

**January 7, 2023**  
**The Epiphany of the Lord**  
**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](mailto: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** 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 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

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – On Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Martin Luther King Day!**

**ROSARY SOCIETY** – Will meet on the **second Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**GABRIEL PROJECT THANK YOU** – The St. Francis Gabriel Project extends our heartfelt appreciation to all parishioners who brought in angel tree items for the babies in our pro-life ministry. Because of your kind generosity, our families received much needed items and you made their Christmas truly blessed because they knew so many cared for them and their children. Thank you and may God bless you.

Becky, Chris, Elaine, and Gale – Volunteer Coordinators

**PITTSBURGH PENGUINS TICKETS** - Two Pittsburgh Penguin tickets being chanced off on February 4<sup>th</sup> the home game on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. Chances 3 for \$5.00. Chances will be sold before and after Masses.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER** – St. Francis Parish Office will follow the Johnstown School District's and/or Bishop McCort's schedule. If there is a 2 hour delay, the Parish Office will open 2 hours late (11:00 AM), and all meetings/ activities will take place. If school is closed or has a virtual/remote learning day the Parish Office will be closed and all meetings/activities will be cancelled. If there is an unscheduled early dismissal the Parish Office will close early and all meetings/activities will be cancelled.

**Please note, scheduled Mass WILL BE celebrated regardless.**

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI YOUTH EVENT – HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION. A new date and time will be announced at a later date.**

**HEALING MASS** – Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM, at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg**. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Brad Baldwin TOR will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30 PM and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. If you are suffering physically, or from an addiction, or hurting or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!!

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$59.00; Adults – \$1,913.25; Monthly – \$205.00; Candles – \$144.80; St. Vincent DePaul – \$37.00; Initial Offering – \$137.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$630.00; Immaculate Conception – \$10.00; Christmas – \$278.00; Christmas Flowers – \$30.00; Thanksgiving – \$5.00; Catholic Charities – \$20.00; Donation – 110.00; Online Giving – \$191.00 – Total Collection – \$3,770.05.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His Birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.

### **January 7, 2024 – The Baptism of the Lord**

Our Christmas Season concludes with the beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus was not Baptized because He needed to repent – rather, He was revealing Who He is and what He came to do. By submitting to the Baptism of John, He affirmed His humanity, revealed His Divinity as the Son of God, and signaled His mission to save man from sin.

Although Jesus' Baptism was just the beginning of His Ministry, it revealed all that He came to accomplish. And it is from His Mission that we can receive the Sacrament of Baptism – the moment we become adopted sons and daughters of God. From that moment, we belong to Christ – we become His stewards. Our lives should be a reflection of this relationship. The way we live and act should reveal who we are. Our readings today call us to reflect on what it means to be a Christian steward – to belong to Christ.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord today, let us reflect on what it means to be a son or daughter of God. Let us resolve with conviction to make God the King of our hearts, live by His commands, and share with Him our time and gifts. Let us pray that our lives might be a reflection of our relationship with Christ.

**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.

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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.

