

November 26, 2023
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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 – stfrancisich@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisi)

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

2024 WEEKLY ENVELOPES – Are in the back on the Church. Please pick yours up and if you know of anyone that is homebound and you are able to get them theirs, please do!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS – Sign-up sheet is in the Main Vestibule for Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers on Immaculate Conception, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years.

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on the **second Monday, December 11th** at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

MEN'S CLUB – Will be meeting on December 7th at 6:30PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!!

GIVING TREES – are now located at the rear of the Church. We encourage of you to consider taking an ornament from one (or all) of the trees. The tree contains names of children submitted by the Cambria City Mission. should be wrapped with the ornament and returned to the Church or Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 10, 2022.




each
first
Gifts

The ornaments on the second tree are for Giant Eagle gift cards that will be distributed to those who need to purchase food items for the holiday season. The gift cards should be placed in the collection basket. **(please do not place them under the tree!)**

The Gabriel Project Tree has tags with suggestions for gifts for the babies and families being served by the Gabriel Project. Gifts should be returned no later than Sunday, December 10, 2022.

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – We will be holding our Annual Children's Christmas Party on Sunday, **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. .

A FESTIVAL OF LESSON AND CAROLS - will be presented on **Sunday, December 17 at 3:00PM**. Plan on joining us as we prepare for the birth of the Christ Child.

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.

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS - The West End Improvement Group will hold the hometown neighborhood Christmas, December 6th at Grace Lutheran Church, 246 Chandler Avenue. Doors open at 5:15PM. A free dinner will be served at 5:30PM. Bring the kids! Santa will arrive at 6:30PM. Enter to win one of 4 gift baskets. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Everyone is welcome!

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

Today's Gospel passage is the conclusion of Jesus' discourse with His Disciples. It is about the end of time, the coming of the Son of Man, and the Final Judgement. We hear this description of the Final Judgement at the conclusion of our Liturgical Year, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King. In the context of Matthew's Gospel, this passage might also be read as a conclusion of Matthew's report on Jesus' Life and Ministry; the remaining chapters report the events of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes to His Disciples the scene of the judgement of the Son of Man. All the nations will be assembled before Him, and He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep and goats upon their return from the pasture. The judgements made by the Son of Man will be based upon the acts of mercy shown to the least ones—the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. Indeed, Jesus, Who suffered on the Cross, identifies Himself with the least ones.

Recall that last week's parable of the talents taught us that the gifts that we have been given are intended to be used for the service of others, especially the least among us. Our judgement before God will be based not only on how we have used these gifts and talents, but also on how we have extended ourselves in service to these least ones. Indeed, Jesus tells us that whenever we have served these least ones, we have served Christ Himself.

When we read today's Gospel in the context of the chapters that follow in Matthew's Gospel, we learn the extent to which Jesus identifies with the least ones. In accepting Death on the Cross, Jesus shows Himself to be one of the hungry, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. To accept Jesus is to accept Him Who Suffered and Died on the Cross as one of the least ones.

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 — CHRIST THE KING SOLEMNITY

Today we come to the end of the liturgical year, celebrating the magnificent feast of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Our readings provide contrasting images of our King – He has authority over all, and yet, He is humble and tender in His care for us, especially the most vulnerable. How can we properly honor and love such a King? By offering Him our very lives through the stewardship way of life.

What is it that He expects from us? The Gospel passage from Matthew shows us. The passage begins with Christ's own descriptions of His Second Coming, "When the Son of Man comes in His glory and all the angels with Him, He will sit upon His glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before Him." Then the moment of judgement will come. Some will be invited into the Kingdom of Heaven, others sent to eternal punishment. This judgement will be based not on how influential we became in society, how high we climbed the corporate ladder, nor any worldly achievements. Rather our judgement will be based on how we treated the last of those around us.

The more deeply we embrace the stewardship way of life, the more closely our priorities will align with His. This way of life prepares us well for our judgement day and helps us to live in imitation of our King.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$134.00; Adults – \$2,037.30; Monthly – \$5.00; Candles – \$127.20; St. Vincent DePaul – \$10.00; Christmas – \$5.00; Thanksgiving – \$100.00; Cemetery – \$10.00; All Saints – \$10.00; Catholic Charities – \$152.15; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$291.00 – Total Collection - \$2,911.65.

HOLY FAMILY CANDLES – Will be lit this week for Suzanne Tinnick for successful surgery and for Eli for improved health –From: The Scott Girls.

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 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; 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.

