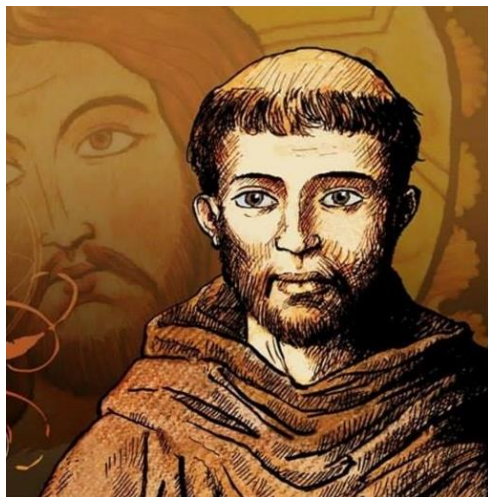


March 7, 2021  
*Third Sunday of Lent*  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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](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 **FRIDAY, MARCH 12**. 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 11 from 9:00AM until 11:00AM and on FRIDAY, March 12 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!**

**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)**.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** will burn this week for Improved Health of Paulette Mirilovich by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

**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 2,191.35; Loose - \$146.00; Children - \$18.00; Monthly - \$155.00; Candles - \$24.00; Easter - \$5.00; Flowers - \$18.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00; Ash Wednesday - \$38.00; Mandeville - \$13.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$5.00; Donation - \$55.00. Collection - \$2,673.35.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** with the assistance of the Parish Council the Mission Statement here at St. Francis of Assisi has been updated. The statement can be found on the front page of the bulletin.

**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*** – launches today throughout our Diocese. The Annual Catholic Ministries Drive supports 14 ministries through which people are accompanied on their journey. There are so many gifted and generous laypersons in our Diocese who share their time and talent to support our Catholic ministries. Without their help and your help, we could not fulfill our mission. This year, more so than others, our world, our nation, our communities, our parishes, and our families need tangible expressions of hope. Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives this week and return your pledge card in next weekend's offertory. The year 2021 is a time for everyone to BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE! Our goal this year is \$18,364.00. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

#### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the Temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshippers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman Emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public

ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after His first miracle at the wedding Feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflection of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted His Death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of His authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

**INCLUDED WITH THE BULLETIN** is a Nine Day Novena in Honor of St. Joseph which begins on **TUESDAY, MARCH 10** and concludes on **THURSDAY, MARCH 18**. You will find two versions, one longer than the other. Choose the one that suits you! **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.

**LENTEN BRACELETS** - we have a limited supply of Lenten bracelets available for your use. Bracelets can be found in the main vestibule. Please take only one per person!

*Stewardship Reflection...*In the cleansing of the Temple Jesus initiated something new. No longer was worship a matter of offering sacrifice in the Temple, nor was fidelity a matter of following the Law. In the Gospel of John we read that Jesus, "was well aware of what was in man's heart." Sin causes people to turn in on themselves; to grow accustomed to conducting relationships not by the standards of generous stewardship, but by the calculus of self-interest: "What's in it for me?" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*; USCCB, 1992) Do you rely on God's signs and wisdom or those of the world? Be a sign of Christ's presence in the world today by offering your presence to someone in need. Pray that you may become a better steward of God's wisdom and not your own. Begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**DON'T FORGET....** To turn your clocks ahead one hour! Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14.

#### **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 Sobacky, 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 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.