

March 10, 2019
First 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

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Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com>

Daily Mass Schedule at St. Francis of Assisi

Lent Schedule – Mon thru Fri. -12Noon; 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 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.

Men’s Club – First Thursday of the month at 7:00PM.



OUR FISH FRIES will take place on Fridays of Lent: March 15, 22, 29, April 5 and April 12 (no Fish Fry Good Friday). Help is always needed and the more the merrier! *The Fish Fries are an excellent opportunity for students needing service hours!* Thank you for your consideration. **Donations of baked goods for a bake sale in conjunction with the Fish Fries are welcome as well as donations of soda and water!**

SCHEDULE FOR LENT: daily Mass (Monday through Friday) will be celebrated at 12Noon. Mass on Tuesday will be celebrated at 12Noon as well as at **6:15PM** with the Novena to St. Anthony. **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – each Friday of Lent at 7:00PM. **LENTEN LAMENTATIONS** –with sung Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction - Sundays at 3:00PM.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$259.41; Adults - \$2,537.60; Children - \$12.00; Candles - \$95.00; Monthly - \$625.00; Ash Wednesday - \$27.00; Donation - \$45.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$25.00; Mandeville - \$5.00; Easter - \$10.00; Misc. - \$209.91. Total Collection - \$3,850.92. 139 out of 286 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish (especially because of the severe winter weather which made driving and walking difficult).

PLEASE REMOVE any envelopes for the *Catholic Register* from your box sets since the Diocese will no longer be publishing a Diocesan newspaper.

CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for Return to Good Health of Ray Toth, Jr. after injury at work, by Ray & Jeanne Toth.

ARISE – is returning to St. Francis of Assisi. Our second session Change Our Hearts has begun. We invite you to join us on a Lenten Journey with Christ to Change Our Hearts. Please use the signup sheets that are located in the main vestibule of the Church. *If you have any questions or want to be involved please call Barb Bimeal at 322-2810.*

Session Schedule

Tuesday, March 12, 19, 26, April 2- 6:00PM–7:30PM
Wednesday, March 13, 20, 27, April 9 - 6:00PM - 7:30PM
Thursday, March 14, 21, 28, April 10 - 9:30 AM - 11:00AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 10, 17, 24, 31 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
Friday, March 15, 22, 29 – Stations of the Cross – 7:00PM
Sunday, March 10 – 11th Grade Confirmation Retreat – St. Therese – 7:30AM – 3:30PM
Sunday, March 10, 17, 24, 31–Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Lenten Lamentations, Benediction – 3:00PM
Saturday, March 23 – First Reconciliation – 10:00AM
Friday, March 15, 22, 29; April 5, 12 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

DID YOU NOTICE THE PURPLE FOOTSTEPS? – In the Gospel passage from Luke we encounter a teaching on discipleship. As disciples of Jesus we need to keep Him first in our lives. Work, obligations, friendships, social engagements and hobbies are all good things but they need to be placed in their proper context in our lives. Jesus must be central. Jesus teaches us that follow to Him we must follow Him to Jerusalem. Taking up His Cross in our lives, as He reminded us is a “daily” activity. Discipleship continually entails a laying down of our lives in love of God and other human beings. We are encouraged to follow Jesus and to follow Him all the way to Jerusalem as we walk in His footprints to Calvary.

What are you doing for Lent this year?

Ask Catholics what they’re doing for Lent this year, and they’ll probably tell you that they are giving up a favorite food, a favorite pastime or anything else they really love but isn’t essential in their lives. Giving up something for Lent fosters self-discipline and tempers our desires. It is a form of fasting. It is a form of penance. It promotes spiritual growth. If you’re giving up something for Lent, that’s great. But think also of the possibility of doing

something positive to bolster your spiritual life (*silent prayer or meditation*) and make the world a better place (be kind, go out of your way every day to do something nice for someone). Look for ways that you can increase your knowledge of your Faith, strengthen your spiritual life (*read a book about the Saints, take part in ARISE!*) or perform special acts of mercy and kindness at home, at work, in your parish (*how about helping at the Fish Fry?*) or in your community.

PLEASE TAKE ONE OF THE CIRCLES located at the entrances to the Church, write *YOUR* Lenten resolution on it and place on the tree in the Sanctuary. Each time you come to Mass you will be reminded of what you are doing to make this a holy Lent.

SYMBOLS OF THE PASSION OF JESUS

During the First Week of Lent, a CROWN OF THORNS is placed on the cross to remind us that Jesus was crucified. He was crowned with a crown of crown of thorns as a King “of a Kingdom that is not of this world” (John 18:36). The thorns were embedded in the head of Jesus causing excruciating pain. He allowed this to happen for you and me. My heart hears the stanza of the hymn WHEN I BEHOLD THE WONDROUS CROSS “Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?”



Matthew 27:30 – Weaving a CROWN out of THORNS they fixed it on His head, and stuck a reed in His right hand. Then they began to mock Him by dropping to their knees before Him saying, “All hail the King of the Jews.”

Mark 15:17-18 – They dressed Him in royal purple, then wove a CROWN OF THORNS and put it on Him and began to salute Him, “All hail, King of the Jews.”

John 19:2-3 – The soldiers then wove a CROWN OF THORNS and fixed it on His head, throwing around His shoulders a cloak of royal purple. Repeatedly they came up to Him and said, “All hail, King of the Jews, slapping His face as they did so.

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES:

- Tuesday, March 19 – St. Clement – 7:00PM
- Wednesday, April 3 – Church of the Transfiguration, Conemaugh – 6:30PM
- Thursday, April 4 – St. Anthony of Padua, Windber – 6:00PM
- Thursday, April 4 – St. Patrick – 7:00PM
- *Monday, April 1 – West End Penance Service – St. Francis of Assisi – 6:30PM
- Monday, April 8 – Our Mother of Sorrows – 6:00PM
- Wednesday, April 10 – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – 5:30PM
- Thursday, April 11 – St. John Gualbert Cathedral – 6:30PM
- Wednesday, April 17 – St. Andrew – 7:00PM

DEADLY MEDICINE – CREATING THE MASTER RACE

A part of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in here in Johnstown at The Discovery Center in Cambria City, I was privileged to have been a guest at the formal opening this past Saturday. How could such an event have taken place in humankind’s history? Over the course of time I have visited the concentration camps at Dachau and Auschwitz, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, Israel and in Washington, D.C. Every time I exited, I left with a heavy heart. Man’s inhumanity to man is so apparent and graphic. I wholeheartedly recommend that you visit this exhibit. The exhibit hours is as follows: March 1 thru April 27 - Tuesday thru Saturday from 10:00AM – 5:00PM and Sunday from Noon – 5:00PM

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Dennis Mochan, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Ron Petak, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobbecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Raymond Toth, Jr.; 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, Wyo.; **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, Afghanistan; **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. THERESE LENTEN PIROGHI SALE – Home-made potato and cheese piroghi made fresh each week during Lent. Call in orders every Monday starting March 4 until April 8 from 9AM – 11AM. Cost is \$7.00/dozen (with or without onions). Pick up your order on Fridays from 9AM – 2PM at our social hall, Upper Decker Avenue. No orders will be taken during Holy Week.

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.