesday session as determined by the schedule below:

Wednesday, February 21 – Chapters 1-2 Wednesday, February 28 – Chapters 3-4

Wednesday, March 7 – Chapters 5-6

Wednesday, March 14 – Chapters 7-8

Wednesday, March 21 – Chapters 9-10

Wednesday, March 28 – Chapters 11-13

Looking forward to seeing you at the round-table discussions each Wednesday during the Lenten Season!



ARISE – ALL parishes throughout the Diocese are working with ARISE to acknowledge and bring to the forefront the gifts that already exist among the People of God in this 8 county area. This is a two and a half year process that involves 5 six week sessions. (Think “Disciples in Mission”). Sessions can be designed for different groups: men, women, married couples,

divorced/separated, religious education families, etc. Each group will need leaders and the parish will need one or two parishioners willing to coordinate the program. Please note: it was stressed that this is NOT to be run by the Pastor of the parish! The People of God have been given the same Spirit with many gifts. What is needed is that these gifts are now brought forth and used for the benefit of each parish and the Diocese at large! Please pray the following for the success of this program:

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your son – the Son of God. You abandoned yourself completely to God’s call and thus became a wellspring of the goodness which flows forth from Him. Show us Jesus. Lead us to Him. Teach us to know Jesus and to love Him. Help us to open the door of Christ’s love by sharing our Faith and living our Faith with each other and with all who are searching for the way, the truth and the hope and promise of Eternal Life. As patroness of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown be with us on our journey to ARISE Together in Christ. Pray for us, Mother of the Church, Pray for us!

We are happy to announce that we have a 3-man team to coordinate the ARISE Program for our Parish. We will need at least 4 team leaders. If interested please contact the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Larry Olek, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Loretta Tay, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Bernadette Solomon, Fr. John Slovikovski, Betty Spisak; Joanna Stone, Carol Sobacky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Elizabeth Virus, 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.

Lt. Adam Guarno, USCG; **Master at Arms 2nd Class Izeke W. Pinkas**, Fallon, NV; **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 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; Seaman Peter Guarno, USCG.

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.

ST. THERESE LENTEN PIROGHI SALE – Hand-made/Home-made potato and cheese piroghi are made fresh each week during Lent. Call in orders every Monday (539-7633) starting Feb. 12th until March 19th from 9AM – 11AM. Cost is \$6.50 per dozen (with or without onions). Pick up your order on Fridays from 9AM – 2PM at our Social Hall, Upper Decker Ave.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 11066 will be held on Sunday, February 18 from 8:30AM until 12:30PM at Resurrection Parish Hall. Breakfast includes: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, and orange juice. Adults: \$6, children under 12, \$2.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Connect with your Creator, Redeemer, and Spiritual Guide in a stress free environment at the Eucharistic Adoration every First Friday of the month from 8:30AM until 5:30PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Signup sheet is available in the main vestibule.

