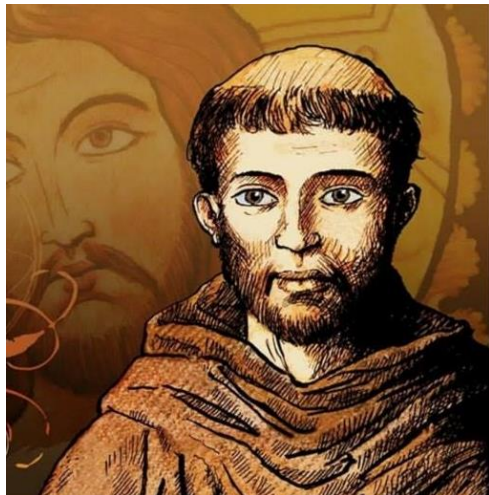


February 28, 2021
Second Sunday of Lent
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Mission Statement: St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic worshipping Community of Faith, dedicated to the concept of putting "Christ first" in our hearts, lives, family and community, with the hope that our world can become a better place and that we can all be made worthy to enter into the Kingdom of God. Our 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@atlanticbbs.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 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

FISH FRY – is scheduled for **FRIDAY, MARCH 5**. 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**. **Orders will be taken on Thursday, March 4 from 9:00AM until 11:00AM and on FRIDAY, March 5 from 10:00AM UNTIL 5:00PM**. 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! **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY WITH THE FISH FRY LAST WEEK!**

MEN'S CLUB meeting will take place on Thursday, March 4 at 7:00PM at the Activity Center. New members are always welcome.

FR. STEVEN FRENIER former Parochial Vicar here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish has been transferred to a rehabilitation center to continue his recovery from COVID-19. Our prayers are with him.



LENT SCHEDULE – 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. Divine Mercy along with Lenten Lamentations and Benediction will be held on Sundays of Lent at **2:30PM (Please note time change)**.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 5 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 12:05PM 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).



CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for Special Intention for Lindsay Weaver by Frank Bazyk.

REMINDER – because of the COVID-19 pandemic, please **DO NOT** bring Religious articles (pamphlets, books, Rosaries, etc.) to the Church. We have to dispose of them for sanitation purposes.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 1,711.29; Loose - \$164.00; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$105.00; Candles - \$127.50; Ash Wednesday - \$317.02; Black & Indian - \$163.00; Catholic Register - \$10.00; Mandeville - \$75.02; First Offering - \$5.00; Donation - \$25.00. Collection - \$2,708.83.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: with the assistance of the Parish Council the Mission Statement here at St. Francis of Assisi has been updated. The statement can be found on the front page of the bulletin.

COMMUNION CALLS TO HOMEBOUND – If you or someone you know would to have the Eucharist brought to them at home please contact Francis Bazyk at 539-4945 to schedule a day and time that you would like to receive Our Lord in Holy Communion.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found both in Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about His Passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each case, Jesus take three of His Disciples – Peter, James, and John – to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among

Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at His Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important Prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus's Disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the Prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed His Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the Disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus Rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from Heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the Disciples to obey Him. This voice from Heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' Baptism. In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the report of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the Disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The Disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The Disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness His Passion and Death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and Death.

Liturgical Reflection for the Year of St. Joseph... The first way to get to know St. Joseph is through reading and praying with the Gospels of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew & Saint Luke. We learn the history of St. Joseph in an indirect way through the story of the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. The actions and facts of St. Joseph's life are revealed through his relationships and roles as the foster father of Jesus and the spouse of Mary.

During this special year in the Catholic Church, the Faithful will have the opportunity to commit themselves "with prayer and good works, to obtain, with the help of St. Joseph, head of the Heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that besiege the contemporary world today." They will be granted what is called a "Plenary Indulgence," a time to repair the sinful relationship that we entered into because of personal sin, even though we have been forgiven. "It is in offering actions and prayers that allow for "a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins." (#1471, Catechism of the Catholic Church).

There is a lengthy list of options named by Pope Francis and the Vatican Committee on Indulgences in addition to the standard obligations. A growing list of pilgrimage opportunities will be offered by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. 2021, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601*

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, Carol Mangus, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Paulette Mirilovich, Margaret Murray, Rowen Ream, Kathy Reddy, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobacky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, 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 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; 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, South Korea; 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.

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.

