

**May 12, 2024**  
**7<sup>th</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.stfrancisofassisijohn.com>**  
**Parish Secretary – Megan Billow**  
**Office Hours – 9:00AM to 2:30PM – 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

**NO MEN'S CLUB MEETING IN THE SUMMER MONTHS OF JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST. MEETINGS WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER.**

**MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION** – The Men's Club is hosting a Mother's Day Celebration this weekend after 4 PM Saturday Evening Mass on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Activity Center and will have Coffee Tasting and finger sandwiches. On May 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday morning after 7:30 AM and 9:30 AM Masses we will also have a Coffee Tasting and assorted cakes. Everyone is invited to come and mingle!

**PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:** Please think about, pray about the possibility of volunteering to assist your Parish. We are known for our Gobs and Fish Fries but workers are slowly fading away and these events will also fade away if there aren't new volunteers to replace those who have stepped away for various reasons. Please help your Parish by offering your TIME and TALENTS when a call goes out for new volunteers. Thank you and God Bless you!

**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 and the cost is \$177/person and includes bus, ticket for show & lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord Restaurant. All reservations & money is due by Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**ST. FRANCIS COFFEE** – New coffee orders are due **NO LATER THAN MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>** because of Memorial Day weekend. Delivery will be the weekend of June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Coffee is \$16.00 per pound bag.

**RESURRECTION PARISH PENTECOST VESPERS** – Resurrection Parish, 324 Chestnut Street, will be holding Solemn Vespers (Sung Evening Prayer) on Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 4:00 PM. All are invited to join us in prayer as we enter as we come to the end of the Easter Season!

**MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS TO BE TELEVISED** – Remember your loved ones on **Sunday, May 26, 2024 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcasted that night at 9:00 p.m. on the Breezeline Channel 9.** All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office 814-317-2643 or email [familylife@dioceseaj.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseaj.org). When registering, please give your **name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away.** The last day to register is **Wednesday, May 22, 2024.** The event is sponsored by the Diocesan **Family Life Office** and the **Catholic Ministries Drive.**

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS** – Parish Council is asking for volunteers to help with the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. St. Francis is volunteering on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.** There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

**PIZZA SALE** – St. Francis of Assisi Fundraising Committee is having a **Marianne's Sub and Pizza Sale. Orders will be due with money by June 2<sup>nd</sup> and pickup will be on June 15<sup>th</sup>.** Order forms are in the Main Vestibule.

**BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE** – Will burn the week of May 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> for Marion Torchia & Mary Cononie – From: Children, Joseph & Paulette Torchia

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$180.00; Adults – \$2,530.25; Monthly – \$805.00; Candles – \$132.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$30.00; Cemetery – \$132.00; Mother's Day – \$220.00; First Offering – \$2.00; Ascension – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$343.50 – Total Collection - \$4,359.75.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

**On** the seventh Sunday of Easter, we always read from the seventeenth chapter of John's Gospel. This chapter of John's Gospel comes at the conclusion of Jesus' farewell discourse delivered to the Disciples at the Last Supper. This entire chapter is a prayer by Jesus, commending Himself to the Father and expressing His care and concern for His Disciples. At the end of this prayer, Jesus and His Disciples depart for the garden, and Jesus is arrested. Several important themes appear in this prayer. First, Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Himself and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the One Who preexisted with the Father and as the One sent by the Father to do His work on earth. In today's reading, we hear Jesus include all His Disciples in this union with the Father. We are reminded that Christ is the source of Christian unity. Through Christ, we are united with one another and with God Our Father. In this prayer, Jesus describes part of His Mission in the language of protection. He has protected those who were given to Him by the Father. In this we hear echoes of the dualism that is reflected throughout John's Gospel. Beginning with the opening chapter, the Evangelist John has presented Jesus' Mission on earth in the context of a cosmic struggle between good and evil, represented by light and darkness. In Jesus' presence, His Disciples have been protected from Satan. Now that Jesus is returning to the Father, He prays that His Disciples will continue to be protected from the evil one. We can't help but note here the echoes of the prayer that Jesus taught His Disciples, the Lord's Prayer.

We also see in this chapter the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the Disciples. The Disciples are in the world, but they do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's Salvation. As Jesus' Teaching and Ministry was a source of consternation for some, Jesus knows that the world may not accept His Disciples with open arms. Again, we hear echoes of John's theme that salvation is worked out through the cosmic battle between light and darkness. The world, according to John, prefers the darkness. Yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness. Reading this prayer of Jesus during the Easter Season, through the lens of His Resurrection, we know that the light of Christ has overcome the darkness of sin and death in our world. In the opening line of this prayer, we hear Jesus pray that His Disciples will be kept in the name that He was given by God. We know that the salvation is given to us in the name of Jesus, and that His name—"God saves"—announces His Mission on our behalf.

## **May 12, 2024 - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

As we celebrate Christ's Ascension into Heaven, we recall that He is not of this world and we were not made for this world. We were made for Eternal Life. Our readings today remind us that we are called to be set apart as Disciples of Christ.

In our Gospel, Jesus makes it clear that as Christian Disciples, we do not belong to the world. He prays to God the Father, "I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world." We must stop and ask ourselves, "Who do we belong to?" The answer is that we belong to our Loving and Gracious God. But do we act like we belong to God? How we spend our time, what we do with our talents and how we spend our treasures are a good reflection of who or what we belong to.

Jesus' Ascension is a good reminder for us that we, too, are called to Heaven. Let us strive to live our lives as a reflection of this goal in mind. And let us pray for the grace to understand just a fraction of God's Perfect Love for us and for the grace to express our love in return.

**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, 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 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 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, 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. 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.

