

December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent
**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

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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. – 9:00AM; Tues. 6:15PM;
Sat - 9:00AM**

First Friday 9:00AM and 5:30 PM

Confession – Tues., 5:45PM, Sat. 3:15 – 3:45PM

First Friday 5:30PM

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.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Confession on Tuesday will remain at 5:45 and Mass will continue to be celebrated at 6:15PM. **Beginning Monday, December 3** and continuing until Ash Wednesday, daily Mass (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be celebrated at **9:00AM**

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family & friends of +Barbara Trecziak who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, December 3 at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us in this Season of Advent for Rosary, Reflection, and Benediction.

ADVENT GET-TOGETHER with Deacon Bruce will take place on Wednesday evenings (December 5, 12, 19) from 6:00PM – 7:15PM (Location to be determined). The theme is The Birth of the Messiah. Please use the signup sheet that can be found in the vestibule and 2 side entrances.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. New 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).

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and a Holy Day of Obligation. Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 5:30PM on Friday, December 7. Mass on Saturday, December 8 will be celebrated at 9:00AM.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK will take place at the 4:00PM Mass on Saturday, December 8 and the 7:30AM & 9:30AM Masses on Sunday, December 9. According to Church guidelines this Sacrament is available to Catholics who have: reached the age of reason and begin to fall in danger of death as a result of illness or old age; who are undergoing surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery; who are elderly if they have been notably weakened even though there is no serious illness present; sick children if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this Sacrament. We will celebrate this Sacrament of the Sick during Mass so that the gathered community can pray for our sisters and brothers who are being anointed. It is always better to associate a face with a name rather than just seeing a name on the sick list.

CHRISTMAS PARTY for the children of the Parish will be held on Sunday, December 9 from 1:00PM – 3:00PM. Please use the signup sheet located in the vestibule. Deadline for signup is Sunday, December 2.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00PM. Why not take an hour of your busy schedule to relax and enjoy this beautiful program as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child?

GIVING TREE GIFTS for the Cambria City Mission must be returned no later than Sunday, December 9. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

OPLATEK is now available at the rear of the Church. Please place your donation in the envelope provided and deposit it in the candle money box or in the collection basket.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +Valeria Bazyk by Frank & Alice.

GABRIEL PROJECT UPDATE: The Christmas Tree for the Gabriel Project has been set up. **All gifts must be returned no later than Sunday, December 9.** We have a 50/50 to provide a Christmas party for our babies and families. Tickets will be one for \$1.00, three for \$2.00, or ten tickets for \$5.00. Drawing will be Sunday, December 9. Questions? Call Gale at 539-0155.

MARDI GRAS will take place on Saturday, February 23, 2019! Tickets will be available beginning January 5 in the vestibule before and after Masses. Tickets are \$20.00 and include Turkey Dinner, music by Flood City Brass. You may also reserve at table for \$10.00.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$402.50; Adults - \$2,275.25; Children - \$9.00; Monthly - \$7.00; Candles - \$130.00; All Souls - \$28.00; Holy Day - \$5.00; Missalettes - \$15.00; Thanksgiving - \$448.00; Catholic Charities - \$209.00; Flowers - \$5.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$10.00; Donation - \$110.00; Misc. - \$375.00. Total Collection - \$4,078.75. 146 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

PREPARE FOR LENT by taking part in a follow up to **ARISE**. We will be studying/discussing *He Chose the Nails* by Max Lucado. If you are interested in taking part please use the signup sheets located in the vestibules indicating the day of your choice so that materials can be ordered. A free-will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the book. The study will begin the week of January 13, 2019 and end the week of February 10, 2019. Deadline: Sunday, January 6, 2019

VOCATION CRUCIFIX- Each week the Crucifix travels to a new family or household. The Traveling Vocations Crucifix is a wonderful way to unite Parishes in perpetual prayer for more Priestly and Religious vocations. If you or your family is interested in taking part in the Traveling Vocations Crucifix program, please contact the Parish Office at 539-1632.

Some food for thought:
The first to *apologize* is the bravest.
The first to *forgive* is the strongest. The first to *forget* is the happiest!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 2, 9, 16 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
Monday, December 3 – Rosary Society – 6:00PM
Wednesday, December 5, 12, 19 – 6:00PM – 7:15PM – “The Birth of the Messiah” presented by Deacon Bruce
Friday, December 7 – First Friday – Adoration 9:30AM – 5:30PM
Friday, December 7 – Vigil of the Immaculate Conception – 5:30PM
Saturday, 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception – 9:00AM
Sunday, December 9 – Children’s Christmas Party – 1:00PM – 3:00PM
Sunday, December 9 – Confirmation Class – 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Sunday, December 16 – A Festival of Lessons and Carols – 3:00PM
January 15-22, 2019 – Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



HOW ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM?

*Our homes are being readied...
Our trees are being decorated...
Our gifts are being bought and wrapped...
Our Christmas cards are being sent...
“But the Son of God has nowhere to lay His Head.” Matthew 8:21*

We at St. Francis of Assisi are preparing a place for the Christ Child...

Our stable with fresh hay is made and is in place...

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Dennis Mochan, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Fr. John Slovikovski, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Elizabeth Virus, Irene Virus, and Sheila Weppner.

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**, Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, NV; **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.; **Sgt. Jarod Pisarchik**, Army National Guard; **Ens. Kara Yingling**, Pentagon; **Lt. JG Shannon Yingling**; **Senior Airman Devon Gilbert**, Tinker AFB, OK; **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, Kuwait; **Sgt. 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; **Casey Meredith**, VMI, Virginia..

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.

AN ADVENT OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT entitled What Sweeter Music: A Choral Christmas of John Rutter will be held at 7:00PM, Saturday, December 22 at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. The program will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir and

Youth Chorale. The groups will be accompanied by the Hilltop Chamber Music Ensemble. Admission is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will be taken.

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 9:30AM until 5:30PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church. It is important that each ½ hour or hour have two adorers to adore and protect the Blessed Sacrament. PLEASE SIGN UP on the schedule of times provided in the Main Vestibule. The needs of our World, our Nation, our City, our Parish and the Dioceses of the Commonwealth of PA are many. Bring them to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.