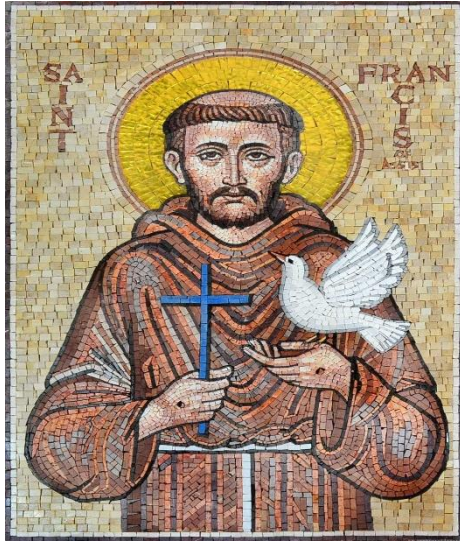


**July 16, 2023**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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@atanticbnn.net](mailto:stfrancisich@atanticbnn.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

**THE SISTERS OF CHARITY** – Please welcome The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, KY who are conducting a Mission Appeal this weekend on behalf of their ministries in Belize, India, Botswana, Kenya and the home missions of the United States. Our prayers, encouragement, and the collection that will be taken up, align our Parish in a very particular way with the work of their Sisters in mission. Let us be as generous as we can!

**CANDLE PRICE INCREASE** – Due to the rising cost of candles and everyday items, we are hoping that you will consider increasing your offering/donation for candles, the 4-hour votive candle suggested offering is 50¢, 3 Day Candle suggested offering is \$3.00 and the 7 Day Candle suggested offering is \$6.00.

**PARISH GREETERS** – We are in need of “Greeters” for the weekend Masses. If interested, please contact the Parish Office to let us know!

**ANOINTING MASS**– St John Gualbert Cathedral Parish will sponsor an Anointing Mass on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. All who are infirmed or otherwise in need of anointing are welcome to attend.

**PARISH FUNDRAISING** – The St. Francis Fundraising Committee met on June 29th. In the following months several fundraising projects will begin. These fundraisers will benefit work needed done within the Parish and Activity Center. We ask that you support the following: Labor Day tickets on sale now, Marianna's Sub orders will be taken and can be picked up Sept 2nd at the Activity Center during the Labor Day Gob Sale. If we all work together we can accomplish a great deal! Thank you! St. Francis Fundraising Committee.

**OUTDOOR MASS HONORING MARRIED COUPLES WITH BISHOP MARK** – Outdoor Mass honoring Married Couples with Bishop Mark. The Altoona-Johnstown Diocesan Family is invited to participate in and to pray for those living the Sacrament of Marriage at an Outdoor Mass honoring Married Couples on Sunday evening, July 16 at 7:00 pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto. Bring a lawn chair. Indoors if rain. Bishop Mark is the celebrant and homilist. This is a wonderful way to celebrate, encourage and support married couples!

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$197.00; Adults – \$1,981.25; Monthly – \$258.00; Candles – \$136.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$30.00; Father’s Day – \$35.00; Peter’s Pence – \$85.00; Donation – \$100.00; Online Giving - \$276.00 – Total Collection - \$.3,098.25.

**ST. THERESE SUMMER BASKET & BURGER BASH** – Will be held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 4:00 – 9:00 PM & July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 11:00AM – 4:00 PM at the St. Therese Social Hall at 531 Decker Avenue. There will be live entertainment, Theme Basket drawing will be held on Sunday @ 4:00 PM. Craft/Bistro Burger, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pizza, Fresh Cut Fries, Funnel Cake, water, soda and beer!

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew's Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for His listeners what He means by the Kingdom of Heaven. He begins with the parable of the sower, which appears rather straightforward—of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains His use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that He uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection in order to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the sower to His Disciples. The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the Kingdom of Heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

### **July 16, 2023 — 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the Sacraments which in turn nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives, making us receptive to God's plans for us and ultimately producing abundant fruit through the way we live each day. When we give the best of our time, talent and treasure to serve God and others, we create lives filled with that rare "good soil" needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive. Christian stewards must fill themselves with this nourishment every day. Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life.

([www.CatholicSteward.com](http://www.CatholicSteward.com), 6/11/2020)

### **Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Diocese of United States of America - July 16, 2023 -Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Beginning on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023, the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown was permitted by the local ordinary, Bishop Mark L. Bartchak, to resume the practice of offering the fuller sign of Communion, the Body and Blood of the Lord under the species of both bread and wine. The offering of the chalice of the Precious Blood of Christ can continue to be offered on Sundays, as part of special celebrations, and could be on weekdays at the discretion of the pastor. Those who are suffering from a cold, sore throat, cough, or flu symptoms should refrain from receiving the Chalice of the Lord's Blood. (May 2, 2023, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, Liturgy Office, 2713 West Chestnut Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601)

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

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, 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, Patricia Twardziak, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

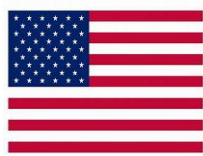
**A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY:** Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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