

**March 5, 2023**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**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 – [stfrancisich@atanticbbn.net](mailto:stfrancisich@atanticbbn.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 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

**LENT MASS SCHEDULE:** Daily Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM with the exception of Tuesday when Mass will be celebrated at 6:15 PM. Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM. Divine Mercy along with Lenten Lamentations and Benediction will be held on Sundays of Lent at 3:00 PM.

**ROSARY SOCIETY** – Will meet on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**PASKA BREAD** – We will be making Paska Bread the week of March 27<sup>th</sup>. We will need volunteers to help out! Please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**FISH FRY** – Our next Fish Fry will be on **Friday, March 10 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 Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and, Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00AM until 1:00PM by calling 814-539-3518. We will also have Gobs for sell! We are now offering Dine-In as well. Meals will be served while supplies last! All help will be greatly appreciated.

**PENGUINS TICKET BASKET** – We have chances for 2 tickets to a **Pittsburgh Penguins game on March 14<sup>th</sup>** being chanced off. Chances will be sold after all Masses. Chances are \$2.00 per ticket, 3 for \$5.00. Winner will be drawn on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**CATHOLIC MINISTRY DRIVE KICKOFF** – The annual CMD supports 14 ministries through which people in our Diocese are accompanied on their faith journey. There are so many gifted and generous laypersons in our Diocese who share their time and talent to support out Catholic Ministries. This year, more so than others, our world, our nation, our communities, our Parishes, and our families need tangible expressions of hope. Please reflect on Bishop Mark's invitation when it arrives this week and return your pledge card either through the mail or in next weekend's offertory. The year 2023 is a time for everyone to reflect on how we can best serve our Church. Our Parish's target for this year is **\$17,556**. Please help up to reach our goal and more!!

**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. Register online at [dioceseaj.org](http://dioceseaj.org) or pick up a registration for in the Main Vestibule of our Church.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$347.00; Adults – \$2,454.25; Monthly – \$61.00; Candles \$164.81; St. Vincent DePaul – \$5.00; Easter Flowers – \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission – \$16.00; Mandeville – \$182.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$5.00; Holy Thursday – \$2.00; Good Friday – \$2.00; Online Giving - \$191.00 – Total Collection - \$3,545.06.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

For the Second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' Retreat to the desert to His Transfiguration. Each year on the First Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' Temptation in the desert. On the Second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of His Death and His Teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, His Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' Baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word.

The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' Disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' Disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany Him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest.

### March 5 2nd Sunday of Lent

Christian Stewards, are offered the motivation to continue their 40-day journey toward deeper holiness on this Second Sunday of Lent. Abraham recognizes that all he has is a gift from God, puts his trust in God, and obeys. And God rewards him saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. In the Transfiguration of Jesus, the apostles who witnessed the true glory of God were awestruck as God spoke, "Listen to Him." The Lord reassured them saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." Let us take these two verses, "Listen to him," and "Rise, and do not be afraid" to heart. Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines and extra acts of service as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing to God and others.  
(*Stewardship Reflection*, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2013/01/31)

**PUBLIC ROSARY TO PRAY FOR MARRIAGE & AMERICA** – Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church on Lindberg Ave & Goucher Street. Also on Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon at Central Park, Downtown, Johnstown.

**ANNUAL GREAT MCCORT AUCTION CASH GIVEAWAY TICKET SALES** – Students from Bishop McCort Catholic High School Girl's Basketball Team will be selling Cash Giveaway tickets next weekend after Mass to benefit the Great McCort Auction. Tickets are \$10 each and prizes total \$5,000. Funds raised through this event provide much needed funding for extra-curricular activities, your support is appreciated. They will be at the 4:00 PM Saturday Mass and also the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass.

**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 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; **Sgt. Adken Torchia**, US Army, Fort Drum, NY;; **Capt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, Fort Hood; **Sgt. Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, Ginowan, Japan.; **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; **Tech Sgt. Daniel Bracken**; **Senior Airman Jeremy Williams**

*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.