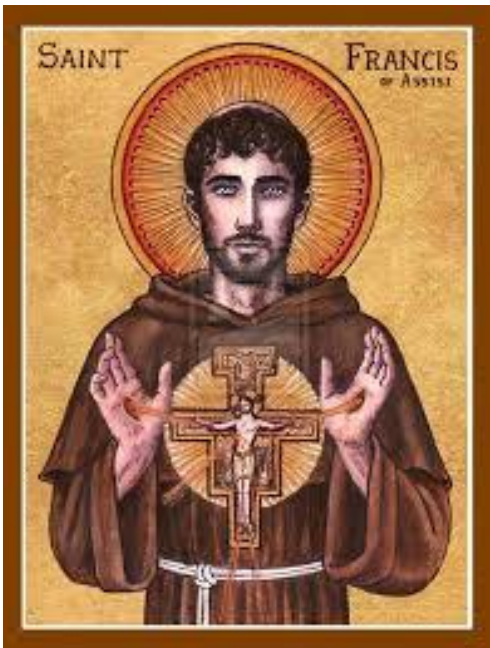


March 4, 2018
3rd Sunday of Lent
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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**

Rectory Phone – 814-539-1632

Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518

Fax: 814 – 539-5888

Email – sfassisich@atlanticbnn.net

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

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

Daily Mass Schedule at St. Francis of Assisi (Lent)

**Mon., Wed.; Thurs., Fri. – 12Noon; Tues. 12Noon, 6:30PM;
Sat - 8:00AM**

First Friday 12Noon and 5:30 PM

Confession – Tues., 6:00PM, Sat. 3:15 – 3:45PM

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 March 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 as well as donations of soda and water.



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.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, March 5 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the children of our Parish who will receive God's mercy and forgiveness for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, March 17: *Bryce Anderson, Ava Deskevich, Gabriella Esposito, Aubrey Ressler.*



ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS – There will be a very important meeting of all Altar Servers on Saturday, March 17 at 10:00AM in the Church. Please plan to attend.

WINNER OF THE MEN'S CLUB VALENTINE SPECIAL TICKET: #775 – Matt Forgas, #772 – Janet Kick, #776 – Patti Toth. Thank you to all who participated in this endeavor.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$391.81; Adults - \$2,912.27; Children - \$17.00; Monthly - \$167.00; Candles - \$100.50; Ash Wednesday - \$23.00; Catholic Register - \$30.00; Mandeville - \$15.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$82.00; Donation - \$93.00. Total Collection - \$3,836.58. 174 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

Liturgical Reflection... Today the Elect (those seeking the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) hear the Gospel of the woman at the well. She is thirsting for something in her life; sin has taken her to the wrong places. She discovers that Christ is the Living Water Who leads us from sin to new life. When we celebrate the Funeral Mass for a sister or brother, we call upon God's mercy to forgive whatever sinful offenses may stand in the way of salvation. As one of the prayers at the Funeral Mass begins, "O God, Who are mercy for sinners..." we are reminded that both the living and dead stand in need of Gods' mercy and compassion *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Families and the Gospel – March 4 – John 2:13-25 – Today's Gospel says Jesus chased the merchants out of the temple, it doesn't say He was angry. Jesus teaches us to act from conviction and not from anger. He didn't condemn the merchants, only their business practice. Attack the behavior and not the person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 4, 11, 18 (in the Church), 25 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
Monday, March 5 – Rosary Society – 6:00PM
Wednesday, March 7, 14, 21, 28 – Lenten Spiritual Journey (Book Discussion) – 6:30PM – 7:30PM
Friday, March 9, 16, 23– Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Friday, March 2, 19, 16, 23– Stations of the Cross – 7:00PM
Sunday, March 4, 11, 18, 25– Lamentations – 3:00PM
Sunday, March 11 – Confirmation Retreat at St. Therese – 7:30AM – 4:00PM
Saturday, March 17 – 9:00AM – First Reconciliation

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 an afterword 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, 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!

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.



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.

ST. JOSEPH TRIDUUM -A triduum in honor of St Joseph will be held March 17-19 at St John Gualbert Cathedral, 117 Clinton Street, Johnstown. Mass and devotions will be held at 5pm Saturday, March 17 and 5pm, Sunday March 18 with Confessions following Mass. On Monday, March 19, Mass and devotions will begin at 7pm. Everyone is invited following the final Liturgy to the St Joseph Table at the parish activity center.

Don’t forget to Spring Ahead next weekend. Daylight Saving Time begins!

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 Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Elizabeth Virus, Irene Virus, and Sheila Weppner, Helen Yursky.

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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.

Lt. Adam Guarino, 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 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; 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.

EASTER MEAT RAFFLE – Come in from the cold and enjoy an evening of fun at St. Therese Church Social Hall on Saturday, March 10 from 4:30PM – 8:00PM. Cost of admission is only \$5 and includes a picnic style dinner and dessert. Soda, water, beer and wine coolers will be available for purchase. Ham, kielbasa and bacon will be some of the items on the raffle. Take chance on Instant Bingo, themed baskets, 50/50 and a \$100 money tree.

ST. ANDREW CHURCH Annual Novena to the Infant of Prague will begin on Sunday, March 4 at 7:00PM and will continue until Monday, March 12 at 7:00PM. Confessions will heard after the Novena nightly. We will have additional Priests to hear Confessions. All are welcome!

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.

