

**August 21, 2022**  
**21<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Fax: 814 – 539-5888**

**Email – [sfassisich@atanticbbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atanticbbn.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

**100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING POSTPONED** – The meeting has been **rescheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

**MEN'S CLUB** – Will meet on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!

**ROSARY SOCIETY** – Will meet on Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



**THANK YOU FROM JOE FATULA** - I want to thank everyone for the calls, beautiful cards and especially the prayers for a successful operation and quick recovery. Thank You and God Bless You!

**FISH FRY** –St. Francis Fish Fry has been **rescheduled for Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 – 6:00PM**, so there is no conflict with the Slavic Fest. Preparations will happen throughout that week. 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! All help is greatly appreciated!!

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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](http://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.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$142.00; Adults – \$2,521.25; Monthly – \$475.00; Candles - \$268.50; Assumption - \$271.00; Funeral – \$150.00 – Total Collection - \$3,827.75.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** – Will burn Aug 21<sup>st</sup> – Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – For: Frank Bazyk

**BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** - Will burn Aug 21<sup>st</sup> – Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – For: Frank Bazyk

**SACRED HEART CANDLE** – Will burn Aug 21<sup>st</sup> – Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – For: Frank Bazyk for Recovery

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel Reading is the third of three parables in chapter 13 that deal with the theme of the unexpected reversals brought by the Kingdom of God. The other two parables are about the tiny mustard seed that grows into a large tree and the small amount of yeast that makes a large batch of dough rise. All three are about the few and the many and the Kingdom of God.

As this parable opens, Luke reminds us that Jesus is making His way to Jerusalem. This journey, this exodus as Luke refers to it, makes up the entire middle of the Gospel. He is teaching as He goes. A question from the crowd gives Jesus the chance to make a prophetic statement. Luke uses this question device a number of times in his Gospel. A few weeks ago, the question "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" led to the parable of the Good Samaritan. The question about will only a few be saved uses typical Christian language about salvation but also expresses the Jewish concern about whether everyone who calls himself a Jew is actually faithful to the covenant. This was a concern of the Pharisees.

Jesus answers that they must strive in the time remaining to enter through the narrow door because many will be trying to get in but won't be strong enough. He then moves to a parable about another door. (The translation says "gate" then "door," but the same Greek word is used.) Once all those entering the master's house are in and He locks the door, there will be no way for others to get in. Those left outside may knock, but the Master will say He doesn't know them. Unlike the Gospel reading from a few weeks ago where Jesus was teaching about prayer, and we were told to knock and the door would be opened, in this parable, the Master will not open and say He does not know us. People from the north, south, east, and west will take our place inside. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets will take our place in the Kingdom of God. Those who do not make it through the narrow door will be cast out to where there is wailing and grinding of teeth.

The image of the door is replaced in the final verses of the parable with the image of the heavenly banquet. Two passages from the Book of Isaiah influence the conclusion. Isaiah 43:5-6 speaks of God bringing Israel's descendents back from the East and from the West, the North and the South. And Isaiah 25:6 speaks of the Lord providing a feast of rich foods and choice wines for all peoples on his holy mountain. The answer to the question if only a few will be saved is no. In the end, many will be saved, but many who thought they would be saved will not be saved. The parable is a prophetic warning to repentance in order to enter the kingdom.

### **(August 21) Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Intentionally and consistently offering the Lord the best of our Time, Talent, and Treasure through a stewardship way of life is a form of spiritual discipline. It teaches us to become ever more aware of God's constant provision for us and keeps us on the narrow path towards the kingdom of God.

The more we embrace this way of life, the more we can be "trained" by the Lord. This is not a burden; it is a privilege. Holiness of life, true discipleship, is meant for everyone, young and old, rich and poor, powerful and lowly. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2019/8/14)

**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 6<sup>th</sup> – Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**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.