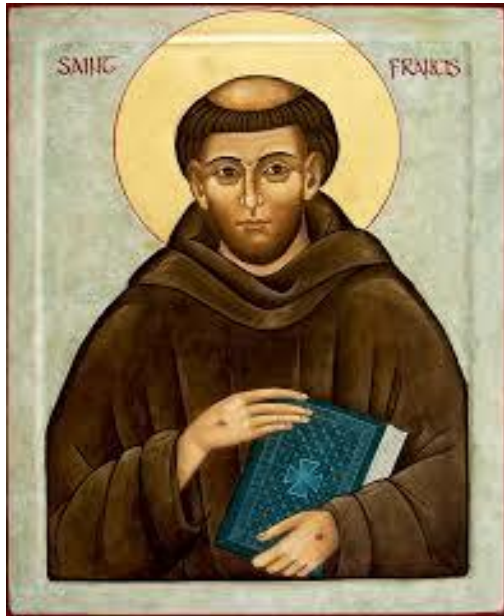


**January 23, 2022**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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**  
**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

**SYNOD 2021-2023 FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH** – Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what is happening in local parishes. He wants to hear from you as parishioners as to what you think should be done to help make our parishes better. The way he has proposed, is by doing A Synod, which is journeying together to listen and discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church today. There will be many opportunities throughout the Diocese for parishioners to engage and share their inspired thoughts. The first experience will be that of **Small Faith Sharing Groups**. The Diocese, through Sr. Linda LaMagna, will be offering several Workshops as well as a zoom meeting to highlight the Synod, so that Small Faith Groups can help people's hopes flourish, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission. A flyer for the workshop dates is enclosed with the Bulletin.

**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.

**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 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 - \$170.00; Adults - \$2890.27; Monthly - \$50.00; Candles - \$108.50; Easter Flowers - \$5.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$35.00; Donation - \$40.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$35.00; Initial Offering - \$60.00; - Total Collection - \$3393.77.

**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.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's Gospel reading combines two separate passages taken from the Gospel of Luke. First we hear the opening verses where Luke establishes the purpose of his Gospel. His style is typical of polished Greek and Roman literature. In this passage, we learn that Luke may have written to a specific person, Theophilus; but the word Theophilus may also be a general reference, functioning as the phrase "Dear Reader" might in contemporary writing. In Greek, the word Theophilus translates as "lover of God."

Today's Gospel reading then skips several chapters in which one would find the Infancy Narratives, Jesus' Baptism by John, the temptations Jesus faced in the desert, and the beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry. In chapter four of Luke's Gospel, we hear that Jesus is in His hometown of Nazareth, attending the Synagogue on the Sabbath, which is said to be His custom. In this account, we find another important clue that Jesus lived as a faithful, observant Jew. We will continue to read from Luke's Gospel in sequence for the next two Sundays.

As Jesus stands in the Synagogue, He reads from the scroll handed to Him; it contains the words of the Prophet Isaiah. At this early moment in His ministry, Jesus announces His Mission in continuity with Israel's prophetic tradition. This reading from Isaiah defines Jesus' Ministry. We will find more evidence of this as we continue to read from Luke's Gospel throughout the year. Jesus' Ministry will include bringing glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, freedom to the oppressed, and proclaiming a year acceptable to the Lord.

Through this text from Isaiah, Jesus announces God's Salvation. The "year acceptable to the Lord" is a reference to the Jewish tradition of Sabbath years and jubilee. The Sabbath year was observed every seventh year. It was a year of rest when land was left fallow and food stores were to be shared equally with all. A year of Jubilee was celebrated every fiftieth year, the conclusion of seven cycles of Sabbath years. It was a year of renewal in which debts were forgiven and slaves were freed.

This tradition of Jubilee is the framework for God's promise of Salvation. And yet in Jesus, something new begins. Jesus not only announces God's Salvation, He brings this Salvation about in His person. Jesus is Yahweh's Anointed One, filled with the Spirit of God. The Kingdom of God is now at hand. It is made present in Jesus, in His life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus will send the Holy Spirit so that the Kingdom of God can be fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' gift to the Church. The Holy Spirit enables the Church to continue the mission of Jesus. When we do what Jesus did—bring glad tidings to the poor, liberty to captives, healing to the sick, and freedom to the oppressed—we serve the Kingdom of God.

### **3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 23)**

In today's first reading, the ancient Israelites are asked to rejoice in the Lord for His gift of abundant food, and to give a portion to those who had nothing. As Christian stewards, we are called to do the same. Our gifts are our food to share. In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, it states "If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is there are many parts, yet one Body." St. Paul teaches us as Christian stewards that we all have equal dignity and worth in God's sight and we should view each other in this same light. It teaches us to humbly recognize our own gifts as well as the giftedness of every member of our parish family.

And, while God has designed us to ultimately depend on Him, it seems He has also designed us to need each other! The good news of the beauty and richness of a stewardship way of life is that God does not ask any one person to "do it all" in their family or parish. He simply asks us to share the gifts and talents we do have in the season of life we find ourselves in right now. It might feel uncomfortable to say "No" sometimes. Do your part and let your brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ do theirs. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us all as we live out this stewardship of life. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship)

**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, 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 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;; **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 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.

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.