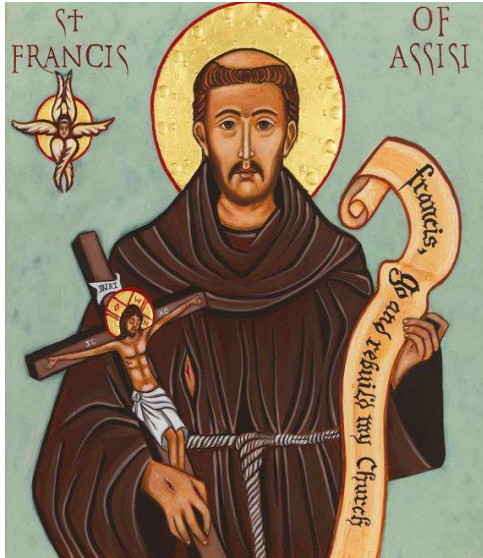


May 28, 2023
Pentecost Sunday
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 – stfrancisofassisi@att.net
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisi)
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.

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

THANK YOU FOR RICE BOWLS – To all who donated to the Rice Bowls this Easter Season! Our total was \$633.00! Thank you for all of your donations!

FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY – DAY OF CELEBRATION – Please join us for a celebration honoring the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua on **Tuesday, June 13th at St. Bernadine Monastery, Hollidaysburg.** The event will include an outdoor Mass, Blessing of St. Anthony's Bread, and veneration of a first-class relic of St. Anthony. Mass will begin at 10:00AM, followed by bread distribution. At the conclusion of Mass, join us for an outdoor BBQ lunch which is \$15.00 per person. Please pre-pay if you will be staying for lunch by June 6th by sending payment to 788 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. The celebration will be rain or shine as it will be under a tent and please bring a chair!

HEART OF FAITH: FOUNDATIONS OF CATHOLICISM – taught by Fr. Timothy Harris, TOR at St. John Vianney in Johnstown, PA. Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30-9:00 PM (Running for 6 weeks) beginning June 19. The cost for this class is \$35.00 and must be turned in with the Registration Form. Two books are also required for this class and can be purchased on Amazon. To complete the Registration Form please visit www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry or contact Jessica, Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or via email at jgramling@dioceseaj.org All are welcome!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$323.00; Adults – \$1,854.25; Monthly – \$50.00; Candles – \$104.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$20.00; Mother's Day – \$15.00; Ascension – \$563.00; Cemetery – \$35.00; Catholic Communication – \$54.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Donation – \$130.00; Online Giving - \$291.00 – Total Collection - \$3,589.25.

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

The Season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the Upper Room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's First Reading. The account in today's Gospel, John 20:19-23, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to His Disciples. Yet the event in John's Gospel takes place on Easter Sunday. There is no need to try to reconcile these two accounts. It is enough that we know that after His Death, Jesus fulfilled His Promise to send to His Disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would enable them to be His witnesses throughout the world.

We already heard today's Gospel proclaimed on the [Second Sunday of Easter](#) this year (Lectionary Cycle A). That Gospel passage, however, also included the description of Jesus' Appearance to Thomas. In that context, we were led to reflect on belief and unbelief.

In the context of the Feast of Pentecost, John 20:19-23 reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." He breathes the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples and sends them to continue His work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' Act of breathing the Holy Spirit mirrors God's act of breathing life into Adam at the time of Creation. In fact, both the Greek and Hebrew words for "Spirit" can also be translated as "Breath."

This Gospel reminds us that the Church is called to be a reconciling presence in the world. The reconciling presence of Christ is celebrated in the Church's Sacramental Life. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of sin and become a new creation in Christ. In the Sacrament of Penance, the Church celebrates the Mercy of God through the forgiving of sins. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

May 28, 2023 – Pentecost Sunday

The Holy Spirit gives us gifts and guidance in a very personal way. We are meant to use these gifts to build up the Body of Christ. The outpouring of the Spirit was a personalized way of "gifting" the Apostles, allowing them each to reach different people, sharing with them the "mighty acts of God." Embracing the stewardship way of life means that we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in the best use of the unique gifts He has given to each of us, to accomplish the particular mission entrusted to us.

Jesus gives us this mission in our Gospel passage from John, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." But we must not let this responsibility overwhelm us. Jesus Himself, tells us "Peace be with you."

As this Easter season comes to a close, let us be at peace. And let us resolve to lean on the Holy Spirit more and more as our guide through the stewardship way of life.

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 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.

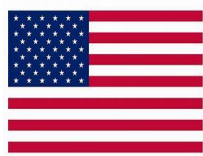
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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