

July 30, 2023
17th 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
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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 President – Philip Scott
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

The Church has purchased a set of Chimes from Chime Master Electronic Carillons of Lancaster, Ohio for an amount of \$7,000.00. Would any parishioner be so inclined to make a donation to purchase the set of chimes in honor of a family of the Parish or a deceased loved one during this ongoing 100th Anniversary of the Parish? Please call the Parish Office if you are so inclined.

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.

MARIANNA PIZZA & SUB ORDERS – The fundraising committee is sponsoring a Marianna's Pizza and Sub sale in coordination with the Gob Sale on Saturday, September 2nd between the hours of 9:00 AM and 12 Noon. All Pizza and Subs are \$10.00 each. **Order forms are in the Main Vestibule and 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**. There will be **NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED**. If you require any additional information, please contact Carol Mangus at (814)536-0152.

MEN'S CLUB – Is asking all men to consider coming to our fall meeting on September 7th. Father and sons are encouraged to come together. We are looking for members to help us make the Men's Club more active in our Church. New ideas and activities will be the goal for the upcoming year. All are welcome!! Starting in September, Phil Scott is the new Men's Club President. If anyone needs transportation, please call: Phil Scott at (814)525-7090 or Bob Scarff at (814)539-7917.

DONATE BLOOD IN HONOR OF DAN HUTCHISON – Blood Drive will be held at St. Therese of the Child Jesus, 536 Decker Avenue at the Church Hall on Friday, August 11th from 11:30 AM – 5:00 PM. For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: St.Therese or call 1-800-733-2767.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$295.00; Adults – \$2,142.25; Monthly – \$60.00; Candles – \$195.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Online Giving - \$191.00 – Total Collection - \$2,888.25.

SISTERS OF CHARITY 2nd COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND - \$1,010.00

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Our Lord reminds us that living for Him and for His kingdom will be costly. But the deep joy that comes in following Him makes the "price" worth it even if it seems "hidden." We must intentionally search for it even in the noise of the world. We need wisdom to recognize it. The Lord reminds us that His Kingdom is meant for everyone.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst and intensify our efforts to pursue it starting right now. There is no time to lose. (www.CatholicSteward.com, 6/11/2020)

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel concludes three weeks of readings from the 13th Chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Throughout these three weeks we have heard Jesus teaching crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven, and we have heard Jesus interpret some of His Teachings for the Disciples. In this week's Gospel, Jesus offers three more short parables.

The first two parables describe the great value of the Kingdom of Heaven. In the first parable, Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a buried treasure that is worth possessing even if it means giving up everything else. In the second parable, Jesus proposes that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl of great worth for which one will sell everything else to possess. These parables teach us that we are to place everything we value in the service of the pursuit of the Kingdom of God.

The third parable that Jesus proposes in today's Gospel is different from the first two, but it is reminiscent of the parable of the sower heard in last week's Gospel. The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to fishing with a wide net. After the fish have been collected, the good fish are kept and the bad fish are thrown away; so too, in the Final Judgment, will the wicked and the righteous be separated.

Today's Gospel concludes with a curious statement about the scribe who understands the Kingdom of Heaven. Here a metaphor is offered: this scribe is like the head of a household who "brings from his storeroom both the new and the old." The scribes referred to here are experts of Mosaic Law. It is possible that Jesus is here instructing the early Christian community on how to proceed in the interpretation of Jewish Law with respect to Jesus' "new" Teaching. Jesus' Teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven does not replace the Jewish tradition; it interprets it in a different light.

DIocese OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – Spiritual nourishment, uplifting messages, fellowship, and fun are in store at the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown **STRENGTH IN CHRIST Women's Conference** on **September 16** at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson. Internationally recognized speakers Kitty Cleveland and Mary Castner will be the keynote presenters. Cleveland, a singer/songwriter, began her professional career as a lawyer and then as a college professor, but in an Adoration Chapel in 1998, as she searched for God during a devastating family crisis, she clearly heard the Lord Jesus call her to become a music missionary. Castner's life changed when she discovered praise and worship music at age 14 and went on to earn degrees in Theology and Catechetics from Franciscan University of Steubenville. She serves as a youth minister at an Arizona parish and is the founder of the ministry *The Father's Heart* and co-founder of the *Don't Shove the Dove* Catholic podcast. The conference will include Mass with Bishop Mark, Confessions, and lunch. The conference runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with check-in beginning at 7:30 a.m. Ladies are invited to stay and pray the Rosary from 4:00-5:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 for adults; \$10 for high school and college students. Register online by September 1st at dioceseaj.org or pick up a hard copy registration form in the Main Vestibule.

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.