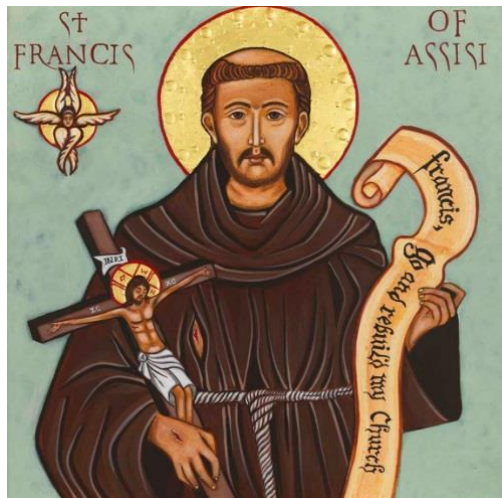


**AUGUST 29, 2021**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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 – [sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.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

**BEGINNING THIS 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*.

**MEN'S CLUB** will meet on Thursday, Sept. 2 at 7PM in the Activity Center. New members are always welcome.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>** is 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, September 13<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00PM due to Labor Day. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**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 signup 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 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 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.

**TALK ON ST. JOSEPH** - Mark your calendar, **Monday August 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM** the author of the book St. Joseph and His World - By: Michael Aquilina will be coming here to OMOS to speak about St. Joseph and his book, and any other topics of the 60 other books Michael has written. Here we are in the year of St. Joseph and this might be a good time to expand our understanding of this silent saint. Even if you haven't read the book, it will surely be very worthwhile to come and hear this expert on St. Joseph the foster-father of Jesus. All are invited, refreshments after. St. Joseph and his world! It will help us understand our world. So expand your world. Join us! What a great opportunity!! Bring your questions!! Hope to see you there!

**ATTENTION PARENTS of STUDENTS of the RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM** of St. Francis of Assisi Parish: A Diocesan Form: A STUDENT RELEASE, WAIVER of LIABILITY and INDEMNITY AGREEMENT must be signed by a Parent/Guardian before the child/children can begin to attend classes.

### *Background on the Gospel Reading*

This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticizes the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness—clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what He had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds, and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words, further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$213.00; Adults - \$2,058.25; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$110.00; Candles - \$112.00; Donation - \$20.00; St. Vincent - \$70.00; Assumption - \$25.00. Total Collection - \$2614.25.

**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 Rovon, 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 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; **Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

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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.

**CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION FISH FRIES!!** – We will be having our monthly Fish Fries starting on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-6:30pm. We will be having **DINE IN & TAKE OUT** available. Please call (814)535-2698 to place your Take-Out order!

**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!