

**January 9, 2022**  
**Baptism 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!

**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!

**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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**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 - \$159.00; Adults - \$1898.70; Monthly - \$869.11; Christmas - \$60.00; Candles - \$201.00; Immaculate Conception - \$10.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$500.02; Donation - \$25.00; Initial Offering - \$362.00 - Total Collection - \$4084.83

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

**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.

**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, 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 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.

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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.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In today's Gospel, as in the other Gospel accounts of Jesus' Baptism, we hear John the Baptist address the confusion of the people who thought that John might be the Messiah. In response, John contrasts the Baptism that he performs with the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John the Baptist says that he has baptized with water, but that someone will come and baptize with the Holy Spirit. The type of baptism that John performed was not yet a Christian Baptism; it was a preparation for Christian Baptism through which sins are forgiven and the gift of the Holy Spirit is received.

The Baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the Voice from Heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from Heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during His time of prayer after His Baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a Person of prayer Who withdraws regularly from the crowds and His Disciples to pray to His Father.

The Baptism of Jesus is considered a Manifestation of God in Jesus, another “epiphany.” On this, the last day of the Christmas Season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the Son of Mary and Joseph is also God's Own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the Voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the Son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

## **January 9, 2022 Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

As we celebrate this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord to close this Christmas Season we can study Jesus' actions at the Jordon River as a powerful example of Servant Leadership that is characterized by humility and leading by example. He doesn't just tell the people they need to be Baptized. Jesus allows John the Baptist to Baptize Him to teach that we must “walk the walk” and not merely “talk the talk.”

If we want those we lead to be generous and hard-working, then we must show them how to do this by demonstrating our own generosity and sacrifice. Let us be filled with gratitude for our amazing God and be reminded that when we are grateful followers of Jesus and servant-leaders in imitation of Him, the Father will be “well-pleased” with us too. How can you be an example this week?

*(Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 01/10/2019)*