

AUGUST 15, 2021
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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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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

MASS ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 19 will be celebrated at **8:00AM** (prior to departure for Sight & Sound)

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way with the Gob making last week. May God Bless you for your continued support.

GOB SALE – Saturday, August 28 from 9:00AM until 12:00NOON at the Activity Center. Pick up some gobs for your Labor Day Picnics!

SAVE THE DATE –Appreciation Dinner for all Fish Fry workers will be held Wed., Sept. 15 (Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows – Marian Patroness of Slovakia). Please mark your calendar with the 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.* A sign-up sheet can be found in the main vestibule. *Deadline for sign up is Sunday, Sept. 5.*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES are scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 12 from 10:45AM until 12Noon IN PERSON at Resurrection Parish Center. Registration forms can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Please register your child/children as soon as possible so that books and other materials can be ordered. Sacramental preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation is parish based. Parish based Sacramental preparation is in addition to education in either the Catholic School, parish religious education program or home schooling.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for a very Special Intention by Bernie Golojch. **CANDLES BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND ST. THERESE** will burn for Frank, Alice & Josephine by Bernie Golojch.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$299.00; Adults - \$2,109.89; Children - \$11.00; Monthly - \$516.04; Holy Day - \$60.00.Candles - \$26.00. Total Collection - \$3,021.93.

A CHAPEL for Perpetual Adoration is opening at St. Andrew Parish, 1621 Ferndale Ave. The chapel will be located in the old convent building on the parish grounds. The entrance is next to the bell tower entrance of the church. The anticipated opening date for the chapel is August 15, pending a few construction projects to improve the space. It is a safe area, well lit even at night, and there are no steps. We are in need of committed adorers and substitutes. One does not need to be a parishioner of St. Andrew to sign up, and one may sign up for multiple hours. This is a powerful opportunity to call down many Graces from Heaven. The idea is that there is somebody praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7 and it is a place where people can stop to pray. Will you help? If you would like more information or would like to possibly make a commitment or be a substitute, please call Terri Roy at 814-255-5645 or terriamroy@gmail.com.

THE WINDBER CATHOLIC PARISHES invite you to venerate three Relics of St. Padre Pio (his blood, hair and scab from his wound). The relics will be at St. Anthony of Padua Church, Windber on Tuesday, September 14 from 9:00AM – 8:00PM. We will have our traditional Noon Novena Mass in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Padre Pio. The Church will be open the entire day for veneration. Also, confessions will heard from 9:00AM – 11:30Am and from 1:00PM – 5:30PM. Quoting St. Padre Pio, “Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light and without You I am in darkness.”

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Feast celebrates Mary's Assumption into Heaven. It is one of three Feasts of Mary that are Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics in the United States. January 1 is the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, and December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven has long

been held as an important belief. The belief was not defined by dogma, however, until 1950 by Pope Pius XII. The dogma teaches that Mary, who was without sin, was taken, body and soul into the Glory of Heaven. The Gospel of this Holy Day recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the Angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. Mary responds to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel. Mary's Magnificat, in particular, echoes the song of praise offered by Hannah, the mother of Samuel. The Gospel for this day reminds us that Mary's Assumption into Heaven is best understood with regard for the full spectrum of Catholic beliefs about the Person of Christ and the person of Mary. Only Mary, who was born without stain of Original Sin – the Immaculate Conception – could give birth to Christ, Who is fully God and fully human. This is called the Immaculate Conception. Because of Mary's role in God's plan of salvation, she does not suffer from the effects of sin, which are death and decay. Mary is the first to receive the fullness of redemption that her Son has won for all of humanity. The Church, therefore, recognizes Mary as the sign of the salvation promised to all. Today's Gospel highlights Mary's Faith. Mary's Faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to all. Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan of salvation.

Patris Corde, 3. An Obedient Father, Protector of the Holy Family

Jesus, the Son of God, was an Infant when the Angel in a second dream tells Joseph, "Get up, Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child and destroy Him." Joseph did not hesitate to obey, regardless of the hardship involved. He got up, took the Child and His mother by night and went to Egypt.

It was a long and dangerous 90 mile journey on foot with only a donkey – no wheels of any kind, no highways, no paved roads, but only dirt roads, windy paths, and treacherous walking with many possible dangerous hills.

This week as we think of Joseph's second dream, would we even consider such a trip under those conditions? We pray to St. Joseph to accept changes and hardships, always asking for courage and his Divine assistance. St. Joseph, obedient father and protector of the Holy Family, pray for us. (Pope Francis Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, 3. Dec. 8, 2020) 2021, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, *Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center*, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.

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 at 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.

CONGRATULATIONS, Best Wishes and God's Blessing to **Ryan Woodruff** as he assumes his role as Principal of Divine Mercy Academy both East and West Campus. Our prayers are with you! God Bless Ryan!

WELCOME HOME to all our Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. We are here because God calls us here and we want to be here!

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; Pvt. 1st Class Daylee Ragno, E-3 Paratrooper, Fort Bragg, NC..**

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.

SPAGHETTI DRIVE-BY – Church of the Transfiguration will be having a Spaghetti Drive-By On Sunday, August 22 from 10:30AM until 1:30PM. Meal includes: Spaghetti & Meatballs, tossed salad, dinner roll and dessert. All for \$8.00 per meal!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2021 ANNUAL WEST END PICKERS, Trash to Treasures indoor yard sale, St. Therese Social Hall from 8:00AM – 1:00PM. We are asking for donations of good saleable items. Call 322-5558 or 248-8989, or drop off Sept. 23 & 24 at the Church hall. Due to the protocols from COVID-19, all 2020 fundraisers were cancelled. We know that many of you face the same financial issue, but we are respectfully asking for your support with item donations. Proceeds from sale go towards our projects – surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes, community events.