

September 6, 2020
23rd 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” will tentatively begin in October. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

**REGISTER
TODAY!**



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.

“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 Activity Center or on the Parish website.

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED on Monday, September 7.



FISH FRY plans are in the making again!. A Fish Fry has been scheduled for **Friday, September 11** 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. *Orders will be taken by calling the Activity Center at 539-3518 on Thursday, September 10 from 8:00AM until 11:00AM and on Friday, September 11 from 8:00AM until ?*

CANDLE BY THE SACRED HEART will burn this week for the Private Intentions of M/M Mark Petak.

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.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$2,133.27; Children - \$12.00; Loose - \$115.00; Monthly - \$45.00; Candles - \$24.00; Holy Day - \$8.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$271.02; Retired Priest - \$5.00; Missalettes - \$5.00; Catholic University - \$5.00. Total Collection - \$2,623.29

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.

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 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 is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the Disciples' question about who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the Kingdom of Heaven must be like children, and He cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church. Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; He acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers His Disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

Holy Mass will resume on the weekends in the Church (weekend Sept. 12-13). Please review the insert included with the bulletin as to guidelines for social distancing and especially the Guidelines in receiving the Holy Eucharist. Your cooperation in this is greatly appreciated!

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.

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 Guarno, 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 Donahey, 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.

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.