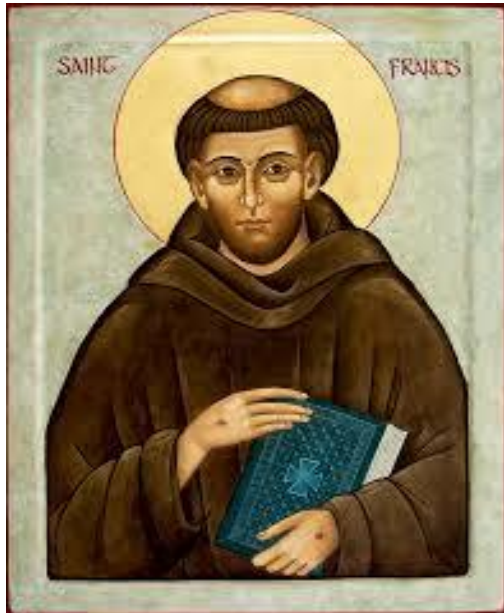


January 30, 2022
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4 – Is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the Main Vestibule. There should be at least two adorers present for each time slot. (This is a lot a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament — adorers adore and protect.

MARDI GRAS IS CANCELLED – Due to Covid and low ticket sales.

MEN'S CLUB – Will **NOT** be meeting for the month of February.

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 Workshop will be held here at St. Francis Activity Center on Saturday February 5 from 9:30-11:30AM.**

GOB ICING - will be made on Tuesday, February 1st from 7:00AM-11AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, February 2nd from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

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.

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.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – Will resume on Thursday, February 10th 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 Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30PM in the St. Francis of Assisi Rectory Office. The dates for class is February 10, 17, 24 and March 3rd. If you are interested in participating in these classes please sign up on the sign-up sheet provided in the Church Vestibule.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$100.00; Adults - \$2020.25; Monthly - \$650.00; Candles - \$152.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$274.05; Solemnity of Mary - \$8.00; Initial Offering - \$27.00; Donation - \$190.00 - Total Collection - \$3421.30.

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE – Will burn this week for successful surgery for David King – From Wife, Fran

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read from the Gospel of Luke, continuing immediately from last week's Gospel. Recall that in last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus read from the Prophet Isaiah and announced that this Scripture was now fulfilled. In today's Gospel, we learn that the people of Nazareth are impressed by Jesus' words, and yet they seem surprised. They still think of Jesus as merely Joseph's Son. They do not expect such words from someone they believe that they know.

This Gospel is about who Jesus is and who people believe Him to be. The story of Jesus' preaching and rejection at Nazareth is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels. In Luke's Gospel, this incident is told in a way that foretells Jesus' passion and death and helps explain the inclusion of the Gentiles in the promise of Salvation. In Luke's Gospel this incident appears at the beginning of Jesus' Ministry; in Matthew and Mark, this event is placed considerably later, after Jesus has preached and taught elsewhere. Only Luke identifies the content of Jesus' teaching in any detail, telling us that Jesus read from the book of the Prophet Isaiah in the Synagogue. In Mark and Matthew's Gospels, Jesus teaches in the synagogue in Nazareth, and the townspeople take offense because Jesus is only the Son of a carpenter. They reject His authority to teach them. In Matthew and Mark, it is only after Jesus is rejected that He observes times when Israel has rejected prophets.

In Luke's Gospel, the people are surprised but not immediately offended by Jesus' words in the Synagogue. It is the words that follow His reading from the Prophet Isaiah that seem to offend them. Jesus challenges and provokes the people of Nazareth by referring to examples in which Israel rejected the Prophets. He also challenges them to respond to His message, the message of a Prophet, in a way that is different from their ancestors. This call for a new response leads to His rejection.

It is helpful to consider the historical context of Luke's Gospel. Luke has witnessed the acceptance of the Gospel message among many Gentiles. He endeavors to explain why the Good News of Jesus has not been as well-received by His Jewish contemporaries. Luke's report interprets the cause of Jesus' rejection at Nazareth in the context of this later Christian history. Just as the people at Nazareth did not welcome the Good News that Jesus announced, so too many among the people of Israel will not accept the preaching of the Gospel.

After Jesus' words of challenge, Luke reports that there was a movement to kill Jesus by throwing Him over a cliff. This differs from the reports found in Mark and Matthew's Gospels, where Jesus is said to be unable to perform miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Luke says that Jesus walks away from the crowd that intended to kill Him; it is not yet His time. The animosity of the people of Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through His death on the cross that Jesus offers God's Salvation to all.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 30)

Embracing Stewardship as a way of life helps us to find and fulfill the unique mission that God has in mind for each one of us. Stewardship helps us to continuously evaluate all areas of our daily life so that we can become aware of the specific gifts God has given us. As Baptized Christians, once we have been awakened to the particular and unique ways in which God has blessed us, we can set about putting those gifts to the best possible use for the advancement of His kingdom, as often as we are called to use them.

Ask yourself: Do the Time, Talent and Treasure God has given me align with the mission in the individual circumstances of my life right now? What is the real measuring stick in each of these areas? It is not the number of rosaries I pray or the number of ministries I am involved in, or the amount of money I give in the weekly offering. The measure is the love that we put into the Time, Talent, and Treasure we offer Him in grateful return. "Love never fails" (1 Cor 12: 8). Only when time, abilities and finances are shared with an attitude of gratitude founded in the love of Jesus, can that sharing be seen as Christian Stewardship.

(Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/01/4)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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 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; **SPC Morgan Rullo**, ARNG Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

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.