

December 16, 2018
Third 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

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

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.

THANK YOU to Heather Kmetz and crew for the wonderful Christmas Party for the children of the Parish last Sunday. May God Bless you for helping to spread the Good News of the Birth of Jesus to His little ones.

CANCELLED: A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS scheduled for Sunday, December 16 at 3:00PM.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES on Sunday, December 16 will take place in the Church in order to prepare for the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. All children of the Parish are invited to join us as we get ready to welcome the Baby Jesus into our hearts. Class will begin immediately following the 9:30AM Mass. ALL students should be present.

MANY THANKS to all who shared their time talent to make gobs last week. Your help was greatly appreciated!

CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for +Robert Meagher by Raymond and Jeanne Toth.

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019 will be available for pickup at the Parish Office Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI T-SHIRTS are now available for pickup at the rear of the Church. Please note that NAMES are on the bags. Please check the name before taking the shirt home!



MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS: Monday, December 24 – 4:00PM; Wednesday December 25 – 12Midnight and 9:00AM. **MASS SCHEDULE FOR SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD:** Monday, December 31 – 5:30PM, Tuesday, January 1, 2019 – 9:00AM.

FISH FRY will take place on Friday, January 11, 2019 from 11:00AM until 6:00PM. Your help is always needed (especially with frying of fish). Please consider sharing some of your time and talent with the Fish Fry! Profit from Fish Fry held in November: \$3,254.34

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. Anyone who would like to donate any of the following alcoholic beverages: Amaretto, Rum, Whiskey, Vodka, Wine, or Peach Schnapps please drop off to ticket seller before or after Masses in January. Also, if you would like to donate a basket (\$25 value) you may give it to the ticket seller or call Alice at 536-0948. Thank you, Mardi Gras committee.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$386.00; Adults - \$2,5763.27; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$126.00; Flowers - \$104.00; Christmas - \$55.00; Catholic Charities - \$10.00; Retired Priest- \$442.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$5.00; Candles - \$151.00; Holy Day - \$952.04; Donation - \$160.00; Misc - \$184.91. Total Collection - \$5,162.22. 173 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. Thank you to all who have had the Traveling Crucifix in your home.

PARISH OFFICE will CLOSE on Thursday, December 20 and reopen on Wednesday, December 26. The office will then be CLOSED Thursday, December 27 through Tuesday, January 1. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Holy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 16 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon **in the Church**
Wednesday, December 19 – 6:00PM – 7:15PM – “The Birth of the Messiah” presented by Deacon Bruce
Sunday, December 16 – A Festival of Lessons and Carols – 3:00PM – **CANCELLED!**
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...
The animals are in place and are at rest waiting... The Shepherds are arriving
and are settling down with flocks in preparation for the great
event...*

Opportunities for Reconciliation

Sunday, December 16 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict
Monday, December 17 – 6:00PM – Our Mother of Sorrows
Monday, December 17 – 6:30PM – Resurrection (West End Penance Service)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, 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 Sobeky, 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 Rován 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.