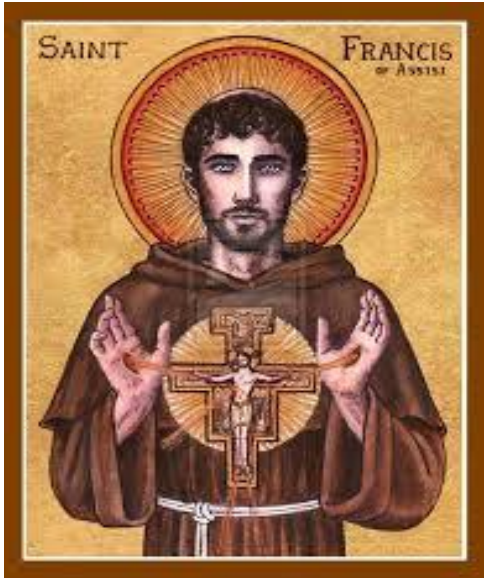


November 19, 2023
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@atlanticbnn.net
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
Gabriel Project – 814-418-1813

MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM
Saturday Vigil– 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM & 9:30AM

Alternative to Abortion – Precious Life Inc. (814)269-4391; Domestic Violence Hotline – Victim Services (814)288-4961;
Suicide Prevention Hotline – (814)535-8531 or 1-877-268-9463; St. Vincent DePaul (814)535-8521

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving!



SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO PHIL SCOTT – and the


Members of the Men’s Club for their work in setting up and taking down the Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of Blessed Carlo Acutis. Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted during the week to provide protection for the exhibit and welcoming to the guests. Hopefully, those who visited have a deeper appreciation of Our Eucharistic Lord.

ANNUAL CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY – We will be holding our Annual Children’s Christmas Party on **December 3rd** at the Activity Building from 1-3PM. Children up to age 12 are welcome to join. Sign-up sheet is in the Vestibule. Last day for sign-ups is November 26th. If anyone is willing to donate any cookies or if there are any volunteers who would like to help out, or any high school students who need service hours, please contact Heather at (814)243-0715.



CINNAMON BUN PICK-UP – Cinnamon Bun Sale will be picked up on Tuesday, November 21st at the St. Francis Activity Center from 3:00PM – 6:00PM. Thank you to all who helped support this fundraiser!!

OUR ANNUAL JOE BARTKO MEMORIAL FOOD DRIVE – Non-perishable food and household items collection for the Joe Bartko Memorial, St. Vincent De Paul Food Kitchen is beginning. Parishioners are asked to share their bounty from God with those less fortunate. Monetary donations will also be accepted and may be placed in the envelope included with the bulletin. Donations should be non-perishable and NO glass containers. Suggested items include canned vegetables, pasta, cereal, tuna, soup, stuffing mix, cake mix, salt, pepper, paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.). Please use the bag provided in the vestibule for your donations. **Collection will end this Sunday, November 19th.**

PITTSBURGH PENGUIN TICKETS - Two Pittsburgh  **Penguin Hockey** tickets are being chanced off for the game on **February 14th**! Chances are 3 for \$5.00. Chances will be sold before and after Masses. The winning ticket will be pulled on February 4th.

THEOLOGY ON TOP – Young Adult Group (18-35): Our November Theology on Tap Session is with Fr. Malachi Van Tassell T.O.R. – Franciscan Priest and President of Saint Francis University in Loretto – on November 29th from 6-8pm at The Boulevard Grill (165 Southmont Boulevard) in their speakeasy room with buffet food and a cash bar. Fr. Malachi hasn’t settled on a specific topic but is looking to build on the success of last month’s session with Bishop Mark and lead an engaging conversation about being young adult Catholics in the modern world. Our October session had almost 40 in attendance including two Sacred Heart Sisters, and over our first 8 months we have had over 70 total participants rotating through as their schedules permit. Theology on Tap will be off for December because of Christmas but will resume on January 31st with a pro-life speaker. For December we are instead planning a service project. Young adults of all faiths aged 18-39 are welcome! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This week's Gospel speaks of how Jesus' Disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week's Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His Disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time.

Jesus' Parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before He leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A *talent* is a coin of great value. Upon the master's return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week's parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God's judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God's judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbor. God's grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

November 19, 2023 – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings challenge us to live not for the 'here and now', but rather with Eternity in mind. We are reminded that we will be called one day to give an account for the gifts God has given us – our physical, intellectual and material gifts – as well as the gift of time itself. We must examine our lives to determine whether we are making the best use of our gifts with the time we have been given to use them.

Let us embrace the stewardship way of life, using all the gifts entrusted to us – Time, Talent and Treasure – in such a way that at the end of our life on this earth, we will hear those words from our Father: "Well done, my good and faithful servant... Come, share your master's joy."

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$133.00; Adults – \$2,352.25; Monthly – \$764.00; Candles – \$174.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$81.00; World Mission – \$33.00; All Souls – \$35.00; All Saints – \$38.00; Thanksgiving – \$40.00; Cemetery – \$5.00; Catholic Charities – \$15.00; Easter Flowers – \$5.00; Retired Priest – \$20.00; Catholic University – \$20.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$191.00 – Total Collection – \$3,936.25.

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, Nancy 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 Donahay, 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; 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.

