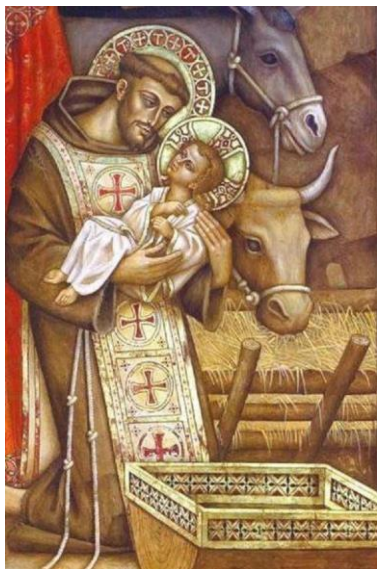


December 22, 2019
Fourth Sunday of Advent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

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 FOCUS 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

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.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3 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 5 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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 Ethel Petak and Strength for her Family by Betty, Pansy & Margaret Scott. The candle last week was for Improved Health of Kimberly Haggerty.

CEMETERY NEWS – We would like to thank everyone for their gifts this year to the St. Francis Cemetery Association. These gifts help us to continue this caring and important ministry to the St. Francis of Assisi family. A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year! – *St. Francis Cemetery Association.*

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.

A NOTE OF THANKS – Sally and I would like to thank St. Francis of Assisi Parish for your heartfelt, thoughtful, and generous gift. We deeply appreciate your concern and assistance with the financial loss we experienced this past spring. Both of us want the parish to know how happy and grateful we are with all of you. May God Bless you.
Deacon Bruce and Sally Becker

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$366.00; Adults - \$4,697.27; Children - \$17.00; Monthly - \$170.00; Candles - \$131.05; Flowers - \$50.00; Christmas - \$10.00; Retired Religious - \$35.00; Holy Day - \$65.00; Thanksgiving - \$35.00; All Souls - \$25.00; Oplatek - \$306.60; Catholic Charities - \$25.00; Mission Sunday - \$25.00; Donations - \$205.00.. Total Collection - \$6,162.92. 157 out of 283 families used envelopes last week. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December, 22 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – Noon in the Church
Sunday, January 5, 12, 19, 26 - Religious Education – 10:45AM – Noon
Friday, January 10 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM - 6:00PM
Sunday, January 12 – Confirmation Class – 6:00PM – 8:00PM – Rectory Office
Saturday, February 15 – Mardi Gras

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.

PENANCE SERVICE - Sunday, December 22 – 5:00PM – St. Benedict

Families and the Gospel - December 22 – Matthew 1:18-24 - The child born to Jesus and Mary was named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Every child is EMMANUEL, reminding us “God is with us.” Children are signs of God’s continuing presence in our lives.

Families and the Gospel – December 25 – Christmas – God chose to enter human history in a family, by Divine design the salvation of the world began in a family. Family was the best God the Creator could do for His Beloved Son. Jesus was our first Christmas gift.

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?



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 Sobecky, 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 Guarino, 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 Rowan 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.

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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.

ALL SAINTS PARISH in Boswell will be hosting a sing along/concert of beloved Polish Christmas carols (Koledy) as well as Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Sunday, December 29 at 3:00PM at the church located at 325 Quemahoning St. in Boswell. Following the event refreshments will be provided.

DON'T FORGET to come to Downtown Johnstown on New Year's Eve for Celebration Johnstown from 6:00PM – 10:00PM. The West End Improvement Group has been one of the organizing volunteer groups of this event since 2009. See entertainment and events on the Celebration Facebook page.

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.