

April 30, 2023
Fourth 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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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 –

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 2 Extra Eucharistic Ministers if Deacon Bruce is not present for the Mass. 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.

ROSARY SOCIETY - Will meet on **Monday, May 1st** at 6:00 PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION - The Men's Club will be hosting a Mother's Day Celebration on Sunday, May 14th after 7:30AM and 9:30AM Mass at the Activity Building.

SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP - The show for **Sight and Sound** is "**Moses**" at **3:00PM**. The bus will depart on Thursday, August 10th at 8:30AM. Trip includes Roundtrip Motor Coach transportation, ticket to show and Buffet Lunch at "Bird in Hand" Restaurant. Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667. **Money and Reservations are due by 7/1/2023.**

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 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 - \$205.38; Adults - \$1,942.25; Monthly - \$110.00; Candles - \$168.00; Holy Thursday - \$10.00; Good Friday - \$10.00; Easter - \$40.00; Donation - \$30.00; Funeral - \$150.00; Online Giving - \$251.00 - Total Collection - \$2,916.63.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel Reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus' Teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today's reading falls between the stories of Jesus' Healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year's season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs His allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John's Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus' Ministry and Teaching. They show themselves to be "robbers and thieves" because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling His listeners that those who follow Him and His way will find abundant life. He identifies Himself both as the Shepherd and the Gate. The shepherds who are faithful to Him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus' Disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today's Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus' Words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the Gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus' allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the Shepherd knows His sheep, and they know Him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to Him and by being a Good Shepherd.

April 30, 2023 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's Readings offer us a glimpse into the heart of our loving Savior. He is the Good Shepherd and we can confidently place our trust in Him as we live the stewardship way of life. Jesus' description of Himself as the "Good Shepherd" shows us our Lord's tender and personal love for each one of us. We can express our gratitude to Him by embracing the stewardship way of life — in the offering of our time, talent, and treasure to His Flock.

Embracing this way of life certainly requires trust on our part. But Christ has proven Himself worthy of our trust. He "bore our sins in His Body." He calls Himself our shepherd and is the guardian of our souls. He has withheld nothing of Himself and His goodness from us. He would never ask anything of us that would bring us harm. He tells us "I came so that [you] might have life and have it more abundantly." This Easter season, let us resolve to entrust ourselves and our lives gratefully to Him.

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!**