

July 19, 2020
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
**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
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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

ALL ARE REMINDED TO DRESS WITH REVERENCE AND RESPECT AS THEY COME TO LITURGY ALL YEAR LONG

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

GOBS: Gob icing will be made on Tuesday, July 21 from 7:00AM until 11:00AM. Gob packing will be done on Wednesday, July 22 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and again in the evening at 6:00PM. All help is deeply appreciated.

PARISH FAMILY PICNIC – Sunday, August 2 at Lorain Boro Park. Mass will be celebrated at the park at 12Noon followed by the picnic. Signup sheets are available on the table at the rear of the Activity Center. Anyone wishing to donate a basket for the picnic you may drop it off at the Activity Center on Saturday, August 1 or call Alice at 536-0948.

PICNIC MEETING – If you would like to help/volunteer at the Picnic on August 2, there will be an informational meeting on Monday, July 20 at 6:00PM in the Activity Center. Call Fran King at 536-3667 with any questions.



FISH FRY plans are in the making. A Fish Fry has been scheduled for Friday, August 14 for **TAKE OUT ONLY**. A number of volunteers have indicated their willingness to help. If you are willing to share some of your time, please contact the Parish Office. The wearing of masks and social distancing protocols will be in place.

TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE in Lancaster, PA on Thursday, August 27 for the 3:00PM showing of “Queen Esther.” Please call Fran King at 536-3667 for more information

THE 7-DAY VOTIVE CANDLES on the Sacred Heart Altar, below the picture of Divine Mercy, on the Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary and under the picture of Pope St. John Paul the Great are available upon request to be lit for your intention. Please contact the Parish Office for your request. Please place your donation in an envelope marked Candles and place it in the locked box on the back wall between the statues of St. Jude and St. Clare of Assisi or in the collection basket when Mass is in the Activity Center on the weekends.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health of Fr. Chuck Bridges by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$2,225.27; Children - \$14.00; Loose - \$76.00; Monthly - \$626.00; Father’s Day - \$3.00; First Offering - \$7.00; Mandeville - \$7.00; Missalettes - \$17.00; Peter’s Pence - \$4.00; Ash Wednesday - \$7.00; Catholic Communication - \$3.00; Misc. - \$150.00; Donation - \$230.00. Total Collection - \$3,369.27. This is truly outstanding!

Thank you Parishioners who are continuing to send in/bring in your offering envelopes. It is deeply appreciated! God Bless! Fr. Anthony Francis

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

OUTDOOR MASS HONORING MARRIED COUPLES – The Altoona-Johnstown Family is invited to participate and pray for those living the Sacrament of Marriage at an Outdoor Mass honoring Married Couples on Sunday evening, July 19 at 7:00PM at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. Bring a lawn chair. Indoors if rain. Bishop Mark is the celebrant and homilist. This is a wonderful way to celebrate, encourage and support married couples!

BISHOP MARK and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2020 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 13 in Altoona at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 20 in Johnstown at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00PM. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the Mass for anniversary couples and their families. *Reservations must be made through your parish by Wednesday, August 19.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, July 21 – Gob icing – 7:00AM – 11:00AM
Wednesday, July 22 – Gob packing – 8:00AM – 10:00AM and 6:00PM
Friday, August 14 – Fish Fry TAKE OUT ONLY – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Sunday – August 2 – Parish Family Picnic – Mass at Noon
Thursday, August 27 – Trip to Sight and Sound Theatre

Stewardship Reflection... Like the mustard tree that began with “the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full grown and the largest of the plants,” (Mt 13:32) we can all become children of the Kingdom. Stewardship is most deeply about pleasure and increase. When you are generous you are doing something that makes a difference in someone’s life and that does make you feel good. “Stewardship is already in your heart. There is something deep within us that is good and generous, some almost biological sensation that is triggered when we see a need. It is that good feeling that wells up within us when another person’s and our shared gifts intersect. (*Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*, Paul Wilkes, 2002, St. Anthony Messenger Press) When each of us shares our time, our talents, and our treasures through the parish, the Faith community thrives as our example inspires others to become good stewards.



Background on the Gospel Reading

In today’s Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why He speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the Disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus’ discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the Final Judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus’ explanation to the Disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the Final Judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed – the smallest of all seeds – will become a large bush, so too God will bring His Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of his Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; Final Judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, Verne Esposito, LeAnn Golby, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, John Kasper, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Margaret Murray, Carl Pavlosky, Rowen Ream, Kathy Reddy, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobbecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Sheila Weppner, Rebecca Woodruff, 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, Afghanistan; **Petty Officer 2nd 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.

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 3:00PM - 4:00PM. 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. 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.

OUTDOOR MASS: To be celebrated at Holy Cross Cemetery in Jerome each Sunday night from June 28th until Labor Day beginning at 6:00 PM. In event of inclement weather, the Mass will be celebrated in St. Anne Church in Davidsville.

FLEA MARKET – St. Anne’s Christian Mothers (533 Woodland Ave) will be holding their annual Flea Market on July 24 & 25 from 9:00AM – 4:00PM in the church basement. Come to check out some great bargains! Everyone is welcome! Social distancing and face masks are recommended.