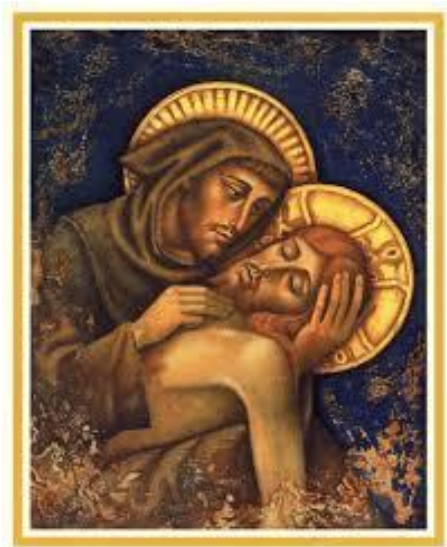


March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +LeAnn Golby and +Rayford Horner who were laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.



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 is due to social distancing and the possible overflow of people to attend (in person) Mass on Easter Sunday.**

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA and **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** will prayed 15 minutes before all Masses and any other Liturgical events beginning with Good Friday and concluding on Saturday, April 10.

MEN’S CLUB will meet on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31** at 7:00PM at the Activity Center. New members are always welcome. Please note the date change!

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 2,282.27; Loose - \$86.00; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$756.00; Candles - \$284.00; Flowers - \$20.00; Catholic Relief - \$20.00; Donation - \$20.00; Misc. - \$300.00. Total Collection - \$3,778.27.

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!

Stewardship Reflection... Jesus’ mission as a steward was to fulfill His Father’s mission. He humbly and obediently submitted to that mission for each one of us. We, too, play a unique role in our Father’s mission. It simply begins with the witness of our lives. Jesus chose the path of service of humility, and ultimate sacrifice and of love. He gave us everything in that moment. How can we share our gratitude with the Gracious Giver?

We can bring service, humility, sacrifice and love into all areas of our lives: our homes by the way we treat our family members, into our Church by the way we welcome and serve our neighbors and in our workplace by the way we speak and act. Following Jesus is the work of a lifetime. No matter our state in life, we are all called to be faithful stewards through prayer and service.

As we begin this Holy Week let us take some time to reflect on the Life of Christ as He is our model Steward, and may we strive to imitate Him daily. (*Stewardship Bulletin Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, March 1, 2021)

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum* – three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today’s Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted “Hosanna!” This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' Passion and Death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout His public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for His Death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin – the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders – He was charged with blasphemy, citing His threat to the Temple. When He was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented His crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be King of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' Disciples are rarely models of Faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue His ministry after His Death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' Passion and Death. At the Last Supper, the Disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their Faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other Disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over His impending fate while His Disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the Disciples were absent during Jesus' Passion and Death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the Passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' Death. In Mark's telling of the Passion narrative, Jesus understood His Death to have been preordained, and He accepted this Death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood His anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of His burial, and He announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted His betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At His arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before His accusers. After He was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until His final cry from the Cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that He was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in His Death on the Cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' Passion and Death. As we meditate on the Cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of Faith that Jesus, in His obedient suffering and dying, revealed Himself to us as God's Son.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams; Rose Blaschak, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, Jim Dadey, Verne Esposito, 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 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 Donahay**, **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.

