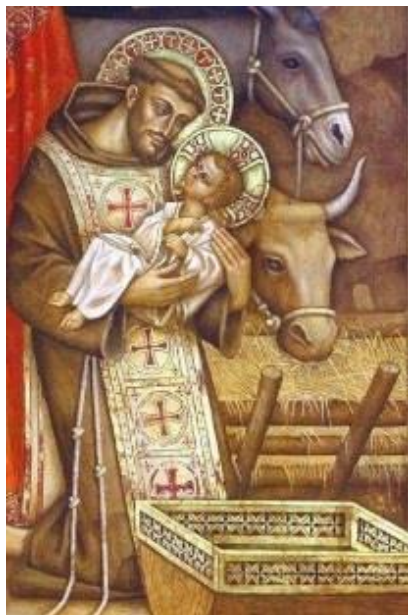


**December 23, 2018**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.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**

**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 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.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2019** will be available for pickup at the Parish Office Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. They will be available once again in the back of the Church the week of December 29, 2018 – January 6, 2019.



**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.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 4** 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).

**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet on Monday, January 7 at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction.

**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.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for +Albert Dadey, Sr., 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND:** Loose - \$372.05; Adults - \$2,816.82; Children - \$33.00; Monthly - \$192.00; Flowers - \$21.00; Christmas - \$135.00; Holy Day - \$30.00; Donation - \$210.00; Misc - \$15.30; Candles - \$144.00; Religious Retirement - \$15.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$50.00; Oplatek - \$233.50. Total Collection - \$4,292.67. 190 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 be CLOSED on Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25 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, January 6, 13, 20, 27 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon  
Rosary Society – Monday, January 7 – 6:00PM  
Friday, January 11 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM  
Sunday, January 13 – Confirmation Class – 6:00PM – 8:00PM  
January 15-22, 2019 – Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**DONATIONS** of snack items (potato chips, pretzels, etc.) along with cookies are being requested for a Teen Dance, sponsored by Bishop McCort Catholic High School that will take place at St. Francis of Assisi Activity Center on Saturday, February 2, 2019. Snack donations may be brought to the Parish Office Monday thru Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM no later than Sunday, January 27. Thanks in advance for your generosity. Any questions – please see Deacon Bruce Becker.

*...and His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Isaiah 9:6

## 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...*

*Now we await the arrival of the Holy Family at the stable  
Which becomes the birthplace of the King of Kings*

*But...*

*Is your heart ready to receive the Babe of Bethlehem into the Manger of your soul?*



Do you have a statue of St. Francis of Assisi by your Nativity scene? Remember it was St. Francis of Assisi who in 1224 replicated the manger scene in his native Italy at Greccio remembering his visit to the Holy Land (especially Bethlehem). That's when it became a tradition! Notice the picture on the front.

### 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 Slovickovski, 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 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**, Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, NV; **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.; **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, 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, 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.

**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.