

September 11, 2022
24th 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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Email – 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

<p>MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM Saturday – 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM & 9:30AM</p>

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

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

UPCOMING BUS TRIP – American Music Theatre – Christmas Show on November 10th. Please call Fran for more info at (814)536-3667.

GOB ICING – Will be made on Tuesday, Sept 13th 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Please consider helping. We are short handed this session. Gob packing Wednesday 8:00 – 10:00AM and 6:00 – 8:00PM. These gobs are needed for our Sept 23rd Fish Fry.



ST. FRANCIS CHOIR – We will begin practices on September 14th at 6:30PM. New Members are always welcome! Cantors are also being recruited. We practice in the Chapel area and use the Barron Ave door entrance. Also, anyone willing to sing for the 100th Anniversary Mass at 12 Noon on Sunday, October 16th is invited to volunteer. We will have a couple special practices for that occasion. Please call Gale for information at (814)539-0155.

100th ANNIVERSARY DINNER – The absolute **LAST DAY to sign up** for the Dinner at Ace's is September 18th. Dinner is included with a **cash bar**.

SAVE YOUR SOLES FOR OTHER SOULS – Keep up the good work! We had our official first day of bagging shoes and what a tremendous day it was. We were able to bag 875 pairs of shoes!!! We are off to a GREAT start. Please continue to collect from family, friends and coworkers for this great cause. We are unable to accept worn out soles, rips and holes in shoes. Thank you to all who have already contributed, Every pair of shoes counts! **Next cleaning date will be Tuesday, September 13th at 9:00am. All volunteers are appreciated!**

FISH FRY – St. Francis Fish Fry has been **rescheduled for Friday, September 23rd from – 6:00PM**, so there is no conflict with the Slavic Fest. Preparations will happen throughout week. Former Volunteers will receive a call to see if they are available. New Volunteers welcome and may call Gale at (814)539-0155 to sign up! All help is greatly appreciated!!



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES – PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD UP A.S.A.P. We need to order books and need to know how many children are going to be enrolled. We 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.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, SEMINARIAN ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE, COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION – The Annual Event will be held at St. Michael Basilica in Loretto, PA on October 9, 2022. Bishop Mark Bartchak will celebrate Mass at 2:00PM. The main speaker will be Rev. Jason Charron, Pastor of Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, Carnegie, PA. He will speak about his involvement in assisting the safe passage of children from Ukraine to Poland. Immediately following Mass, a dinner will be held in St. Michael Parish Social Center. Knights along with their family members, friends and all parishioners are invited to this social event. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00 for adults and \$7.50 for children 12 years old and younger. **Reservations must be made in advance. No money transactions will be made at the door the evening of the banquet.** Those wishing to attend, please submit your name along with a check to: William Stasko, CPA, 8 Entrance Drive, Johnstown, PA 15906. **The deadline for reservations is October, 1, 2022.**

Background on the Gospel Reading

In chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells three parables about losing, finding, and rejoicing. The outcasts of society, the taxpayers, and the sinners approach Jesus eager to hear what He has to say. In Luke's Gospel, *hearing* is a sign of conversion. The Pharisees and scribes, still suspicious of Jesus, complain about Him associating with sinners. So He tells them these three parables.

In the first story, the parable of The Lost Sheep, the shepherd leaves behind the 99 sheep to search for the 1 lost sheep. When he finds it, the shepherd rejoices not alone as in Matthew's version, but with friends and neighbors. In the same way, God rejoices more over 1 sinner who repents—like the outcasts who have come to hear Jesus—than over the 99 righteous like the Pharisees and scribes.

The second story, about a poor woman who will not stop searching until she finds her lost coin, makes the same point. Why are the Pharisees complaining? They should rejoice when the lost are found.

Finally we come to what is probably the most memorable parable in the Gospels, the story we know as The Prodigal Son. Just as in The Lost Sheep and The Lost Coin, this story (found only in Luke) is really about the seeker. The loving father is at the center of this parable. Even though his son runs off with his father's inheritance and squanders the money, the father waits for him, hoping for his return. Upon his son's return, the father, “full of compassion,” runs out to embrace and forgive him before the son can utter one word of repentance. At this point the rejoicing begins.

The parable does not end there. Rather, it makes one more point about the older son's reaction. This son who never left, just like the Pharisees and scribes who feel they are righteous, refuses to enter his father's house to join in the rejoicing. He has served his father. He has obeyed him. Perhaps it was not out of love. The father's response teaches us that God's care and compassion extend to the righteous and sinner alike. When we are lost, God doesn't wait for our return. He actively seeks us out. And when the lost are found, how could we not celebrate and rejoice?

(September 11) Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

God grants mercy towards the ungrateful Israelite brats! Paul is well aware of the sins he has committed. But this does not hold him back from ministry. But, rather it makes him all the more grateful to be God's Steward. What gratitude we owe to such a personal, passionate, Loving God! Even our sins, once forgiven, become a source of fuel for our stewardship. How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of our selves.

A life of Stewardship is a continual process of conversion and growth. As we embrace Stewardship we are freed to view life in a new way: a precious gift from a loving God. (*Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 8/2019*)

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$204.00; Adults – \$1,942.25; Monthly – \$991.00; Candles – \$133.35; Christmas – \$15.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$15.00; Immaculate Conception – \$5.00; Catholic University – \$5.00; Priest Medical – \$10.00; Donation – \$30.00 – Total Collection - \$3,350.60

FATIMA DEVOTIONS – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30PM in the Sunken Gardens at Mount Assisi (In case of inclement weather, we will be at the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel). We are really looking forward to seeing you!

SANCTUARY CANDLE – Will burn Aug 21st – Sept 17th – For: Frank Bazyk for Recovery.

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, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, James Schuster, Betty Scott, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, 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 Hood; **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).

Eucharistic



Adoration

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.