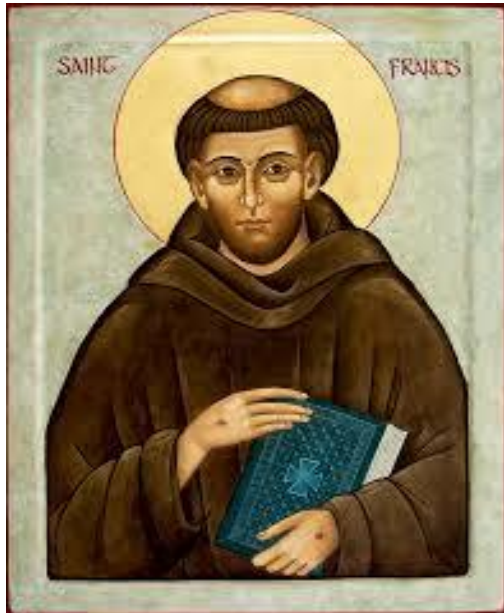


January 16, 2022
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 – 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

PARISH OFFICE - will be **CLOSED Monday, January 17th** for the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your calendars! The photo sessions for the new St. Francis Picture Directory will be on **Friday & Saturday, April 1 & 2 and Tuesday & Wednesday, April 5 & 6**. More information will be forthcoming next month for times.

GOB ICING - will be made on Tuesday, January 18th from 7:00AM-11AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, January 19th from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

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**.

MARDI GRAS - will be held on Saturday, February 19th, 2022 from 6 to 11 p.m. at the St. Francis Activity Center, corner of D Street and Barron Ave, Johnstown. Doors open at 5 p.m. Come and enjoy a full turkey dinner, music by Flood City Brass, a cash bar, \$7 beer bracelets, a basket Raffle, and qualifiers. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children up to age 12 years and may be purchased by calling Fran at 536-3667. Tables for 8 persons can be reserved for an additional small fee.

BASKET DONATIONS - We are asking for donations of Baskets (Value of \$25) to be chanced off at this year's Mardi Gras. We are also in need of Rum, Vodka, Wine and Whiskey. Please contact Alice at (814)536-4252 or Gale (814)539-0155 or Georgie (814)535-4252, to make drop off arrangements.

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 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$130.00; Adults - \$2217.96; Monthly - \$315.00; Candles - \$103.00; Easter Flowers - \$5.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$45.00; Donation - \$110.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$65.00; Initial Offering - \$54.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$5.00; Mandeville - \$5.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00 - Total Collection - \$3059.96

VETERAN FOOD DISTRIBUTION - at **Hiram G. Andrews Center, 727 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905**. All Veterans and Military Families that are in need of food are welcome. **January 31, February 24, March 29, April 29, May 26, June 30**. Pick up times are from **1:00 – 3:00PM**. For more information please call **1-800-VLP-VETS**.

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE – Will be lit for **+James Cononie – From: Daughter, Paulette and Joseph Torchia**

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we begin the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. For many Sundays in this lectionary cycle (Cycle C), our readings will be taken from the Gospel of Luke. Occasionally, however, we will read from John's Gospel. This is true of today's Gospel reading, which describes the beginning of Jesus' ministry and His First Miracle.

To situate today's reading within the context of John's Gospel, we note that John's report of this event follows Jesus' call of His First Disciples. John tells us that Jesus and His Disciples were invited to this wedding at Cana, as was Jesus' Mother, Mary. There is no parallel report of this Miracle at Cana in the Synoptic Gospels.

In the Church's Liturgical History, the Wedding Feast of Cana is closely associated with the Baptism of the Lord and the Adoration of the Infant Jesus by the Wise Men. In this context, the sign Jesus performs at the Wedding Feast is celebrated as an Epiphany or a Manifestation of Jesus' Divinity.

Yet awareness of Jesus' impending Passion and Death is ever present in John's Gospel. Even in this report of Jesus' First Sign, the language used anticipates Jesus' Passion. When Jesus says to His Mother that His hour has not yet come, He protests against Her wishes in language that John will use again when reporting Jesus' Last Supper with His Disciples. When introducing the story of Jesus washing His Disciples' feet, John writes that Jesus knew that His hour had come. In John's Gospel, Jesus is very much in command and aware of all that is to happen to Him.

Here, as elsewhere in John's Gospel, Mary is not mentioned by name, but is referred to instead as the Mother of Jesus. Mary is influential in Jesus' First Sign. She will also be present at His Crucifixion, a witness to the Final Manifestation of His Divinity.

John's Gospel describes seven signs that indicate Jesus' identity to His Disciples. John never speaks of these signs as Miracles because their importance is not in the deed that Jesus performs but in what these deeds indicate about Jesus' Identity. Here, as when John describes the other signs, the Disciples are said to begin to believe, but no mention is made as to whether the other wedding guests are even aware of what has happened.

Marriage and wedding feasts are metaphors used in Scripture to describe God's Salvation and the Kingdom of God. Here at the beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry, John's Gospel seeks to establish that Jesus is going to re-interpret and fulfill Yahweh's promise to Israel. Jesus establishes the New Covenant. A hint about what this New Covenant will be like is made evident in the deed that Jesus performs. Asked to do something to address the awkward situation that the absence of wine at a wedding feast would create, Jesus' miracle produces vast quantities of wine—six jars holding thirty gallons each are filled to overflowing with choice wine.

This lavish response to a simple human need is a vision for us of the abundance of God's kingdom. It challenges us to respond generously when confronted with human need today. We respond as best we can, fully confident that God can transform our efforts, bringing the Kingdom of God to fulfillment among us.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 16)

Our Lord chose to include the servants to assist in the performance of His first public miracle. 2,000 plus years later, He still chooses to include us in His Miracles through our cooperation with Him in using the gifts and talents He has given us. What a privilege! It is also a sobering reality that because God has made each of us with unique and different gifts, we are required to use our gifts to benefit all of those around us, especially our parish communities. All members, young and old, must share their gifts for the good of all. The parish family will suffer if even one member holds back.

Let us take care to listen to our Blessed Mother as Jesus did. Let us examine our lives this week to see if we really are “doing whatever He tells us,” and are cooperating with God to make the best use of the gifts He has given us. If we take this call seriously, He will perform miracles in all our families and community. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2021/12/21)

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.

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

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.