

**February 19, 2023**  
**7<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**

*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** 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 participate at 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 **+Margaret Klesch**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** – On Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Parish Office will be closed in Observance of President's Day.

**THANK YOU** – The Cash Bash Committee would like to give a heartfelt “Thank You” to all the workers on the floor, sellers for strip tickets, 50/50, qualifiers, baskets, door tickets, beer bracelets, bartenders & money changers. Also thank you to all of the “kitchen staff”. Your hard work certainly made our Cash Bash a truly great success. Thank you to all who donated money (Ozog Funeral Home & St. Francis Men's Club), baskets & liquor. Congratulations to the many, many winners. Again “Thank You” & God Bless you all!!!

**GOB ICING** – will be made on **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 AM-11:00 AM. Gobs will be filled on **Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** from 8:00 AM until 10:00 AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

**FISH FRY** – Our next Fish Fry will be on **Ash Wednesday, February 22 from 2:00PM until 6:00PM** at the Activity Center located at the corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. Takeout orders can be placed on Tuesday, February 21 and Wednesday, February 22 from 9:00AM until 1:00PM by calling 814-539-3518. We are now offering Dine-In as well. Meals will be served while supplies last! All help will be greatly appreciated.

**DIOCESE SPONSORING MEN'S CONFERENCE** – An inspiring Catholic priest and a nationally recognized author will headline the 2023 Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown men's conference **STRENGTH IN CHRIST – Be Not Afraid**. The conference is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. Speakers will be Father Joe Freedy, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and Gary Zimak, a Catholic evangelist and author who is recognized as the leading speaker on the topic of overcoming anxiety. Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass at 4:00 p.m. The day will also include brief presentations from local parishioners to inspire men to put their faith into action at the parish level. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated, and lunch will be provided. Registration is required by April 14. The cost is \$20 per person; \$10 for college and high school students. Register online at [dioceseaj.org](http://dioceseaj.org) or pick up a registration for in the Main Vestibule of our Church.

**CCD CLASS** – There will be **NO CCD CLASS** on Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The next class will be on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at the former St. Francis Convent on Barron Avenue.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$377.00; Adults – \$2,244.94; Monthly – \$350.00; Candles \$185.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$35.00; Initial Offering – \$5.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission – \$15.00; Mandeville – 20.00; Online Giving – \$186.00 – Total Collection – \$3,427.94.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The last two antitheses offered in the Sermon on the Mount deal with love of enemies. We should not look at “an eye for an eye” as an inordinately strict punishment. It is actually meant to limit acts of revenge by making sure the punishment is not excessive but fits the crime. However, Jesus asks His Followers to take a different approach by resisting retaliation altogether. The response to a stronger person who slaps us on the cheek, takes us to court, or demands a service of us is not to resist. Similarly, for a weaker person, such as a beggar or borrower, we are to give him or her what he or she asks for. Those who are called to the Kingdom of Heaven are to go beyond the way the world usually works and serve God’s kingdom here on earth.

The other difficult demand of those who are called to the kingdom is to embrace the enemy. There is no command in the Old Testament to hate individuals in a personal or vindictive way. But there is a religious stance that calls one to hate evil and to distance oneself from those who participate in evil. In contrast, Matthew emphasizes that Love of God and Love of neighbor are the fundamental commands on which all else depend. Because God’s love is unconditional, we are to strive to love as God does, though, of course, it is challenging. Is it even possible?

The key is in the final verse. We are to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect. Matthew uses the Greek word *telos*, which is probably better translated here as “complete.” We are not to be perfect as in doing everything correctly, that is, as in being absolutely morally correct. We are to be perfect as in striving to reach the completeness we are called to in the Kingdom of Heaven. Attempting to love our enemies is part of striving for that completeness.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time —February 19**

In the ancient passage from Leviticus, we find practical instruction in how to be Christian stewards, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord.” The first few verses of our second reading give us a reminder that the call to holiness is possible because we have the Holy Spirit already dwelling within us! Giving away the best of our time, our talents and treasure to God appears utterly foolish in the eyes of the world.

Matthew gives illustrations of extreme actions of how we should give of ourselves and our things. Jesus teaches that these kinds of actions and attitude will make us “children of [our] Heavenly Father.” If your lifestyle and your priorities look a little foolish to the world around you, know that you are probably doing it right in God’s Eyes. You will have a peace that the world around you desperately needs. With God’s Grace and the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we can confidently press on in the stewardship way of life. (*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2020/2/21)

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Verne Esposito, James Golby, Alicia Junghans, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Betty Scott, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobbecky, 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 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; **Jonathan McClain**, Warrant Officer, U.S. Army, Fort Drum, NY.

*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.