

March 18, 2018  
5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 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

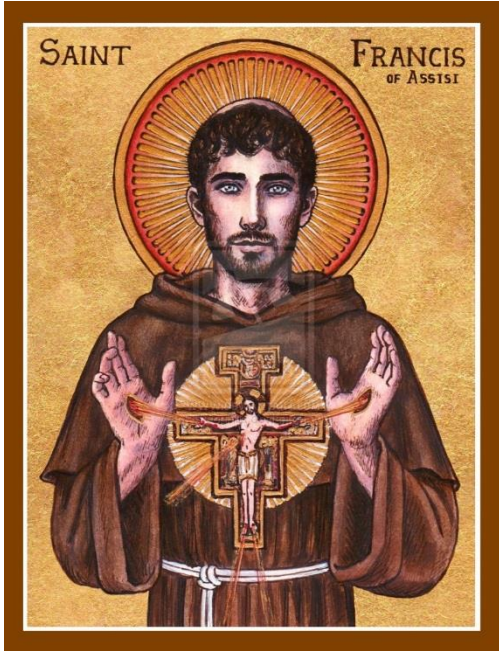
**Office Hours** – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. thru Thurs

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 have received 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.*

**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.



**SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK:**

Monday, March 26 – 8:00AM – Mass (NO NOON MASS), 11:00AM –  
Chrisam Mass at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona  
Tuesday, March 27 – Noon – Mass, 6:30PM – Mass with Novena to St.

Anthony

Wednesday, March 28 – Noon – Mass

Thursday, March 29 – 5:00PM – Seder Meal, 7:00PM – Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration until 10:00AM

Friday, March 30 – 9:00AM – Tenebrae, 3:00PM – Celebration of the Passion, 7:00PM – Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 31 – 9:00AM – Tenebrae, 1:00PM & 2:00PM – Blessing of Baskets, 8:30PM – Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 1 – The Resurrection of the Lord – 7:30AM & 9:30AM

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$226.50; Adults - \$2,553.27; Children - \$19.00; Monthly - \$242.00; Flowers - \$5.00; Candles - \$215.25; Good Friday - \$13.00; Holy Thursday -\$5.00; Missalettes - \$10.00; Catholic Relief - \$206.02; Donation - \$90.00; Misc. - \$16.20. Total Collection - \$3,601.24. 163 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**PLEASE NOTE:** 7 –day candles should NOT be lit after Sunday, March 18 and 3-day candles should NOT be light after March 24. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

**CANDLE BY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS** will burn this week for Raymond E. Toth, Jr. by Ray & Jeanne Toth. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn this week for Michelle Maggs by Jeanne & Ray Toth.

**SAVE THE DATE** –Thursday, June 14 & Friday, June 15 – Overnight Trip to Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA to see “*JESUS*” and outlet shopping in Lancaster. More information is forthcoming. To make a reservation please contact Fran King at 536-3367.

**2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE** –Today is Commitment Sunday for the 2018 Catholic Ministries Drive – *Making Christ a Home in Your Heart.* Through it, your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nourish our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. All contributions received beyond our parish target of \$20,332 will be returned to the Parish. Thank you for your joyful participation during the Easter Season.

**AT THE CENTER** of the Church’s annual liturgical calendar is the commemoration of the Lord’s Death and Resurrection during the Three Days. Lent will end late in the afternoon of Thursday, March 29. The Three Days will begin Holy Thursday evening, March 29, with the *Mass of the Lord’s Supper.* As the Church enters the Sacred Triduum, the offering of the Chalice is to be restored in all the Parishes of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. At the *Mass of the Lord’s Supper* all in the Diocesan Church will be welcomed to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord under the species of bread and wine. Consistently the Church has stated that the fullness of the sign of Mass is seen in the reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine. This is what Jesus the Lord directed on the night before He died, to eat His Body and drink His Blood. All are invited to receive Holy Communion under the elements of both bread and wine Holy Thursday evening. Also, beginning at the *Mass of the Lord’s Supper,* we will now return to the regular manner of exchanging the Sign of Peace.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, March, 18 (in the Church), 25 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon

Wednesday, March 21, 28 – Lenten Spiritual Journey (Book Discussion) – 6:30PM – 7:30PM (Activity Center)

Friday, March 23, 30 – Stations of the Cross

Sunday, March, 18, 25 – Lamentations – 3:00PM

Thursday, March 22 – West End Penance Service – 5:00PM – St. Therese

Friday, March 23 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Thursday, March 29 – Seder Meal – 5:00PM

### **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 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!) 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 ( Deacon Bruce Becker, Barbara Bimeal & Cecilia Neiderer) 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 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, 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.*

**Ensign Adam Guarino**, USCG; **Master at Arms 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Class Maxwell Schutte**, F. E. Warren, WY; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **Captain Aaron Donahey**, US Army, deployed to Dongducheon, Korea; **Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Drum, NY; **PVT. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lucas Tomak**, US Army, Fort Hood, TX; **Lt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, Fort Lewis, WA; **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.

**ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT** sponsored by the West End Improvement Group, Saturday, March 24 at the skate park, corner of J St. and Fairfield Ave. Registration begins at 12:30PM. Hunt starts at 1:00PM. Candy in every egg. Free to everyone, 4 age groups (3-4, 5-6, 7-8 & 9-10). Bring a basket or a bag for your eggs. Rain date is Sunday, March 25. FREE event – everyone is welcome.

**ONE DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR ST. PADRE PIO** – May 16 – Join Fr. Dave Peles and Deacon Michael Russo on a one-day pilgrimage to the National Center of St. Padre Pio in Barto, PA. Round trip bus transportation will be

provided. The cost for the bus is \$55.00 per person. Lunch is additional. For more information contact Deacon Michael – [Michael.russo@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Michael.russo@atlanticbb.net) or 288-3036.

**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.

