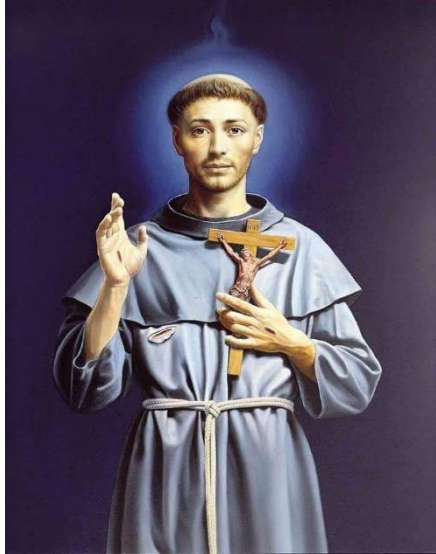


May 14, 2023
6th Sunday of Easter
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

Fax: 814 – 539-5888

Email – sfassisich@atanticbbn.net

Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](#)

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

“The Most important person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral—a dwelling for an immortal soul.” – Venerable

Cardinal József Mindszenty

PRAYER ON MOTHER'S DAY – Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over Your Church. Bless our mothers. Make their example of faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their families, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, May 18th in Observance of Ascension Thursday.

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.

GOBS & PASKA BREAD – We will be selling our Gobs and Paska Bread at the Activity Building on Election Day (May 16th) at the back door of the Activity Center in the Parking Lot near the alley.

SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP – The show for **Sight and Sound** is “**Moses**”. We will be attending the **3:00PM on Thursday, August 10th**. The bus will depart at 8:30AM from St. Francis Activity Center on Barron Avenue. 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.**

HOLY FAMILY CANDLE – Will be lit for Wedding Anniversary Remembrance +Kathy Bazyk
–From: Husband, Frank

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$317.00; Adults – \$2,482.25; Monthly – \$701.00; Candles – \$142.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$14.00; Mother's Day – \$355.00; Ascension – \$35.00; Cemetery – \$285.00; Catholic Home Missions Appeal – \$26.00; Holy Thursday – \$6.00; Easter – \$20.00; Donation – \$160.00; Online Giving - \$296.00 – Total Collection - \$4,839.25.

PLEASE NOTE: On the back page of the Bulletin is A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION. I highly recommend praying that special prayer EVERY DAY!

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is a continuation of last week's Gospel: Jesus is speaking to His Disciples at the Last Supper. In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to His Disciples, who will soon see Him Crucified. He reassures them that even though He will leave them, He will not abandon them. Instead He will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the Disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Jesus uses the term *Advocate* to describe the Holy Spirit, whom the Disciples will receive. Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is *Paraclete*, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that He will send "another Advocate." Jesus Himself is the First Advocate, interceding for His Disciples with the Father.

In today's reading Jesus contrasts His impending departure with the permanence of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus will leave to return to the Father, but the Holy Spirit will remain with the Disciples.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

Today's reading is one example of the contrast that John's Gospel presents between the community of Disciples, to whom God will reveal Himself, and the unbelieving world, which will remain in darkness. The unbelieving world cannot accept the "Spirit of truth," whom the Disciples will receive. Only through the Spirit will God's Revelation and Love be known.

May 14, 2023 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Our readings remind us that God must come first in our lives, and that love of God shows itself in concrete actions. This is precisely why the stewardship way of life is so necessary. St. Peter challenges us to put Christ first above all else in our lives. He is not merely the Savior of our lives, He is to be "Lord" of our lives as well. As His disciples, we are called to make Him ruler of all aspects of our lives, in our time, talent, and treasure.

The Stewardship way of life offers us a concrete means to "prove" our love. True love is not a mere sentiment. True love is an act of the will. It requires obedience to all of God's Commandments. This requires courage, humility, and deep trust in Him. The rewards of this kind of love are indescribably wonderful. Could there be anything more satisfying to live in such a way that the God of the Universe is pleased to reveal more and more of Himself to us?

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.

=====

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.

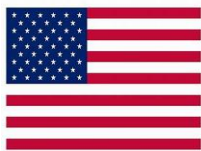
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline 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?

=====

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).



PRAYER FOR OUR NATION – God our Father, Giver of Life, we entrust the United States of America to Your loving Care. You are the rock on which this nation was founded. You alone are the true source of our cherished rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Reclaim this land for Your Glory and dwell among Your People. Send us Your Spirit to touch the hearts of our nation's

leaders. Open their minds to the great worth of human life and the responsibilities that accompany human freedom. Remind Your people that true happiness is rooted in seeking and doing Your will. Through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, Patroness of our land, grant us the courage to reject the “culture of death.” Lead us into a new millennium of life. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.