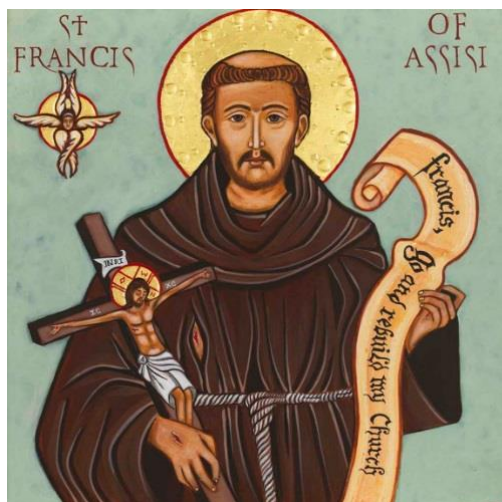


SEPTEMBER 4, 2021
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 – 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

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on Monday September 6th DUE TO LABOR DAY!!

GOB ICING will be made on Tuesday, September 7 beginning at 7AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, September 8 from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

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.

SAVE THE DATE –Appreciation Dinner for all Fish Fry workers will be held Wed., Sept. 15 (Feast of Our Mother of Sorrows – Marian Patroness of Slovakia). Please mark your calendar with the 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.* A signup sheet can be found in the main vestibule. *Deadline for sign up is Sunday, Sept. 5.*

WELCOME DEACON BRUCE as DRE of St. Francis Parish and Megan Billow-Berchick as the Parish Secretary.

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, parish religious education program 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.

A Huge Thank You to the Volunteers who helped to sort and pack baby clothes for the Gabriel Project: Kathy Barzcak, Dolores Fatula, Mary Kay Sox, Paulette Torchia. Your kindness is appreciated.

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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +Jeanne Toth and **CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN** + Ray Toth Jr. - By Ray Toth Sr., Michelle, Sara, John Maggs

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of Sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the Sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are sacramental people who believe that God's Grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and He heals her daughter immediately. The Faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the Good News of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of His healing power, which is evidence of His identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$251.00; Adults - \$1855.29; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$255.00; Candles - \$117.00; Donation - \$68.00; St. Vincent - \$231.00; Assumption - \$5.00. Total Collection - \$2788.29.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Odessa Bobak, Galynn Brady, Doreen Chiodo, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, 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 Sobocky, 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 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.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION FISH FRIES!! – We will be having our monthly Fish Fries starting on Friday, September 10th from 3:30-6:30pm. We will be having **DINE IN & TAKE OUT** available. Please call (814)535-2698 to place your Take-Out order!

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!