

**May 7, 2023**  
**Fifth 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@atanticbnn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atanticbnn.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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**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 **Elizabella Stevanus**. May God Bless them as they continue their Faith Journey.



**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION** – The Men's Club will be hosting a Mother's Day Celebration on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>) 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**" at **3:00PM**. The bus will depart on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL WORKSHOP** – **May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM at Bertschi Center, Mount Aloysius College, Cresson Pa**, with Eucharistic presentations on "Beginning Again" to assist Catholics in recognizing the gift the Catholic Church has in the Eucharist as being the center of our Worship and our belief in the "REAL PRESENCE." **Beginning again** "will feature three priests serving in our Diocese, giving witness presentations on various parts of the Eucharist which have anchored not only their priestly lives but their spiritual lives as well. Presenters include Father Clement Gardner who will speak on 'How the Homily has anchored his Priestly life and how it can anchor one's Christian Life. Fr, Jude Brady will share 'The Transforming Power of the Eucharist,' and Fr. Brian Norris's topic is 'The Mass is over, but your job has just begun.'" Robert Long, a native of Hollidaysburg, will also be with us to address how the music sung during the Eucharistic Celebration Awakens the Spirit when we pay attention to the lyrics of the song. His Topic is: 'The **SPIRIT** of the song.' It's a workshop you don't want to miss. To register go to [www.dioceseaj.org/beginning-again](http://www.dioceseaj.org/beginning-again). The cost is \$10.00 payable online with a credit card or with exact change at the door.

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

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$249.00; Adults – \$1,729.25; Monthly – \$5.00; Candles – \$113.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$5.00; Mother's Day – \$30.00; Ascension – \$5.00; Cemetery – \$8.00; Catholic Home Missions Appeal – \$118.00; Catholic Communication – \$5.00; Donation – \$181.56; Online Giving - \$191.00 – Total Collection – \$2,639.81.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' Life before His Passion. Jesus tells His Disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He promises that where He is going, His Disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the Disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the Disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that He Himself is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the Disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' Words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the Disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told His Disciples, "If you know Me, then you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what He has just told the Disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about His departure: because of Faith in God and in Jesus, the Disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and His Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke His name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks His name to His Disciples: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' Name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, Who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

## **May 7, 2023 — Fifth Sunday of Easter**

As Christian stewards, we are well aware that we are merely pilgrims here, making our way through the stewardship way of life to our true home, Heaven. As we make our way to Heaven, we are called to make our dwelling here, a true "domestic church." The stewardship way of life begins long before we set foot on the Parish grounds. Stewardship starts at home. It begins with our families. It is the primary place where we practice intimate and selfless love of other persons.

In our Gospel passage from John, Jesus speaks of Heaven as a home filled with dwelling places. Let us respond to this great love by becoming good stewards of our earthly dwellings, making our homes where we honor God with prayer, our thoughtfulness to each other and not forget that hospitality starts at home.

**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.

=====
**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 Guarno, 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

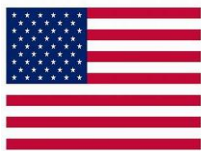
To add a name to our Salute to those in the Military, please call 539-1632. If a person is no longer serving on active or reserve duty, please call the Parish Office to remove his/her name.

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.