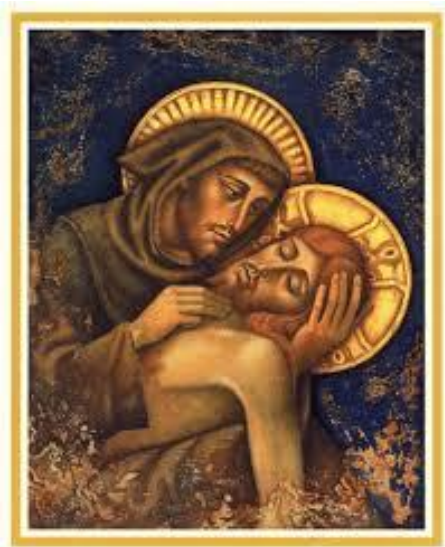


March 21, 2021
Fifth Sunday of Lent
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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
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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 26**. 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 25 from 9:00AM until 11:00AM and on FRIDAY, March 26 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! There will NOT be a Fish Fry on Good Friday.**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER: We are still in need of the following: Holy Thursday – Altar Server. 9:30AM & 11:00AM Mass on Easter Sunday – Lector and Altar Server. Thank you to those have already volunteered to participate in these solemn Liturgies.

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)**.



SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK:

Sunday, March 28 – Exposition of the be Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Lamentations, Benediction – 2:30PM

Monday, March 29 – Mass – 9:00AM – there will NOT be a 12:05PM Mass.

Thursday, April 1 – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00PM, adoration until 10:00PM

Friday, April 2 – Tenebrae – 9:00AM, Commemoration of the Lord's Passion – 3:00PM, Stations of the Cross – 7:00PM

Saturday, April 3 – Tenebrae – 9:00AM, Blessing of Baskets – 12Noon (Activity Center), Great Vigil of Easter – 8:00PM

Sunday, April 4 – The Resurrection of the Lord – 7:30AM, 9:30AM & 11:00AM.

****YOU MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS FOR ANY MASS ON EASTER SUNDAY!** Please call the Parish Office Mon-Thurs. 9AM-3PM to make a reservation. This due to social distancing and the possible overflow of people to attend (in person) Mass on Easter Sunday.**

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health for Jim Dadey by Sister, Bea and Brother, Tom.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 2,425.79; Loose - \$132.00; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$70.00; Candles - \$84.50; Flowers - \$40.00; Mandeville - \$35.00; Ash Wednesday - \$19.00; Catholic Relief - \$69.00; Home Mission - \$10.00; Donation - \$20.00; Misc. - \$202.00. Total Collection - \$3,117.29.

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.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the Passion Narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead – an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th Chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted His Suffering, Death, and Resurrection and prepared His Disciples to believe in the salvation that His Death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that His dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be His Disciples must follow His example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of His Disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the Agony in the Garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the Garden to Gethsemane before His arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question He raises when asking God to save Him from His impending death. After announcing His conviction that it is for this purpose that He came, a voice from Heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' Baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration – events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel – affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in Him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Through His Death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

Liturgical Reflection for Year of St. Joseph... Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father

During this Special Year of St. Joseph you may want to enter into the 33 day prayer to consecrate yourself to St. Joseph. What does it mean for a person? It is basically you acknowledging that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy, you make a formal act of entrustment in prayer to your spiritual father. St. Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

Father Donald Calloway, MIC has written a book, *Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of our Spiritual Father*, to assist you. The prayer can be made in a group or by a single person. Based on the Litany to St. Joseph and his 24 different titles, a series of special prayers and quotes of holy men and women is followed by a reflection on a wonder of St. Joseph. You are bound to be enlightened by your broadened sense and appreciation of the "silent St. Joseph" and find a trusting companion and protector in him and the entire Holy Family. 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... You are like a grain of wheat. Keeping your time, talent, and treasure to yourself yields no harvest. With God's Grace we can die to ourselves and bear fruit for His Kingdom. When you live for others, the evangelizing mission of Jesus Christ is revealed. Is God calling you to be charitable in a specific way this week? We are called to detach from our own desires and entrust our lives to all that God has in store for us. As this Lenten season comes to a close, let us strive to partake in the richness God has offered to us through His covenant by more faithfully living out our call to be Disciples of Christ, with frequent reception of the Sacraments, and heartfelt service to our families and neighbors.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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.

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

THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION will be having a Spaghetti Drive-By on Sunday, March 21 from 10AM to 1:30PM at the church hall parking lot. Meal includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll & dessert all for only \$8.00.

ST. THERESE CHURCH will be selling fresh but frozen Potato & Cheese piroghi Friday, March 26 at their Social Hall from 10:00AM to 12:00PM and 4:00PM to 6:00PM. NO phone orders will be taken. First come, first served. The cost is \$7.00 per dozen.