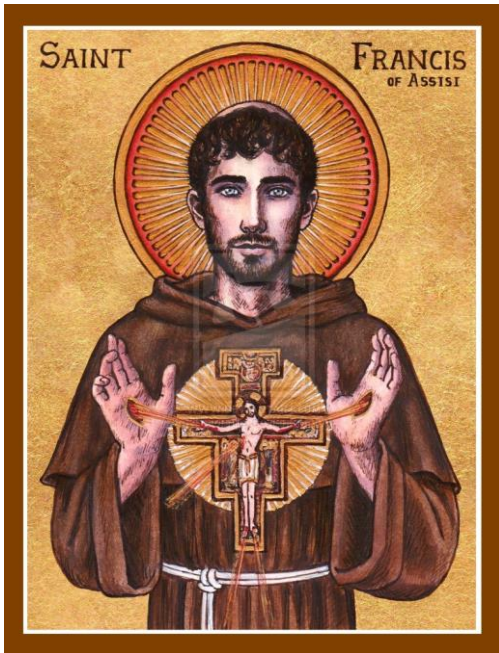


March 11, 2018
4th Sunday of Lent

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 – stfrancisich@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 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.

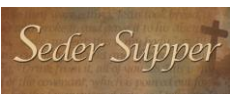
Rosary Society – First Monday of the month at 6:00PM. Recitation of the Rosary, Reflection, Benediction.

FISH FRY – will take place Friday, March 16 & 23 from 11:00Am until 6:00PM. There will NOT be a Fish Fry on Good Friday. Donations of baked goods for a bake sale are welcome as well as donations of soda and water.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the children of the 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 ALL ALTAR SERVERS – There will be a very important meeting of all Altar Servers on Saturday, March 17 at 10:00AM.

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.



SEDER MEAL – Annual Commemoration of the Seder Meal will take place on Holy Thursday, March 29 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, March 25.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$394.00; Adults - \$2,931.27; Children - \$16.00; Monthly - \$802.02; Flowers - \$26.00; Candles - \$164.55; Black & Indian - \$10.00; Ash Wednesday - \$15.00; Good Friday - \$13.00; Holy Thursday - \$13.00; Missalettes - \$10.00; Catholic Relief - \$10.00; Mandeville - \$10.00; Donation - \$10.00; Misc. - \$179.49. Total Collection - \$4,604.33. 169 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health for Betty Scott from Pansy and Margaret. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn this week for Strength for Pansy & Margaret Scott.

2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE – “Making Christ a Home in Your Heart” launches today in parishes throughout our Diocese. This drive focuses on a select group of ministries with emphasis on the poor, families, youth, seminarians and leadership development of clergy and laity. Please reflect on Bishop Mark’s invitation when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in next weekend’s offertory. All contributions received beyond our parish target of \$20,332 will be returned to the Parish. Thank you for supporting these vital ministries with sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure.

Liturgical Reflection... Our sins go before us always. We must seek forgiveness that comes from God alone. Lent is our annual retreat to seek the strength to turn away from sin and live in the Grace of God’s love. It is part of Catholic life to pray for our dead. God is the One to judge us. We seek the Lord to be merciful and loving in judgement of our deceased. At the Funeral Mass we pray, “O God, Whose nature is always to forgive and to show mercy, we humbly implore You for Your servant (who has died).” Jesus Christ died on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins. We seek that forgiveness for our faithful departed. **Roman Missal**, Masses for the Dead, I, Funeral, A, *Outside Easter Time*. 2018, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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.

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

POPE FRANCIS has declared a new Marian Feast Day Celebrations (Mary, Mother of the Church) to be celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday – this year, May 21, 2018.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, 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, Fr. John Slovikovski, 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**, 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**, deployed to Dongducheon, Korea; **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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Knights of Columbus Council 1106 is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast at Resurrection Parish Hall, corner of 4th Avenue and Chestnut Street on Sunday, January 14 from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, and orange juice. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children under 12 years of age.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION will be having a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sunday, January 21 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the Church Hall, 201 Third St., Conemaugh. Cost: \$9.00. Take outs are available by calling 535-2698.

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.

