

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
24th 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 – Megan Billow-Berchick
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

Please keep in your prayers - the Family and Friends of +James Sutt who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on **Monday, September 13th** at 6:00PM due to Labor Day. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES are scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 12 from 10:45AM until 12Noon IN PERSON at Resurrection Parish Center. Registration and Parent waiver 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 or home schooling.

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.

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.

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.

GOB FEST AT THE GALLERIA – Will be held, September 25th from 10am to 2pm. Please come! Support and vote for us! In light of this contest, we will be making gobs twice in September. Icing Sept 7th and Sept 21st at 7am. Packing will be Sept 8th and Sept 23nd from 8-10am and 6-8pm. We hope to have plenty of help as we are planning on bringing 3000 gobs! Any questions please call Cindy Shorto at 814-539-3128.

100th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE – Meeting for the planning committee chairpersons will be held on Wednesday September 29th at 6pm prior to the Parish Council Meeting.

SECOND COLLECTION – Next weekend on September 18th and 19th will be for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

THANK YOU – To the 2 anonymous donors for the cost of the JourneySongs Books and for the roses to honor Our Lady on her birthday. May God Bless you for your generosity.

9/11 - 20th ANNIVERSARY PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE – Almighty and Ever-Loving God, we remember September 11, 2001, and pray for all those who were affected by the terrible events of that day. We remember, with love and respect, all of those who went tragically to their deaths. We remember those who still suffer from their injuries of that day twenty years ago and pray for their recovery. We remember the still grieving families and friends and all who lost loved ones. Gracious Lord, continue to console them in the hope that all who trust in You will find peace and rest in Your Eternal Kingdom. Bless them with Your presence and surround us all with Your love. God of peace, bless all those defending and protecting our country and its ideals of freedom and liberty. May Your kingdom of justice and of peace reign and may the earth be filled with Your glory. Amen.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +John Stofa – By: Dean and Karen Scott - **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** will burn for +Kathy Reddy – By: Family

The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows - Patroness of Slovakia

St. Francis of Assisi has been designated a Slovak Parish at its founding in 1922

The Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows commemorates the seven great sorrows which Mary lived in relation to Her Son, as they are recorded in the Gospels or through Tradition. Today we are invited to reflect on Mary's deep suffering:

1. At the prophecy of Simeon: "You yourself shall be pierced with a sword – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare." (Luke 2:32)
2. At the flight into Egypt; "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt." (Mt 2:13)
3. Having lost the Holy Child at Jerusalem; "You see that your father and I have been searching for You in sorrow." (Luke 2:48)
4. Meeting Jesus on His way to Calvary;
5. Standing at the foot of the Cross; "Near the cross of Jesus there stood His mother." (John 19:25)
6. Jesus being taken from the Cross;
7. At the burial of Christ.

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, there were two feasts devoted to the sorrows of Mary. The first feast was instituted in Cologne in 1413 as an expiation for the sins of the iconoclast Hussites. The second is attributed to the Servite order whose principle devotion are the Seven Sorrows. It was instituted in 1668, though devotion had been in existence since 1239 – five years after the founding of the order.

Grandparents Day Prayer

Lord God Almighty, Bless our grandparents with long life, happiness and health. May they remain constant in Your love and be living signs of Your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$185.00; Adults - \$1901.25; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$574.00; Candles - \$178.60; Donation - \$160.00; St. Vincent - \$27.00; Assumption - \$25.00; Retired Priest – \$5.00; Catholic University – \$5.00; CCD - \$60.00. Total Collection - \$3126.85.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25, 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.

ATTENTION CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH: Confirmation Class Schedule (subject to change). 2nd Sunday of the month 6-8PM at the PARISH OFFICE.

2021
SEPT 12
OCT 17
NOV 14
DEC 12

2022
JAN 9
FEB 13
MAR 13
APR 10

CONFIRMATION WILL BE AT ST. JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL THURS. MAY 5, 2022 7PM
REHEARSAL – Wednesday May 4, 2022, 6PM

THE WINDBER CATHOLIC PARISHS INVITES YOU - to venerate 3 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, 9am-8pm. We will have our traditional Noon Novena Mass in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Padre Pio. At 6pm, we will have a Mass in honor of St. Padre Pio. The Church will be open the entire day for veneration. Confessions will be heard from 9-11:30am and from 1-5:30pm.

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, 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 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 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, 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.

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!