

**June 16, 2024**  
**11<sup>th</sup> 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](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 - 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM - 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

**PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**FATHER'S DAY COFFEE & SWEETS** – On Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> we will be having coffee and sweets at the Activity Center after **9:30 AM MASS ONLY**. Please come and join us!

**LAND OF PEACE VISITING JUNE 22 & 23** – Land of Peace is a non-profit organization under section 501 (C) (3), dedicated to helping Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land and in the Middle East! It has provided help and support to many Organizations, Associations, Churches and even individuals. The only source of income for Land of Peace is by selling the religious carvings from the Holy Land that are hand made by the Carvers and artisans in Bethlehem area from materials such as Olive Wood or Mother of Pearl! A portion of the sales contributed to support many Organizations, Associations, and Missions throughout the Middle East!

**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.

**GOB ICING** - will be made on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 am - 11 am. Gob packing Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am - 10:00 am. All help is greatly appreciated.

**GOB SALE** - St. Francis of Assisi Gob Sale on **Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon at St. Francis Activity Center.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** - St. Francis of Assisi, St. John Gualbert / St. Patrick

**Tuesday, July 9 thru Friday, July 12 from 9:00 AM–12:00 Noon** (To be held John Gualbert Activity Center)



Our local Catholic churches have combined to offer a fantastic week of VBS! This year at VBS, your child invited to *Come to the Table!* Your child will learn everyone is welcome at God's table. We'll hear how spent a lot of time eating and talking with unexpected people. When you eat with Jesus, anything can happen! Through prayer, art and active games, children are welcomed to taste and share at God's table, where there is



at St. offer is that Jesus

always enough! *Come to the Table* invites children to see that God loves and welcomes all people and challenges them to share that same love and hospitality in their everyday lives. Registration forms are in the Main Vestibule. **Online registration is available! Just scan the code to the right!** If there are any teenagers that would like to volunteer to help and get service hours, please contact Sue Paonessa at 814-536-4024.

**ST. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS** – For the months of June, July and August, the only way to order coffee will be **ONLINE ONLY**. We will resume deliveries and turn-in orders in September.

**CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & LECTORS** – Any and all Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors, we are in need for ALL WEEKEND MASSES. If you are able and willing to serve, please contact the Parish Office. (814) 539-1632.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK:** Loose – \$165.00; Adults – \$1,892.25; Monthly – \$338.00; Candles – \$187.00; Father's Day – \$156.00; Rent – \$250.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Online Giving - \$348.50 – Total Collection - \$3,486.75.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

After Lent, the Easter Season, and three Sundays of Feast Days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding Faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal His identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, He warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern His message. Only to His Disciples does He explain the parable's meaning, and He does this in private at a later time.

Today's Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the Kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on Earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the Kingdom by His Life, Miracles, Teaching, and Suffering. However, the Kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and His group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's Kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's Kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the Kingdom of God and our own Faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and His Kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord's Prayer, we pray, "thy Kingdom come." We know that it will come to its fullness at the end of time. All we need is Faith.

## **June 16, 2024 - 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

As we enter back into Ordinary Time, our readings today remind us that Heaven is our true home and that we cannot make it there without God's assistance. In our First Reading, the prophet Ezekiel foretells the coming of the Kingdom of God. It is through a newly planted cedar that God will bear fruit. As He says, "Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it... And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree."

We can see that Jesus is the cedar that will become refuge for all people. He will humble the proud, lift up the lowly and produce good fruit in the weakened. It is God Who does the wondrous works. As Christian Disciples, we hope to reside in the branches of Heaven, along with our family and friends. We cannot do this on our own. As our other readings mention, it is through the total surrender, complete Faith and actively living out our Faith as a witness to Christ that we can hope in Eternal Life.

As we settle into Ordinary Time, let us not become complacent, but keep our hearts and minds fixed on the Kingdom of God.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Sally Becker, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czrynik, 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 Sobecky, 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; Lt. Col. Melinda Rován 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?

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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.

