

April 18, 2021
Third Sunday of Easter
**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
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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 REMEMBER the family and friends of +Derrick Paige who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the children who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Saturday, April 24: *Jase Bellow-Berchick, Emma Kmetz, Avery Luther, Faith Meredith, Nicholas Mikula, Theresa Rován, Natalie Wojno.* May God Bless them as they prepare to receive Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1.


PRAY ALSO FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: *Hailey Anderson, Austin Golby and Madyson Smith* who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, May 6 at the hands of Bishop Mark Barchak.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, May 3 at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

MEN'S CLUB meeting will take place on Thursday, May 6 at 7:00PM at the Activity Center. New members are always welcome.

FRIDAY, MAY 7 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the main vestibule of the Church. There should be at least two adorers for each time slot. (This is also a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament – adorers adore and protect).



 **FISH FRY** is scheduled for Friday, May 14 from **2:00PM until 6:00PM for PHONE ORDERS ONLY**. Orders will be taken on Thursday, May 6 from 9:00AM until 11:00AM and on FRIDAY, May 7 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 FRIES DURING LENT.**

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Improved Health of Jim Dadey by brother Tom and sister Bea.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults 1,918.27; Loose - \$102.00; Children - \$8.00; Monthly - \$570.00; Easter - \$287.00; Candles - \$80.00; Holy Thursday - \$35.00; Good Friday - \$40.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00; Catholic Mission - \$5.00; Donation - \$105.00. Total Collection - \$3,155.27.

OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT – There will be an opening for the position of Parish Secretary at St. Francis of Assisi Church. This position needs to be filled prior to June 30, 2021. Tentative hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00AM – 3:00PM. If you or someone you know is interested please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Anthony Francis as soon as possible. All clearances are required and must be obtained before employment begins.

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 Barchak 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.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the Third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearance to His Disciples following His Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to His Disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the Disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets His Disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The Disciples have witnessed the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift – forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the Disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience His Resurrected Body with their senses, to look and to touch. The figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of crucifixion. Although the Disciples cannot forget His suffering and death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of His identity and of His Resurrected Body, Jesus eats with His Disciples. The Disciples *have known Jesus best through the meals that He has shared with them.* Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with His Disciples after His Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, He recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after His Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with His Disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about Him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions His Disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the Disciples, we are sent to announce the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

Liturgical Reflection Year of St. Joseph... St. Paul and the Church's devotion to St. Joseph – "After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Child, why have You treated us like this?" Look, Your father and I have been searching for You in great anxiety. Then He went down with them to Nazareth and was obedient to them." (Lk 2:46-49)

Pope St. John Paul the Great speaks of the Church's devotion to St. Joseph: "This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to *evangelization* in the world and to *re-evangelization* in those lands and nations where Religion and the Christian life were formerly flourishing and are now put to a hard test."

"Besides trusting in Joseph's sure protection, the Church also trusts in his noble example, which transcends all individual states of life and serves as a model for the entire Christian community, whatever the condition and duties of each of its members may be." *Homily of Pope St. John Paul the Great, Solemnity of St. Joseph, 19, March, 1988.*

WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

The Community of Believers kept adding more and more men & women to this new community of THE WAY. The GOOD NEWS was spreading like wild fire all throughout the Mediterrean Basin of the known world in the years following the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ. The Apostles were following the instructions of Jesus: GO OUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD AND BAPTIZE ALL PEOPLES & NATIONS – BAPTIZE THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT. Do you have a story to tell about your conversion to Catholicism? Are you willing to share that story? Your name can be revealed or you may remain anonymous. Please send your story to me (Fr. Anthony Francis) and I will be honored to share your story with the Parishioners of our parish and those who visit our website.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Doreen Chiodo, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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 Sobbecky, 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 Guarno, 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.

SWISS STEAK DRIVE BY – The Church of the Transfiguration will be having a Swiss Steak Drive-By Dinner at 201 Third Street on Sunday, April 25th from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. Dinner includes Swiss Steak, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, salad, roll w/butter and dessert

