

February 25, 2024
2nd Sunday of Lent
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.stfrancisofofassisijtown.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 – 3:00PM in the Church

Men's Club – First Thursday of the Month – 6:30PM in the Activity Center

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – The Family and Friends of +**Al Strozak** who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER – If you are able and willing to assist at the Liturgies for Holy Week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday) please use the sign-up sheets that are located in the Main Vestibule.

ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on **Friday, March 1st**, at the Activity Center, corner of D Street and Avenue. **A LUNCH SPECIAL** (Fried Fish Sandwich and French Fries, no substitutions) will be offered from **11AM until 1:00PM (Take Out Only)**. menu will be served from 2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat in or take out. **Orders lunch and dinner will be taken from 9:00AM until 1:00PM on Friday, March 1st by calling 814-539-3518.** We welcome walk-ins, but strongly suggested that orders be placed in advance. Meals will be served while supplies last. All help is greatly appreciated!



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SEDER MEAL – If anyone is willing to take charge of this year's Seder Meal, please contact the Parish Office at (814)539-1632.

GOB MAKER – If anyone is interested in taking charge of Gobs, including purchasing the necessary ingredients to the actual making of Gobs, please contact the Parish office for more information.

MAINTENANCE/JANITORIAL MAN NEEDED – St. Francis of Assisi is looking for a Maintenance/Janitorial man to do day-to-day upkeep at the Activity Building, Church, Rectory and former Convent. Anyone interested please contact the Parish Office at (814)539-1632. It's a part-time job opportunity of 15 - 20 hours per week. Diocesan clearances for protecting God's Children are necessary.



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 10th** with cash, check, or money order. Pick-up date will be on Friday, March 15th during Fish Fry hours!

MEAT/CASH RAFFLE –MARCH 23rd – ST. FRANCIS ACTIVITY CENTER – **Tickets are \$10** and includes Kielbasa, Hot Dogs, Kraut, Macaroni Salad, Baked Beans and coffee & soda. Beer bracelets will be available for \$5.00. **\$100 given away every hour, \$250 at 9:00 PM.** Qualifiers, 50/50 & Paddle Wheel Tickets! Doors open at 5:00PM and will run from 6:00PM – 9:00PM. Tickets will be for sale before and after all weekend Masses. Reserve a table for \$10.00(Max of 8 people at a table)

9th & 10th GRADE CONFIRMATION CLASS – This weekend, Sunday, February 25th. 9th Grade will meet from 4:00 – 5:45 PM & 10th Grade will meet from 6:00 – 7:45PM at the Church Rectory Office.

LOOKING FOR RELIGIOUS EASTER GIFTS? – Land of Peace Organization will be here on the weekend of March 9th and 10th, selling religious articles (olivewood) made in Bethlehem. Please assist our Christian brothers and sisters from the land of Jesus in helping them financially in this time of crisis in Israel. Every article sold is a blessing financially!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$122.00; Adults – \$1,785.30; Monthly – \$40.00; Candles – \$143.00; Holy Thursday – \$2.00; Good Friday – \$5.00; Easter – \$5.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$5.00; Mandeville – \$155.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Donation – \$20.00; Online Giving – \$278.50 – Total Collection – \$3,710.80.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the Second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about His Passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship.

In each case, Jesus takes three of His Disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at His Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' Disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed His Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the Disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus Rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from Heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the Disciples to obey Him. This voice from Heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' Baptism.

In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the Disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has Risen from the Dead. The Disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The Disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness His Passion and Death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and Death.

February 25, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

Our readings today are a powerful testimony to God's profound love for each one of us. This is an important message that is conveyed during this holy season of Lent as we partake in the suffering, death and resurrection of God's only Son. It is also a reminder for us, as Christian stewards, to surrender all that we have to the Gracious Giver. God desires to have an intimate relationship with us. As we entrust our lives to God, He will more fully reveal Himself to us. We will more clearly see Christ in our lives as He truly is and, in turn, we will become more dazzling ourselves. Let us strive to journey up the mountain with Jesus during this Lenten season – growing in our intimate relationship with Him. May we reflect on His profound love for us on this journey. And let us pray for total surrender to His providence.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Sally Becker, 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 Sobbecky, 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 Guarno, 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 Rován 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; Tech Sgt. Devon Gilbert, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; 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; SSgt Elliott Mulvehill, USMC, Birmingham, AL.; 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.

