

OCTOBER 17, 2021  
29<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  
Fax: 814 – 539-5888  
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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

**CONGRATULATIONS** – Congratulations on the Baptism of Charles Darwin Hernandez and his parents, Darwin and Nicole Hernandez and Godparents, Devante Philbert and Evalina Barth.

**CEMETERY CLEANUP** – All decorations need to be removed off of graves by October 30<sup>th</sup> due to fall clean up. Anything that isn't removed will be thrown away.

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION** of Parishioners who were laid to rest this year (November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021) will be celebrated at **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.



**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.

**PARISH DIRECTORY** – Since St. Francis Parish is celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, plans are being made to create a picture directory of parishioners. We need to know how many parishioners are interested in having their photograph included. We are asking all interested persons to sign up in the main vestibule. We need to have at least 75 parishioners sign up to be able to go ahead with the project. For more information contact Georgie at (814)535-4252, Alice (814)536-0948, or Gale (814)539-0155.



**TURKEY RAFFLE TICKETS** - Men's Club Turkey Raffle Tickets are in the Vestibule of the Church. Please pick up your tickets!

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES** – Will be conducted beginning on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> on the topic of St. Paul and the Early Church. Each Class will have a specific focus on the historical and spiritual development of the early Church. Classes will be conducted Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM in the St. Francis of Assisi Rectory Office. The dates for the classes are October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a break for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Holidays. Then Classes will resume in January 2022 for an additional four classes. Those dates will be announced at a later time. If you are interested in participating in these classes please sign up on the sign-up sheet provided in the Church Vestibule.

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$154.00; Adults - \$2726.04; Children - \$8.00; Monthly - \$405.00; St. Francis Feast Day - \$55.00; Candles - \$181.25; St. Vincent DePaul - \$75.00; Retired Priest Medical - \$40.00; Missalettes - \$15.00; Cemetery - \$30.00; Donation - \$45.00; World Mission - \$15.00; Catholic University - \$10.00; All Souls – 5.00 Total Collection - \$3774.29.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

In this Sunday's Gospel, we continue to read from the section of Mark's Gospel that reports Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Last Sunday we heard Jesus lament the particular challenges those with many possessions face in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus then predicts His passion to the Twelve, who are amazed and afraid. In this part of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words to His closest Disciples seem to be intended to prepare them for the events that will occur in Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, James and John ask to be given seats of honor when Jesus enters into His glory. Once again, the disciples seem to be selective in what they hear Jesus say. They want to share Jesus' glory, but do not appear to understand that His glory will be preceded by His suffering. Jesus notes their lack of understanding and predicts the suffering they will endure for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus says that the honor they seek is not His to give. When the other ten hear what James and John have asked, Mark reports that they are indignant. Jesus takes the opportunity to teach them.

Jesus explains the importance of service and sacrifice in the life of a disciple. In particular, He seems to be preparing the Twelve for their leadership roles in the emerging Christian community. Echoing the Gospel we heard several weeks ago (on the [25th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Mark 9:33-37), Jesus acknowledges that His teaching is countercultural. In today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the dynamics within the community of disciples with those shown by the rulers of the Gentiles.

Following Jesus' example of sacrificial love continues to be countercultural in our day as well. We might take this opportunity to consider our models of authority and examine our own exercise of authority. On whose example do we model our leadership?

### ***Patris corde, 5. A Creatively Courageous Father***

In the Gospel accounts we learn that the Son of the Almighty came in to our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph is the guardian of the Church. And the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history. Jesus and Mary His mother are the most precious treasures of our faith.

The Church shows a special love for the least of our brothers and sisters as Jesus did, having been taught by St. Joseph. We, too, continue to protect the *child and His mother*, by our love for the Church. Every poor, needy, suffering or dying person, every stranger, every prisoner and every infirmed person is "the child." For this reason, Saint Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, the exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying. We must learn that same care and responsibility.

***St. Joseph, A Creatively Courageous Father, Protector of Children and Mothers, pray for us.***

(Pope Francis Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*, 2020, 5. Dec. 8, 2020; 2021), **Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Liturgy Committee, Liturgy Office, Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center, 2713 W. Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.**

**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 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 Rovon 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.*

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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.