

May 21, 2023
7th 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
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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

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.**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – This year's VBS will explore the TWISTS and TURNS taken by our Bible heroes as they found their faith and hopefully inspire you to follow yours! VBS will run from **Tuesday, July 11 to Friday, July 14 from 9:00AM to 12 Noon at the St. Francis Activity Center**. Ages 4-12 are welcome. Older students are welcome to volunteer as helpers. Registration forms are in the Main Vestibule. Any questions, Please contact Sue Paonessa at 814-536-4024.

GOB SALE – We will be selling our Gobs on **Saturday, May 27th from 9:00AM – 12 Noon** at the Activity Center on Barron Ave. Our Gobs are \$2.00 each.

MEN’S CLUB MOTHER’S DAY TICKET WINNER – Is Justin Zierer! The winning ticket number was #454. Congratulations!!!

THANK YOU – To the Men’s Club for hosting the “Mother’s Day” event held at the Activity Center.

SPECIAL THANK YOU – To **Mr. William Alberter** who created the 100th Anniversary sign above the special mementos on the back wall of the Church!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$200.00; Adults – \$2,155.25; Monthly – \$216.00; Candles – \$159.35; St. Vincent DePaul – \$45.00; Mother’s Day – \$433.00; Ascension – \$50.00; Cemetery – \$35.00; Catholic Home Missions Appeal – \$5.00; Black and Indian Mission – \$25.00; Catholic Communication – \$25.00; Initial Offering – \$20.00; Donation – \$150.00; Online Giving – \$201.00 – Total Collection – \$3,719.60.

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE – Will be lit for Mary Cononie & Marion Torchia – From: Children, Joseph & Paulette Torchia

ARMED FORCES DAY – MAY 20, 2023 – Thank you for the country in which we live. Thank you for abundant natural resources and an amazing standard of living. Lord, thank you for the men and women in uniform who risk their life and to preserve our way of life and our freedom to worship Today, Father, please be with each Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Guardsman as they serve. Please look after their families and keep them safe. Show them Your Grace and provision in their daily lives. Bless the brave who protect the free so that they may reap the rewards of a job well done when their time in service is over. Renew the respect for our Service Members across the United States of America and please Bless our Nation. Thank you, again, for all our many blessings. In Jesus’ Holy Name, Amen.



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Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the Disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty Tomb, to Jesus' Appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives His Disciples in today's Gospel.

The Final Commission, as this Gospel is sometimes called, is given on the mountaintop. Throughout Scripture, the most important events happen on the mountaintop, and Matthew has used this motif throughout his Gospel. Earlier in Matthew's Gospel, Peter, James, and John had seen Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop (Matthew 17:1-8). Also in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught the crowds from the mountaintop in what we now call the Sermon on the Mount.

Here we are told that the Eleven Disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both worship and doubt at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to Baptize and Teach, "to make Disciples of all nations." It is a task which Jesus had previously prepared His Disciples for; recall that Jesus had sent the Twelve Apostles to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal (cf. Matthew 10:1-15). However, earlier the Twelve were sent only to the House of Israel; in this Final Commission, the Eleven are told to go to "all nations." The Mission of Jesus is now to be taken to all people; the task now is to Baptize and to Teach.

Jesus Commissions His Disciples to Baptize in the name of the Trinity, one of the clearest attestations found in Scripture for Baptism in the name of the Trinity. In the Acts of the Apostles and in the Letters of Paul, Baptism is more frequently offered "in the name of Jesus."

The ending of Matthew's Gospel can be understood as the beginning of the Church. Jesus commissions His Disciples to continue to teach in His Name and to bring others into the Community of Disciples through Baptism. The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all Eternity.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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 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.

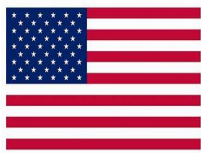
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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



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.