

**December 8, 2019**  
**Second 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**

**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 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 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

**MOVIE NIGHT** is back and just in time to help make your Advent more meaningful. Come join us on Sunday, December 8 to watch Song of Bernadette at the Activity Center beginning at 4:00PM. Refreshments provided. Feel free to bring an item to share if you like. Movie is free and great for the entire family. Pray about coming. We hope to see you there.

**GOB** icing will be made on Tuesday, December 10 from 7:00AM – 1:30PM. Packing will be Wednesday, December 11 from 8:00AM – 10:00AM and from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. Please come and help, it is a busy season for all of us, so the more help we have the faster we can move on to other holiday work at home. *There will be a GOB SALE on Saturday, December 21 from 9:00AM until Noon.*

**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!

**SINGERS ARE NEEDED** for Lessons & Carols, December 15 at 3:00PM. Rehearsals will be held on Thursdays, December 5 & 12 at 6:30PM. Use the Barron Avenue entrance. For more information call Gale at 539-0155.

**THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take place on December 15 at the Activity Center from 1:00PM – 3:00PM. Signup sheets are in the Main Vestibule. Deadline for signup: Sunday, December 8. Please indicate child's name, age and things they like (books, cars, dolls, etc.)

**CHILDREN OF THE PARISH** are invited and encouraged to participate at the 4:00PM Mass on Christmas Eve. Please arrive in the vestibule of the Church by 3:30PM.

**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.

**THE ST. FRANCIS GABRIEL PROJECT** pro-life ministry needs diapers, baby wipes, grooming products, and baby clothing. Questions or to refer families please call Gale at 539-0155.

**REMINDER:** Giving Tree gifts for the Gabriel Project are due no later than Sunday, December 8 and 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 - \$399.00; Adults - \$2,045.27; Children - \$18.00; Monthly - \$317.02; Candles - \$108.60; Catholic Charities - \$20.00; Thanksgiving - \$484.27; Flowers - \$339.02; Christmas - \$30.00; Donations - \$40.00. Total Collection - \$3,801.18. 134 out of 283 families used envelopes last week. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

**SUPPORT AGING RELIGIOUS** – Our second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and Religious Order Priests served for little or no pay. Today, Religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly Religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, December 8, 15, 22 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – Noon  
Sunday, December 8 – Movie Night – 4:00PM – Activity Center  
Sunday, December 8 – Confirmation Class (Movie & Class) – Class 6:30PM - ?  
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

**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 contact the Parish Office at 539-1632. *The case with the Vocations Crucifix is now located in the main vestibule for the taking. Please sign the sign-up 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.*

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** is transferred to Monday, December 9 but there is no Holy Day of Obligation this year.



**OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECONCILIATION:**

- Sunday, December 8 - 1:30PM – St. John Gualbert Cathedral
- Wednesday, December 11 – 6:30PM – Transfiguration
- 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...*



**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 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 Rován 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, Wyo.; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **Captain Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Stewart, GA; **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**; **S/SSgt 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; **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.

**CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** – will have a Fish Fry on Friday, December 13 from 3:30PM – 6:30PM. \$10.00/meal. Take outs are available by calling 535-2698.

**WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP** will host their Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, December 9 at the skate park. Santa will arrive at 6:00PM and we will light the tree. Children may visit with Santa following the lighting and receive a gift from Santa. In case in inclement weather, event will be moved to Grace Lutheran Church Hall, 246 Chandler Ave. All are welcome.

**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.