

April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
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@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 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

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA and **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** will be prayed 15 minutes before all Masses and any other Liturgical events concluding on Saturday, April 10. Celebration of Divine Mercy will take place on Sunday, April 11 at 2:30PM.

PLEASE NOTE: Beginning Monday, April 5 the Daily Mass Schedule will return to 9:00AM – Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tuesday Mass will remain at 6:15PM with the Novena to St. Anthony.

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED Thursday, April 1 through Monday, April 5.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, April 5 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Parents and students of the First Communion Class will meet on Sunday, April 11 in the Church immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.

THANK YOU to all contributed in any way to the success of the Lent Fish Fries and Gob making. Your dedication and hard work was admirable and greatly appreciated! May God Bless you for your efforts! The next Fish Fry is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 14.

CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for Successful Surgery and Recovery for Lindsay Weaver by Frank Bazyk.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 2,439.27; Loose - \$122.00; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$55.00; Candles - \$4.50; Flowers - \$339.02; Easter - \$185.00; Black & Indian - \$5.00; Mother's Day - \$5.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00; Holy Thursday - \$40.00; Good Friday - \$35.00; Donation - \$45.00; Misc. - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$3,439.79.

FR. STEVEN FRENIER is on the road to recovery and would like to thank everyone for their prayers while he was battling COVID-19. May God Bless You!

For Uplifting Reading During the Easter Season
Resurrection Stories

Gospel of St. Matthew:

Chapter 27:62-66

Chapter 28:1-20

Gospel of St. Mark:

Chapter 15:42-47

Chapter 16:1-20

Gospel of St. Luke:

Chapter 23:50-56

Chapter 24:1-49

Gospel of St. John:

Chapter 19:38-42

Chapter 20:1-31

Appendix of the Gospel of St. John:

Chapter 21:1-15





Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the Disciples' discovery of the empty Tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had Risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is Faith in Jesus and His Resurrection. Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty Tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the Tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's

Gospel does not describe an appearance of Angels at the Tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the Tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved Disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' Body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved Disciple race to the Tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved Disciple arrives first but does not enter the Tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the Tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' Body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the Body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty Tomb and the burial cloths, the Disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes Him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the Disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through His appearances to them. Our Easter Faith is based on their witness to both the empty Tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus – in His appearances and in His gift of the Holy Spirit.

Liturgical Reflection Year of St. Joseph...Pope Pius IX Names St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.

"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but he knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His Name Jesus." (Mt 1:20-25)

The earliest traces of public recognition of the sanctity of St. Joseph are to be found in the East. His Feast, was kept by the Coptics as early as the beginning of the fourth century. The Feast of "Joseph the Carpenter" is entered, on July 20, in one of the old Coptic Calendars of the eighth and ninth century. In the West the name of the foster-father of Our Lord (*Nutritor Domini*) appears in local martyrologies of the ninth and tenth centuries. (<https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08504a.htm>)

In 1870 on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. Pius IX recognized, along with the world Bishops, that they had sought the intercession of St. Joseph often during a time of great persecution and turmoil in the Church in Italy and around the world. "Because of the sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful Servant, the Church has always most highly honored and lauded the Most Blessed Joseph next after his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has implored his intercession in all her great necessities." In the same declaration, March 19 was designated as the double Feast Day of the Solemnity of Joseph, the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. <https://stjsa.org/pope-pius-ix-and-st-joseph>. 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, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Jim Dadey, Verne Esposito, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Carol Mangus, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Paulette Mirilovich, Margaret Murray, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Sheila Weppner.

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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 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;; **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. **There will be no Adoration on the First Friday of April which is Good Friday.**

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY

Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, You called Your Priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow Your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling His commandment of charity and building up His Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of Your servant prompt us to greater confidence in Your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that You glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of Your Holy Will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present...Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
He is Truly Risen!*