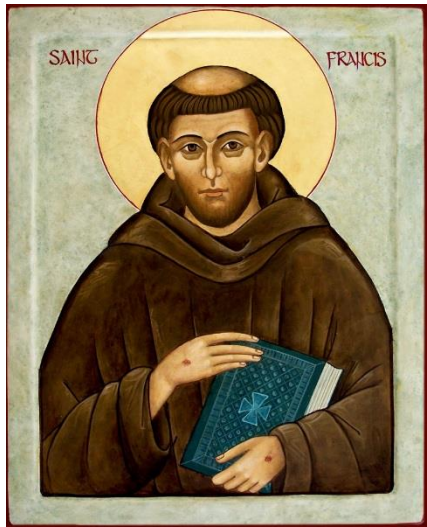


SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

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 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

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 ST. FRANCIS CHOIR will begin practices again on Wednesdays, 6:00PM starting on October 6th. 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).

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. Icing Sept 21st at 7am. **Packing will be Wednesday Sept 22nd 8-10am and Thursday Sept 23rd at 6pm.** If interested in helping we could use help with shaking milk and flour, or cooking. Even if you can come for an hour. If you are a sit down person, there are 1200 sandwich bags that need opened. Bag job starts at 9am. 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 – This weekend on September 18th and 19th will be for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1st 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).

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

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.

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. More information will be presented after Masses next weekend and you may visit the website at: sevensistersapostolate.org - Jeannette DiFlauro will be your contact person (814) 535-2921.

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

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for Jim Dadey for improved health – By: Brother Tom, Sister Bea and Family

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict His Passion, Death, and Resurrection to His Disciples. The setting here is important. Jesus and His Disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting His passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to preparing His Disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the Disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what he meant. Such hesitation on the part of the Disciples is not characteristic behavior. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging.

Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and His Disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks His Disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the Disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of Disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's kingdom must be servants of all.

Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching his disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

In the Gospel today, Christ is speaking not only of youngsters, but all "little ones," those who are vulnerable or needy in anyway, through poverty, physical or mental illness, and advanced age or those living in difficult family situations. St. Teresa of Calcutta would call these children, "Jesus in distressing disguise." They are all around us if we open our eyes. Like Jesus, we can put our arms around the little ones in our worlds and channel some of our energy, ambition and talent towards them. Giving the best of ourselves to these brothers and sisters may be a little messy at times. It may put us in situations that are far outside our comfort zones. Maybe our colleagues and neighbors will not understand this.

Christian stewards demonstrate their faith in Jesus Christ through their works. But in reaching out to little ones in Jesus' name, it is Jesus Himself we are touching. This week, ask the Lord for the wisdom and courage to reach out concretely to the little ones in your neighborhood, community or parish. Take at least one step.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$164.00; Adults - \$2288.25; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$165.00; Candles - \$121.00; Donation - \$109.00; St. Vincent - \$50.00; Ascension - \$35.00; Missalettes - \$5.00; Catholic University - \$60.00; Funeral - \$150.00; CCD - \$80.00; Flowers - \$50.00. Total Collection - \$3283.25.

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.

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, Betty Scott, 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 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, 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.

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.