

January 8, 2023
The Epiphany of the Lord
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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Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/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 participate in 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 +**Donald Cieslo**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on Monday December 5th at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

GOB ICING - will be made on Tuesday, January 10th from 7:00 AM-11:00 AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, January 11th from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

FISH FRY – The next Fish Fry is scheduled for Friday January 20 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.

MEN'S CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE TICKET – The winning number for the Men's Club New Year's Eve ticket is #785. The winner is Bob Craig! Congratulations!!

PUBLIC ROSARY – To pray for the unborn on **Thursday, January 12th at 6:00 PM** at St. Clement Church inside the Church. Also, on **Saturday, January 14th at 12 Noon** at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Downtown Johnstown – St. Ann Shrine.

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!**

THE ST. FRANCIS GABRIEL PROJECT – wishes to thank St. Francis parishioners for the kind generosity you have shown our pro-life ministry all year long with monetary and bassinet items. Special appreciation to you for providing the needed gifts at Christmas time. We were able to provide several gifts to each of our approximately 60 families and still have some left to distribute as needed in the upcoming weeks. Without this support we would not be able to continue our vital pro-life ministry. Because of your help we were able to begin accepting new babies into the program once again, many of whom will be born from now until July. May God richly bless you for your kindness to the pro-life mission. Some more good news...three more St. Francis parishioners have stepped forward to help with day-to-day operations (Becky, Chris, and Elaine) and several members of other parishes have volunteered to help with the never-ending sorting and inventorying of the baby items we have available. As we are an all-volunteer staff, all volunteers are greatly appreciated, and we will soon schedule a work day at St. Francis in late January. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. (Gale 814.539.0155) Again thank you so very much and may God grant you His richest blessings in this new year, Gale Bala (Volunteer Coordinator)

Please consider attending a Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona on Wednesday, January 11th at 5:30PM, to be celebrated by Bishop Mark in honor of +Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. May he rest in Peace.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' Birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual Birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in Salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' Death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His Birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first Miracle at Cana.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord — January 8

Today we observe the great Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The Greek word "Epiphany" means manifestation or appearance. The awareness of God's manifestation in the lives of the Magi filled them with gratitude and the desire to both worship God and share their gifts with others. The Magi were so filled with awe when they encountered the Newborn Jesus, they prostrated themselves before Him and "opened their treasures and offered Him gifts." Like the Magi who traveled afar, our overriding priority should be to honor the long-awaited King.

A Stewardship journey will involve twists and turns. But, God will protect and guide us, and with cooperation with His Plan, He can accomplish great things through us. Christian stewards live in grateful response to God's countless appearances in their lives. They generously share their material gifts as a loving act of worship to an extravagantly loving God. Let us rejoice in God's presence in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King. Let us make God our first priority.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose - \$342.00; Adults - \$2,445.25; Monthly - \$527.00; Candles - \$118.00; Christmas - \$871.00; St. Vincent DePaul - \$55.00; Easter Flowers - a \$5.00; Immaculate Conception - \$6.00; Mandeville - \$5.00; Black & Indian - \$5.00; Catholic Relief - \$5.00; Initial Offering - \$226.00; Solemnity of Mary - \$672.00; Donation - \$300.00; Online Giving - \$191.00 - Total Collection - \$5,773.25.

SANCTUARY CANDLE - Will burn January 1 - 14th for Kathy Barczak - From: All your Friends at St. Francis of Assisi

THANK YOU - Thank you to everyone who sent Betty Scott a birthday card for her Birthday! She appreciated it all!

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 Sobczyk, 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.