

AUGUST 22, 2021
21st 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
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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

BEGINNING NEXT WEEKEND we will be replacing the Missalettes with *Journeysongs* which contains the complete three-year cycle of *Lectionary* readings. This will eliminate the need to purchase new Missalettes each Liturgical year. The page number where the readings can be found will be announced at the beginning of Mass. Please note that Daily Mass Propers are NOT included in *Journeysongs*. These may be found in the monthly editions of *The Word Among Us*.

ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 at 9:00AM there will be a work day for the Gabriel Project. We will be sorting baby clothes. All help would be appreciated. Volunteers are being sought for ongoing activities besides sorting clothes including shopping for baby items and meeting parents to distribute items. For more information call Gale Bala (539-0155).

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 are parish based. Parish based Sacramental preparation is in addition to education in either the Catholic School, parish religious education program or home schooling.

THE ST. FRANCIS CHOIR will begin practices again on Wednesdays, 6:00PM starting on September 29. We practice in the chapel area near the organ (use the side door on Barron Ave.). New members are most welcome. Being able to read music or to commit to weekly 9:30AM Mass is not required. Please call Gale Bala for information (539-0155).

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 16, 2022 at 12Noon with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark followed by an anniversary dinner.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Frank, Alice & Josephine by Bernie Golojch.

THE WINDBER CATHOLIC PARISHES invites 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. At 6:00PM, we will have a Mass in honor of 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.”

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!

Background on the Gospel Reading

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the “Bread of Life discourse” in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that He is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have Eternal Life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been

teaching these things, John's Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus' Words. In today's Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus' own Disciples.

Today's Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus' Disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus' teaching, these Disciples also cannot accept Jesus' Words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John's Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus' Disciples ceased to follow Him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 people to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns His attention.

Simon Peter's response to Jesus' question as to whether those closest to Him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter's confession of Faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about Himself: Jesus is the One from God in Whom they have found the path to Eternal Life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal Faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about Who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God's Grace invites us to be Jesus' disciples, but each person must respond to the Grace of God and confess as his or her own belief that Jesus is the One from God. This Faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to Eternal Life.

*Stewardship Reflection...*In today's Gospel we hear that many of Jesus' disciples cannot accept His teachings and instead return to their former way of life, abandoning Him altogether. Jesus asks the Apostles, "Do you want to leave too?" Peter speaks up for the Twelve responding, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of Eternal Life."

Peter came to the realization (to paraphrase), "I don't really see any better options, Lord. I've tried life with You and it's hard. But I've tried life without You and it's harder. It doesn't satisfy me. Where else am I going to go? I choose You, Lord." And, so he humbly chooses to rely on God.

How can we keep going when it gets tough? Peter's honest answer to the choice Jesus poses shows us a way to stay true to a stewardship way of life. The demands of a stewardship way of life can be difficult. And the teachings of Christ can be hard to accept. Remembering blessings and relying on Him are two keys to this beautiful way of life. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2018/08/09)

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$225.00; Adults - \$2,631.27; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$270.00; Holy Day - \$391.02; .Candles - \$228.00; Mother's Day - \$5.00; Father's Day - \$5.00; Donation - \$270.00; St. Vincent - \$100.00; Misc. - \$100.00 . Total Collection - \$4,231.29.

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.

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, Lynn Rován, James Schuster, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobacky, 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 Guarno, 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**, US Army, 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!

40 HOURS DEVOTION – A devotional prayer centered around Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will held at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Church in Lilly (608 Main St.) on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday – September 12, 13, and 14. A Devotional Service will begin each evening at 7:00PM with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the day. Everyone is welcome to attend!

