

September 13, 2020
24th 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

ARISE SESSION 5 – “We are the Good News” has been delayed and is now scheduled for Easter 2021.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Due to the limitations of in-person classes we will be taking a different approach for Religious Education classes this year. The children will be instructed using a home based program: *A Family of Faith* with parents attending a meeting once a month for instruction and discussion pertaining to the lessons. Parents will be provided with a Parent Guide along with an Activity Book for each child in the family. Lessons and activities are adaptable for various grade levels.

REGISTER TODAY!



“The vision for *A Family of Faith* is strong Catholic families in which children learn the joys of following Jesus Christ and the truths of their Faith through the witness of Christian life given by their parents.”

In order to know the number of books needed you are asked to please register your child/children as soon as possible and attend the **first meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 13 immediately following the 9:30AM Mass**. This meeting will take place in the Activity Center. **REMEMBER – PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY TEACHERS OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE FAITH!** Registration forms can be found at the rear of the Parish Church or on the Parish website.

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the Fish Fry on September 11. Your continued dedication and support is admirable! May God Bless you!

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED on Thursday, September 17.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health of Paul Gresik by Betty, Pansy and Margaret Scott.

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 placed on the table in front of the Holy Family statue.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$1,843.25; Children - \$8.00; Loose - \$46.00; Monthly - \$754.00; Candles - \$11.00; Holy Day - \$5.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$65.00; Retired Priest - \$15.00; Missalettes - \$67.00; All Souls - \$5.00; Catholic University - \$5.00; Misc. - \$260.00. Total Collection - \$3,084.25. *Thank you Parishioners who are continuing to send in/bring in your offering envelopes. It is deeply appreciated! God Bless! Fr. Anthony Francis*

Prayer for Grandparents

Lord Jesus, You were born of the Virgin Mary, the daughter of Ss. Joachim and Anne. Look with love on grandparents the world over. Protect them! They are a source of enrichment for families, for the Church and for all of society. Support them! As they grow older, may they continue to be for their families strong pillars of Gospel Faith, guardians of noble domestic ideals, living treasures of sound Religious traditions. Make them teachers of wisdom and courage, that they may pass on to future generations the fruits of their mature human and spiritual experience.

Lord Jesus, help families and society to value the presence and role of grandparents. May they never be ignored or excluded, but always encounter respect and love. Help them to live serenely and to feel welcome in all the years of life which You give them. Mary, Mother of all the living, keep grandparents constantly in your care, accompany them on their earthly pilgrimage, and by your prayers, grant that all families may one day be reunited in our Heavenly homeland, where You await all humanity for the great embrace of life without end. Amen.

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. May they know Your Shalom!

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 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 reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the Disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to one another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt – a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the King. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity – the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

PRAYER CHAIN FOR LIFE will be held on Sunday, October 4 from 1-2PM on Broad Street near former St. Columba Parish. Come stand in support of the pro-life cause and pray for a deepening Respect for Life. Signs will be provided. For information call Gale at 539-0155.

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, 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 Rován 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 Donahay, US Army, Fort Stewart, GA; Petty Officer 1st Class Heather L. Dovala, Great Lakes, IL.; Sgt. Jarod Pisarchik, Army National Guard; LCDR Kara Yingling, San Diego; LCDR Shannon Yingling; S/SSgt Devon Gilbert, Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa; 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; **Sgt. 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**; **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 or on the weekends in the Activity Center.

