

April 7, 2024
2nd 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
Facebook – St. Francis of Assisi
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.com>
Parish Secretary – Megan Bellow-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

THANK YOU FROM FR. ANTHONY – I am most appreciative to all of you who provided my “sweet-tooth” with all of the chocolate and other candies and goodies! Thank you! fr. A. F.

This past Easter weekend, one of the announcements mentioned thank you to the various groups who volunteer for fundraising activities for the Parish. You are great! I would also like to thank so many parishioners who volunteered to be Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, Ushers, Sacristans, and Musicians! You are great and I appreciate your time and talent as you assist in making the Liturgy a Holy Celebration. God Bless! fr. A. F.

Thank you to the members of the Men’s Club who have stepped in to assist in various projects in the absence of the Maintenance man. You are great! fr. A. F.

To the staff members of the Parish who keep everything in order, I am truly grateful, God Bless! fr. A. F.

PASCHAL CANDLE – This year the Paschal Candle was donated by Margaret and Pansy Scott in Loving Memory of their sister, +Betty Scott.

OFFICE CLOSING EARLY – The Parish office will be closing early on Monday, April 8th due to the Solar Eclipse at 1:00PM. The office will be open the rest of the week as normal.

ST. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS – New coffee orders **MUST** be placed **BEFORE 12 Noon on April 20th** for **pickup on April 27th & 28th**. 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 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.

THANK YOU – The St. Francis Fundraising Committee would like to thank everyone who organized, sold tickets, cooked, and helped in the kitchen. Thank you to all those who sold tickets on the floor, to the young help delivering the door prizes and meat and cheese items. Thank you bartenders! Also thank you to all who donated the many door prizes. Thank you money changers, door ticket and beer bracelet sellers. Wheel and Qualifier workers! Thank you to Francis Ozog Funeral Home for their monetary donation. A great job well done! A special thank you to everyone who came and made our Meat/Cash Raffle a great success. God Bless you all! Sincerely, St. Francis Fundraising Committee

PUBLIC ROSARY – We will gather to Pray for Peace in our Country and our World on Thursday, April 11th at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church in Upper Yoder. Also, will meet on Saturday, April 20th at 12 Noon at Central Park, Downtown Johnstown.

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

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$819.00; Adults – \$1,599.25; Monthly – \$85.00; Candles – \$79.00; Holy Thursday – \$306.00; Good Friday – \$267.00; Easter – \$2,506.00; Rice Bowls – \$205.00; Online Giving – \$283.50 – Total Collection – \$6,149.75.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the lectionary cycles. This fact alone should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the Resurrected Jesus that are described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to His Disciples after His Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the Disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit, but in bodily form. We do not know, however, exactly what this form looked like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the Risen Jesus, she did not recognize Him until He spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the Disciples walking along the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in His Resurrected form, Jesus was not bound by matter; He appeared to the Disciples inside a home even though the door was locked. Yet the Disciples could still touch the marks of His Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun; as Jesus was sent by God, so Jesus sends His Disciples. He gives His Disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit so that they will be able to accomplish this task. Jesus' Words to His Disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share forgiveness and reconciliation with others.

Thomas, the doubting Disciple in today's reading, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first community of witnesses to Jesus. All but the First Disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, Who was Crucified and buried, appeared to His Disciples. Our human nature seeks hard evidence that the Jesus Who appeared to His Disciples after His Death is indeed the same Jesus who was Crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative in obtaining this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus Who was raised is the same Jesus Who died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed, for we have not seen and yet believe.

April 7, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

On this Second Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate this feast today since God's mercy was shared with us through the Resurrection of Jesus. To put it simply, we are celebrating Jesus' merciful love for us and how we can partake in it.

No matter where we are on our journey as a disciple of Christ, we are all in need of God's merciful love. There are countless times throughout the day when we miss the mark. For instance, we might fail to respond in kind to our spouses or kids, fall into gossip in our workday, or even forget to think positively of others. These shortcomings call us to humble ourselves and receive the unwavering mercy of God.

Let us continue to celebrate today, as we are in the midst of our glorious Easter season! As we celebrate, may we recall the precious gift God has given to us through His Son – Mercy itself. May we never forget that, with a contrite heart and a resolution to do better, God is always willing to forgive. And may we never withhold merciful love from anyone we meet.

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 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 Rovano 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?

=====

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.

