

**AUGUST 1, 2021**  
**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**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 – [stfassisich@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:stfassisich@atlanticbnn.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 – Tues. 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 – Deacon Bruce Becker**  
**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

**SAVE THE DATE - Thursday, Aug. 19** – Trip to Sight & Sound – Queen Esther – **For reservations and details for Sight and Sound please contact Fran King at 536-3667.**

**GOB ICING** will be made on Tuesday, August 10 beginning at 9AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, August 11 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6** 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).

**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet on Monday, August 9 at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**ANOTHER SAVE THE DATE** – we are hoping to schedule an Appreciation Dinner for all Fish Fry workers. The TENTATIVE DATE is Wed., Sept. 15 (Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows – Marian Patroness of Slovakia). Please mark your calendar with the tentative date and time of Sept. 15 at 5:30PM. In honor of Our Mother of Sorrows there will be a Mass at 4:00PM in her honor followed by the dinner at Anthony’s Restaurant.

**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 WEEK OF JUNE 27:** Loose - \$158.00; Adults - \$2,097.00; Children - \$7.00; Candles - \$124.95; Cemetery - \$10.00; Donation - \$75.00. Total Collection - \$2,471.95.

**FLOWER DONATION** – should you ever be interested in donating a flower arrangement to be placed in front of the altar for the weekend celebrations please contact the Parish Office. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one or another intention. The cost of an arrangement is determined by the type of flowers. Cost can be between \$50.00 - \$70.00.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR EMPLOYMENT** – There is an opening for the position of Parish Secretary at St. Francis of Assisi Church. This position needs to be filled as soon as possible. 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.

**SINCE WE REALIZE** and recognize the fact that there are serious issues dividing our Nation, may I strongly suggest & recommend that this PRAYER FOR OUR NATION be prayed frequently if not daily. fr. AF

#### **PRAYER FOR OUR NATION:**

God our Father, Giver of Life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving Care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your glory and dwell among Your people. Send us Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation’s leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the “culture of death.” Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John’s report of Jesus’ walking on water. This event is reported much less dramatically in John’s Gospel than in the Synoptic Gospels. After the feeding of the multitudes, the Disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The Disciples are said to be terrified by what they see. Jesus reassures them and rejoins them. In today’s Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and His Disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the

dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of Himself that He gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did You get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing Him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because He can give them Eternal Life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and His mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have Faith in the One sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that You are from God. They are looking to identify a Prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpretation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for Eternal Life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One Who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that He Himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus Himself is the Bread of Life Who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such found statements in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed His Name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this Name for Himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

**BISHOP MARK BARTCHAK** and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2021 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sun., Sept. 12 in Altoona at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on Sun., Sept. 19 in Johnstown as St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00PM. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Reservations must be made through the parish office by Mon., Aug. 23.

*Stewardship Reflection...* St. Paul advises us in his Letter to the Ephesians to "put away the old self of your former way of life...and put on the new self." Paul is calling for a conversion, a change in how we live. Jesus began His ministry with telling people to "Repent." The original word Jesus said was "*metanoeo*," the Greek words as reported in the Gospels. There are two parts to this word: the *meta* means "change" and the second *noeo* refers to the mind and its thought and perception. What Jesus was really saying to us was "change your hearts and minds." We are called to a change, a transformation that puts God at the center of our lives rather than self. This is the stewardship conversion. This is not a one-time conversion but an ongoing one, a daily one, perhaps even more than once a day. It is not impossible if everything we do is motivated by the desire to live as Jesus wants us to. It is not easy, but it is joyful and fulfilling. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2015/7/14)

**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, 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, Joe Torchia, 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 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, Ft. Steward, GA; **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.

**A ROCKIN' (WALK THRU) BASKET BASH** at St. Clement Church, Goucher St. & Lindberg Ave., Friday, August 13 from 4PM – 7PM , Saturday, August 14 from 9:00AM – 2:00PM; Sunday, August 15 from 10:30AM – 2:30PM. Drawing Sunday at 3:00PM. Stroll (or dance your way through our bountiful baskets each valued at \$50 or more. Relax at our ROCK ON CAFÉ (Saturday & Sunday). Enjoy a beverage and indulge in some of our sweet and savory treats. Tickets are priced at \$5 each for 25 chances. Special pricing for GOLD baskets valued at \$100 or more and our 2 PLATINUM baskets - \$500 of restaurant gift cards and \$500 of lottery tickets. Questions? Call St. Clement Church at 255-4422.