

**April 12, 2020**  
***Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord***  
**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>**

**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**

**There's More to Life**

When Jesus rose, He was not merely resuscitated. He rose to a glorified body in which He “dies no more; death no longer has power over him” (Romans 6:9). This is Good News for us all. When Jesus talked about His impending death, He made a promise: “I go and prepare a place for you, ...so that where I am you also may be” (John 14:3). We too are promised resurrection in a glorified body – in, with, and through Jesus Christ!

Our hope then, is not merely found in the life in the here and now, with all the good as well as the trials we experience. What Jesus has done affects our lives now and forever.

God's great promise of New Life that endures forever is not something we enter into only after death. The Kingdom of God is not only *far away* and *later*. Jesus came to announce that “the Kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). “At hand” means in the here and now. For our time on earth, Jesus made a promise that was fulfilled after His Resurrection:

*“I will not leave your orphans; I will come to you...The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in My name – He will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you.” John 14:18, 26).*

At Baptism, we receive a share in Christ's resurrected life as the Holy Spirit comes to us and makes us sons and daughters of God. As St. Paul says, “If any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). *This is Good News!*

Bit by bit, as we say yes to Jesus in our hearts and receive Him in the Sacraments, we become more like Him. For we “are being changed into His likeness from on degree of glory to another” (2 Cor 3:18).

*He is Risen!*

Mass Intentions Week of April 12, 2020

DATE	NO PUBLIC MASS	INTENTION / DONOR	READINGS
MON. APR. 13 <i>Monday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+Helen Bischof Remembrance Son-in-law Frank & Children	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15
TUES. APR. 14 <i>Tuesday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+Mary Rose Fatula 29 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Son & Daughters	Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18
WED. APR. 15 <i>Wednesday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+Larry Haggerty Mary & Al Strozak	Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35
THURS. APR. 16 <i>Thursday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+Gail Caciccia Birthday Remembrance The Cousins	Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48
FRI. APR. 17 <i>Friday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+William S. Dill Daughter Mary	Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14
SAT. APR. 18 <i>Saturday within the Octave of Easter</i>		+Catherine Aloï Tom & Lynn Rován	Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15
SAT. APR. 18 <i>Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday</i>		+Ethel Petak Sue Gergely & Family	Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31
SUN. APR. 19 <i>Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday</i>		Parishioners & Benefactors  +Dennis Mochan Family	Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31

*Families and the Gospel...*John 20:1-9 – Today’s Gospel instructs us Jesus “had to rise from the dead.” The dying we experience with unmet expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above disappointments and be Easter people all year long.



The Resurrection of Jesus has always stood at the center of Christian Faith and proclamation. But why is it so important, and what does it mean for us?

### **The Center of the Message**

When the early Christians first spread the Gospel – literally the “Good News” – all over the known world, there was one fact that stood as the foundation of their message: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!

*For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that He was buried; that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. – 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

The Resurrection of Jesus remains the core reality and central tenet of the Christian Faith. It is the ultimate expression of God’s love that has transformed everything. As St. Paul put it, “If Christ has not been raised, your Faith is in vain” (1 Cor 15:17).

God spoke through the Prophets of old that one day, God’s victory over darkness and oppression would come. Just as God rescued the Israelites from the slavery of the Egyptians by parting the Red Sea, so God would rescue all people from oppression through the coming of the Messiah.

Now, the Jewish understanding of this promised Messiah had long been that of a warrior king who, like David, would achieve peace with the sword. While many started to believe that Jesus was the Messiah during His lifetime, those hopes were dashed when He was killed. A Crucified Messiah is no Messiah at all. Or so it seemed.

Jesus’ Resurrection shows us a new kind of victory and strength – one that runs deeper than physical strength and worldly power. In a word, it shows us the unshakable victory of love. For “God is love” (1 John 4:8), and Jesus is God. When Jesus rose from the dead, the undeniable message went forth: love is stronger than death, sin, and evil. As the Disciples proclaimed the Gospel, they did not lead with Jesus’ teaching. They could have taught from His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) or from His discourse at the Last Supper (John 14-16). Instead, they proclaimed His Death and Resurrection. Calling upon the power of the Resurrection, Peter told the immobilized beggar, “In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise] and walk” (Acts 3:6), and instantly the beggar jumped up and began walking and jumping and praising God” (3-8).

The next day with the healed beggar alongside him, Peter made this statement before the High Priests and Elders: “It was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean Whom you crucified, Whom God raised from dead; in His name this man stands before you healed” (Acts 4:10).

The Resurrection validates everything Jesus said about Himself. Jesus not only taught people and healed them, but He claimed to be the Messiah – the Divine Savior for humanity’s failings, Who alone accomplishes the forgiveness of sin reveals the Father to the world.

When He would announce to someone, “Your sins are forgiven” (Mark 2:5), religious leaders understandably objected, “Who but God alone can forgive sins?” (2:7). When questioned about His authority and identity, Jesus used the one name reserved only for God Himself: “Amen, amen I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM” (John 8:58).

If Jesus’ wonderful, inspiring, and powerful life simply ended with His Crucifixion – the Roman’s brutal public punishment for major criminals – then the hope that people placed in Jesus as the Divine Savior, Messiah, and Son of God would have been dashed.

But He *has* been raised! As Christians, we don’t proclaim that “Jesus was risen.” We declare that *Jesus is Risen.*” He truly is our One and only God Who visited the earth, died under the weight of the world’s sins, and overcame the power of sin, death, and evil by rising victoriously. He is, as He told us, “the Way and the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6) Who “came so that [we] might have life and have it more abundantly.” (10:10).

We can put all our trust and hope in Jesus, Who leads us into the abundant life of God’s Kingdom.

*From The Word Among Us Press*

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, Verne Esposito, LeAnn Golby, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, John Kasper, 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, Sheila Weppner, Dorothy Youchak.

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**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, Wy; 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, Afghanistan; Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino, US Navy.

*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.*

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**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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