

**April 14, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**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](mailto: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**  
**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 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

**MOTHER'S DAY TICKETS** – Please consider helping the St. Francis Fundraising Committee to sell our Mother's Day tickets. Stop by our table in the vestibule and sign up and take tickets to your families or places of work. We really need to make this a team effort. The ticket is \$10.00 with chances to win \$500 each day Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Mother's Day!! You may also call Cindy at 814-539-3128. St. Francis Fundraising Committee

**ST. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS** – New coffee orders **MUST** be placed **BEFORE 12 Noon on April 20<sup>th</sup>** for **pickup on April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**. Please get orders in for Mother's Day! Order forms are in the Main Vestibule of the Church. You can put your order in an envelope and drop it in the Collection Basket at Mass. Next tasting will be on Mother's Day weekend after each Mass at the Activity Center! We thank you for your support!!

**SIGHT & SOUND ~ "DANIEL"** – St. Francis will be taking a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound to see "Daniel" on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**PUBLIC ROSARY** – We will gather to Pray for Peace in our Country and our World on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon at Central Park, Downtown Johnstown.

**CONGRATULATIONS** – To Dravyn Fabina, Nathaniel Mikula, & Margaret Sweeney who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>!

**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, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

**PARISH PICNIC** – Our Annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at the ACRP grounds. Moving forward, our annual picnic will be held on the last Sunday of July every year.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$127.00; Adults – \$3,076.25; Monthly – \$749.00; Candles – \$202.00; Holy Thursday – \$27.00; Good Friday – \$18.00; Easter – \$242.00; Ascension – \$15.00; Easter Flowers – \$5.00; Donation from Men's Club (Coffee Sales) – \$223.00; Donation – \$26.00; Cemetery – \$25.00 Online Giving - \$458.50 – Total Collection - \$5,193.75.

### **April 14, 2024 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

During this Easter season, in addition to celebrating all that Christ did for us, we are also reminded of how His sacrifice impacts our lives. The knowledge of His sacrifice should not only affect our minds but also our hearts, changing how we live.

Through sin, we betray Jesus once again. It is like saying, "crucify Him!" Sometimes we deliberately turn away from Jesus out of pride and selfishness, and other times, we are not even aware of the gravity of our sin. Whether we know our weaknesses or are ignorant to them, let us ask God to reveal the areas of our lives in which we are betraying Him – maybe through addiction, materialism, and how we spend our money or time and putting things above God. And let us ask for the grace to repent and change our ways.

As we are still in the midst of this Easter season, let us take some time to think about what Christ did for us and the changes we should make in our daily lives to help us grow closer to Him.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

On the Third Sunday of Easter, we continue to hear Gospel accounts of Jesus' appearances to His Disciples following His Resurrection. Today's reading, taken from the Gospel of Luke, follows immediately after the report of Jesus' appearance to His Disciples on the road to Emmaus. This is the event being recounted by the Disciples in the opening verse of today's Gospel.

Consistently in the reports of Jesus' post-Resurrection appearances, Jesus greets His Disciples with the words, "Peace be with you." This is a most appropriate greeting. The Disciples have experienced the death of someone they loved, and they now fear for their own lives as well. Peace is what they need more than anything else. Jesus often connects this greeting of peace with another gift—forgiveness. In today's Gospel, this connection is made in the final verses.

Even as they hear Jesus' greeting of peace, the Disciples are startled and terrified. They are uncertain about what to make of the Figure before them and, quite understandably, they mistake Jesus for a ghost. Yet the Figure before them is not a ghost; Jesus invites them to experience His Resurrected Body with their senses, to look and to touch. The Figure before them is flesh and bone, still bearing the marks of Crucifixion. Although the Disciples cannot forget His Suffering and Death, peace begins to take root in their hearts, as their fears turn to joy and amazement.

As further proof of His identity and of His Resurrected Body, Jesus eats with His Disciples. The Disciples have known Jesus best through the meals that He has shared with them. Descriptions of these meals are a defining element of Luke's Gospel. By eating with His Disciples after His Resurrection, Jesus recalls all these meals, and most importantly, He recalls the Last Supper.

Luke's report of the Last Supper and the meals that Jesus shared after His Resurrection unveil for us the significance of the Eucharist. Having shared a meal with His Disciples, Jesus now uncovers for them the significance of what was written about Him in the Scriptures. So, too, our celebration of the Mass is an encounter with Jesus, through the Word and the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As Jesus commissions His Disciples to be witnesses to what Scriptures foretold, our celebration of the Eucharist commissions us. Like the Disciples, we are sent to announce the good news of Jesus' forgiveness of sins.

**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 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 Guarno**, USCG; **Master at Arms 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **Captain Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino**, US Navy; **Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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.

