

December 15, 2019
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

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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

Schedule – 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 5:00PM

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 – Gary Woodruff – 248-1776

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 5:45 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 9:30AM – 5:30PM.

Rosary Society – First Monday of the Month – 6:00PM in the Church

Men’s Club – First Thursday of the Month – 7:00PM in the Activity Center



A FESTIVAL OF LESSON AND CAROLS will be presented on Sunday, December 15 at 3:00PM. Plan on joining us as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child. A Social will take place immediately following at the former Convent. Please come for the festivities of music, food, drink and comradery!

GOB SALE will take place on Saturday, December 21 from 9:00AM until Noon at the Activity Center. Get Gobs for your Holiday parties.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE – Tuesday, December 24 – 4:00PM; Wednesday, December 25 – Midnight, 7:30AM & 9:30AM. Mass for Mary, The Mother of God will be celebrated at 5:30PM on Tuesday, December 31 and at 9:00AM on Wednesday, January 1 – Holy Day of Obligation

CHILDREN OF THE PARISH are invited and encouraged to participate at the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal will take place on Sunday, December 22 after the 9:30AM Mass until 12Noon. Please arrive in the vestibule of the Church by 3:30PM on December 24.

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED Tuesday, December 24 through Friday, December 27. The office will reopen on Monday, December 30.

FISH FRY will take place on Friday, January 10. Please consider sharing some of your time and talent to make this event a success.

THE MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE is asking for your help to defray expenses. Please consider donations of alcoholic beverages and donations of baskets. Call Alice at 536-0948 for more information. Mardi Gras will take place on Saturday, February 15 and tickets will be available in January.



SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health of Kimberly Dadey by Uncle Jim & Aunt Sue Ellen Dadey. **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn this week in Thanksgiving for Jim & Sue Ellen lighting at candle for me and giving me a card and for JoAnn and her card and for all those who offer prayers for my recent hospital stay. *Jeanne Ann Toth*

REMINDER: Giving Tree gifts for the Cambria City Mission should be returned by Sunday, December 15. Thank you for your cooperation.

BABY BOTTLES – we are participating in the “Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign.” Please take a bottle (located in the main vestibule) and fill with your spare change. You may return your filled bottles by Sunday, December 22. This fundraiser will help support the trip to March for Life being organized by Citizens Concerned for Human Life. Additional proceeds will support other pro-life organizations in town. Please be generous in your support to build a culture of life in our own community.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$397.00; Adults - \$2,668.77; Children - \$14.00; Monthly - \$503.00; Candles - \$131.10; Flowers - \$115.00; Christmas - \$107.00; St. Vincent - \$30.00; Retired Religious - \$471.36; Holy Day - \$553.42. Total Collection - \$4,990.65. 151 out of 283 families used envelopes last week. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 15, 22 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – Noon
Sunday, December 15 – Children’s Christmas Party – Activity Center – 1:00PM – 3:00PM
Sunday, December 15 – Lessons & Carols – 3:00PM, followed by Social at the former Convent
Saturday, December 21 – Gob Sale – 9:00AM – 12Noon – Activity Center

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE LACK OF VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD? THEN READ ON!
VOCATION CRUCIFIX- A special Crucifix that travels from family to family or household to household ordinarily for 1 week or longer to inspire prayer for vocations is available here at St. Francis of Assisi. The purpose of the Traveling Vocations Crucifix is to intercede for vocations and encourage children to consider a Priestly or Religious vocation themselves. The Crucifix represents the sacrifice Jesus made for us by dying on the Cross. Enthroned in a

highly visible place in your home and pray together at least once each day for vocations. You may use the prayers included with the Crucifix or substitute them with the Rosary or another simple prayer (such as the Our Father, Hail Mary, or the Glory Be). Each week or longer the Crucifix travels to a new family or household to help assist our awareness of a need for vocations.

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 are interested in taking part in the Traveling Vocations Crucifix program, please take care with the Vocations Crucifix which is now located in the main vestibule for the taking. Please sign the signup sheet, not only with your name, but also the date you are taking the Vocations Crucifix and the date you plan to return it, so that we are aware of where the Vocations Crucifix is located.

WHAT IS A GIFT? – How does a gift come to us? In what might it be wrapped? In the blankets of a tiny baby...in the artwork of a child...in the creativity of a friend...in the ancient message of a small picture...in the contemporary competition of foils, ribbons and papers? Should we be looking to God’s gift to us in every place, in every life experience? Should our eyes be open to what God is giving us in our relationships, in the messages shouted across all media, in the emotions of celebration, longing and love? A gift is more than an object. A gift is a carrier of meaning, values, esteem and is a symbol of our Faith. So that, any gifts we think of giving reflect God’s giving and truly participates in the giving to which God calls us, ask first: What meaning can this gift carry? What values can this convey? How can this gift reflect my feelings for the receiver? What can this gift symbolize about my Faith? from *Alternatives for Simple Living*.



Monday, December 16 – 6:00PM – Our Mother of Sorrows
 Monday, December 16 – 5:00PM – West End Penance Service – St. Theresa
 Tuesday, December 17 – 5:30PM – Visitation
 Thursday, December 18 – 7:00PM – St. Patrick
 Sunday, December 22 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict

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...*



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, Agnes Filo, LeAnn Golby, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Margaret Murray, Carl Pavlosky, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobczyk, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, and Sheila Weppner, Dorothy Youchak.

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, Fort Stewart, GA; **Petty Officer 1st Class Heather L. Dovala**, Great Lakes, IL.; **Sgt. Jarod Pisarchik**, Army National Guard; **Ens. Kara Yingling**, Pentagon; **Lt. JG Shannon Yingling**; **S/SSgt 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; **Spc. Adken Torchia**, US Army, Fort Drum, NY; **Sgt. Lucas Tomak**, US Army, Fort Hood, TX; **Lt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, Fort Lewis, WA; **Cpl Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, New River, NC.; **Senior Airman Jeremy Williams**, Kandahar Air Base, Afghanistan; **Kasey Meredith**, O.C.S., USMC, Quantico, VA.; **Pvt. Harrison Barham**, US Army, Fort Leonard Wood, MO.; **Cpl. Aunna Yingling**, US Army Medic.

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. JOHN GUALBERT will host an Advent of Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 21 at 7:00PM. The concert will feature the Greater Johnstown Diocesan Youth Chorale as well as Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir. Admission is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken.

MARCH FOR LIFE will be held on Friday, January 24. A bus will leave the upper parking lot of St. Benedict Church at 7:15AM. There will be a Mass at 6:30AM. The cost is \$10 for students and \$15 for adults. To sign up, please contact Joe at 266-1554. The deadline is Friday, January 10. Checks may be made out to St. Benedict and mailed or delivered to St. Benedict Parish Office, 2310 Bedford St., Johnstown, PA 15904

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.