

May 16, 2021
Seventh 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
Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518
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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.

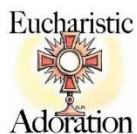
Rosary Society – First Monday of the Month – 6:00PM in the Church

Men's Club – First Thursday of the Month – 7:00PM in the Activity Center – No meeting during summer months

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED Tuesday, May 18. (Primary Elections)

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the Fish Fry last week. May God continue to Bless you for all your efforts. This is the last Fish Fry until fall.

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, May 25 beginning at 7:00AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, May 26 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated. There will be a Gob Sale on Saturday, May 29 from 9:00AM until Noon at the Activity Center.



FRIDAY, JUNE 4 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. A new Signup sheet is 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

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet Monday, June 7 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

SAVE THE DATES: Sunday, Aug. 1 – Parish Picnic, Lorain Boro Park; Thursday, Aug. 19 – Trip to Sight & Sound – Queen Esther. More information to come.

LOOKING AHEAD - St. Francis of Assisi Parish was established in 1922 as a Slovak ethnic Parish in the West End of Johnstown, PA. The 1st Mass of the Parish was celebrated December 24, 1922. The present Parish Council is in the process of planning a 100th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, October 2, 2022 (time to be determined) with a Mass celebrated by (Bishop Mark???) followed by an anniversary dinner. The question is: are you willing to assist the planning committee? If so, please contact the Parish Office at 539-1632. More information to follow in the coming weeks.



MEN'S CLUB will not meet during the summer months. The next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 2 at 7:00PM. Have a wonderful summer!

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +Barbara Golojch by son Bernie.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK: Adults - \$2,497.28; Loose - \$91.00; Children - \$13.00; Monthly - \$751.00; Candles - \$263.25; Mother's Day - \$447.00; St. Vincent - \$40.00; Pentecost - \$10.00; Holy Day - \$15.00; Cemetery - \$20.00; Donation - \$100.00. Total Collection - \$4,247.53

REMINDER: Deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday at Noon.

SUNDAY MARKET@CAMBRIA CITY – May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, October 24 – Emerich Place, 512 Chestnut Street. After an amazing inaugural year, we are excited to bring back the Sunday Market series back to Cambria City in 2021. This year we have renamed the Market Series, added an additional Sunday and moved the location to Emerich Place, 512 Chestnut St. These changes will allow the Sunday Markets to accommodate vendors and visitors in a larger area which is conducive to following pandemic related and gathering regulations in a more productive, safe and viable manner. Sundays are traditionally when family and friends gather to reconnect and share their lives with each other. The Sunday Markets have been the perfect time for this and we are already looking forward to another year of Sundays filled with great food, shopping, music, friendship and community.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the Seventh Sunday of Easter, we always read from the seventeenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter of John's Gospel comes at the conclusion of Jesus' farewell discourse delivered to the Disciples at the Last Supper. This entire chapter is a prayer by Jesus, commending Himself to the Father and expressing His care and concern for His Disciples. At the end of this prayer, Jesus and His Disciples depart for the garden, and Jesus is arrested. Several important themes appear in this prayer. First, Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Himself and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the One Who preexisted with the Father and as the One sent by the Father to do His work on earth. In today's reading, we hear Jesus include all His Disciples in this union with the Father. We are reminded that Christ is the source of Christian unity. Through Christ, we are united with one another and with God our Father. In this prayer, Jesus describes part of His mission in the language of protection. He has protected those who were given to Him by the Father. In this we hear echoes of the dualism that is reflected throughout John's Gospel. Beginning with the opening chapter the Evangelist John has presented Jesus' mission on earth in the context of a cosmic struggle between good and evil, represented by light and darkness. In Jesus' presence, His Disciples have been protected from Satan. Now that Jesus is returning to the Father, He prays that His Disciples will continue to be protected from the evil one. We can't help but note here the echoes of the prayer that Jesus taught His Disciples, the Lord's Prayer.



We also see in this chapter the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the Disciples. The Disciples are in the world, but they do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. As Jesus' teaching and ministry was a source of consternation for some, Jesus knows that the world may not accept His Disciples with open arms. Again, we hear echoes to John's theme that salvation is worked out through the cosmic battle between light and darkness. The world, according to John, prefers the darkness. Yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness. Reading this prayer of Jesus during the Easter Season, through the lens of His Resurrection, we know that the Light of Christ has overcome the darkness of sin and death in our world. In the opening line of this prayer, we hear Jesus pray that His Disciples will be kept in the name that He was given by God. We know that the salvation is given to us in the Name of Jesus, and that His Name – "God saves" – announces His mission on our behalf.

Families and the Gospel...May 16, 2021 – John 17:11-19 – Jesus was worried about His Disciples and He turned to prayer. No matter how much time we spent trying to "guard and protect" our children, each day they become less dependent on us and we must let go and let God. Prayer and parenting go together.

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 (*make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKS to Cindy Shorto who shared her beautiful story of conversion. Are you willing to share your story of conversion? Each story of conversion is a special encounter with the Holy Spirit. Please share your story.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Doreen Chiodo, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Jim Dadey, Verne Esposito, Caleb Herdman, Alicia Junghans, 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.

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 Rovon 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.

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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.

STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST DINNER – Church of the Transfiguration, Sunday, May 23 from 10:00AM – 1:30PM. Dinner includes: Stuffed Chicken Breast, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, roll & butter and dessert for \$10.00

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION – Gob Sale, orders due Monday, June 7, 2021. Cost is \$1.25/gob, \$7.50/half dozen, or \$15.00/dozen. Call Irene Cristoff at 814-322-4915 or Andy Solomon at 814-322-3287.