

September 4, 2022
23rd 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
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.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, September 5th in Observance of Labor Day.

100th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEETING – The committee meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday, September 7th at 6:00PM.

MEN'S CLUB – Will meet on **Thursday, September 8th at 6:30PM** at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!

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

FISH FRY –St. Francis Fish Fry has been **rescheduled** for **Friday, September 23rd 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 – 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.

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.

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 6th at 9:00am. All volunteers are appreciated!

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

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$104.00; Adults – \$2,306.25; Monthly – \$50.00; Candles - \$82.00; Assumption - \$36.00; Donation – \$125.00 – Total Collection - \$2,703.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following Him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch Him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a Disciple and enter into the Kingdom of His Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of Discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, He is not talking about feelings. Rather, He is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a Disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a Disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

(September 4) Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Christian Stewards view their possessions as gifts and resources that are meant to build God's Kingdom here on earth. We are challenged to reach out to others with God's love. We are urged to be intentional about our Faith, putting Christ first before all else, otherwise we will easily be swallowed up by the earthly cares that weigh us down; our material things, our status, and our egos. In the end, the life of discipleship, the stewardship way of life, is the only life that can satisfy. (*Stewardship Reflections* by *Catholic Stewardship Consultants*, 8/2019)

Could any one of us renounce all our earthly possessions as a Steward and Disciple? How can we take steps towards living this vision? Look for ways to become more involved in your Parish Community.

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.**

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 ; **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.