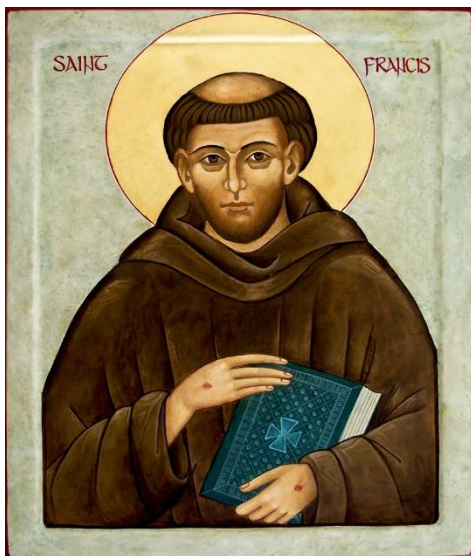


February 4, 2024
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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.stfrancisofassisijsjtown.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

NO ROSARY SOCIETY THIS MONTH – We will resume with Rosary Society in March!

KUDOS AND THANKS TO WILLIAM STIBICH, our former Maintenance Man, for his dedication to the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi. We are so sorry that due to the circumstances beyond our control, William is stepping down. He is a gem and will be greatly missed. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!

MAINTENANCE MAN NEEDED – St. Francis of Assisi is looking for a Maintenance 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 is 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 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!

MEN'S CONFERENCE – Register today for the 2024 Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown **STRENGTH IN CHRIST** men's conference on **March 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson**. The theme is J2J: *Journey to Jesus*. Nationally recognized speaker and musician Cooper Ray will be the keynote presenter. Father Michael Pleva and Father Brian Norris will also share their incredible faith journeys. Also, a great panel discussion with six Catholic men from throughout the diocese sure to inspire guys on their faith journey. **The day includes lunch and Mass at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Mark. There is no cost.** Seating is limited, so register before February 23 online at dioceseaj.org or pick up a Registration form in the Main Vestibule!

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.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and His Disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to Him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew His identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.

On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for Him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' Disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to His Disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' Ministry: Preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' Compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its Ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of [prayer](#) in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed Himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found Him, He told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in His prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for His guidance and direction in our lives.

February 4, 2024 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our readings today remind us that Christ came to serve. The world often encourages us to look inward – for ways that someone or something can better serve us. Countering this typical mindset, Jesus' entire life was focused on others. He came to fulfill His Father's mission – the salvation of mankind. And He labored for this mission by becoming the humblest of servants. This is made evident in our Gospel today.

As Christian stewards, we too are called to be humble servants who labor for our Father's Mission. We should strive to imitate Christ – the Perfect Steward – Who was constantly aware of the needs of those around Him and put His gifts to good use. For us, this begins right here in our homes, parish and community. It doesn't need to be complex, but rather, very simple – to live each moment in awareness of our Father's mission and in gratitude for all He has given us. When we intentionally live each moment for Christ, even the ordinary moments are made significant.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$144.00; Adults – \$2,158.25; Monthly – \$158.00; Candles – \$74.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$181.00; Initial Offering – \$45.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$37.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Donation – \$110.00; Online Giving – \$178.50 – Total Collection – \$3,235.75

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 Sobacky, 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 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.

