

May 23, 2021  
*Pentecost 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*  
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**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 – No meeting during summer months

**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. Gobs will be sold after the Masses on Saturday, May 29 & Sunday, May 30.

**PARISH OFFICE** will be CLOSED Monday, May 31 for the Memorial Day Holiday.



**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 1<sup>st</sup> Mass of the Parish was celebrated December 24, 1922. The present Parish Council is in the process of planning a 100<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEK:** Adults - \$2,542.25; Loose - \$93.00; Children - \$9.00; Monthly - \$240.00; Candles - \$95.25; Mother's Day - \$15.00; St. Vincent - \$10.00; Pentecost - \$10.00; Holy Day - \$184.00; Cemetery - \$10.00; Father's Day - \$10.00; Misc. – 206.00. Total Collection - \$3,424.50.

**REMINDER:** Deadline for bulletin announcements is Wednesday at Noon.

**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.

**NEEDED:** In order for the Fish Fry to continue in the fall a new coordinator is needed. The Fish Fry is a very important fund raiser as well as an event for the entire community. If you are willing to accept this task please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible so planning for the fall may begin.

**HOLY HOUR PLANNED ON EVE OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION** – The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown is joyfully preparing for the ordination of two men to the Diocesan Priesthood later this month. Bishop Mark L. Bartchak will ordain Deacon Mark Groeger and Deacon Michael Pleva on May 29 at 10:00AM at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. There will be a Eucharistic Holy Hour to offer prayers for Deacons Groeger and Pleva on May 28 at 6:00PM at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, 301 Spruce St., Hollidaysburg. All are welcome. Prayers will also be offered for our current Priests and seminarians, and for future seminarians. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available.

#### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to His Disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is we who

know that after His Death, Jesus fulfilled His promise to send to His Disciples a helper, an Advocate, Who would enable them to be His witnesses throughout the world.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun: “As the Father has sent Me, so I send you.”

He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples and sends them to continue His work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus’ act of breathing the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles mirrors God’s act of breathing life into Adam. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for “spirit” can also be translated as “breath.” This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church’s sacramental life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the mercy of God through the forgiveness of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

### **St. Joseph, Protector of the Church, pray for us.**

According to historical theologian, Fr. Joseph F. Chorpensing, “The name Joseph means ‘a son that grows’ and in Hebrew this refers to a beautiful tree, because beneath this tree...Mary and Jesus were protected and sheltered.

Joseph is told by an Angel in a dream, “Arise, and take the child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee, For Herod will seek the Child to destroy him.” (Mt 2:13) After returning to his own country, he led a hidden life in the tiny and obscure village of Nazareth of Galilee. [1]

Joseph then nurtured his foster Son, Jesus, and protected Him during His childhood. Because of Joseph’s protection of his foster Son and of Mary, we consider him to be the protector of the Catholic Church.

*“O God, Who in Your inexpressible providence were pleased to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of the most holy Mother of Your Son, grant, we pray, that we, who revere him as our protector on earth, may be worthy of his Heavenly intercessions. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.”* (Votive Mass of St. Joseph) Chorpensing, Joseph, O.S.F.S., *Just Man Husband of Mary, Guardian of Christ; An anthology of Readings from Jeronimo Gracian’s Summary of the Excellencies of St. Joseph*, (1597), Phila., St. Joseph’s University Press, 1993. Pope Francis Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, December 8, 2020, 1. 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, *Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center*, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601.

*Families and the Gospel...May 23, 2021: Pentecost Sunday (John 15:26-27; 16:12-15) Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family and He expects us to use this personal gift. Let us turn-off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives and let the Holy Spirit “guide us to the truth.”*

**SUMMER TRADITION RETURNS** – Outdoor Masses will be celebrated at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto every Sunday night at 7:00PM beginning on Memorial Day weekend – May 30 – and continuing through Labor Day weekend – September 5. Those attending are asked to bring their own lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, Mass will be celebrated inside the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel next to the shrine.

### **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 Sobacky, 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 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;; **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.

**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. Orders may be picked up Saturday, June 19 from 3:30PM – 6:30PM & Sunday, June 20 from 9:30AM – 12:30PM.

**ST. THERESE PIROGHI SALE** – We will be selling our fresh but frozen potato & cheese piroghis on Friday, May 28 from 11AM – 1PM at the Social Hall. NO phone orders will be taken. First come first served. Cost is \$7.00/dozen.