

July 26, 2020
17th 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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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

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

PARISH FAMILY PICNIC – HAS BEEN CANCELLED! HOWEVER, there are tentative plans for a Parish Feast Day Dinner on Sunday, October 4 (Feast of St. Francis of Assisi), dependent on the social distancing/virus situation. Mark your calendars!



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.

MEETING to plan for and discuss the upcoming Fish Fry will take place on Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00PM at the Activity Center. All those who indicated their willingness to help should plan to attend. **WEAR A MASK!**

TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE HAS BEEN CANCELLED!

ARISE SESSION 5 – “We are the Good News” will tentatively begin in October. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 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 rear of the Activity Center. 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).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$1,925.27; Children - \$8.00; Loose - \$130.00; Monthly - \$173.00; Candles - \$4.75; Peter Pence - \$10.00; Missalettes - \$13.00; Donations - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$2,414.02. 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.

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

Wednesday, July 29 – Fish Fry planning meeting – 6:00PM – Activity Center.
Friday, August 14 – Fish Fry TAKE OUT ONLY – 11:00AM – 6:00PM

Daily Prayer to be Said During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Loving God, Your Son, Jesus Christ traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At His command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, God of all life, and in the midst of the global spread of coronavirus, may we experience Your healing love.



Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health. Gentle God, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with You in Your Eternal Peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died.

As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know Your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers, first responders, essential workers and all who seek to heal, serve and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know Your protection and peace.
Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.
In place of our anxiety, give us Your peace, comfort and love. Gentle and loving God, heal us and come to our aid. Amen.

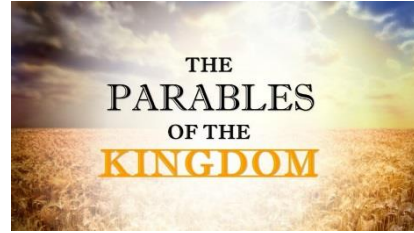
Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of His teachings for the Disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the Kingdom of Heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the final judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the Kingdom of Heaven. Here a metaphor is offered; this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic Law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish law with respect to Jesus' "new" teaching. Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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 Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Sheila Weppner, Rebecca Woodruff, 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 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.

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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.