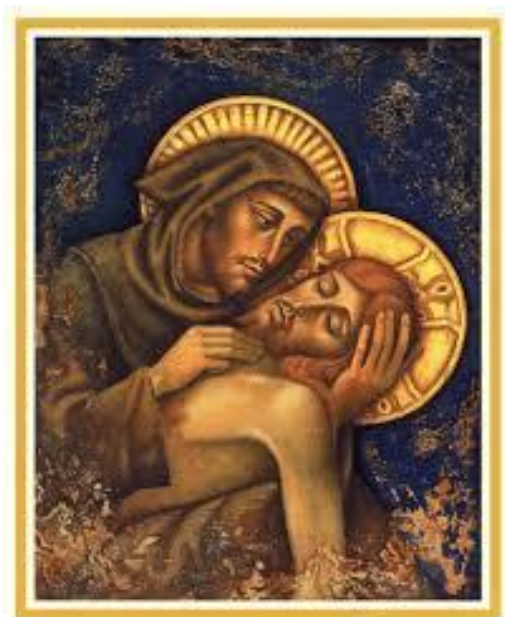


March 25, 2018
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 (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.

SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK:

Monday, March 26 – 8:00AM – Mass (NO NOON MASS), 11:00AM – Chrism 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 - Mass

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA will start on Good Friday, March 30. It will conclude on Saturday, April 7. The Novena and Chaplet will be prayed 15 minutes before Mass. Schedule: Good Friday – 2:45PM; Holy Saturday – 8:15PM. Divine Mercy celebration will begin at 3:00PM on Sunday, April 8.

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. Signup sheets are in the vestibule. Deadline for signup: Sunday, March 25.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Monday, March 26 & Holy Thursday, March 29, Good Friday, March 30 and Easter Monday, April 2.

THANK YOU to the Kenneth Mirilovich Family for purchasing the Pascal Candle this year. May God Bless You!

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, April 3 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be packed on Wednesday, April 4 from 8:00AM – 10:00AM and from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. Thank you for your continued support!

FRIDAY, APRIL 6 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 8:00AM 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)

FISH FRY – Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Lenten Fish Fries (working, donation of baked goods, etc.). A report will be made in the near future. The next Fish Fry will take place on Friday, April 13 from 11:00AM until 6:00PM.

RICE BOWLS should be returned on Holy Thursday and placed in the baskets provided. PLEASE DO NOT place Rice Bowls in the vestibule.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$393.00; Adults - \$2,702.77; Children - \$12.00; Monthly - \$85.00; Flowers - \$50.00; Candles - \$136.70; Good Friday - \$5.00; Holy Thursday -\$5.00; Ash Wednesday - \$8.00; Catholic Relief - \$50.00; Catholic Register - \$5.00; Donation - \$70.00; Misc. - \$550.00. Total Collection - \$4,072.47. 162 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

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. Call Fran King at 536-3667.

2018 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE –Thank you to all parishioners who have responded to the 2018 Catholic Ministries Drive. Please join them in supporting our Parish and a select group of ministries that provide outreach to the poor, family life, youth and seminarians. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 25 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
 Wednesday 28 – Lenten Spiritual Journey (Book Discussion) – 6:30PM – 7:30PM (Activity Center)
 Sunday, April 8 – Divine Mercy Mass & Novena – 3:00PM
 Friday, April 13 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

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.

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 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, 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.

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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.

Ensign 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 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 Drum, NY; **PVT. 1st 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.

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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. ANTHONY OF PADUA, WINDBER – Gnocchi Dinner – Take out only! Saturday, April 14 from 5:00PM – 6:30PM. Pasta & 2 meatballs - \$7.00. Salads (\$2.00) and Cake (\$1.00). Offered by the Ladies Guild.

BASKET PARTY – Divine Mercy Catholic Academy PTO Basket Party will be held Sunday, April 15 at the St. Andrew Hall in Benscreek. Doors open at Noon and drawings begin at 2PM. Donation is \$10 and includes lunch, dessert, beverage, and 25 chances. All admission tickets are sold in advance and are available at all three campuses: East Campus – 2306 Bedford St., West Campus – 430 Tioga St.; Middle School (Bishop McCort) -25 Osborne St.

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.