

April 24, 2022
Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)
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 – 6:30PM in the Activity Center

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MUSICAL – Bishop McCort Catholic High School is performing the Beauty and the Beast Broadway Musical on April 28, 29, and 30 at 7:00PM each evening and on Saturday the 30th at 2:00PM AT Guzzi Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$12 for Adults and \$7 for Students. For tickets call (814)536-8991. One of our Confirmation Candidates, **Alana Murphy**, will be performing in the production!

THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH - will receive Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion on Sunday May, 1 at the 9:30 Mass: Grayson Esposito, Elania Harr, Lydia Kmetz, Cylar McClintock, Gabriel Mikula.

SYNOD SURVEY – Please turn in the Synod Survey that was in the Bulletin a few weeks ago, you can put your completed survey in the collection basket. If you need a new survey please contact the Parish Office. All surveys are due by April 30th.

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

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE – will burn April 17th – 30th for Betty Scott & Armella Smith – From, Sisters.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose - \$267.00; Adults - \$1972.99; Monthly - \$100.00; Candles – 215.95; Easter - \$3315.00; Easter Flowers - \$10.00; Holy Thursday - \$323.00; Good Friday - \$318.00; Donation - \$50.00; Rent – 450.00 - Total Collection - \$7,021.94.



Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the Resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to His Disciples after His Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the Disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the Risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the Disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in His Resurrected Body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; He appeared to the Disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this Resurrected Body, the Disciples could still observe the marks of His Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send His Disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when He gives His Disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to His Disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' Ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the Disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of Disciples. All but the First Disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, Who was crucified and buried, appeared to His Disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus Who appeared to the Disciples after His Death is, indeed, the same Jesus Who was Crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus Who was raised is the same Jesus who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

**My dear Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish!
Peace to your hearts, your homes and to your families!**

Thank you for your service for our successful fish-fries, the Easter bread, the gobs, the Seder Meal and your generosity of your Easter Offertory!

God Bless You! Fr. A.F.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, 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 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.

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.