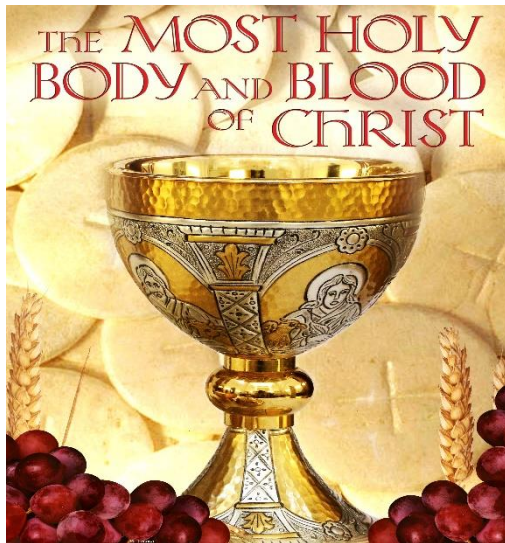


**June 11, 2023**  
***Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ***  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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 – [stfrancisich@atanticbbn.net](mailto:stfrancisich@atanticbbn.net)**

**Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/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

**4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY GOB SALE** – We will be selling Gobs and Paska Bread on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00am – 12 Noon at the St. Francis Activity Center on Barron Ave. The cost of Gobs are \$2.00 each and Paska Bread is \$3.00 each.

**SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP** – The show for **Sight and Sound** is “**Moses**”. We will be attending the **3:00PM on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**. 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. Cost is \$177.00 per person. 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. Please turn in your completed Registration form in the weekend collection basket or to the Parish Office. Any questions, Please contact Sue Paonessa at 814-536-4024.

**FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY – DAY OF CELEBRATION** – Please join us for a celebration honoring the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua on **Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**THANK YOU FROM CINDY** – To all who helped to make icing and the filling of Gobs. Your help is greatly appreciated!!

**CCW PRAYERS FOR HAITI** – The Sisters of the Carmelite Community of the Word invite you to join us in three days of prayer June 25,26 & 27 in honor of Mother of Perpetual Help for the needs of the people of Haiti. The situation in Haiti is tragic and there is little intervention by the world community to alleviate the suffering of the people. In the midst of the turmoil that exists in Haiti at the present time we ask your help in praying for a resolution to the violence, starvation and isolation that plagues the people of Haiti. A recent article details what life is like in Haiti right now. It highlights the very urgent need for our prayers.

<https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/not-country-where-you-can-dream-shattered-hopes-haitian-people>

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$153.00; Adults – \$2,094.25; Monthly – \$690.00; Candles – \$139.00; Ascension – \$15.00; Father's Day – \$185.00; Election Rent - \$150.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$196.00 – Total Collection - \$3,652.25.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

This Sunday we celebrate a Second Solemnity during this period of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This day was once called *Corpus Christi*, which is Latin for “Body of Christ.” In the revised Lectionary the name for this day is expanded to reflect more completely our Eucharistic theology.

Today’s Gospel is taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading is part of a discourse between Jesus and a crowd of Jews. The discourse comes shortly after the miracle of Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves and fishes. In John’s Gospel, miracles such as this are identified as “signs” through which people come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. These signs are followed by dialogue, or discourse that interprets and explains the miracle. In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves is said to have occurred near Passover, thus linking it to the Exodus story and God’s saving action toward the Israelites. Having seen Jesus multiply the loaves and fishes, the crowd pursues Him, perhaps seeking more food but also looking for another sign. Jesus tells the crowd that He is the Bread of Life. He explains that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give Eternal Life. It is in this context that Jesus repeats those words in today’s Gospel and tells them again that He is the living bread that came down from heaven.

Jesus’ words are not well understood by the crowd; they argue that Jesus is not from Heaven but born of Mary and Joseph. The crowd also has trouble understanding how Jesus could give them His Flesh to eat. Jesus tells them that when they eat His flesh and drink His Blood, they will remain forever connected to Him. These are difficult words, but they are important because they seek to show us our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our Eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus’ Body and Blood are truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus Himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us Eternal Life, and sends us forth to be Christ’s Body in the world.

### **June 11, 2023 – Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

The Feast of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ has deep significance to those living the Stewardship way of life. The most Precious Gifts God has given us are His Word and His Body and Blood.

They are all we need to sustain us in this world and guide us to Heaven. Let us resolve to steward these precious gifts well with our heart, always. This is the essence of a stewardship way of life.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czarnik, Verne Esposito, James Golby, Alicia Junghans, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Joe Torchia, David Watson, Sheila Weppner, Mark Wojno, Barbara Yesh.

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; Lt. Col Steven Thomas, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; Captain Colin Harrington, US Army, Bethesda, MD; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino, US Navy; Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

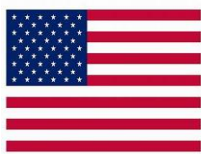
**A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY:** Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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