

AUGUST 8, 2021
19th 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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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

A HUGE THANK YOU for a Successful Parish Picnic, especially to the coordinators for the Parish Picnic – David & Mary Frances King. Food Preparation – David & Mary Frances King & helpers: Alice Havers, Georgetta LaBuda, Patricia Deskevich; Baskets: Gale Bala & Cecelia Neiderer; Drinks: Gary Woodruff; Children’s Games: Ryan Woodruff; Set-up for Mass: Cecelia Neiderer; Bingo: Georgetta LaBuda, Ayden Mayko, Bernie Golojch.

THANKS to the following folks who donated baskets and other items for the picnic:

Frank Bazyk; Bob & Kathy Barczak; Barb Bimeal; Andrea Buczek; Michele Bloom; Jeanette DiFlauro; Jack Fabry; Joe & Dolores Fatula; Bernie Golojch; Alice Havers; Fran King; Georgetta LaBuda; Pat Deskevich; Deb Mihalacki; Lisa, Brian & Ayden Mayko; Darlene Melikant; Joel & Carol Mangus; Cecelia Neiderer; Ron & Cindy Shorto; Joyce Smith; Mary Strozak; Carolyn Thomas; Gary & Becky Woodruff; Ryan & Amanda Woodruff; Nancy Wojno; St. Francis Church & Gale Bala. If anyone was missed please call Gale (539-0155) as some baskets were dropped off without names. Also thank you to all who bought chances on the baskets and the 50/50. Your support is appreciated.

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

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, August 10 beginning at 9AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, August 11 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

ANOTHER SAVE THE DATE – we are hoping to schedule an Appreciation Dinner for all Fish Fry workers. The TENTATIVE DATE is Wed., Sept. 15 (Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows – Marian Patroness of Slovakia). Please mark your calendar with the tentative 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.

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. **The question is: are you willing to assist the planning committee? If so, please attend the Parish Council meeting on Wed., Aug. 11 at 6:00PM.**

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey by sons and family. **CANDLES BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND SACRED HEART** will burn for Special Intentions by Alice Havers. **CANDLE BY ST. THERESE** will burn for Frank, Alice & Josephine by Bernie Golojch.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK OF JUNE 27: Loose - \$92.00; Adults - \$1,609.30; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$902.00; Candles - \$108.80; St. Vincent - \$35.00; World Mission - \$5.00; Holy Day - \$30.00; Retired Priest - \$10.00; Catholic University - \$5.00; Misc. - \$55.00. Total Collection - \$2,858.10.

Families and the Gospel...John 6:41-51 – “Stop murmuring” Jesus told the Disciples in today’s Gospel. Complaining is a dead-end and constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully. Do not make them personal attacks.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the “Bread of Life discourse” found in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. Recall that we have been reading from this chapter for the past two weeks and will continue to read from it for another two. Last week, the crowd asked for a sign that would show that Jesus came from God. Jesus replied by saying that He is the sign and the Bread of Life sent by God. At this point, our Lectionary omits six verses in which Jesus predicts the unbelief of the crowd and further develops His connection with God the Father. In these verses, Jesus says that

He was sent by God to do the Father's will. Jesus promises that those who look upon the Son with Faith will find Eternal Life. Some of these themes are repeated in today's Gospel reading.

Today's Gospel begins with a report that the Jews complained about Jesus' claims regarding His identity. They knew His family, and they knew He was the Son of Joseph. They could not comprehend what Jesus meant when He said that He came down from Heaven. Jesus responds to the complaints by saying that only those who are chosen by God will recognize Him as the One that God sent. This is a recurring theme in John's Gospel, that God has chosen those who will have Faith in Jesus.

In the verses that follow, Jesus talks more about His unity with the Father. He is the One Who has seen the Father and, therefore, knows the Father. Those who listen to God will recognize that Jesus is the One sent from God. Those who believe will have Eternal Life. Jesus concludes with the central element of our Eucharistic theology. He promises that the Bread of Life will bring Eternal Life to those who partake of It, and He tells us that the Bread of Life will be His own Flesh, given for the Life of the World.

In today's reading, we hear Jesus say again, as He did in last week's Gospel, that He is the Bread of Life. We also hear Jesus add that He is the Living Bread. Both of these statements help us understand better the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist. We celebrate this gift of Jesus each time we gather for Mass. We believe that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will lead us to Eternal Life.

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.

FLOWER DONATION – should you ever be interested in donating a flower arrangement to be placed in front of the altar for the weekend celebrations please contact the Parish Office. Flowers can be donated in memory of a loved one or another intention. The cost of an arrangement is determined by the type of flowers. Cost can be between \$50.00 - \$70.00.

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 as 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.

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 Sobecky, 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 Rovon 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.

A ROCKIN' (WALK THRU) BASKET BASH at St. Clement Church, Goucher St. & Lindberg Ave., Friday, August 13 from 4PM – 7PM , Saturday, August 14 from 9:00AM – 2:00PM; Sunday, August 15 from 10:30AM – 2:30PM. Drawing Sunday at 3:00PM. Stroll (or dance your way through our bountiful baskets each valued at \$50 or more. Relax at our ROCK ON CAFÉ (Saturday & Sunday). Enjoy a beverage and indulge in some of our sweet and savory treats. Tickets are priced at \$5 each for 25 chances. Special pricing for GOLD baskets valued at \$100 or more and our 2 PLATINUM baskets - \$500 of restaurant gift cards and \$500 of lottery tickets. Questions? Call St. Clement Church at 255-4422.