

**September 24, 2023**  
**25<sup>th</sup> 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**  
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**Facebook – St. Francis of Assisi**  
**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**

<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

**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.

**CASH BASH – NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

**THANK YOU** – For all the items that were donated for St. Vincent De Paul Soup Kitchen. It is very much appreciated. Please continue to donate as you are able to!!!

**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 weekend's Bulletin for complete details!

**REVISED CCD AND SACRAMENT PREPARATION START-UP DATES** – All **CCD Classes** will be held in the former Convent Building. The 1<sup>st</sup> class will be on September 24, 2023 from 10:45 AM – 12 Noon. Confirmation Prep Classes for Grades 9, 10 & 11 will be held in the Parish Office, the 1<sup>st</sup> class will be on **October 15th for Grade 9 from 4:00 – 5:45; 10<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:00 – 7:45 PM; and 11<sup>th</sup> Grade from 6:00 – 8:00 PM.**

**OKTOBERFEST** – St. Therese Church, 536 Decker Avenue will host its Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 8:00PM and Sunday, Oct 8<sup>th</sup> 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!!!

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$84.00; Adults – \$1,994.25; Monthly – \$450.00; Candles – \$178.00; Donation – \$30.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$20.00; Assumption – \$10.00 Retired Priest Medical – \$10.00; Catholic University – \$5.00; Funeral – 200.00; Online Giving – \$291.00 – Total Collection – \$3,272.25.

**SACRED HEART CANDLE & BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE** – Will burn this week for: **Special Intentions**– From: Bernie Golojch

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to Teach in Judea where He is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow Him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, He offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

### **SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 — Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

As stewards, the way we prioritize our time will often be at odds with the world's priorities. Jesus offers us a glimpse of the "Godly logic" of the Father. The laborers were relying on human logic and human calculations. Christian stewards can grumble and complain too. When we compare ourselves to others and believe that not everyone is contributing as much as we are to the Parish, the neighborhood, or even within our family, we do not think clearly. We must remember that it is a great privilege to have been called by the Father to work in His Vineyard. Living the stewardship way of life brings us meaning, depth and purpose. Let's embrace this Godly thinking and thank Him for calling us to this way of life.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE** – Will burn this week for Special Intentions – From: Alice Havers

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

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



**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.