

August 13, 2023
19th 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
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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

I am so proud and thankful to all of you who generously contributed to the unannounced and unexpected call for free will offering for the Family of +Grant & +Vindy. The amount collected was - 4:00 PM Mass - \$277.00; 7:30 AM - \$187.00; 9:30 AM - 574.01. You contributed \$1,038.01. Thank you and God Bless!!

"If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion." -- St. Maximilian Kolbe

"How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment." -- St. John Chrysostom
Because of the new research showing such a low percentage of Catholics believing in the true presence, I have purchased some books titled "The Eucharist is really Jesus". It pains me every time I see parishioners leave the church. How can they walk away from the Eucharist?
Blessed Carlo Acutis after receiving his First Holy Communion went to Mass every day of his life afterward to receive Communion. He called it his Highway to Heaven until his untimely death at age 15.

If you have doubts, please take a book, read it and then share it with other family members or friends who may be doubting also. The books are located in the Main Vestibule of the Church. — Paulette Torchia

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – August 15th is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Vigil Mass will be held on Monday, August 14th at 5:30 PM. On August 15th, Mass will be at 9:00 AM and 5:30 PM. **THERE WILL BE NO 6:15 PM MASS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15th, due to the Holy Day. The Novena to St. Anthony of Padua will follow the 5:30 PM Holy Day Mass on Tuesday.**

MANY THANKS – to Fr. Boguslaw the Franciscan Friar Missionary who made an appeal for the Franciscan Missionary Association. Fr. Boguslaw who wrote the book **“Burn the Passport”** has left behind 10 of his books should anyone be interested in obtaining one for a \$20.00 donation. If interested, call the Parish Office or see Fr. A.F. for procuring one. Thank You Again Fr. Boguslaw.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Sunday, August 13th, 2023 at 6:30 PM in the Gardens (In case of inclement weather we will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University). The presider will be Fr. Malachi Van Tassell. We are really looking forward to seeing you!

MARIANNA PIZZA & SUB ORDERS – ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY AUGUST 20th – 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. There will be **NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED AFTER AUGUST 20th.** If you require any additional information, please contact Carol Mangus at (814)536-0152.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel directly follows last week's account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed His time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends His Disciples ahead of Him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray.

The Disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in Chapter 8 of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the Disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost.

Clues like these suggest that this story is about the Disciples' growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with last week's Gospel about the feeding of the multitude, today's Gospel is also about what the Disciples' faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week's Gospel, when the Disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the Disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry.

Jesus calls to the Disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter's fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the Disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God.

Faith in Jesus will enable the Disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The Disciples can and will participate in the work of the Kingdom of Heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter's example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God's only Son.

August 13, 2023 – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Amazing things can happen when we fully permit God to take charge of our lives.

When we take our eyes off God, we fail to see that all is gift from Him. What a grand adventure Peter could have had out there walking on the sea with Jesus! When we embrace the stewardship way of life, letting go of a tight hold over our money, time, and talents, our lives become a grand adventure, rooted firmly and gratefully in the God Who always cares for us. (CatholicSteward.com 7/10/2023)

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$162.00; Adults – \$1,854.25; Monthly – \$1,266.00; Candles – \$164.00; Donation – \$110.00 Online Giving - \$186.00 – Total Collection - \$3,742.25

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Clara Dudash, 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 Sobacky, 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.

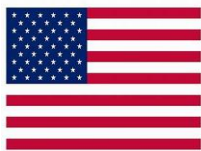
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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



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.