

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
26th 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
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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

“FRIAR JOBE ABBASS is a Franciscan Conventual Friar of the Our Lady of the Angels Province. He professed his vows 40 years ago and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1985. In 2014, he was elected Provincial Assistant for the Militia of the Immaculate (M.I.), an association founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917. Our Franciscan province has approved an M.I. Initiative in all our parishes to promote entrustment to Mary Immaculate and membership in the Militia of the Immaculate. Fr. Jobe arrives at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on the weekend of September 25-26. He will explain the history and spiritual purpose behind the Militia of the Immaculate. In a word, the spiritual goal of the M.I. is for members to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate so that, as instruments in Her hands, the Immaculate might draw all souls, even those fallen away from the Church, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for salvation of all.”

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.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS – Will take place on October 2nd at 10am under the front canopy of the Church.

SAVE THE DATE – The annual Marian Rosary will be held on Sunday October 3rd at 3:00pm at St. Benedict Church, 2310 Bedford Street, Johnstown. The theme will be “Mary and the Year of Saint Joseph.” Bishop Mark will be the principal celebrant.

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).

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). **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.

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 6pm MASS.** Novena to St. Anthony will be prayed at 6:45pm.

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

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise His Disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the Disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the Disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the Disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The Disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in His healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In His reply to His Disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the Disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches His Disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Our Gospel passage and the Second Reading from the letter of St. James urge us to examine our lives for anything that is keeping us from loving God above all else. St. James warns that our possessions can cause us to detach ourselves from God. When we hold onto possessions too tightly, they come to possess us. The "stuff" can easily become the focus of our energy and attention. Attachment to material things can slowly and steadily lead to corruption, even as individuals.

If you have considered the spiritual discipline of tithing, (the stewardship of treasure) now may be the time to act on it. Stewardship of treasure leads us to let go of unhealthy attachment to material things and leads us to attach ourselves to God, relying on Him as our true source of security and happiness. We come to understand that all we have is a gift from our loving Father and we use it to bless others and glorify Him. What a wonderful freedom there is in living this way! Set some time aside to think about how you can make a plan to live in this freedom.

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 10th 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).

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$181.00; Adults - \$1817.25; Children - \$4.00; Monthly - \$640.06; Candles - \$101.00; Priest Medical - \$25.00; Catholic University – \$17.00; CCD - \$20.00; Rental Income - \$50.00. Total Collection - \$2855.31. Haiti Collection - \$972.45

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Doreen Chiodo, Sister Carol Jean Czarnik, 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 Rován 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.

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.