

April 16, 2023
Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

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@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 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

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED - Due to the Precious Blood being brought back on Holy Thursday, We will need 1 Extra Eucharistic Minister for all April Weekend Masses. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to serve.

RICE BOWLS - Please return your Rice Bowls in the collection basket as soon as possible!

PASCHAL CANDLE - This year the Paschal Candle was donated by Dave & Fran King in loving memory of her parents Sam and Rose Trapanotto.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - On April 18th at 3:00 PM, please consider attending the Solemn Celebration of the conclusion of the Divine Mercy Novena. (Solemn chanting of Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration & Benediction.

GOB ICING - will be made on Tuesday, April 18th from 7:00AM-11AM. Gobs will be filled on Wednesday, April 19th from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is welcome and appreciated.

BISHOP MCCORT MUSICAL - The 2023 Bishop McCort Catholic High School Musical, Anyone Can Whistle will be held Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Guzzi Performing Arts Center, 25 Osborne Street. Tickets for this event are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at by phoning (814) 536-8991.



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 or pick up a registration for in the Main Vestibule of our Church.

TRASH TO TREASURES - Annual West End Pickers, Trash to Treasures indoor yard sale at St. Therese Church Social Hall from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Something for everyone. Get your spring cleaning going and donate your items. Every little bit helps (no clothing, large appliances or large furniture). Call (814) 322-5558 or (814) 248-8989 for pick-up of your items or drop off May 10th & 11th at the hall. Proceeds from this sale go towards our projects: surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes and community events.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose - \$590.00; Adults - \$2,392.25; Monthly - \$400.00; Candles - \$118.00; Holy Thursday - \$314.00; Good Friday - \$279.00; Easter - \$2,703.00; Catholic Home Mission - \$30.00; Donation - \$545.00; Online Giving - \$426.00 - Total Collection - \$7,797.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the Disciples on several occasions after they discovered that His Tomb was empty. Part of the Mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the Disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until He speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the Disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize Him until He breaks bread with them. The Resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the Disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless He allowed them to. His Resurrected Body, nonetheless, showed the marks of His Crucifixion. From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in His Resurrected Body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the Disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked.

Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of Peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun: "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible. Thomas's human nature compelled Him to want hard evidence that the Jesus Who appeared to the Disciples after His Death was indeed the same Jesus Who had been Crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really Risen.

Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first Disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the First Disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

April 16 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

The Christian steward approaches life with an "Easter vision" rooted in gratitude for the salvation our Lord has won for us. We can have complete trust in the mercy of God to lead us, step by step, to Heaven. This is challenging when things like job stress, family crisis, health troubles, and political strife loom large on the horizon. We can find ourselves becoming cynical like Thomas, in the Gospel. He was beaten down by the events of the last several days, and refused to believe that the others had indeed "seen the Lord." Thomas stubbornly does not believe their story until he placed his finger into the nail marks and his hand into the Lord's side. These doubts actually drew Jesus to Thomas in an extraordinary way. Jesus recognized Thomas' pain and disappointment. Jesus calmed his doubts and fears, by allowing Thomas to touch those Sacred Wounds. What amazing grace! When we are tempted to give into doubts about our faith, all we need to do is seek the Lord and He will restore our "Easter vision" through prayer, in the sacraments, and through the encouragement of our Christian communities. Our Lord is mercy itself. (www.CatholicSteward.com, 3/15/2023)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czymik, 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 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 Rován 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**, **Major 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; **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 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; **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).



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. **NO FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION IN APRIL!**