

November 7, 2021
32nd 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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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 – 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

PRAYER CARDS - “Prayer of Entrustment to St. Joseph” prayer cards in the Vestibule of the Church.

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

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - Those of you who joyfully pick up a copy of The Word Among Us each month, did you see the special invitation of the \$20 ADVENT CHALLENGE following page M44? Please take a look at the special insert of becoming a partner with The Word Among Us and making a donation to give a Christmas Gift to People Who Need It Most! As our Patron Holy Father St. Francis says: “For it is giving that we receive.”

100th ANNIVERSARY MEETING – We will be holding a meeting to go over our 100th Anniversary plans for next year. Our meeting will be held at the Parish Rectory on November 15th at 6PM.

OREMUS MINISTRY (PRAYER CHAIN) – We are seeking new members for the Oremus Ministry. If you would be willing to help people in need through prayer, Please contact the Parish Office at (814)539-1632.

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.*

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.

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 November 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

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE – Will burn for Health of Jim Dadey – By: **Brother Tom, Sister Bea & Family**

Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today's Gospel continues to be mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. Mark reports some of Jesus' teaching in the Temple area in today's reading and in the preceding verses not included in our Lectionary sequence. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus warn the crowds not to follow the example of the scribes in seeking honor and attention from others. It is important to recall that Mark indicates that Jesus taught these things while in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. Mark is setting the stage for Jesus' passion.

Jesus then observes how Jewish pilgrims are making their contributions to the temple treasury. The Temple in Jerusalem was the center of Jewish worship in the time of Jesus. It was expected that observant Jews would make pilgrimages to the Temple to offer prayer and sacrifices. Pilgrims were also expected to make a financial contribution to the temple treasury.

As we would expect to be the case, Jesus observes that those who were rich contributed large sums to the treasury. Those with less means made smaller contributions. A similar situation exists in most of our parishes as well. Jesus calls attention, however, to a poor widow who makes the smallest of contributions—two coins of little value. Jesus upholds the poor widow's offering for His Disciples' consideration, commending her because her small offering was an act of profound generosity, giving from her livelihood rather than her surplus.

To give from our livelihood is not only an act of generosity, it is also an act of trust in God. We can only give from our need if we trust that God will provide for us. Jesus Himself demonstrates the ultimate act of generosity and trust in God as He gives His life for us on the cross.

Patris corde, 6. A Working Father

Saint Joseph's work reminds us that God Himself, in becoming man, did not disdain work. The loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities. The crisis of our time, which is economic, social, cultural and spiritual, can serve as a summons for all of us to rediscover the value, the importance and necessity of work for bringing about a new "normal" from which no one is excluded.

Let us implore St. Joseph the Worker to help us find ways to express our firm conviction that no young person, no person at all, no family should be without work!

St. Joseph, A Working Father, Compassionate Worker, pray for us.

St. Joseph the Worker Prayer: *O God, Creator of all things, who laid down for the human race the law of work, graciously grant that by the example of St. Joseph and under his patronage, we may complete the works you set us to do and attain the rewards you promise. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(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 - \$128.00; Adults - \$2129.89; Children - \$7.00; Monthly - \$135.00; Candles - \$143.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$412.00; Thanksgiving - \$10.00; Donation - \$45.00; World Mission - \$15.00; Catholic Charities - \$5.00; All Souls - \$115.00; All Saints - \$192.00; Rental - \$100.00; Funeral \$150.00 - Total Collection - \$3586.89.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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.

ST. THERESE PIROGHI SALE - Will be selling their fresh but frozen piroghis on Saturday November 20th from 10AM–12PM, or until they sell out at the Social Hall. NO PHONE orders will be taken. Cost is \$7.