

May 8, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter
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

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

CHURCH ROSTER UPDATE – Our Church Roster needs to be updated! If you have had an address or phone number change, please put your new info in the collection basket or contact the Parish Office with those changes by May 31st at (814)539-1632.

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION – The Men's Club will be having a Mother's Day Celebration on Sunday, May 8th after 7:30AM & 9:30AM Mass at the Activity Building. They will have coffee, cake and giveaways! All are welcome to come!

GOB ICING - will be made on Tuesday, May 24th from 7:00AM-11AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, May 25th from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

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.

GABRIEL PROJECT WORK DAY – will be **Wednesday, May 11th at 10:00AM**. Come to the Activity Center to help sort baby clothes. Call Gale for info (814)539-0155.

PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATE – Group pictures will be taken in front of the Altar after 9:30AM Mass on Sunday, May 15th starting at 11:00AM. See the list of groups to be photographed on the insert in this weekend's Bulletin or on the counter in the Vestibule. Call Georgetta for info. (814)535-4252.

THE BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE – Will be lit May 1st – 14th for +Mary Cononie & Marion Torchia – From: Children Joe & Paulette Torchia.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose - \$252.00; Adults - \$2,121.75; Monthly - \$787.00; Candles – \$208.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$45.00; Easter - \$90.00; Easter Flowers - \$10.00; Catholic Communication - \$5.00; Catholic Relief - \$20.00; Mother's Day - \$253.00; Ascension - \$5.00; Cemetery - \$212.00; Donation - \$100.00; Funeral - \$100.00 - Total Collection - \$4,208.75.

ANNUAL WEST END PICKERS – Trash to Treasures indoor yard sale will be held on Friday, May 13th and Saturday, May 14th at St. Therese Church Social Hall from 8:00AM – 1:00PM. Sales on Saturday the 14th will be half price. We are in need of any donations of **good saleable items**. Call (814)322-5558 or (814)248-8989, or drop off May 11th and 12th at the Church hall. Proceeds from this sale go towards our projects-surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes and community events.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS ARE BACK – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Friday, May 13th, 2022 at 6:30PM at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. We are really looking forward to seeing you!

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel is taken from the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by Jewish leaders who question Jesus' Authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge to His authority by calling Himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders. Already, the Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angered that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus (see [John 10:31](#) and [10:39](#)). This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' Death.

Set in a moment of tension and conflict in John's Gospel, today's Gospel reading is Jesus' answer to the question, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus responds by saying, in essence, "If you have to ask, then you are not one of My Sheep." Then Jesus asserts His unity with the Father. At the conclusion of these words, John reports that the Jews intend to stone Jesus for blasphemy, but He escapes arrest.

We may be less familiar with the metaphors of sheep and shepherd than those to whom Jesus spoke. The image of Jesus as Good Shepherd and the community of followers as His Sheep has endured over the centuries as a primary image in our faith tradition. Its power to describe the relationship between Jesus and His followers transcends direct experience with sheep. The image speaks to us about the protection, security, and care that shepherds represent for their sheep.

Today's Gospel speaks powerfully about the familiarity and intimacy between Jesus and His Disciples, expressed as recognizing and knowing another's voice. Today's Gospel also speaks to the relationship between Jesus and the Father. In the Gospel of John, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that He tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, Jesus puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

4th Sunday of Easter (May 8)

The Disciples were the first to live a stewardship way of life, and their example is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. In the First Reading we learn that Paul and Barnabas saw themselves as nothing more and nothing less than stewards of Christ and His Good News. This realization brought them freedom. The results of their efforts were up to God. This Spirit-filled, joy-filled life is available to us all today. It can be achieved when we recognize like Paul and Barnabas did, that all we have and all we are is a gift from God, meant to be shared with others for His glory.

Living as God's stewards does not guarantee a life of ease or a life free from sacrifice. Sometimes the steward's life involves challenges, requiring all the strength and love one has to give. May you be filled with joy for using your gifts as an "instrument of salvation" wherever you go (cf. Acts 13:47). (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/04/11)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, Galyann 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.

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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.

FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE – St. Anne’s Christian Mothers (533 Woodland Avenue, Johnstown) will be holding their annual Flea Market & Bake Sale on Friday, May 13th from 9AM – 4PM and Saturday, May 14th from 9AM – 4PM in the Church basement. Everyone is welcome! Hope to see you there!