

August 14, 2022
20th 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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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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – On Monday, August 15th in Observance of The Assumption of Mary.

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

FISH FRY – The next St. Francis Fish Fry will be Friday, September 16th from 2:00 – 6:00PM. Former Volunteers will receive a call to see if they are available. New Volunteers are welcome and may call Gale at (814)539-0155 to sign up!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES – are scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 18 from 10:45AM until 12 Noon **IN PERSON** at Resurrection Parish Center. Registration forms can be found in the Main Vestibule of the Church. Catholic School Sacrament Prep form is Green, Public School Students form is Blue, Catholic School 1st Communion and Confirmation Registration form is Purple. Please register your child/children as soon as possible so that books and other materials can be ordered. Sacramental preparation and celebration of the Sacraments of Penance/Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation are parish based. Parish based Sacramental preparation is in addition to education in either the Catholic School or home schooling. This means all Students enrolled in Catholic Elementary Middle School or High School are required to attend only Sacrament Preparation Classes with Public School Students. These dates will be announced soon.

SAVE YOUR SOLES FOR OTHER SOULS – We will be collecting any new or gently worn shoes to help raise money for our Parish. The Campaign will run from Sept 6th – Nov 6th. Drop off boxes are now located at the Activity Center of our Parish & at other local locations in Johnstown. If you know of a place that would accept a box please contact Carol Mangus at 814-536-0152 or 814-242-9801.

KUDOS to all those who so generously donated baskets and prizes for the Picnic that unfortunately was canceled. If you would like your donations returned please contact Cel Neiderer at 814-534-0602, otherwise they will remain to be chanced off at another time.

NEEDED: ALTAR SERVERS, LECTORS, & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION – If you are interested in participating in one or more of these Ministries, Please contact the Parish Office (814)539-1632.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – A dynamic and inspiring Catholic speaker will headline the upcoming Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown women's conference "Women Find Strength in Christ" on September 10, 2022, at Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg. Kelly Walquist, founder of WINE: Women in the New Evangelization, will be the keynote speaker. Also presenting will be Deanne Miller and Colleen Scariano, co-founders of SoulCore, a movement that nurtures a body and soul through prayer and core strengthening exercises. The conference includes Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and lunch. The cost is only \$10 per person. Please register online at dioceseaj.org or pick up a hard copy registration form at any parish and mail the form and a check to the diocese. The deadline for reservations is August 31.

EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE DISPLAY – St. Andrew Church, 1621 Ferndale Ave will host a display of Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. The display consisting of 175 poster boards displaying different Eucharistic Miracles will be available in the school gym August 13-21. This display is essentially a printout of the large database of Eucharistic Miracles gathered by Bl. Carlo Acutis, who built a website cataloging these miracles. He died at age 15 from Leukemia in 2006.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$190.00; Adults – \$2,193.25; Monthly – \$886.00; Assumption - \$20.00; Donation – \$40.00 – Total Collection - \$3,329.25.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE – Will burn July 31st – August 13th for Kathy Barczak — From: All Your Friends at St. Francis.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Having reminded the Apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that He has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is baptizing with water, but Someone mightier is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and Fire. The Fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming judgment. It is also the Fire of the Spirit that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, will describe descending on the Disciples on Pentecost. That Fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming judgment. His Baptism will be the conflict into which He will be immersed as He approaches Jerusalem and His Death on the Cross. His Followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus' Birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: "Master, now you may let your servant go in peace." Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think He has come to bring peace; He has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here He reminds the crowd that those who commit to Him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. The angel who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah said John would go before Jesus to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. But a commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus Himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today's reading, He reminds His Followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

(August 14) Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah was demoralized and thrown into prison for speaking out against corruption and unjust treatment of the poor. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are told to live as Christ lives, "In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood." In our words, "What are you complaining about if you are not bleeding? Do you seriously think I have to care? I didn't make these things happen!"

Jesus' Words were supposed to make us feel very uncomfortable. We are reminded that a high bar is set for us as Christian stewards. As Paul tells us, "We must persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." It is a way of life that is meant to be challenging, but it is a life we are capable of living. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/8/16)

BISHOP MARK BARTCHAK and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10,15, 20,25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2022 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 18 in Altoona at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 25 in Johnstown at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location will begin at 2:00PM. Most Rev. Mark Bartchak will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the Mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Monday, August 29.

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 Sobacky, Leona Sutt, Paulette Torchia, Joe Torchia, David Watson, Sheila Weppner, Mark Wojno.

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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; **Fr. William Appel**, Navy Chaplain, U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

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.

Did you know that it is a custom in Johnstown to wear something RED on Fridays to honor our military?

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COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO LIFE VIGIL – is held weekly on various days and various times across from the Planned Parenthood on Franklin Street in Johnstown. Please call Gale Bala for information (814)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. **(CANCELLED FOR JULY & AUGUST)**

THE FRANCISCAN FRIARS, TOR from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 6:30PM in the Sunken Gardens at Mount Assisi (in case of inclement weather, we will be at the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel). We are looking forward to seeing you.