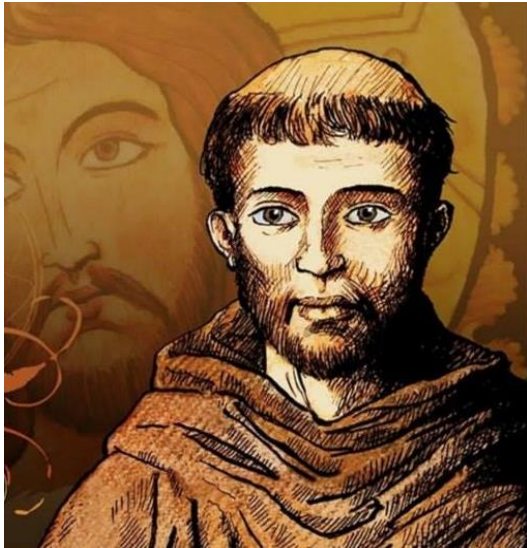


March 6, 2022
1st Sunday in Lent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@atlanticcbbn.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

THANK YOU – To all the volunteers who made the Fish Fry a Huge Success!!!

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

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 IS BACK – Take out only on March 18th from 2-6PM. Phone orders will be taken the day before, Thursday, March 17th from 9AM to 11AM and on the day of the fish fry from 10AM to 5PM at (814)539-3518. Future Fish Fry is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 8th. New volunteers are welcome. Can you donate a couple of hours to help make the fish fry successful? For information or to volunteer, please call Gale (539-0155).

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 the week of March 15th. Sessions will be on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays, once a week for three weeks. Sign-up in the Vestibule on the sign-up sheet!

SYNOD SURVEY – How can the Church better teach and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ? Tell us by completing the Synod Survey by going to dioceseaj.org/synod for the online survey, or complete the survey insert in this bulletin, or ask the parish about joining a local small faith sharing group!

100th ANNIVERSARY MEETING – Meeting will be held for Committee Members on Monday, March 14th 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 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 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.

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!

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

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.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS WEEK LAST WEEK: Loose - \$180.00; Adults - \$2218.30; Monthly - \$281.00; Candles - \$139.80; St. Vincent DePaul - \$15.00; Donation - \$70.00; Easter - \$5.00; Black & Indian Mission - \$25.00; Initial Offering - \$10.00; Mandeville - \$15.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$15.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00 - Total Collection - \$2979.10.

SANCTUARY CANDLE – Will burn this week for Alice Havers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels, after His baptism, Jesus is reported to have spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying. In Luke and in Matthew, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus. The devil tempts Jesus to use His power to appease His hunger, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him, and he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test. In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation.

Each temptation that Jesus faces offers insight into the spirituality we hope to develop as we keep the forty days of the Season of Lent. We can trust God to provide for our material needs. We worship God because God alone has dominion over us and our world. We can trust God to be faithful to His promises. Jesus' rejection of the devil's temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding Himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by His confidence in God's protection and faithfulness.

This Gospel highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency, is a temptation from the devil.

Luke ends his report of Jesus' temptation in the desert by noting that the devil departs for a time. The implication is that the devil will return. Jesus knows that He will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. The depth of Jesus' trust in God is shown most fully when Jesus rejects the temptation to turn away from the task God has given to Him. Jesus' final rebuke of the devil is His sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus' responses to the temptations of the devil teach us how we can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God.

1st Sunday of Lent (March 6)

In the First Reading from Deuteronomy, Moses teaches the people to respond as grateful stewards for all that God has done for them. He tells the Israelites to declare to God, "Therefore, I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you O Lord, have given me." As the priest received the harvest basket to be placed in front of the altar, the gratitude for God's promise to rescue them from oppression and slavery in Egypt was made visible.

As grateful stewards ourselves, we can look at these 40 days as "soil" that God is giving us as a gift to grow closer to Him and become more like Him. We can choose to use each of the days of Lent as a day to intentionally make a generous response to our God, who sent His own Son to deliver us from the affliction and oppression caused by sin. May we experience the conversion during Lent that we will always want to return our first fruits to God by offering them to those in need, and not give them merely our leftovers. (*Stewardship Reflections*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/2/08)

PRAYERS TO WALK US THROUGH LENT March 6, First Sunday of Lent – When we test God

Forgive me, Dear Lord, for the times when I test You. Forgive me when I become angry because You do not make the world turn the way I think it should. Help me to trust You more with each passing day. Open my eyes to Your goodness especially when I am hungry, lonely or lost. Show me how to surrender to Your Holy Will. Remind me that Your Will is always good... it is very good. Let me rest in the confidence of knowing Your plan is always better than my plan, even if I cannot see that right now. Teach me to find hope and joy in believing that You will always lead me out of every desert in my life. Thank You for catching me when I fall and holding me in Your loving arms even when I am having trouble feeling You there. Thank You, Dearest Lord.

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 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.

=====

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.