

**OCTOBER 3, 2021**  
*27<sup>th</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*  
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**Oremus Ministry** (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632  
**Web Site:** <http://www.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com>  
**Parish Secretary** – Megan Billow-Berchick  
**Office Hours** – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. 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** –  
**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

**PARISH MISSION PRESENTS INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER NINA MARIE CORONA** – St. Benedict Parish will be hosting Nina Marie Corona for their Parish Mission, “Encounter: Christ and Community.” This three night event will be held from **7:00 to 8:30PM, October 10, 11, and 12**. Each evening will include powerful talks, images, videos and music for a contemplative, moving, and enriching experience. Practical tools will be offered to help us draw nearer to Christ. Join us as we seek to encounter Christ more deeply and to be inspired to share the fruits of that encounter in our relationships and the world. **Open to all in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese**, tickets are NOT required. A love offering will be taken. For more information contact Deacon Michael Russo at (814)-288-3036 or by email at michael.russo@atlanticbb.net.

**ROSARY SOCIETY** will meet on **Monday, October 11<sup>h</sup>** at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION** of Parishioners who were laid to rest this year (November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021) will be celebrated on **7:00PM** on Tuesday, November 2. Members of the families of the deceased are invited to take part in this Mass by lighting a candle in their memory. Please contact the Parish Office if you or a member of the family or friend of our departed loved ones are able to participate in this Liturgy. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of Christ’s victory over sin and death, and the hope of Eternal Life. **There will be NO 6:15pm MASS**. Novena to St. Anthony will be prayed at 6:45pm.

**THE ST. FRANCIS CHOIR** will begin practices again on Wednesdays, 6:00PM starting on October 6<sup>th</sup>. 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).

**CHOIR PRACTICE CHANGE** – The first practice for the St. Francis Choir will be moved to Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm due to a scheduling conflict.

**ALL SOULS** – If you would like to have a picture of a deceased loved one placed in the Sanctuary area for All Soul’s Day, please bring the picture to the Parish Office or the Church. All photos must be received no later than Sunday, October 24. Please include name of deceased with the picture(s) you are bringing.

**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. More info coming soon.

**ATTENTION LADIES:** Please join us as we form a new ministry within our parish, beginning in early October. **The Seven Sisters Apostolate** is a group of women (minimally seven) who each take one day a week and offer a Holy Hour for their Pastor. We will cover fr. Anthony Francis in prayer asking for his deeper conformity to Christ. In strengthening him in his ministry, we strengthen the whole foundation of the Church. You may visit the website at: [sevensistersapostolate.org](http://sevensistersapostolate.org) - Jeannette DiFlauro will be your contact person (814) 535-2921.

**MENS CLUB** – Men’s Club will be having their monthly meeting on Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. New Members are always welcome!

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$212.00; Adults - \$1938.25; Children - \$5.00; Monthly - \$30.00; St. Francis Feast Day - \$7.00; Candles - \$165.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$10.00; Retired Priest Medical - \$82.00; Missalettes - \$10.00; Assumption - \$6.00; Donation - \$65.00. Total Collection - \$2530.25.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we continue to read from the Gospel according to Mark. For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's reports of conversations between Jesus and His Disciples. Recall that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses these private moments to teach His Disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. Beginning with today's Gospel, Jesus returns to Judea, Jewish territory, and resumes His public ministry. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and He taught them, as was His custom. Immediately, the Pharisees approach Jesus to test Him.

The Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in [Deuteronomy 24:1-5](#). This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' Disciples question Him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to His Disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of His teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished his teaching from the cultural norms of His time by applying His words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. When read together, however, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' Disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught His Disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the Disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands His Disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

**NEEDED: ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**  
– If you are interested in participating in one or more of these Ministries, Please contact fr. Anthony Francis or the Parish Office (814)539-1632.

**ANNUAL PRAYER CHAIN FOR LIFE** – will be held on Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 2pm on Broad Street in the Cambria City section of Johnstown. We assemble in front of the former St. Columba Church. Please come and show support for the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death. Signs will be provided if wanted. For information call Gale (814-539-0155).

**CHURCH OF TRANSFIGURATION FISH FRY** – Will be having their monthly Fish Fries starting on Friday, October 8 from 3:30-6:30pm. Dine in and Take out is available. Please call (814)535-2698 to place your take-out order.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, 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, David Sakmar, James Schuster, Betty Scott, 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 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 Royan 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.*

**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.

**The Annual Pro-Life Breakfast** sponsored by, Citizens Concerned for Human Life, will be held on Saturday, October 23, 2021, beginning at 9am at The Immaculate Conception Grove Hall in New Germany. Tickets are \$10 and available from Gale Bala (539-0155). This year’s speaker is Steve Deace of Blaze Media Platform having been saved from abortion, Steve has become a strong defender of the Pro-Life cause.