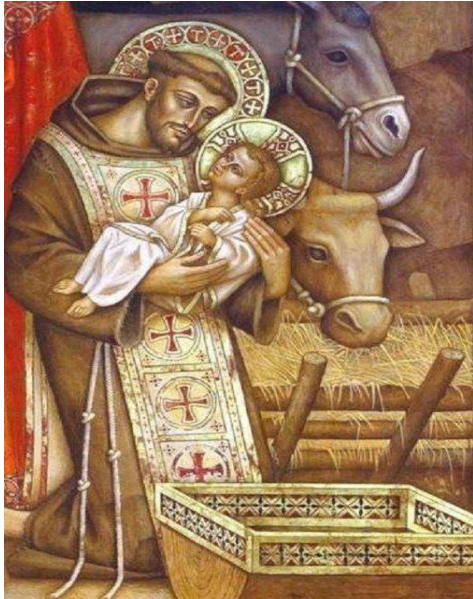


January 2, 2022  
*Epiphany of the Lord*  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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](mailto: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** 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

**HELP IS NEEDED** – on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM to take down the decorations in the Church. Many hands make light work!

**MEN’S CLUB** – Will meet on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!

**2022 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** – Are for pickup at the Parish Office, Monday through Thursday from 9:00am – 3:00pm. Please – if you know of someone who is unable to pick up their envelopes and you can do so for them – do not hesitate to help by delivering the envelopes to them. Thank You!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. TED BUCZEK** – “First-time ‘Your Story’ writer’s entry selected for Christmas serial’s finale” Chapter 5 of Your Story – Spirit of Christmas.

**GOB SALE** – We will be holding a Gob Sale on January 22, at St. Francis Activity Building on Barron Ave and D Street, from 9AM – 12PM Noon.

**SAVE THE DATE** – St. Francis Mardi Gras will be held February 19, 2022. Tickets will go on sale in January. More information to follow.

**ROSARY SOCIETY** – Will meet on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**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.

**PARISH DIRECTORY PHOTOS**– There is no cost to be photographed for the St. Francis Picture Directory, if we have 75 households participate. Each family photographed receives a complimentary directory and a free 8 X 10 photo. Additional photos will be available for purchase at a reasonable cost but there will be no high pressure sales pushed. All sales are optional. Please sign the list in the vestibule ASAP. Thanks!!

**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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$174.00; Adults - \$2462.27; Monthly - \$115.00; Candles - \$115.00; Christmas Flowers - \$30.00; Immaculate Conception - \$45.00; Thanksgiving - \$10.00; Retired Religious - \$25.00; Donation - \$1727.00; St. Vincent De Paul (Joe Bartko Memorial) - \$617.00 - Total Collection - \$5320.27

**Christmas Collection:** Loose - \$386.00; Christmas - \$3292.02; Oplatek - \$443.00 –Total Collection - \$4121.02

**THE SANCTUARY CANDLE** – Will burn For: +Eric Moran – From, Barb and Liz Petruska.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' Birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual Birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was Born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in Salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because Priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' Death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's Early Life and Ministry have been celebrated as "Epiphanies," including His Birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His First Miracle at Cana.

## January 2, 2022 - The Epiphany of the Lord

We observe today the great Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. From poor and humble shepherds to the international group of Magi, Jesus makes it clear that He offers Himself as a gift to everyone. We also learn through the Gospel of Matthew that God uses what is familiar to us to draw us to Him. Our Lord continues to speak to each one of us.

How can we be attune to "hear" and "see" with our spiritual senses? As stewards we **must** spend time with the Lord in prayer. In the same way that we set professional goals or goals for better health, we need to set spiritual goals to ensure that we are taking the time to **listen intentionally** to God. We will find that the Lord continues to speak to us throughout the day. We will more easily recognize the "stars" He places before us to draw us into closer relationship with Him.

*(Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 01/03/2019)*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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, David Watson, Sheila Weppner.

=====

**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; Lt. Col. Melinda Rovon Corallo, Travis Air Force Base, California; 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.*

=====

**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.

=====

**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.

Please uplift in prayer our Confirmation Candidates (Alana Murphy, Connor and Christian Haberkorn, and Brandon Wincer) who officially were enrolled in the Confirmation Program. They are scheduled to be confirmed on Thursday, May 5, 2022.