

April 23, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter
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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Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.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 –
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

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – The Family & Friends of **+Betty J. Scott**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – The Family & Friends of **+Alexander J. Toth**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED – Due to the Precious Blood being brought back on Holy Thursday, We will need 2 Extra Eucharistic Ministers if Deacon Beuce is not present for all April Weekend Masses. Please contact the Parish office if you are able to serve.

THE CHILDREN OF THE PARISH – Will receive Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 AM Mass: **Skylar Bradley** and **Bella Stevanus**. May God Bless them as they continue their Faith Journey.

ONE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE – Will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, May 4th at 7:00PM at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Please remember him in your prayers: **Alex Deskevich**. (Confirmation Name: John Paul)

FRIDAY, MAY 5 – is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after 9:00AM Mass and continue until 5:30PM. A sign-up sheet is in the Main Vestibule of the Church. There should be at least 2 adorers for each time slot. (This is also safety for the Blessed Sacrament.) The Church doors are locked during Adoration. Please come to the Barron Ave door and ring the door bell to be let in.

MEN'S CLUB – Will meet on Thursday, May 4th at 6:30PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!

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.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-35) – Our first Theology on Tap session was a success with over 20 in attendance! This month we are prepared for a higher capacity, so we hope to see you there, and make sure to invite a friend! Young adults of all faiths aged 18-35 are welcome! We will continue meeting the last Wednesday of every month. Our April 26th session is from 6-8PM at the Boulevard Grill located at 165 Southmont Blvd, Johnstown in their speakeasy room. Our April guest speaker is V. Rev. Anthony Francis Spilka OFM Conv, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Johnstown and Vicar of Religious for the Diocese. Events are free of charge with food/drink available for purchase. We are currently planning speakers ahead through the end of the year. Please don't forget to pray for us. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814)659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com. Thank you to KOC All Saints Assembly 954 for their sponsorship.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$241.00; Adults – \$2,069.25; Monthly – \$26.00; Candles – \$342.41; Ascension – \$5.00; Holy Thursday – \$30.00; Good Friday – \$35.00; Easter – \$245.00; Catholic Home Mission – \$30.00; Catholic Communication Campaign – \$5.00; Catholic Relief – \$20.00; Peter's Pence – \$5.00; Cemetery – \$5.00; Donation – \$80.00; Online Giving – \$291.00 – Total Collection – \$3,629.66.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On most Sundays during the Easter Season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of Disciples came to believe that Jesus had Risen from the Dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with Him at some length yet not recognize Him. Again we discover that the Risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other Disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus "in the breaking of the bread", just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two Disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been Crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus Himself approaches the two men, but they take Him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding His Crucifixion and Death. When the two Disciples have done so, Jesus offers His own interpretation of His crucifixion and Resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the bread, the Disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in "the breaking of the bread" and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the Disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other Disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

APRIL 23, 2023 – Third Sunday of Easter

The Two Disciples on the road to Emmaus are dejected and despondent after Jesus' Death. They knew Jesus personally. Hadn't they heard the Gospel message directly from His lips and heard the testimony of the women? How much more obvious could the Good News be?

The reaction of the Two Disciples describes our own journey at times. We often lose our way and can fail to see all the gifts we have been given. But we can be like the Two Disciples when their eyes are opened once again. We can be transformed and our hearts set on fire with love for the Lord. We can go to the same sources as the Two Disciples on the road to Emmaus – the Scriptures and the Eucharist. In this Easter season, resolve to feast deeply on these two sources of grace. They are the fuel that will propel us on our journey towards Heaven. (www.CatholicSteward.com, 3/22/2023)

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 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, 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!