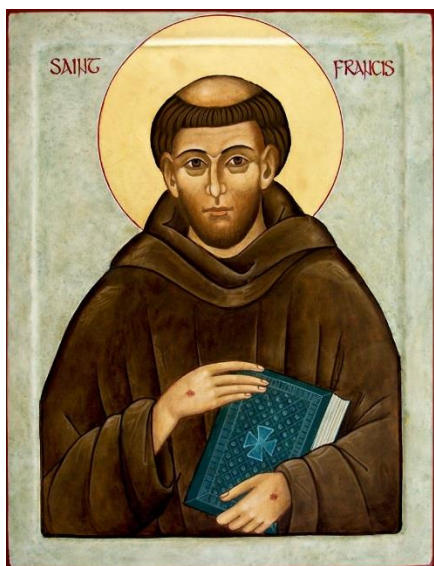


February 7, 2021  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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.

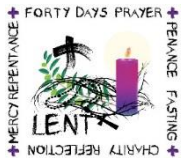
**Rosary Society** – First Monday of the Month – 6:00PM in the Church

**Men's Club** – First Thursday of the Month – 7:00PM in the Activity Center

**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**. **Orders will be taken on Tuesday, February 16 from 9:00AM until 11:00PM and on Wednesday, February 17 from 10:00AM UNTIL 5:00PM**. We are still in need of any and all help, especially with brooding 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!

**FR. STEVEN FRENIER** former Parochial Vicar here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish remains in the ICU but is improving. The Province Health Administrator gave the hospital consent to insert a central line to make blood draws and make medications easier to administer. He is still on a ventilator at 45% oxygen. They will try weaning him from the ventilator and see how he does.. All the friars of St. Mark Friary, Boynton Beach, Fl where Fr. Steven is assigned have tested positive for COVID19. Our prayers are with them.

**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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK:** Adults 2,211.64; Loose - \$129.00; Children - \$8.00 Monthly - \$195.00; Candles - \$99.00; St. Vincent - \$240.00; Missalettes - \$16.00; Holy Day - \$15.00; First Offering - \$5.00; Black & Indian - \$5.00; Catholic Register - \$15.00; Mandeville - \$5.00; Ash Wednesday - \$20.00; Donation - \$200.00. Total Collection - \$3,163.64.

#### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

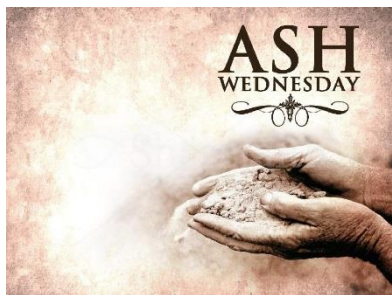
Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and His Disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to Him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew His identity and would have revealed it to those who were present. On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for Him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' Disciples – they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to His Disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed Himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the Disciples found Him, He told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in His prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and direction in our lives.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**



During this time of pandemic, the Holy See has modified the method of distributing ashes as contained in the following Note from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued on January 12, 2021: The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with Holy Water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general” “Repent and believe in the Gospel,” or “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.”

The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him, or if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything. Although not mentioned in the NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY, in addition to the Priest, a Deacon is an Ordinary Minister for the distribution of ashes. Lay persons, as Extraordinary Ministers, may assist in the distribution of ashes that are already blessed by a Priest/Deacon either at Mass or by taking them to the sick or shut-ins. Also, ashes may be blessed and distributed for groups outside of Mass according to the format described in the *Book of Blessings*, n. 1656-1678.

*The most important variance as indicated by the NOTE from the Congregation for divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments is the sprinkling of ashes on the top of each person’s head. This is to avoid the physical contact which occurs when the ashes are placed on the forehead in the Sign of the Cross.*

*In offering instruction to the people concerning the distribution of ashes in this manner, it would be helpful to explain that this is common manner that is used in Europe and elsewhere for centuries.*

**SUPPORT FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION** – Included with the bulletin is an envelope for your gift to the Catholic Education Fund. A gift to the Catholic Education Fund will assist any financially qualified student in the local area with their cost to attend the Catholic School of their choice. Your gift also supports the mission of Catholic Schools to inspire students to live the Gospel message and become the Christian leaders of tomorrow. You may choose a specific school to receive your donation and place the envelope in the collection basket or send to the address on the envelope. May God Bless you for your generosity.

***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 Czynnik, 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 Sobecky, 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 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.

