

January 22, 2023
3rd 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
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Activity Center – 814 – 539-3518
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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

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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – The Family and Friends of **+Barbara Machik**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

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.

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 roast beef sandwich, Italian sausage, pasta salad, etc., and non-alcoholic beverages. \$200 given away every half hour, \$500 at 7:30 and 9:00. Chance to win \$2,000. Plus qualifiers, door prizes and baskets. 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.

PYSANKY EGG DECORATING – Queen of Angels Parish in Central City will be offering a class on pysanky egg decorating on Monday February 27th in the parish activity center in Central City beginning at 6:00 PM (738 Sunshine Avenue). Using the traditional process of wax-resist dyeing, participants will each make an egg of their own. The class is free but is limited to twenty-five adult students. A great way to create something beautiful and traditional for Easter, please call the Central City parish office (814-754-5224) by February 14th.

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

CLASS ON SOUTHERN ITALIAN FOLK CUSTOMS – All Saints Parish in Boswell (Somerset County) will offer a one session class on southern Italian folk customs on Monday February 6th at 7:00 PM in their parish hall. The presenter will be Melissa Marinaro, curator of the Italian American Program at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. The presentation will cover topics such as crafts, food, and agricultural practices and will showcase many objects from the history center that speak to the customs and traditions of southern Italians in Western Pennsylvania. The class is free but those interested are asked to please register by calling the parish office at 814-629-5551. All are welcome.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$119.00; Adults – \$2,213.94; Monthly – \$20.00; Candles – \$124.22; St. Vincent DePaul – \$32.00; Initial Offering – \$20.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$40.00; Online Giving – \$286.00 – Total Collection – \$2,855.16.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel describes the beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke (called the Synoptic Gospels), Jesus' Public Ministry begins after His Baptism by John the Baptist and after His retreat to the desert where He was tempted by the Devil. When Jesus returns from the desert, He hears that John has been arrested.

The first part of today's Gospel places Jesus' Ministry in the context of the writings of the prophet, Isaiah. Matthew wants to show that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies given to the people of Israel, and he refers to Isaiah to do so. Isaiah says that the Messiah will begin His Ministry in Galilee, the land of the Gentiles. When Jesus begins to preach in Galilee, Matthew points to His Ministry as a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, proof that Jesus is the Messiah.

When Jesus called His First Disciples, the Gospel tells us that the fishermen (Peter and Andrew, James and John) dropped everything to follow Jesus immediately. Yet this Gospel tells us little about the prior experience that the fishermen had of Jesus. Did they know Him? Had they heard Him Preach? What kind of Person must Jesus have been to invoke such a response? We can imagine that Jesus was a powerful presence to elicit a response as immediate and complete as these First Disciples gave.

The Gospel concludes with a description of the Ministry that Jesus begins in Galilee. Jesus inaugurates the Kingdom of God with His work. He teaches in the synagogue and preaches the Kingdom. His ability to cure people's diseases and illness is a sign of the Kingdom. In Jesus' Ministry, we already begin to see the Kingdom of God among us.

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We are reminded through the Gospel of Matthew that by virtue of our Baptism, we, who were once in the darkness of Original Sin, have been reborn into the great light that is God's grace in us. We are cherished members of God's family. What a privilege! Yet, with this privilege comes the responsibility to actually live for God and to bring His Good News to all those we meet; in other words, to live as His good stewards. There is a certain urgency that comes with this call. The very First Disciples give us examples of a good steward's prompt "yes" when the Lord called to them. Our Lord invites them to "Come after Me and I will make you fishers of men." They did not hesitate but "at once they left their nets and followed Him." This is the essence of a stewardship way of life. We must always be ready for the ways that our Lord is calling us to bring His light to others. It's more than something we do, it's who we are. (Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/12/21)

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 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; 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).



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.