

September 10, 2023
23rd 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 – sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](#)

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 FOCUS 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

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.

LABOR DAY TICKET WINNER – The winners of the Labor Day ticket were, \$500 won by Brian Britton, and \$250.00 won by Cathy Strushensky and Sharon Kowalski.

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.

FISH FRY VOLUNTEERS– Please call or text either Gale (814-279-2195) or Pat (814-421-3568) to let us know if you are available to work at the Sept. 22 Fish Fry.

FISH FRY – Our next Fish Fry will be on **Friday, SEPTEMBER 22nd from 2:00PM until 6:00PM** at the Activity Center located at the corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. Takeout orders can be placed on Friday, September 22nd from 9:00AM until 1:00PM by calling 814-539-3518. We will also have Gobs for sale! We are now offering Dine-In as well. Walk-ins welcome, Meals will be served while supplies last! All help will be greatly appreciated.

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!!!

POLISH CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS – All Saints Parish in Boswell will host a presentation on Polish Christmas customs on Tuesday, October 17th at their Parish Hall (505 Center Street) at 6:30 PM. The customs, food, and decorations peculiar to the Polish expression of Christmas are unique and developed over many centuries. The presenter will be Fr. Czeslaw Krysa, an author and noted authority and Polish folk culture. The event will include refreshments, is free of charge, and open to all, however, participants are asked to register either by phoning the Parish Office at (814)-629-5551 or by emailing the Parish Secretary, Emily Marsh at emmarsh@dioceseaj.org.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating Fatima Devotions on Wednesday, September 13th, 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. Timothy Harris, T.O.R. We are really looking forward to seeing you.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$159.00; Adults – \$2,373.40; Monthly – \$771.00; Candles – \$201.00; Donation – \$30.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$10.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Assumption – \$41.00; Catholic University – \$5.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$5.00; Online Giving – \$196.00 – Total Collection – \$3,941.40.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from a chapter of Matthew's Gospel, which is sometimes called the "discourse on the Church" or the "church order" discourse. In this part of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks more directly about matters of Church discipline and order. In today's reading we find one of only three instances in which Jesus uses the word *Church* in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew's record of Jesus' Teaching, we can hear echoes of the kinds of issues faced by the early Christian community.

In the first part of the "discourse on the Church" (Matthew 18:1-14), Matthew addresses the Christian community's concerns about rank. Jesus responds to the Disciples' question about who is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus indicates that those who wish to enter the Kingdom of Heaven must be like children, and He cautions those leaders who might lead these "little ones" astray. He also responds with the parable of the lost sheep, indicating how God will seek out and bring back those "little ones" who have strayed.

In today's Gospel reading, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus addresses a common occurrence in the Christian community: a dispute between two members of the Church. Jesus outlines a procedure for settling such matters fairly. The victim should privately address the offender and attempt to resolve the dispute without outside involvement. If that fails, then the victim should bring two or three witnesses and confront the offender again. If the dispute is still unresolved, the matter should be brought to the attention of the entire community. If the offender refuses to adhere to the reparations prescribed by the community, then Jesus suggests that the offender may be expelled from the Church.

Jesus does not discourage disagreement within the community of the Church; He acknowledges the reality of conflict and error and offers His Disciples a means for addressing such matters. It is in the conclusion to this teaching that the message of hope is found: Jesus is present with the community and will guide the community in its relations. If decisions are taken in prayer, then the community can be assured of God's assistance.

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 — Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship is also about being stewards of relations. True love means seeking the good of the other. Love sometimes requires us to speak up when it would be easier to remain silent. Other times, love calls us to keep our mouths shut when we would prefer to "put someone in their place." Love is not taking to Twitter or Facebook to vent our frustrations about someone who has offended us. But neither is allowing a brother (a sister) to sin against us without speaking up. Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely, with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters.

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. Michaels Social Center adjacent to the Basilica. Please see the flyer in this weekends Bulletin for complete details!

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, 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 Rovano 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.

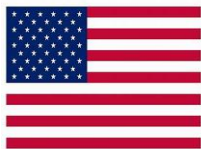
A PRAYER FOR OUR DEPLOYED MILITARY: Heavenly Father, inspire those who are overseas for the cause of peace. Send Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Prince of Peace. Bless the men and women of our military who respond to the needs of peacekeeping. Keep them safe from harm. Let them be models of discipline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