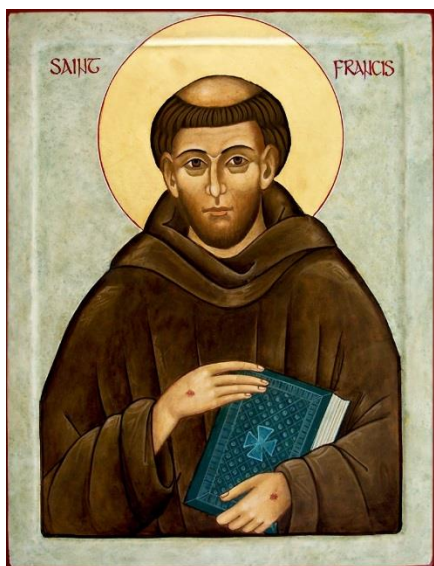


**January 31, 2021**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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**  
*St. Francis of Assisi, 120 Barron Avenue*  
*Johnstown, PA 15906*  
*Rectory Phone – 814-539-1632*  
*Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518*  
*Fax: 814 – 539-5888*  
**Email – [sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net)**  
**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

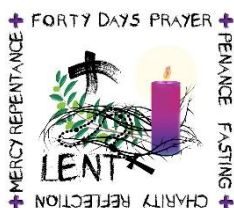
**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet on Monday, February 1 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5** 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).



**FISH FRY** – is scheduled for **Ash Wednesday, February 17**. Due to an aging work force and lack of additional volunteers, the time for the Fish Fry will **change** from 11:00AM – 6:00PM to **2:00PM until 6:00PM for PHONE ORDERS ONLY**. We are still in need of any and all help, especially with breading and dishwashing. PLEASE consider sharing some of your time and talent to keep the Fish Fry up and running. Contact the Parish Office as soon as possible if you are able to help. Many hands make light work!

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** - As you are well aware, because of the pandemic Religious Education has taken a different approach this year. To help facilitate First Reconciliation and First Eucharist a meeting has been scheduled with the children and parents of our First Communion class for **Sunday, February 14, 2021** at the Activity Center immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.



**LENT SCHEDULE** – Mass on Ash Wednesday, February 17 will be celebrated at 12:05PM and 6:30PM. Beginning on Thursday, February 18 daily Mass will be celebrated at 12:05PM with the exception of Tuesday when Mass will be celebrated at 6:15PM and Saturday at 9:00AM. Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday of Lent at 7:00PM. Tentatively, Lenten Lamentations/Divine Mercy will be held on Sundays of Lent at 3:00PM.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2021** are for pick up at the Parish Office Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM. 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!

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK:** Adults 1,733.27; Loose - \$99.00; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$111.00; Candles - \$122.50; St. Vincent - \$311.00; Good Friday - \$200.00; World Mission - \$200.00; Catholic Charities - \$200.00; Retire Priest - \$200.00; Holy Day - \$23.00; First Offering - \$20.00; Donation - \$200.00; Misc - \$350.00; Missalettes - \$20.00. Total Collection - \$3,799.77.

Over the course of time, I have made reference to the importance of a “Prayer Space” in one’s home where you can get away from all the “noises” of the world to encounter the “Sweet Whisperings of God in one’s heart.” Interesting to see what nuns/monks/friars refer to CELL as a similarity to a “Prayer Space.”

*What the Desert Monastics Knew*

Clearly one of the pillars of the spiritual life, as far as the Desert Monastics were concerned, was a time and place for reflection. A **CELL**. A place to which we can retire in order to find our way back to our best ideals, our fullest selves, our life with God. A physical place, not a mental one, where we are truly alone and truly in peace. The **CELL** is the place where clamor and chaos stop at the door. It’s the place where we get back in touch with our best selves. It’s the center of our very own, private, spiritual universe. – from the book *In God’s Holy Light: Wisdom from the Desert Monastics* by Sister Joan Chittister

**GABRIEL PROJECT** – A heartfelt note of gratitude to the parishioners of St. Francis for your ongoing support of the Gabriel Project of St. Francis of Assisi. Your generous monetary contributions and your overwhelming support of the Christmas tag project enabled our ministry to serve over 70 babies and their families with essential items and Christmas presents. May God Bless you richly for your kindness. – *Gale Bala, Volunteer Coordinator*

*Background on the Gospel Reading*

Today’s Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus’ ministry. Jesus and the Disciples that chose to follow Him in last week’s Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus teaches in the Synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus’ teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus’ authority and contrasting it with the scribes’. Early in Mark’s Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus’ preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark’s Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of Him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus’ identity better than His Disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus’ ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of His power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus’ time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but He heals with unique authority and connects His healing activities with the words of His preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the healing work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus’ cure of the possessed man further affirmation of His authority. Jesus’ power to heal gives greater credence to His teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through His words, which are manifested with power in His deeds. Mark’s Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which He healed, Jesus’ fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

*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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, Verne Esposito, LeAnn Golby, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Carol Mangus, 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 Sobbecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Sheila Weppner, Rebecca Woodruff.

**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; **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 Donahay**, 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.