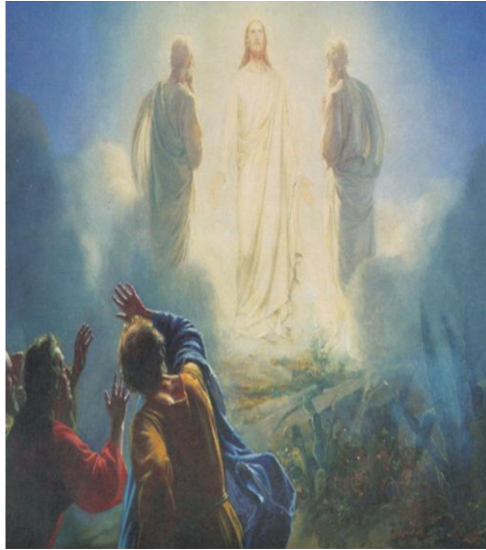


**August 6, 2023**  
***The Transfiguration of the Lord***  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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.*



**P 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 – [stfassisich@atanticbbn.net](mailto:stfassisich@atanticbbn.net)**  
**Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/St.FrancisofAssisi)**  
***Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632***  
**Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijs-town.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**

<b>MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM</b> <b>Saturday Vigil– 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM &amp; 9:30AM</b>
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***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 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 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Parish? Please call the Parish Office if you are so inclined.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Walter Custer III and Rebecca Scarff, having received the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday, July 22, 2023!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Michael and Chelsea on the Baptism of their son, **Simon Thomas!**

**FATIMA DEVOTIONS** – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 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** – The fundraising committee is sponsoring a Marianna's Pizza and Sub sale in coordination with the Gob Sale on Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. Fathers 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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> at [dioceseaj.org](http://dioceseaj.org) or pick up a hard copy registration form in the Main Vestibule.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

Today's Liturgy invites us to celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. This Feast calls to our attention the importance of this event in Jesus' Life, further affirmed by its report in each of the Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In Cycle A, the reading for this Feast is taken from the Gospel of Matthew. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah and after Jesus predicts His Passion. In each of these Gospels, a discussion of the cost of discipleship precedes the Transfiguration.

In each Gospel, Jesus takes three of His Disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear and converse with Jesus. Elijah and Moses are both significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. Moses represents the Law, which guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh, and some believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. The appearance of these two figures from Israel's history indicated Jesus' continuity with the Law and the prophets. They also reveal that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

Upon witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, an awestruck Peter offered to construct three tents for them when a voice from Heaven affirms that Jesus is "My Beloved Son" and commands the Disciples to listen to Him. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructed the Disciples to keep secret what they had seen until after "the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Until they witnessed Jesus' Passion and Death, the Disciples could not possibly understand what He meant by being "raised from the dead." We, however, have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of the Transfiguration Gospel, we see an anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection, a foreshadowing of Christ's glory in Heaven, and the promise of our own Resurrection.

### **August 6, 2023 Feast of the Transfiguration of The Lord**

Matthew gives a full vision of Jesus' complete change of form, structure and substance at the Transfiguration. When the Three Apostles became aware of the Full Divinity of Jesus, it is reported that "They fell prostrate and were very much afraid." Is that how we react when we are aware of the presence of God? Knowing God, appreciating God, and embracing God should give us confidence as Christian Stewards of God's gifts. God's grace is amazing, and the Transfiguration is a reminder to us of the hope we have in the saving grace of the Lord. (CatholicSteward.com 7/3/2023)

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$139.00; Adults – \$2,458.25; Monthly – \$215.00; Candles – \$152.50; St. Vincent DePaul – \$5.00; Assumption – \$10.00; Ascension – \$5.00; Peter's Pence – \$25.00; Donation – \$105.00 Online Giving – \$191.00 – Total Collection – \$3,305.75

**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 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, 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.*

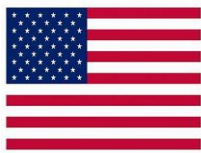
***A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY:*** Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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