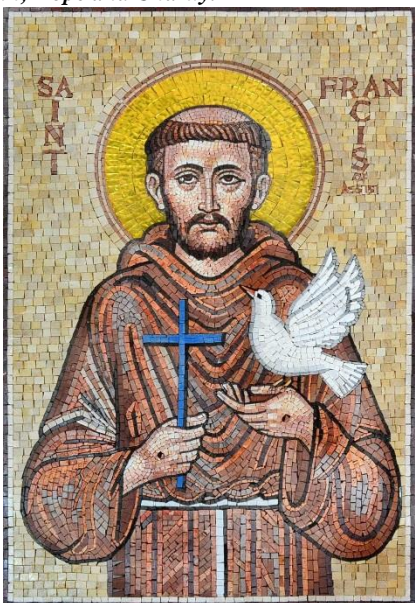


July 18, 2021
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

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
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Email – stfrancisich@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 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).

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, August 9. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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 - \$118.00; Adults - \$2,184.25; Children - \$10.00; Monthly - \$290.00; Candles - \$236.00; St. Vincent - \$10.00; Holy Day - \$5.00; Catholic Communication - \$10.00; Father's Day - \$20.00; Donation - \$40.00. Total Collection - \$2,923.25.

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.

Families and the Gospel...Mark 6:30-34 – In today's Gospel, "the Apostles gathered around and told Jesus all they had done." Listening allows the other person to express, understand and appreciate their experiences. Whether it is the excited chatter of a young child or the repetitious stories of an aging grandparent, listening is important. It is not just time well spent, it is Sacred time.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Mark 6:30-34

In this today's Gospel, we read the report of the return of the Twelve, who were sent by Jesus to preach repentance, heal the sick, and drive out demons. When the Twelve return to Jesus, He invited them to come away from the crowds and rest. But the crowds will not give them peace. As the Twelve have shared in Jesus' ministry, they now appear to

share in His popularity. The crowds continue to approach them, and Mark reports that the Disciples don't even have time to eat. In an effort to get away, Jesus and His Disciples board a boat in hopes of finding a deserted place. But the crowds notice this and arrive ahead of them. The crowds are so persistent that Jesus and His Disciples cannot find a place to be alone. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus is moved with pity and begins to teach the crowds.

Our Gospel for today stops here, but Mark's report of unyielding demands of the crowd continues in the verses that follow. If we were to continue reading from Mark's Gospel, we would hear Jesus instruct His Disciples to feed the crowd in the familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. The work of Jesus and His Disciples appears to be a round-the-clock job. In the next few weeks, we will hear the story of Jesus' feeding of the multitude, but our Lectionary will turn to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John to report and reflect on this story.

In today's Gospel, we hear the Twelve referred to as "Apostles." The word *Apostle* is a Greek word meaning "one who is sent." Jesus chose twelve men from among His Disciples whom He sent to share in His ministry of preaching and healing. The first report of this is found in the third chapter of Mark's Gospel, where the Twelve are also called Apostles and the names of this select group are listed.

We who are Jesus' disciples today have also been sent to share the Gospel with others. Perhaps our commitment to following Jesus as His Disciples leaves us feeling tired and overwhelmed. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm the importance of times of rest and renewal. Jesus wanted His Disciples to come away and spend time alone with Him. This is what we seek and find in our life of prayer and in our celebration of the Eucharist.

Patris Corde, 2. A Tender and Loving Father, Strength in the midst of Fear

An Angel told Joseph in a dream that King Herod was searching for the Child to kill Him. As an obedient man, Joseph takes the Child and His Mother and leaves for Egypt. It is a new departure, a new exodus. In letting himself be led by God, Joseph becomes the guide of the Holy Family. As every good father of a family, he risks his life for his Son. "Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, His history and His plan were at work. Joseph, then teaches us that Faith teaches us that amidst the tempest of life we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture." St. Joseph, a tender loving Father, strength in the midst of fear, 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.

Stewardship Reflection... The theme of "shepherds" and "shepherding" flows through all our readings. It is the Gospel that summarizes best what the Lord did for us, and what He continues to do for us. The Disciples have just returned from mission work in several communities and villages. They are tired and Jesus recognized that His Disciples needed to rest and recover. However, when He saw the crowds He was "moved with pity for them," and His compassion outweighed everything else because they were truly "sheep without a shepherd." If we are dedicated to being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and live our lives as good stewards, there are going to be times when we, too, are weary, and may feel like we can do no more. Like the Lord, we must learn to gather our strength through Him, to place our trust in Him, and to take the next steps in our Faith journeys by doing more, by responding to the needs we see around us. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2015/7/01)

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, 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 Sobczyk, 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 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.

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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.

ST. THERESE CHURCH is hosting a “Baskets and Burgers Bash” on Saturday July 24 from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM and Sunday July 25 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at their Social Hall, Upper Decker Ave., Johnstown. Craft/Bistro Style Burgers, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, French Fries and Beverages will be available to purchase. Themed Basket drawing will be held on Sunday at 4:00 PM. Live entertainment will be provided by Bo Moore.

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.