

**November 29, 2020**  
**First Sunday of Advent**  
**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**  
*St. Francis of Assisi, 120 Barron Avenue*  
*Johnstown, PA 15906*  
*Rectory Phone – 814-539-1632*  
*Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518*  
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**Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632**

**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**

**Men's Club – Gregory Solomon**

**Rosary Society – Cecilia Neiderer**

*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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, DECEMBER 4** 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).

**MEN'S CLUB** will meet on Thursday, December 3 at 7:00PM at the Activity Center. New members are always welcome.

**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet on **Monday, December 14** at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. **Please note the date change due to the Vigil of the Holy Day .**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8** is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and a Holy Day. Mass will be celebrated on Monday, December 7 at 5:30PM and on Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00AM and 5:30PM.

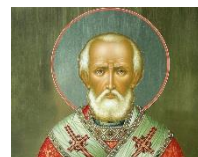
**GOB ICING** will be made on Tuesday, December 8 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, December 9 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and again from 6:00PM until ? All help is greatly appreciated. There will be GOB SALE after Mass on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS** of the Men's Club Thanksgiving Special Ticket: #657 – Cindy Shorto; #658 – Rich Hill; #656 – Abby Naylor. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser.

**MISSALETTES 2020-2021** – 1<sup>st</sup> 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.**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021** are now available for pick up at the rear of the Church. Please – if you know of someone who is unable to pick up their envelopes and you can do so for them – do not hesitate to help by delivering the envelopes to them. Thank you!

**GRAB N' GO CHRISTMAS BAG** – Due to the COVID-19 situation and the limitations to host a Children's Christmas Party this year – we will have available a Grab n' Go Treat bag for the children of the parish up to age 12. In order for us to prepare please use the signup sheet in the Main vestibule. Bags will be distributed the weekend of December 5 & 6 (December 6 is the Feast of St. Nicholas) in the vestibule. **DEADLINE: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29.**



**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for Special Intention for Fr. Clarence Bridges by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

**OPLATEK** is now available at the rear of the Church. Please use the envelopes provided for your donation and place in the candle money box.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK:** Adults 1,525.27; St. Vincent de Paul - \$150.00; Missalettes - \$5.00; Catholic Charities - \$105.02; Holy Day - \$5.00; All Souls - \$10.00; Donation - \$130.00; Misc. - \$79.00. Total Collection - \$2,274.09.

**GIVING TREES** are now located at the rear of the Church. We encourage each of you to consider taking an ornament from one (or all) of the trees. The first tree contains names of children submitted by the Cambria City Mission. Gifts should be wrapped with the ornament attached and returned to the Church or Parish Office no later than **Sunday, December 13, 2020.**

The ornaments on the second tree are for Giant Eagle gift cards that will be distributed to those who need to purchase food items for the holiday season. *The gift cards should be placed in the collection basket (please do not place them under the tree!) or brought to the Parish Office.*

The Gabriel Project Tree has tags with suggestions for gifts for the babies and families being served by the Gabriel Project. Gifts should be returned no later than **Sunday, December 13, 2020.**

*Background on the Gospel Reading*

Today we begin the Season of Advent, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel – Matthew, Mark or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year’s first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary, which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark’s Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord’s return at the end of time and John the Baptist’s preparation for Jesus.

Today’s Gospel is taken from the end of Mark’s Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark’s account of Jesus’ Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the Scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by His Disciples – Peter, James, John, and Andrew – who want details about His prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the Disciples will face.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’ warning to His Disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The Disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in His words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the Disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, show us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

*Stewardship Reflection...*As the Church begins a new liturgical year, we are reminded in today’s Gospel that we are nothing more than servants, stewards of the Master’s possessions, but who do not know when our Master will return. We have been given the responsibility of sharing our gifts in order to build up the Master’s Kingdom. Good stewards know they are accountable and use their gifts to do God’s will.

“The good steward practices, once again, that stewardship truism, ‘Do what you can. Not what you can’t.’ Different situations in the life of our families, our parishes, our communities will call forth different applications of those three trusty pillars of good stewardship: time, talent, treasure.” (*Seven Secrets of Successful Stewards*, Paul Wilke, 2005, Catholic Update, St. Anthony Messenger Press, Cincinnati, Ohio)

Stay awake for opportunities to share your time, talent and treasure! May we be awake and alive in our Faith when He comes again in glory!

**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 Sobecky, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, South Korea; Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; Lt. Col Steven Thomas, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Colin Harrington, US Army, Bethesda, MD; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

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**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.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of souls, Who called the Apostles to be fishers of men, raise up new apostles in Your Holy Church. Teach them that to serve You is to reign: to possess You is to possess all things. Kindle in the hearts of our young people the fire of zeal for souls. Make them eager to spread Your Kingdom on earth. Grant them courage to follow You, Who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life; Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

