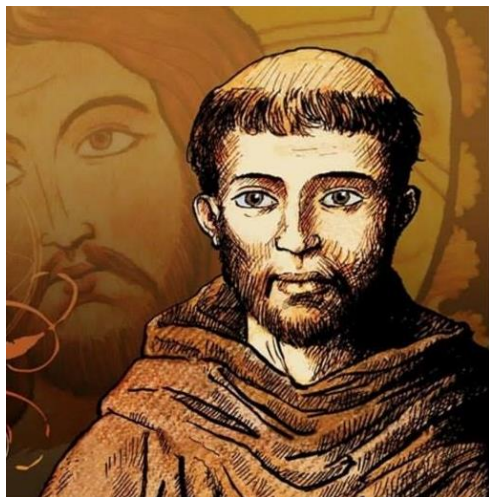


March 14, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Lent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@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

FISH FRY – is scheduled for **FRIDAY, MARCH 19**. 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 18 from 9:00AM until 11:00AM and on FRIDAY, March 19 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!**

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, March 16 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be packed on Wednesday, March 17 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER: If you are able and willing to assist at the Liturgies for Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday) please use sign up sheets that are located in the Main Vestibule.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REMINDER: A meeting with the parents and children of the First Communion class will take place on Sunday, March 14 at the Activity Center immediately following the 9:30AM Mass.



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)**. Mass on Monday, March 29 will be at 9:00AM.

CANDLES (36 available) in honor of the **Feast of St. Joseph, Friday, March 19** will be located in front of the Main Altar. Envelopes for suggested donation of \$5.00 are on the table at the rear of the Church.

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. **Also, please DO NOT leave any Missalettes or prayer books in the pews or book racks.**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 2,895.79; Loose - \$88.00; Children - \$16.00; Monthly - \$1,123.02; Candles - \$230.00; Easter - \$15.00; Flowers - \$130.00; Donation - \$20.00; Good Friday - \$15.00; Holy Thursday - \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$10.00; Ash Wednesday - \$15.00; First Offering - \$15.00; Catholic Relief - \$30.00. Collection - \$4,612.81.

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.

OUR CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE – *Be A Disciple of Hope* – Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties – and one of those holy duties is to support the Church. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope to life through their time and talent in serving the community through the 14 ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive. If you didn't bring your commitment card this weekend, please bring it next weekend or you may make an online gift at www.diocesaj.org/giving.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the Liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from John's Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus' reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night. Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today's Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses' prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through His Death and Resurrection.

The second part of today's Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus' words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John's Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John's reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the Light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News, it is the reason for our rejoicing in this Season of Lent and throughout our lives.

Liturgical Reflection for Year of St. Joseph... March 19, 2021 is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to the Gospels, Joseph was a skilled craftsman and a descendant of King David. Joseph, learning of Mary's pregnancy with a child that was not his, and under penalty of the Law she would be put to death, deciding to quietly dissolve the marriage "as he was a righteous man." Told in his dreams by an Angel of God that he was to take Mary as his wife and make her child as his own. "Joseph did as the Angel commanded him, he took her as his wife." (Matthew 1:19-25)

On this special day of the Church year many parishes will offer a banquet of blessings called the St. Joseph Table. If your parish does not celebrate this tradition, or is not celebrating this year, consider making an offering of food donation to your local food bank or parish collection. 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601.

Stewardship Reflection... The Lord's words to Samuel about who should become the next King of Israel cut right to the heart of what matters in God's eyes, "man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." We often embrace the misconception that status and appearance are what is most important in life. Yet, God clearly states that it is our hearts that matter most.

Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out and be clearly seen as we reflect God's dream. What can we do so our deeds will bring light to the world in those around us? And how do we cultivate hearts worthy of God?

It starts in prayer, giving God undivided attention each day. Through this week set time aside for our Lord, He will work on our hearts so that they will become more like Him. (*Stewardship Bulletin Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, February 15, 2021)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, Jim Dadey, 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 Sobbecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, 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 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.

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

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.