

October 16, 2022
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

100th Anniversary THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF 1922 - 2022
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

**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

GOB ICING - Will be on Tuesday, October 18th from 7 am - 11 am. Gob packing Wednesday October 19th from 8:00am - 10:00 am and 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Please consider helping.

FISH FRY - Fish Fry will take place on **Friday, October 28** from **2:00PM to 6:00PM** at the Activity Center. Orders for take out will be taken on Thursday, October 27 from 9:00AM until 1:00PM and on Friday, October 28 from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. Walk ins are welcome. Please note that we are **now offering DINE IN**. Meals will be served as long as supplies last. Donations of soda and water would be greatly appreciated.

ALL SOULS - If you would like to have a picture of a deceased loved one placed in the Sanctuary area for All Soul's Day, please bring the picture to the Parish Office or the Church. All photos must be received no later than Sunday, October 23rd. Please include the name of the deceased and your name with the picture(s) you are bringing.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION of Parishioners who were laid to rest this year (November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022) will be celebrated on **7:00PM** on Wednesday, November 2. Members of the families of the deceased are invited to take part in this Mass by lighting a candle in their memory. Please contact the Parish Office if you or a member of the family or friend of our departed loved ones are able to participate in this Liturgy. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death, and the hope of Eternal Life.

GABRIEL PROJECT - In order to continue the Gabriel Project Pro Life Ministry here at St. Francis, volunteers are being recruited for day to day jobs such as buying baby items, organizing inventory, getting set-ups ready, or distributing items to clients. If there is interest, we can have an organizational/informational meeting in the near future. Please contact Gale for more information at (814)539-0155.

SAVE YOUR SOLES FOR OTHER SOULS - We have reached **3000 pairs of shoes** and we are only halfway through our campaign!! We have exceeded our initial goal of 2500 pairs of shoes. With this milestone, we have upped our goal to **4000 pairs**. Please continue to clean out your closets, remind your friends and coworkers, and even ask your neighbors. I appreciate all the help I have been getting with the cleaning and bagging of shoes. **Next cleaning date will be Monday and Tuesday, October 17th and 18th at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are appreciated!**

MASS FOR PARENTS WHO LOST A CHILD - Bishop Mark will celebrate a Mass for those who are grieving the loss of a child. This is for parents who may have lost their child to miscarriage, or when their child was young, as well as having lost adult children. The Mass is open to parents, grandparents, and grieving relatives and friends. The Mass will be held at St. Matthew Parish in Tyrone, PA, on Sunday, November 6, at 10:30AM, with light refreshments to follow. Registration is not necessary. If you have any questions, please contact the Family Life Office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center by calling 814-695-5579 or emailing familylife@dioceseaj.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose - \$167.00; Adults - \$2,347.25; Monthly - \$623.00; Candles - \$174.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$45.00; Retired Priest Medical - \$20.00; Retired Priest Retirement - \$5.00; Cemetery - \$49.00; World Mission - \$5.00; Christmas - \$10.00; Christmas Flowers - \$5.00; Immaculate Conception - \$5.00; All Saints - \$10.00; All Souls - \$15.00; Thanksgiving - \$5.00; Catholic Charities - \$5.00; Donation - \$110.00; Rental Income - \$450.00; Online Giving - \$266.00 - Total Collection - \$4,316.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This is the first of two parables that Jesus tells in Luke 18 about prayer. (The second will be read at Mass next Sunday.) This first parable is a lesson in persistence in prayer. (Next Sunday's parable will address attitude in prayer.) While the parable seems to present prayer as nagging God for what we want, such a reading misses the point. God is not like the judge in the parable, worn down by requests and coerced to respond. The key is found in the description of the judge as corrupt and unjust. Since God can be neither, we must understand Jesus to be saying that if even an unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow, how much more so will God listen to our prayers. God truly wants to hear our needs and respond generously. It is the final lament of Jesus that gets to the point of the parable. The lesson is about the persistence of the one who prays. God wants us to be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers prayers. Then Jesus laments, "Will such faith be found when the Son of Man comes?" In this lament, Jesus notes how easy it can be for us to lose heart.

(October 16) Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Stewardship cannot succeed unless it is steeped in Prayer. Prayer will make our stewardship efforts fruitful. Today's readings show us the immense value of prayer and the privileged place it must have in our individual lives and in our parish community. God does not answer our prayers merely because we continuously ask. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan.

We cannot expect people to respond to calls to increase their prayer life, their formation, and their service within and outside the parish, if they do not first feel welcomed and valued through the warmth of hospitality. It just makes good sense. Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually by name. The challenge then, is to understand our role, our vocation, and respond generously to this call from God. (*Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants, 9/2019*)

FAITH UNDERSTOOD – SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER PAUL ZUCCARELLI – Friday, October 28 at 7:00 PM in the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel – Allow his experience to restore your faith! Paul suffered nine cardiac arrests after surgery and was dead for two hours. He was graced to witness Heaven during this time. **Come and hear his amazing testimony of God's love and saving grace.** There is no charge ~ free will offering accepted. *Please note that handicap restroom facilities are not available in the Basilica at this time*

NUT AND POPPY SEED ROLLS: St. Clare of Assisi Parish is taking orders for Nut and Poppy Seed Rolls. The cost is \$13.00 per roll. Please place orders by contacting the St. Clare of Assisi Office at 814-535-1133. Pick up will be Thursday and Friday, October 27 and 28 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the St. Clare School Hall.

TURKEY RAFFLE TICKETS – Are in the Main Vestibule of the Church. Every Parishioner has their own envelope with their name marked on it. Please pick your envelope up at your earliest convenience.



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, Fort Leavenworth, KS.; 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.