

**March 13, 2022**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
**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 – 6:30PM in the Activity Center

**LENT SCHEDULE** – Daily Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM with the exception of Tuesday when Mass will be celebrated at 6:15PM. Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday of Lent at 7:00PM. Divine Mercy along with Lenten Lamentations and Benediction will be held on Sundays of Lent at 3:00PM.

**ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY** – Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Francis Parish who supported our first fish fry of 2022. The Committee, at this time, would like to thank you for your support and understanding. Being our first effort under a revised order of business, a few errors were made. We most sincerely apologize to those patrons who did not receive their pre-ordered dinners. **Our next Fish Fry is on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-6PM.** Phone orders will now be taken on Mondays and Wednesdays of fish fry week only, between the hours of 9:00am and 1:00pm. **(814)539-3518 NO PHONE ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN THE DAY OF THE FISH FRY.** Walk-ins will be between the hours of 2:00pm and 6:00pm WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. It took God 6 days to make the perfect world. Hopefully it won't take us 6 tries to make the perfect fish fry.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY** – Sign-up Sheet is in the main Vestibule. The Party is scheduled on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00PM.

**SYNOD MEETINGS SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUP (3 in number, with a possibility of Sessions 4, 5 and 6)** – A practice of Scriptural Reading, Meditation, & Prayer intended to promote Communion with God. Sessions will be held beginning **March 15<sup>th</sup> after the 6:15 Mass** and **Wednesday morning, March 16<sup>th</sup> after 9:00am Mass.** Meeting at the convent across the street from the Church. Don't forget to sign up in the Vestibule.

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING** – Meeting will be held for Committee Members on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM in the Church Office.

**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. The Church code is “pa932” and Parishioner's password is “photos”. **The Site is down from Friday at midnight till Sunday night at midnight, it ONLY works Monday –Friday!** If you don't have a computer you can sign-up in at back of the Church. 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.

**PASKA BREAD** – We will be making Paska Bread the week of March 21<sup>st</sup>. We will need volunteers to help make it. Please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**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 12 Noon, with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark followed by an anniversary dinner. More info coming soon.

**COLLECTION FOR FRIARS IN UKRAINE** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection this weekend is for the Friars in Ukraine, if you wish to donate to the Province Fund set up to support the friars in Ukraine, please use the Our Lady of the Angels Province Website. [Olaprovince.org](http://Olaprovince.org) - You may make a donation to our friars, please send a check to the Provincial House C/O Fr. Michael Heine, OFM Conv. (Our Lady of the Angels Provincial House, 12300 Folly Quarter Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042) and the Province will wire the donation to Poland where the Polish Province is housing many refugees. Checks should be made payable to “Franciscan Friars”.

**CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK:** Loose - \$228.00; Adults - \$2,200.25; Monthly - \$1,033.00; Candles - \$198.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$10.00; Donation - \$20.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$51.00; Mandeville - \$111.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$5.00; Easter Flowers - \$15.00 - Total Collection - \$3,871.25.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' Retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the First Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' Temptation in the desert. On the Second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about His Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of Discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' Disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first Disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as His appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the Three Disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion and Death. As they awake, Peter and the Disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as his exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus “Master” instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the Disciples listen to Him. This voice from Heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' Baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the Disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness His Passion and Death will the Disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and Death.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent (March 13)**

The reason for all our fasting and prayer and almsgiving during Lent is to be Reawakened to all God has done for humanity, and to all that He has personally done for us. It is too easy to get lulled into complacency in our daily routines and to “sleepwalk” through life, getting up and getting ourselves out the door, going to work, returning home for dinner and dishes, meetings or sports activities, and finally flopping on the couch to watch TV or play games until bedtime. While there is nothing inherently sinful in this routine, as Christian stewards, we are called to do so much more.

This Lent, let us train ourselves, or more precisely, allow Him to train us to say, “Yes” to His will and to offer our lives back to Him in gratitude. In doing so, we, too, will become fully awake, “*transfigured*.” This is a stewardship way of life and it is glorious indeed! (*Stewardship Reflections*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/2/15)

**BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE** – Will burn this week for +LeAnn Golby.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** – Will burn for the month of March for Alice Havers.

**SACRED HEART CANDLE** – Will burn this week for special intentions for Al & Mary Strozak.

**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 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.*

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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 Branden Wincer) who officially were enrolled in the Confirmation Program. They are scheduled to be confirmed on Thursday, May 5, 2022.