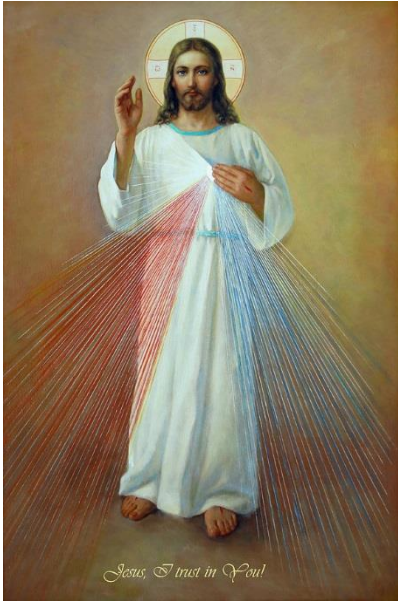


April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Rose Blaschak who was laid to rest last week. Merciful God receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

CELEBRATION OF DIVINE MERCY will take place on Sunday, April 11 at 2:30PM with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet 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. Please keep in your prayers the children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, April 24: *Jase Billow-Berchick, Emma Kmetz, Avery Luther, Faith Meredith, Nicholas Mikula, Theresa Rovon, Natalie Wojno.* May God Bless them as they prepare to receive Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1.

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, April 13 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be packed on Wednesday, April 14 from 8:00AM until ? Gobs WILL NOT be packed on Wednesday evening! All help is greatly appreciated.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week In Thanksgiving by Carol Mangus.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults -,4,224.27; Loose - \$78.00; Children - \$28.00; Monthly - \$576.02; Easter - \$2,803.02; Flowers - \$35.00; Candles - \$117.00; First Offering - \$2.00; Ash Wednesday - \$10.00; Catholic Home Mission - \$10.00; Holy Thursday - \$227.00; Good Friday - \$309.00; Donation - \$305.00; Misc. - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$8,874.31.

THE HOUR OF GREAT MERCY

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His Death on the Cross.

At three o'clock, implore My Mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great Mercy. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion (*Diary, 1320*).

As often as you hear the clock strike the third hour, immerse yourself completely in My Mercy, adoring and glorifying it; invoke its omnipotence for the whole world, and particularly for poor sinners; for at that moment Mercy was opened wide for every soul. In this hour you can obtain everything for yourself and for others for the asking; it was the hour of Grace for the whole world – Mercy triumphed over justice. (*1572*) My daughter, try your best to make the Stations of the Cross in this hour, provided that your duties permit it; and if you are not able to make the Stations of the Cross, then at least step into the Chapel for a moment and adore, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, My Heart, which is full of Mercy; and should you be unable to step into the Chapel, immerse yourself in prayer there where you happen to be, if only for a very brief instant. (*1572*)

From these detailed instructions, it's clear that Our Lord wants us to turn our attention to His Passion at the three o'clock hour to whatever degree our duties allow, and He wants us to ask for His Mercy.

In Genesis 18:16-32, Abraham begged God to reduce the conditions necessary for Him to be merciful to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Here, Christ Himself offers a reduction of conditions because of the varied demands of our life's duties, and He begs us to ask, even in the smallest way, for His Mercy, so that He will be able to pour His Mercy upon us all.

We may not be able to make the Stations or adore Him in the Blessed Sacrament, but we can all mentally pause for a "brief instant," think of His total abandonment at the hour of agony, and say a short prayer such as "Jesus, Mercy," or "Jesus, for the sake of Your Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the Lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the Resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to His Disciples after His Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the Disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the Risen Jesus, she did not recognize Him until He spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the Disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in His Resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; He appeared to the Disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the Disciples could still touch the marks of His Crucifixion. In today's Gospel, Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends His Disciples. He gives His Disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' words to His Disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the Grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting Disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the first Disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, Who was Crucified and buried, appeared to His Disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus Who appeared to His Disciples after His Death is indeed the same Jesus Who was Crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus Who was raised is the same Jesus Who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

Liturgical Reflection Year of St. Joseph...150th Anniversary of Naming St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church - Joseph was warned in a dream that Herod sought to kill the Child. He fled with his family to Egypt. In Egypt "parents and Child remained until after Herod's death." (Mt 2:13; 19). One hundred and fifty years after Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, on December 8, 1870, Pope Francis noted the anniversary on December 8, 2020, by dedicating an entire year to the Saint. As Pius IX and the entire Church were undergoing great darkness in the world, all were entrusted to the providence of God in 1870 and St. Joseph. Moving forward to the 21st century, we look at how the Church is again endangered with persecution, troubled by sin and evil, and under attack for her sovereignty and pro-life stance. And who do we turn to? We turn to St. Joseph, because he remains our patron in these dark times too. <https://ncregister.com/news/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph>. 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, *Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center*, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601

MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS TO BE TELEVISED – Remember your loved ones on Sunday, May 30, 2021 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00AM on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcast that night at 9:00PM on the Atlantic Broadband Channel 9. All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office at 814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org. When registering, please give your name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away. Deadline to register is May 24, 2021. Sponsored by the Family Life Office.

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, 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.

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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.

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.

