

**January 29, 2023**  
**4<sup>th</sup> 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@atanticbnn.net](mailto:sfassisich@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**

**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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **+Sue Ellen Dadey**, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**THANK YOU** – To all the fish fry volunteers who worked so hard to make Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> a successful Fish Fry. The next St. Francis Fish Fry is scheduled for Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is usually the biggest of the year! Please check your availability for that date. Calls to all volunteers will take place at the beginning of February.

**CASH BASH – Save the Date for FEBRUARY 11<sup>th</sup> 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!**

**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.

**2ND ANNUAL ST. CLEMENT CHURCH SPRING AHEAD CRAFT SHOW** – Candles, jewelry, hand-knitted, sewn, household and personalizable items, jams, jellies, Color Street, Damsel in Distress, Tastefully Simple, and indoor/outdoor decor will be available during the Second Annual Spring, Ahead Craft Show at Saint Clement Church, 114 Lindberg Avenue on **Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM**; and **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 3 PM**. Hot food, bake sale and beverages will be available for purchase. The event also includes a basket raffle and 50/50 drawing. All are welcome!

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 – \$172.00; Adults – \$2,642.50; Monthly – \$170.00; Candles – \$178.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$302.00; Initial Offering – \$15.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$25.00; Funeral – \$200.00; Online Giving – \$186.00 – Total Collection – \$3,890.50.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy*, *fortunate*, or *avored*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time — January 29**

Many think the Sermon on the Mount is the absolute epitome of Jesus' Teachings. It tells us how we are to live our lives and the attitudes we are to have. Jesus gives a more accurate perspective of Who He is. He begins the Beatitudes (meaning "blessings") with "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." In a sense we are all "poor in spirit." We must have the guidance and strength provided to us by the Lord to live in the poverty of spirit, a spirituality of simplicity.

Living God-centered lives is at the very core of Stewardship. Being a Disciple of Christ is being a Steward of our many gifts and blessings. Some scholars believe that Jesus may have given this sermon often during His Ministry. The first Christians were fond of quoting and referring to what the Lord said on this occasion. Jesus provides us with the secret of living a good life. If we rely on Him and follow Him, we will be blessed. Are you truly living with His Message in your heart? (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2022/12/28)

**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.

=====

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**, **Major Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Leavenworth, KS.; **Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **Captain Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino**, US Navy; **Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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?

=====

**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.