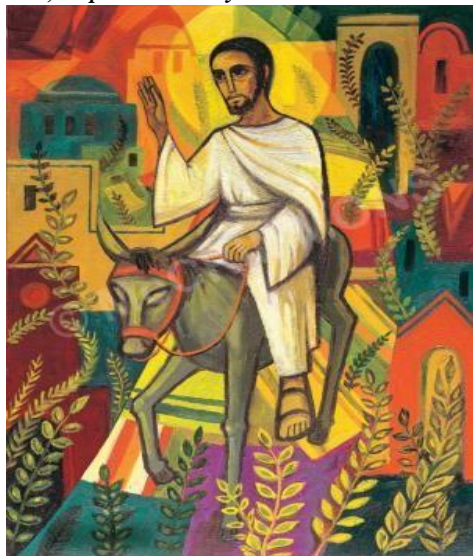


March 24, 2024
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@atlanticcbbn.net
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](#)
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.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 HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

Monday, March 25		Morning Mass	9:00 AM
Monday, March 25		CHRISM MASS AT CATHEDRAL IN ALTOONA	11:00 AM
Tuesday, March 26		Evening Mass	6:15 PM
Wednesday, March 27		Morning Mass	9:00 AM
March 28	Holy Thursday	Seder Meal	5:00 PM
		Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 PM
March 29	Good Friday	Tenebrae	9:00 AM
		Celebration of the Lord's Passion	3:00 PM
		Stations	7:00 PM
March 30	Holy Saturday	Tenebrae	9:00 AM
		Easter Vigil	8:00 PM
March 31	Easter Sunday	Mass of the Lord's Resurrection	7:30 AM
			9:30 AM

NO LIGHTING CANDLES – Please do NOT light any 6-day candles and 4 hour votive candles after Sunday, March 17th. No candles should be lit from Sunday March 24th (Palm Sunday) through Holy Week until after the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday (March 30th).

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED FOR EASTER – We are in need of 1 Altar Server on March 28th, Holy Thursday and March 31st, Easter Sunday at 9:30 AM Mass. Please sign-up in the Main Vestibule.

RICE BOWLS – Please return your Rice Bowls in the collection basket as soon as possible!

SEDER MEAL – Sign-up sheet for the Seder Meal is in the Main Vestibule. It will be held on March 28th at 5:00PM at the Activity Building. We ask that you bring a covered dish. The Church will provide the Paschal Lamb and meat.

SIGHT & SOUND ~ “DANIEL” – St. Francis will be taking a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound to see “Daniel” on Tuesday, August 6th, show time is 3:00 PM. More info will come in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$123.00; Adults – \$2,816.25; Monthly – \$189.00; Candles – \$100.00; Holy Thursday – \$10.00; Good Friday – \$20.00; Easter – \$140.00; Easter Flowers – \$38.00; Donation – \$60.00; Online Giving – \$318.50 – Total Collection – \$3,814.75

These are not just words in print, but feelings from our hearts, in appreciation to all the people who attended and supported our Fish Frys this Lenten Season. However, grateful for this, it cannot compare to our gratitude to our wonderful volunteers, who in most part, are responsible for this success with the hours they spent in preparation and their continuing work the days of the events. You make our Fish Frys possible. God Bless you all. Thank you, thank you, thank you and we hope to see you in September!

Sincerely, Fish Fry Committee



Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' Passion and Death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout His Public Ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to Death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for His Death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—He was charged with blasphemy, citing His threat to the Temple. When He was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented His crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be King of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' Disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue His Ministry after His Death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' Passion and Death. At the Last Supper, the Disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other Disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over His impending fate while His Disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the Disciples were absent during Jesus' Passion and Death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the Passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' Death. In Mark's telling of the Passion narrative, Jesus understood His Death to have been preordained, and He accepted this Death in obedience to God's Will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood His anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of His burial, and He announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted His betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At His arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before His accusers. After He was sentenced to Death, Jesus did not speak again until His final cry from the Cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that He was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in His Death on the Cross.

During Holy Week, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' Passion and Death. As we meditate on the Cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in His obedient suffering and dying, revealed Himself to us as God's Son.

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 Czrynik, 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**; **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 Thursday, at 11:00AM 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.

