

September 3, 2023
22nd 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 – stfrancis@atlanticbbs.net
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisijtown)
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.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 – Robert Bimeal
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

Please keep in your prayers – The Family and Friends of +Patricia Twardziak, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION – ALL REGISTRATION FORMS NEED TO BE TURNED IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE CHURCH’S PARISH OFFICE. THE FORMS ARE IN THE MAIN VESTIBULE. NOT MANY FAMILIES HAVE RETURNED THEIR FORMS. WE NEED THESE BACK ASAP TO PROPERLY PREPARE FOR 2023-24 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION YEAR.

HALLOWEEN LOTTERY TICKET – The Cash Bash Committee is selling a \$5.00 Lottery Ticket that will go on the Daily **Evening Number on Halloween**. Please purchase your ticket before and after all weekend Masses in the Main Vestibule.

PUBLIC ROSARY – Saturday, September 9th at 12:00 Noon, Downtown Johnstown at Central Park. Also on **Thursday, September 14th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church** in Upper Yoder.

CASH BASH – SAVE THE DATE for NOVEMBER 4th at St. Francis Activity Center! Tickets are \$25 and includes Roast Beef sandwich, Italian sausage, pasta salad, baked beans, & cake. Coffee, tea & water. Beer bracelets will be available for \$7.00. Cash bar for Mixed Drinks. \$2,000 will be given away throughout the evening – \$200 given away every half hour, \$500 at 7:30 and 9:00. Also qualifiers, door prizes and baskets will also be chanced off. Tickets will be for sale before and after all weekend Masses. We also need donations of Liquor and Baskets for this event!!!

ST. JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL SPAGHETTI DINNER: St. John Gualbert Cathedral Christian Life and Service Group are holding a Spaghetti Dinner at the St. John Gualbert Activities Center at **110 Adams St. Johnstown PA 15901** on Sunday, Sept. 10th. Doors open at 11:00AM – serving till 3:00PM. Take-outs are available. Adults - \$10.00, Children 4-12 - \$7.00, Age 3 and under are free. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the St. John Gualbert Rectory (814)536-0117. Basket Party and 50/50 tickets will be available for an additional charge at the dinner. You do not need to be present to win. Some of the top prizes for this event are a Restaurant Certificate Bundle worth over \$200.00 and a lamp with a lamp shade which was created/ 3d printed by our own Fr. Matthew Baum! Hope to see you there!

MEN’S CLUB – Is asking all men to consider coming to our fall meeting on September 7th. 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$134.00; Adults – \$1,852.25; Monthly – \$50.00; Candles – \$166.50; Donation – \$135.00; Assumption – \$70.00; Online Giving - \$191.00 – Total Collection - \$2,598.75

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel continues the story that began in last week's Gospel. Simon Peter was called the "rock" upon which Jesus would build His Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus' Identity. Now that the Disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of His Ministry: He must Suffer and Die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him "Satan." In opposing this aspect of Jesus' Mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the Disciples about the difficult path of Discipleship: to be Christ's Disciple is to follow in His way of the Cross.

Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other Disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a King that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to Teach His Disciples that He would be the Messiah in a different way.

Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus' Disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus' prediction of His Passion. He whom Jesus had called "rock" would also be called upon to offer Himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 — Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dying to self and living for Christ and others is tough and the work of a lifetime. But it is the only work that really matters and that truly satisfies. St. Paul teaches how we get back to the path of discipleship in those moments of discouragement and temptation. As modern-day stewards we must discipline ourselves, body, mind, and spirit, through a consistent prayer life, continuous formation in our Catholic faith, and setting aside anything in our life that is not pleasing to God. This is not impossible with the grace of God. We can simply ask God for it. Let us make the tough choice to lose our life for Christ's sake, in grateful response to His Love.

ST. PATRICK CHURCH BASEMENT AND BAKE SALE: St. Patrick Church is holding the annual Fall Basement and Bake Sale September 8th and 9th in the basement behind the Church, at 609 Park Ave. Johnstown, PA. The hours are from 8:00AM to 4:00PM both days. Everyone is welcome to come search for treasures at the basement sale and eat hearty at the food & bake sale. Menu items include St. Patrick's famous gobs, haluski, hot sausage, barbequed pulled chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Hope to see you there!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czarnik, 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 Sobczyk, Leona Sutt, Joe Torchia, David Watson, Sheila Weppner, Mark Wojno, Barbara Yesh.

=====

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, Poland.; 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?

=====

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.