

October 25, 2020
30th 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
Men’s Club – Gregory Solomon

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



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the Main Vestibule. 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).

ATTENTION ALTAR SERVERS – There will be a meeting of all Altar Servers on Saturday, November 13 at 10:00AM. This meeting will include an update on changes amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Anyone wishing to join this ministry is invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – THANK YOU to all who attended the last Parent Meeting. *The next meeting will take place on Sunday, November 8 immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.* This meeting will take place in the Activity Center. Those who were not in attendance are reminded that *PARENTS ARE THE PRIMARY TEACHERS OF THEIR CHILDREN IN THE WAYS OF FAITH!*

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, November 9 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

FISH FRY has been scheduled for **Friday, November 13** for **TAKE OUT ONLY**. Thanks again to all who volunteered for the last Fish Fry. 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, November 13 from 8:00AM until 11:00AM and on Friday, November 13 from 8:00AM until ?* **NEEDED: Volunteer to help with dish washing on Friday, November 13. Please contact the Parish Office if you are willing to assist with this vital part of the fish Fry!**



ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION of Parishioners who were laid to rest this year (November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020) will be celebrated on **7:00PM** on Monday, November 2. Members of the families of the deceased are invited to take part in this Mass by lighting a candle in their memory. Please contact the Parish Office if you or a member of the family or friend of our departed loved ones are able to participate in this Liturgy. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death, and the hope of Eternal Life.

ALL SOULS – If you would like to have a picture of a deceased loved one placed at the Altar for All Soul's Day, please bring the picture to the Parish Office or the Church. All photos must be received no later than Sunday, October 25. Please include name of deceased with the picture(s) you are bringing.

MISSALETTES 2020-2021 – 1st Sunday of Advent (Nov. 29, 2020) – The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has truly upset the apple cart in so many ways! Since at the present time we are not allowed to put Missalettes or hymnals in the Church, the Parish Council suggested that the new Missalettes be made available to parishioners for a donation of \$5.00 and the green covers for \$1.00. If you are interested in obtaining 1 or several (1 per member of a family or household) Missalettes, **please contact the Parish Office (M-Thurs 9AM-3PM) to place your request.** The weekends of Nov. 14-15 and Nov. 21-22 the Missalettes will be available before and after all Masses in the MAIN VESTIBULE ONLY. In the past 6 offertory envelopes we designated for Missalette donations. This year there will be only 2 envelopes available for those who did not acquire a Missalette or for those who did acquire a Missalette(s) but still would like to make a donation. Thanks & God Bless!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$2,408.54; Children - \$8.00; Loose - \$72.00; Monthly - \$251.00; Feast Day - \$32.00; Candles - \$133.00; World Mission - \$69.00; Catholic Charities - \$5.00; All Souls - \$20.00; Holy Day - \$5.00; Donation - \$30.00; Misc. - \$225.00. Total Collection - \$3,258.54.

THANK YOU to all who sent prayers, cards, well wishes and food during my recent recovery from surgery. Your generosity and concern was greatly appreciated. May God Bless you! *Cel Neiderer*

**Celebrate the Gospel of Life
Knights of Columbus from
“Evangelium Vitae” – Pope St. John Paul the Great**

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the *cause of life*: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly, and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim *the Gospel of life* with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to *accept that Gospel* as a gift ever new, the joy of *celebrating* it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to *bear witness* to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This week’s Gospel follows close behind the Gospel read last Sunday. It is the last of three questions put to Jesus by Jewish religious leaders who are trying to trick Him into saying something that might get Him arrested. This reminds us that the context for today’s reading is the mounting tension between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. The Herodians and the Pharisees asked the first question, which was about taxes. The Sadducees asked the second question, which was about the Resurrection. The third question, considered in today’s Gospel is asked by a Pharisee who asks Jesus about the greatest of the commandments.

The question requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional rules, numbering over six hundred. Adherence to the Mosaic Law, for a devout Jew, is an expression of faithfulness to God’s covenant with Israel. The ranking of the Commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus answers the Pharisees’ question with a two-fold summary. Jesus says that all of the commandments can be summarized in two commandments: love God and love your neighbor. Both of these were central elements of the religious tradition Jesus learned from His Jewish community. Indeed these continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus’ response to His questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor.

Prayer for Our Nation in Preparation for the Presidential Election

God our Father, Giver of Life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving Care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people.

Send us Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation’s leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will.

Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the “culture of death.” Lead into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

<p>JOB OPENING – ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH is in need of MAINTENANCE PERSON beginning Monday, November 9, 2020. The position is part-time Monday-Friday (9AM – 1PM) plus additional hours for special Parish events and snow removal both weekends and weekdays. Please call the office at 539-1632 if you are interested or have additional questions.</p>

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Jean Drop, Verne Esposito, LeAnn Golby, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Margaret Murray, Carl Pavlosky, Cecilia Pribish, 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.

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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, **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; **Sgt. Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, Ginowan, Japan.; **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.

ST. THERESE CHURCH will hold their annual Oktoberfest (Covid Style) and Walk Through Basket Raffle on Saturday, October 24 from 2:00PM – 6:00PM and Sunday, October 25 from 11:00AM until 3:00PM. The menu will include German Potato Salad, German Apple Strudel, Haluski, Piroghi (sold frozen by the dozen), Pigs-in-the-Blanket and Gobs (sold in half dozen or dozen). All food items are TAKE-OUT ONLY, CARSIDE DELIVERY. Walk through and take chances on beautiful theme baskets. Basket drawing will be at 3:00PM on Sunday. Winners will be notified by phone. List of winners will be posted on Facebook.