

January 15, 2023
2nd 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 – stfrancisofassisi@atanticbnn.net

Facebook – St. Francis of Assisi

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 Vigil– 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM & 9:30AM
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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, January 16th in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

THANK YOU – To all who helped to take down the Christmas decorations in the Church this past week! All help was greatly appreciated!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule for Adoration for 1st Friday in February (February 3, 2023 – 9:30AM – 5:30PM). Adorers are needed. Please consider giving Jesus a ½ hour or 1 hour of your time to be with Him.

FISH FRY – Upcoming Fish Fry is scheduled for **Friday January 20th from 2:00PM until 6:00PM** at the Activity Center. Take-out orders will be taken on Thursday, January 19 and Friday, January 20 from 9:00AM until 1:00PM. **We are also offering Dine-In as well.** Meals will be served as long as supplies last! Gobs will also be available!

GABRIEL PROJECT WORKDAY – Is on Saturday, January 21st at the Activity Building from 9:30 AM – 11:30AM. All help is greatly appreciated!

NO CCD CLASS – This SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th. Classes will resume on January 22nd. Please remember that classes are **NOW AT THE FORMER CONVENT ACROSS THE STREET FROM OUR CHURCH** on Barron Avenue.

CASH BASH – Save the Date for FEBRUARY 11th at St. Francis Activity Center! Tickets are being sold before and after each Mass or call Fran at (814)536-3667. Tickets are \$25 and includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. \$200 given away every half hour, \$500 at 7:30 and 9:00. We will also have qualifiers, 50/50, baskets, door prizes and much more! Doors open at 5:00 PM. Donations of whiskey and vodka needed. Baskets valued at \$25 needed also. Please call Alice at (814)536-0948 or Georgetta at (814)535-4252. Let's all join in and make the Cash Bash a **SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER!**

PITTSBURGH PIRATES – Pittsburgh Pirates great Neil Walker will be visiting Holy Name Parish, Ebensburg on Saturday, February 4, 2023 from 12:00PM-2:00PM. He will be giving a talk about his Catholic Faith and will be available for a meet and greet. There is no registration or tickets to be purchased. No cost to attend; donations will be taken to help support Holy Name School. All are welcome to attend; pray for good weather.

MAINTENANCE MAN – St. Francis of Assisi is looking for a Maintenance man to do day-to-day upkeep at the Activity Building, Church, and Rectory. Anyone interested please contact the Parish Office at (814)539-1632. It's a part-time job opportunity.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$172.00; Adults – \$2,474.25; Monthly – \$310.00; Candles – \$128.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$110.00; Initial Offering – \$136.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$113.00; Oplatek – \$26.00; Donation – \$130.00; Funeral – \$200.00; IGiveCatholic – \$125.00; Christmas Ornaments – \$15.00; Online Giving – \$271.00 – Total Collection – \$4,210.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' Baptism last Sunday, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about Who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the One Who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of Baptism in the context of Jesus' Ministry. The purpose of John's Baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the Ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a Disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

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John the Baptist recognized the holiness of Jesus and the response due to Him when he encountered Christ in person at the Jordan River. What a powerful description of our Lord and the place He should rightfully have in each of our lives. He deserves to be first, above all other priorities and plans in our lives. Let us examine our daily lives and encourage our children to do the same.

Does the way I spend my time reflect that God comes first? Do prayer and weekly Mass, regular confession, and time with my family "rank ahead" of everything else on my calendar? Do I use my talents, skills, and energy to serve my family, parish and community in thanksgiving? Do I spend my money and use my material possessions to glorify God? These are questions worthy of our high calling as Christian stewards. What will our response be? (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/12/14)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, 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 Guarno, 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; **Captain 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



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. Access to the Church is by ringing the doorbell at the Barron Avenue door for admittance – a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament and adorers.

Sacrament and adorers.