

**February 20, 2022**  
**7<sup>th</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

**MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM**  
**Saturday – 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM & 9:30AM**

*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

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** – The Family and Friends of +**Philip Duriga**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** – Monday February 21, 2022 due to President's Day!

**CCD CLASSES FOR THIS WEEKEND (FEB. 20) ARE CANCELLED** – Due to the President's Day Holiday on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>.

**GOB ICING** – Will be made on Tuesday February 22 from 7 – 11AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, February 23 from 8:00AM – 10:00AM and from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

**ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY IS BACK** – Take out only on Ash Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-6PM. Phone orders will be taken the day before, Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9AM to 11AM and on the day of the fish fry from 10AM to 5PM at (814)539-3518.

Future Fish Frys are tentatively scheduled for Fridays, March 18<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup>. New volunteers are welcome. Can you donate a couple of hours to help make the fish fry successful?

Members of the Coordinating Committee are Deb Halach, Pat Britton, John Davis, Barb Bimeal, Carol Pisula, and Gale Bala. For information or to volunteer, please call Gale (539-0155).

**FISH FRY BREADERS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY FISH FRY:** Breaders needed from 12 Noon – 2PM on Ash Wednesday. Please contact Cindy at (814)539-3128.

**PASKA BREAD** – We will be making Paska Bread closer to Easter. We will need volunteers to help make it. More info to come in the near future!

**SIGHT AND SOUND** – The show for Sight and sound is “David”. The date we will be going is August 18<sup>th</sup>. For more info please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**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**. Please go to the website to sign-up at [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com) and click on Photography Appt Scheduling Log. Parishioner's password is “photos”. If you don't have a computer you can sign-up in at back of the Church starting the weekend of February 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**SPRING 2022 CATHOLIC MEN's CONFERENCE** – The Diocese will hold a Catholic Men's Conference on Sunday, May 1, 2022 at DeGol Arena, St. Francis University, Loretto. Speakers include Bas Rutten, Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck, and Deacon Burke-Sivers, all nationally known speakers. The day will begin with lunch at noon, talks, Adoration, Confession opportunity and conclude with Mass with Bishop Mark at 5PM. Registration information will be forthcoming.

**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.

**ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES** – that were scheduled with Deacon Bruce Becker are **CANCELLED**. WATCH for info concerning the upcoming study groups for the **FAITH SHARING SYNOD** during Lent.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's Gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' Disciples. This is in contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: Love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the **Beatitudes**. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the Law and the Prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.

Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is the terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behavior of His followers with the behavior of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behavior desired with the behavior of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (February 20)

Today's Gospel is full of stewardship advice: give to everyone who asks; expect nothing in return; do not judge or condemn; love your enemies. Live your life with great kindness and mercy! Jesus offers a very challenging, seemingly impossible approach to daily life.

It makes one want to say, "Seriously, Lord?" And He doesn't stop there. Jesus adds, "Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back."

It seems so unfair! That is, unless we look at this way of life as a steward. Then, not only does it seem doable (though challenging), but it also actually makes sense. God has entrusted all things to each of us in love for His purpose and glory. Jesus is simply asking that we also approach others, and the sharing of our gifts with the same attitude. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/1/25)

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$146.00; Adults - \$2,531.15; Monthly - \$363.00; Candles - \$145.00; Easter - \$20.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$25.00; Black and Indian Mission - \$10.00; Mandeville - \$10.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$20.00; Initial Offering - \$10.00; Donation - \$450.00 - Total Collection - \$3,730.15.

The Blessed Mother Candle will be lit for +Ethel Petak from Daughter Michele.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Candle will be lit for +LeAnn Golby from Karen Golby.

St. Joseph Candle will be lit for Frannie Findley for a successful operation and recovery – From, Frank

**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.

=====

**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;; 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; 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.

=====

**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.