

October 31, 2021
31st 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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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 – Acting President, David King

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 +Doreen Chiodo who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

MEN'S CLUB – Will meet on Thursday, November 4th at 7:00PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on **Monday November 8th at 6:00PM**, due to All Saints Day.

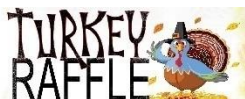
FISH FRY UPDATE – There are over 40 volunteers ready and willing to work for future St. Francis fish fries. All that is missing is a Coordinator. This will be a paid position. Interested in learning about the duties and compensation for the Fish Fry Coordinator? Please call the Parish Office for further information. (814)539-1632.

OUR ANNUAL – Non-perishable food and household items collection for the Joe Bartko Memorial, St. Vincent De Paul Food Kitchen is beginning. Parishioners are asked to share their bounty from God with those less fortunate. Monetary donations will also be accepted and may be placed in the envelope included with the bulletin. Donations should be non-perishable and NO glass containers. Suggested items include canned vegetables, pasta, cereal, tuna, soup, stuffing mix, cake mix, salt, pepper, paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.). Please use the bag provided in the vestibule for your donations. **Collection will end Sunday, November 20th.**

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.

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.

PARISH DIRECTORY – Since St. Francis Parish is celebrating our 100th 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! Tickets need to be **RETURNED BY NOVEMBER 7th!**

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – Will be conducted beginning on Wednesday, October 27th 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 27th, November 3rd, 10th, and 17th. 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.

SANCTUARY CANDLE FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER - +Dennis Mochan and +Craig Britton :
By: Family

Background on the Gospel Reading

As we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, our Lectionary skips a chapter that helps set the context for today's reading. If we were to read the sections skipped ([chapter 11](#) and part of [chapter 12](#)), we would hear about Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, His cleansing of the Temple, and the questioning of Jesus' authority by the chief priests, scribes, and elders. The context, therefore, for this Gospel is Jesus' growing exposure before the Jewish authorities. Jesus is being questioned and tested by the Jewish authorities, yet the scribe who addresses Jesus in today's Gospel seems to be an admirer; he is not testing Jesus.

The question posed in today's Gospel requires Jesus to interpret the Law of Moses. The Mosaic Law consists of the Ten Commandments and many additional commandments, numbering into the hundreds. For a devout Jew, adherence to the Mosaic Law is an expression of faithfulness to God's covenant with Israel. The ranking of these commandments was regularly debated among the teachers of the Law.

Jesus was not the only Jewish religious teacher to connect these two commandments, love of God and love of neighbor. Both of these commandments were central elements of the religious tradition that Jesus learned from His Jewish community. Indeed, these commandments continue to be central aspects of contemporary Jewish religious understanding. Jesus' response to His questioners proposed an integral connection between these two aspects of the Jewish Law. Love of God finds its expression in our love for our neighbor. Many believe, however, that this connection was heard in a new and fresh way when spoken by Jesus.

The scribe who questions Jesus in today's Gospel engages in a positive dialogue with Jesus. He agrees with Jesus' teaching that the commandments to love God and love neighbor stand above the commandment to offer worship and sacrifice in the Temple. With this dialogue, Jesus appears to close the debate with the Jewish authorities. Mark reports that no one dared to question Jesus further.

Patris corde, 6. A Working Father

Work is a means of participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion. It becomes an opportunity for the fulfillment not only of oneself but also of that primary cell of society which is the family. A family without work is particularly vulnerable to difficulties, tensions, estrangement, and in the end, sometimes even to break-up. How can we speak of human dignity without working to ensure that everyone is able to earn a decent living? Working persons whatever their job may be, are cooperating with God Himself, and in some ways become creators of the world around us.

Pope Pius XII also spoke on Joseph the Worker, "it is certain that there was no worker's spirit so perfectly and deeply penetrated as the foster-father of Jesus, who lived with Him in the closest intimacy and community of family and work. (Venerable Pope Pius XII, Address, 1 May 1955.)

St. Joseph, A Working Father, Caretaker of the Household, pray for us.

(Pope Francis Apostolic Letter *Patris corde*, 2020 6. 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.**

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$150.00; Adults - \$2771.27; Children - \$6.00; Monthly - \$220.00; St. Francis Feast Day - \$25.00; Candles - \$106.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$25.00; Christmas - \$10.00; Christmas Flowers - \$5.00; Retired Priest Medical - \$5.00; Cemetery - \$215.02; Donation - \$140.00; World Mission - \$132.00; All Souls - \$225.00; All Saints - \$75.00; Immaculate Conception - \$5.00; Hall Rental - \$1,050.00 Total Collection - \$5165.29.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, Jim Dadey, Verne Esposito, Alicia Junghans, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Paulette Mirilovich, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Betty Scott, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Paulette Torchia, 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.

WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP BASKET PARTY – The West End Improvement Group will host the Annual Basket Party on Sunday November 14, 2021 at St. Therese Social Hall, Decker Ave in the West End. Doors will open at 11:00AM, drawing will begin at 1:00PM. Tickets are \$8.00 which includes lunch and 25 tickets. Proceeds benefit surveillance camera upgrades, flowers, gardens and community projects. Any questions or to donate a basket, please call 248-8989 or 322-5558.