

January 28, 2024
4th 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.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

GOB ICING – will be made on **Tuesday, January 30th** beginning at **7AM**. Gobs will be filled on **Wednesday, January 31st from 8:00AM until 10:00AM**. All help is greatly appreciated.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS TICKETS - Two Pittsburgh Penguin tickets for February 14th are being **chanced off on February 4th at the Activity Center AFTER 9:30AM Mass**. Please come to the Activity Center for sticky buns and coffee. Chances 3 for \$5.00.

CINNAMON BUN SALE – St. Francis Fundraising Committee will be taking orders for Cinnamon Buns baked especially for our fundraiser from Ideal Market Bakery. Each order comes with **8 Cinnamon Buns for \$6.99**. If you are in need of any extra order forms, there are extras in the Main Vestibule. **Orders are due to the Parish Office by March 3rd** with cash, check, or money order. Pick-up date will be on Thursday, March 15th from 11:00AM – 1:00 PM at the Activity Building.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS - Parish Council is asking for volunteers to help with the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. St. Francis will be volunteering on 4th Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

SHOE DRIVE – We are looking into doing another Shoe Drive like we did last year but we need the volunteers to help again. If anyone is willing to help out, please contact Carol Mangus at (814) 536-0152 for more details!

THEOLOGY ON TAP - Young Adult Group (18-39): Theology on Tap returns January 31st from 6-8pm at The Boulevard Grill (165 Southmont Boulevard). In December we had our first service project Christmas Caroling at a Westmont retirement community. The event was a success with the retirement community singing along to every song! Our January guest speaker is Remil Teny - Education Director of the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation. Young adults of all faiths aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith, fellowship, and free food with a cash bar! Thank you to Saint John Gualbert Cathedral for providing January's food. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com

PINE SPRINGS CAMP, JENNERSTOWN –Has been operating an excellent and accredited camping program since 1948 in Jennerstown, PA. Your child will have an incredible outdoor experience with spiritual enrichment. Each day will be filled with games, adventure activities, crafts, and creative ways for campers to grow in their faith. There are 3 Sessions this upcoming Summer! Pine Springs Camp strives to provide every camper with a vital encounter with Jesus Christ that leads to growth in Christian faith and discipleship. Our Summer Program runs nine weeks throughout the summer and welcomes campers ages 3 to adults! There are a couple Brochures in the Main Vestibule if you are interested. For more information or register online, please visit www.pinesprings.org

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$111.00; Adults – \$1,972.25; Monthly – \$62.00; Candles – \$48.50; St. Vincent DePaul – \$20.00; Initial Offering – \$47.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$22.00; Donation – \$75.00; Online Giving – \$278.50 – Total Collection – \$2,636.25

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel continues our reading from Mark and describes what some believe was likely to have been a typical day in Jesus' Ministry. Jesus and the Disciples that chose to follow Him in last week's Gospel arrive at Capernaum, a small village on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus Teaches in the Synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark reports that the people respond to Jesus' Teaching with astonishment, noting Jesus' Authority and contrasting it with the scribes'. Early in Mark's Gospel we already find evidence of the tension that will manifest itself fully in Jerusalem.

After Jesus' Preaching, an even more astonishing thing happens. A man possessed with an unclean spirit calls out to Jesus. As we see in this example and throughout Mark's Gospel, the spirits and demons seem to know Jesus and are often fearful of Him. In fact, they seem to understand Jesus' identity better than His Disciples. As we will read again and again in Mark's Gospel, Jesus orders the spirit to be quiet and drives the unclean spirit out of the man. Jesus' ability to heal those possessed by demons is an indication of His power over evil.

In the prescientific age of Jesus' time, all illnesses were understood to be manifestations of evil and sinfulness. Our modern understanding of illness is very different. Possession by unclean spirits may have been a way to describe what we might call mental illness today. It may have even been a way of describing certain kinds of physical conditions. There is evidence that there were many kinds of exorcists and healers in first-century Palestine. Jesus appears to be like these healers, but He heals with unique authority and connects His healing activities with the words of His Preaching.

We are missing the point that Mark is trying to make in this Gospel, however, if we try to explain away the Healing Work of Jesus. The crowds see in Jesus' cure of the possessed man further affirmation of His Authority. Jesus' power to Heal gives greater credence to His Teaching. Jesus impresses the crowds through His Words, which are manifested with power in His Deeds. Mark's Gospel tells us that because of the authority with which He healed, Jesus' fame spread throughout all of Galilee.

January 28, 2024 - 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our readings today remind us of God's authority. If we willingly give God authority over our lives and trust in His provision, He will take care of us no matter what. Our Gospel today reminds us why we want to give God this authority. Jesus was teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath. All were fixed on His words and astonished at what He had to say. Suddenly everyone's attention shifted to a man with an unclean spirit who began to question Jesus and His authority. Jesus responded, "Quiet, come out of him!" and removed the evil spirit from the man. All were amazed at the healing of this man.

Life can sometimes look like the synagogue in Capernaum. We are living as disciples of Christ, when we suddenly recognize evil around us - through events in our lives, temptations we are enduring, or by falling into sin. It can distract us, consume our attention, or even cause us to despair. In these moments of trial, we must remember the Healer in our Gospel today. Recall His words, "Quiet, come out of him!" Jesus has the power and authority over evil, for He has conquered sin and death. He also has the power and authority over us. And when we invite Him to have the authority, He will heal us and help us persevere.

Today, we are reminded that God is in control and that we want Him to be in control. He is the loving Healer that will work miracles in our lives if we give Him the authority to do so.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Sally Becker, Richard Bender, 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 Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Joe Torchia, David Watson, Sheila Weppner, Mark Wojno, Nancy Wojno, Faryn Wolff, 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; **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?

=====

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.

