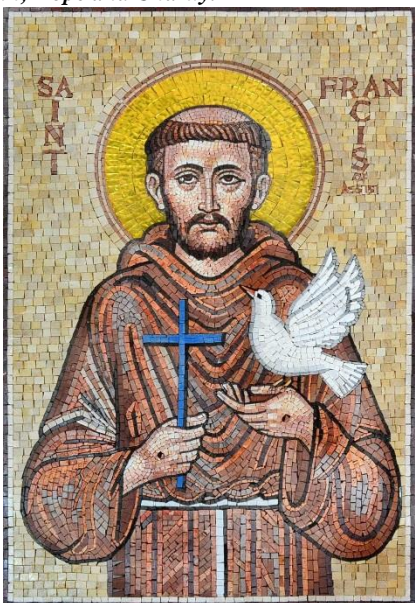


July 11, 2021
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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 – stfrancisich@atlanticbhn.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 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

PLEASE NOTE *Office hours are now Tuesday through Thursday from 9:00AM until 3:00PM.*

SAVE THE DATES: Sunday, Aug. 1 – Parish Picnic, Lorain Boro Park. Baskets are needed to chance off for our St. Francis Parish Picnic. Suggested value for donated baskets is \$20-\$25. Individual items could also be donated. Please bring to the Church or call Gale Bala (539-0155) or Cecilia Neiderer (534-0602) for information. **Signup sheet for the Parish Picnic can be found in the main vestibule. Deadline for signup: Sunday, July 18. Please bring a dessert to share!**

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

PICNIC MEETING will be held at the Activity Center on Sunday, July 18 immediately following the 9:30AM Mass for all those who are helping or anyone who would like to help with the Picnic.

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).

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK OF JUNE 27: Loose - \$132.00; Adults - \$2,709.25; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$967.00; Candles - \$151.50; St. Vincent - \$20.00; Pentecost - \$10.00; Peter's Pence - \$20.00; Cemetery - \$20.00; Holy Day - \$10.00; Father's Day - \$35.00; Donation - \$50.00. Total Collection - \$4,134.75.

PLEASE DO NOT bring any religious items (books, pamphlets, rosaries, etc.) to the Church because of ongoing concerns for sanitation. Thanks for your cooperation.

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.

NEEDED: In order for the Fish Fry to continue in the fall a new coordinator(s) is needed. The Fish Fry is a very important fund raiser as well as a social 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.

Stewardship Reflection... God called Amaziah from his daily life to carry forth a mission. Jesus commissioned the 12 Apostles to preach the Gospel. He gives them the authority they need to do so, and sends them forth. In the second reading St. Paul praises the Lord and reminds us that it is “God Who chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world.”

Like Amaziah and the 12 Apostles, each one of us has been called to carry out a mission, to be a Christian Disciple and proclaim the Gospel in all we say and do. He has given us everything that we need to do that. Every gift we have comes by way of a gift from the Lord.

It is our responsibility to make the choice to recognize those gifts and to use them for God's purposes, to give glory to God through sharing our time, talent and treasures with all those in need. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2012/7/03)

Background on the Gospel Reading
Mark 6:7-13

This week's Gospel and the one for next week describe how Jesus sent the Disciples to minister in His Name and the Disciples' return to Jesus afterward. These two passages, however, are not presented together in Mark's Gospel. Inserted between the two is the report of Herod's fears that Jesus is John the Baptist back from the dead. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is presented in connection with the teaching of John the Baptist. Jesus' public ministry begins

after John is arrested. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, who preached the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.

While we do not read these details about John the Baptist in our Gospel this week or next week, our Lectionary sequence stays consistent with Mark's theme. Recall that last week we heard how Jesus was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. The insertion of the reminder about John the Baptist's ministry and his death at the hands of Herod in Mark's Gospel makes a similar point. Mark reminds his readers about this dangerous context for Jesus' ministry and that of His Disciples. Preaching repentance and the Kingdom of God is dangerous business for Jesus and for His Disciples. Mark wants his readers to remember that we, too, may find resistance as we choose to be Disciples of Jesus.

Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus sent out the Twelve. These Twelve were selected from among Jesus' Disciples and named by Mark in chapter 3. Mark notes that these Twelve are also called "Apostles." The word *Apostle* means "one who is sent." The number twelve is also a symbolic number, representing the Twelve Tribes of Israel. By naming Twelve Apostles, Jesus shows His mission to be in continuity with the mission of God's people, Israel.

Jesus' instructions to the Apostles are very specific. He repeats the mission that they are sent to preach and to share His authority to heal and to drive out demons. Jesus sends them in pairs, establishing His mission as a communal endeavor. Jesus also instructs them to travel lightly, without the customary food, money, and extra set of clothes. These instructions mean that the Twelve will be dependent on the hospitality of others, just as Jesus depended on others to provide for His needs.

Jesus continues to send us into the world as His Disciples. But like the first Disciples, we are not sent alone. Jesus has given us to community of the Church, which strengthens our life of discipleship. The Christian message can only authentically be proclaimed in and through the community of Faith that is the Church. In our work with others, we build this community of Faith and can invite others to share in it.

Patris Corde, 2. A Tender and Loving Father, Hope for the Hopeless

When Joseph had to take Mary and travel to Bethlehem to register for the great census they were unable to find a place to spend the night. Joseph persisted until he found a mere stable where Jesus was born. Joseph is the privileged witness of the birth, which happens under difficult conditions. Joseph cared for Mary and the Child Jesus. Joseph saw Jesus grow daily. By their bold Faith, their lively hope, and fruitful love, Mary and Joseph are examples to all believers and parents.

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of His plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Since this is a part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy. **St. Joseph, a tender loving father, hope for the hopeless, pray for us.** (Pope Francis Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, 2. Dec. 8, 2020; Jacques Gauthier, Catholic Book Publishing, N.J. 2014) 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, *Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center*, 2713 W. Chestnut Ave., Altoona, PA 16601.

ANNUAL OUTDOOR MASS for Married Couples is scheduled for Sunday, July 18 at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto. Bishop Mark will celebrate the Liturgy, during which married couples will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to each other. All married couples and their families are invited. The faithful should bring their own lawn chair. If it rains, The Bishop will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel. The Mass is sponsored by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Family Life Office.

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.

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, Ft. Steward, GA; 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.

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.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS ARE BACK: The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Tuesday, July 13 in the gardens at Mount Assisi at 6:30PM. (In case of inclement weather, they will be held at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel).

CARMELITE COMMUNITY OF THE WORD will celebrate a Memorial Prayer Service honoring the life of Sr. Celeste Ciesielka who died from COVID-19 on December 15, 2020. Sr. Celeste served in many roles and touched the lives of many throughout the Diocese. Family, friends and co-workers are invited to join in this celebration to be held at the CCW Incarnation Motherhouse, 394 Bern Rd., Gallitzin on Sun., Aug. 1, 2021. An outdoor prayer service is planned to start at 2PM with a reception to continue until 4PM. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair. RSVP's are requested by July 28 by emailing communityofficeCCW@gmail.com.