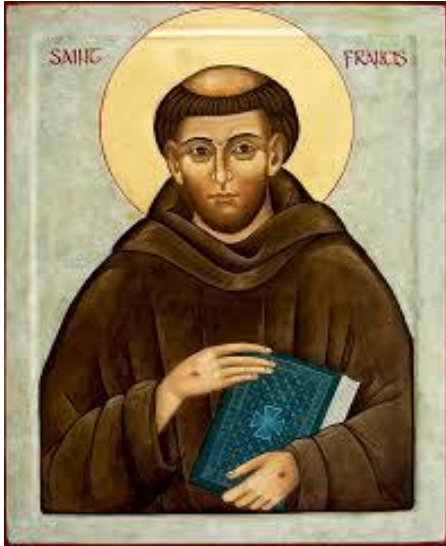


July 23, 2023
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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 – sfassisich@atanticbbn.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 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

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.

SPECIAL THANK YOU – Thank you to Sue Paonessa (Ms. Vacation Bible School) and her crew of assistants, workers, and others working behind the scenes which made this year's Vacation Bible School a smashing success!! It is our hope that our youngsters who participated have a deeper love of Jesus, the Holy Bible and St. Joseph. God Bless – Sue and her crew!!

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

MARIANNA PIZZA & SUB ORDERS – The Fundraising Committee is sponsoring a Marianna's Sub and Pizza sale in coordination with the Gob Sale on Saturday, September 2nd between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12 Noon. Included in the Bulletin is an order sheet with instructions on how to place your order. All subs and pizzas are \$10.00 each. **Order sheets with the payment included are to be placed in the Sunday Collection Basket in an envelope marked “SUB & PIZZA SALE”**. Please be sure to seal the envelope. The last day to submit an order is on Sunday, August 20th. Additional order forms are in the Main Vestibule. No orders will be accepted after that date. If you require any additional information, you may contact Carol Mangus at 814-539-0152.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$148.00; Adults – \$2,039.25; Monthly – \$163.00; Candles – \$162.50; Assumption – \$5.00; retired Priest – \$10.00; Catholic University – \$5.00; Peter's Pence – \$13.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$291.00 – Total Collection – \$2,866.75

ST. THERESE SUMMER BASKET & BURGER BASH – Will be held on July 22nd from 4:00 – 9:00 PM & July 23rd 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!

ST. BENEDICT (CARROLLTOWN) PARISH FESTIVAL – at Saint Benedict Church in Carrolltown, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, July 28, 29, and 30. Chicken Dinner with homemade chicken noodle soup, Sunday July 30, 11 am to 2 pm. **Entertainment everyday** - with live bands, beer tent, bingo, large basket auction, games, bake sale, ethnic foods, refreshments, petting zoo, and fireworks. \$10,000 in cash prizes to be awarded July 31 thru August 4.

DID YOU KNOW? The Gun Violence Archive reports 21,650 deaths by gun violence (including homicides, murders, defensive use, accidental shootings and suicides) and 340 mass shootings already in 2023 alone! And we still have 5 months to go in this calendar year of 2023!

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers three parables to describe the Kingdom of Heaven. He also explains why He speaks to the crowds in parables and interprets the parable of the sower for the Disciples. This reading is a continuation of Jesus' discourse that we began reading last Sunday.

All three parables use commonplace experiences to describe aspects of the Kingdom of Heaven. The first parable is longer and more detailed than the next two, and it alerts us to the two-fold reality of the Kingdom of Heaven. The beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven can be found in this world. The fruition of the Kingdom of Heaven, however, will not be realized until the Final Judgment. In the meantime, as Jesus' explanation to the Disciples cautions, any effort to judge the progress of the Kingdom of Heaven is premature. Only God, in the Final Judgment, will distinguish the fruit of the Kingdom of Heaven and offer its reward.

The second and third parables call to our attention the abundance that will result from the small beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven. Just as a mustard seed—the smallest of all seeds—will become a large bush, so, too, God will bring His Kingdom to full bloom. As a small amount of yeast will leaven the entire batch of bread, so too God will bring about the expansion of His Kingdom. In each case the image is of the superabundance that God brings out of even the smallest of signs of the Kingdom.

Contained within these parables are words of caution as well as words of consolation. In the parable of the sower we are warned against judging others. To judge and uproot the “weeds” prematurely will harm the wheat; Final Judgment rests with God. In the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, we are consoled by the message that God can work wonders and produce abundance from even the smallest beginnings of the Kingdom of Heaven.

July 23, 2023 — 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The day will come when we will have to give an account for what we have done with the gifts of time, talent and treasure that He entrusted to us. We will be judged by God for the part we played, or did not play, in the building of His kingdom.

We must turn to the Holy Spirit continuously to guide us in our daily lives as Christian stewards. God sees and treasures and “grows” our offerings of time, talent and treasure in ways we cannot begin to imagine. Faithful stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, “will shine like the sun in the kingdom of [the] Father.” (www.CatholicSteward.com, 6/11/2020)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn 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, 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 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.

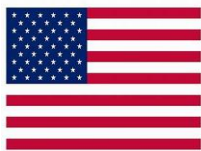
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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