

February 27, 2022
8th 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

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 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

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

MEN’S CLUB – Will be meeting on Thursday, March 3rd at 6:30PM at the Activity Building. New members are always welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, March 7th at 6:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY IS BACK – Take out only on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd from 2-6PM. Phone orders will be taken the day before, Tuesday, March 1st 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 18th and April 8th. 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 18th. 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 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 26th & 27th. 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 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 – that were scheduled with Deacon Bruce Becker are **CANCELLED**. WATCH for info concerning the upcoming study groups for the **FAITH SHARING SYNOD** during Lent.

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$286.00; Adults - \$2,159.82; Monthly - \$460.02; Candles - \$114.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$5.00; Donation - \$195.00 - Total Collection - \$3,219.84.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: And He told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the Teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the Teacher Who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself can you produce the good works that the Teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the Teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time (February 27)

The US Bishops' pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* was published in 1992 as a challenge to embrace a mature discipleship that requires a decision to follow Jesus Christ no matter the cost. This commitment leads to a way of life, not just a series of action and is transformational. Our diocese rose to the challenge with personal and communal commitments of genuine sharing of Time, Talent and Treasure to all God's children at that time and is still continuing to this day.

Our activity as stewards is valuable because it is bringing about a Kingdom of God that exists here and now as Jesus taught through parables and actions of love. When you are deciding how much you will give of your resources to others, do you determine what the amount will be based by judging someone else's first? If you feel you are giving more because someone was selfish and gave less, look into your heart and ask Jesus to help you give with an honest heart of love. "A good man produces goodness from the good in his heart. Each man speaks from his heart's abundance." (Lk 6:45)

RICE BOWLS – Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has been working tirelessly through the pandemic to help the poorest of the poor throughout the world. It is on the ground in over 100 countries helping with malnutrition, clean drinking water, and to help people have better business practices to help sustain their families. 75% of the proceeds from Operation Rice Bowl goes to CRS's work around the world and the other 25% stays here to help those in need in our own Diocese.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE – Kickoff for Catholic Ministries Drive is the weekend of March 12th & 13th. **Our Parish goal this year is \$18,488.** Any and all help is greatly appreciated!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czymnik, 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 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.

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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.