

October 1, 2023
26th 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 – 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

HALLOWEEN LOTTERY TICKET – The Cash Bash Committee is selling a \$5.00 Lottery Ticket that will go on the Daily **Evening Number on Halloween**. Tickets will be available for purchase before and after all weekend Masses.

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on **Monday, October 2nd** at 6:00 PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

GOB ICING will be made on **Tuesday, October 10th** beginning at 7AM. Gobs will be filled on **Wednesday, October 11th** from 8:00AM until 10:00AM and from 6:00PM until 8:00PM. All help is greatly appreciated.

CASH BASH – 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**. Qualifiers, door prizes and baskets will also be chanced off.

Doors open at 5:00PM and will run from 6:00PM – 9:00PM. Tickets will be for sale before and after all weekend Masses. **We also need donations of Liquor and Baskets for this event!!!**

CASH BASH



SPAGHETTI DINNER BENEFIT FOR GALE BALA – Will be held on **Sunday, October 1, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM**. Dinner includes Spaghetti & Meatballs, Salad, Roll, Dessert and a Beverage. Adults dinners are \$10.00 and children dinners are \$5.00. There will also be a Basket Raffle and 50/50 tickets. We will be offering eat-in or take-out!

NO CCD CLASSES – There is **NO CCD CLASS on October 1st and October 8th**. The **next CCD Class will be on October 15th** from 10:45- 12 Noon at the former Convent across the street from the Church on Barron Avenue.

ANNUAL BISHOP'S MASS & DINNER for the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – will be held at St. Michael the Archangel Basilica at Loretto on Sunday, October 8, 2023 beginning at 2:00 PM. This year we will be honoring Bishop Mark with an Exemplification of Charity, Unity and Fraternity, following the Mass in the Basilica, wives and family are welcome to attend. Dinner will follow in the St. Michael's Social Center adjacent to the Basilica.

OKTOBERFEST – St. Therese Church, 536 Decker Avenue will host its Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct 7th from 4:00 – 8:00PM and Sunday, Oct 8th from 11:00AM – 4:30PM. Join us for delicious Ethnic food including KOLBASSI, HALUSKI, GERMAN POTATO SALAD, PIGS, PIROGHI, APPLE STRUDEL, HOME MADE PIES, BEVERAGES and MUCH MORE! Saturday there will be a **Meat Raffle Wheel** (5:30-7:30PM), 50/50, theme basket raffle. Music by the **Rhythm Masters** on Sunday from 12:30-3:30. Drawing for the Basket raffle will be at 4PM Sunday. Everyone is welcome!! Hope to see you there!!!

PUBLIC ROSARY - Honoring Our Lady of The Holy Rosary, **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12TH 6:30 PM St. Clement Church** and also **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH NOON at Central Park**, Downtown Johnstown.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$154.00; Adults – \$2,528.25; Monthly – \$48.00; Candles – \$189.00; Donation – \$30.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$217.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$221.00; Catholic University – \$28.00; Online Giving – \$191.00 – Total Collection – \$3,606.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

The context for today's Gospel is the mounting tension between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus has entered Jerusalem and overturned the money changers' tables in the Temple. Jesus has caught the attention of the religious authorities, the chief priests and elders question Jesus about the source of His Authority. Jesus refuses to name, for these religious leaders, the source of His Authority. Instead, He questions the priests and elders through the parable we hear in today's Gospel. The answer given by the religious leaders is correct, but it convicts them for their failure to heed the call of John the Baptist and for their inability to recognize the Kingdom of God.

The situation Jesus poses is rather straightforward. Given the same task by their father, one son asserts his disobedience in words, but then obeys in his actions; the second son obeys with his words, but disobeys in his actions. The question that Jesus poses is pointed and direct: Which son did what the father wanted? All would agree that "actions speak louder than words" and that even if his words were disobedient, the son who did the work as ordered did the father's will.

Jesus' conclusion is also direct. The chief priests and elders, the ones who speak most often about God, did not act accordingly. They did not respond to the message of repentance announced by John the Baptist with a change of heart. Instead, John's message was heeded by those one would not expect to repent—tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. Because of their actions, these sinners will enter the Kingdom of God ahead of the religious leaders.

Jesus could ask us the same question. Do our words indicate our obedience to God? If not our words, do our actions? God desires a full conversion of heart, that our actions (and our words as well) will give evidence of our love for God.

October 1, 2023 – Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings challenge the modern-day disciple to imitate more fully both the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is, after all, the point of our stewardship way of life. St. Paul encapsulates the actions and attitudes we must strive for in the Second Reading, from the Letter to the Philippians. "Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." In other words, Paul continues, "Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Whether we are at work or school or within our own homes, our actions should be focused on others first in imitation of Christ, Who is always perfectly focused on others.

We are called to a high and holy standard — living as Christ's disciples every day and with every person the Lord places in our path. But we can move towards this goal in "baby steps." We can even take a step backward from time to time because our Father is merciful and kind. What matters is that we keep baby-stepping along, assured of the grace we need to more closely imitate the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is the beauty of the stewardship way of life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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, 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, 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; 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.

