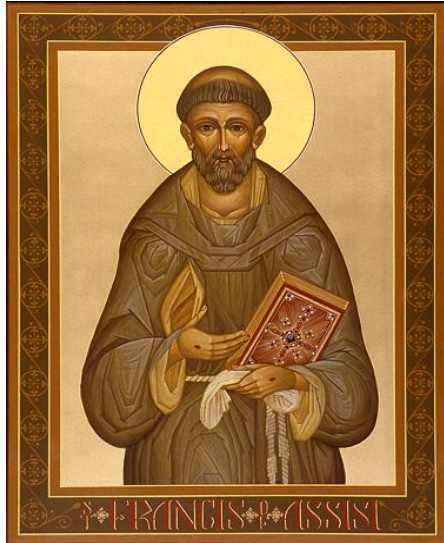


July 28, 2024
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/St.FrancisofAssisi)
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 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

Due to the crisis situation in the world, the Rosary is prayed ½ hour before Masses on the weekend and weekdays. Join us!

SIGN-UP SHEET for ASSUMPTION – A sign-up sheet for Thursday, August 15th, The Assumption of Mary is in the Main Vestibule. Please sign-up where you are able to Minister.

PUBLIC ROSARY - Praying for our Blessed Virgin Mary's Intercession for Our Country **Saturday, August 3rd 12:00 Noon Central Park, Downtown Johnstown** and also on **Thursday, August 8th 6:30 PM St. Clement Church, Upper Yoder Twp.**

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – Our next Theology on Tap is **Wednesday, July 31st at 6pm** with Bob Sutton speaking on “Why do Catholics do that? – Where is that in the Bible?” at the Boulevard Grill. We will continue meeting every month on last Wednesdays for Theology on Tap and second Fridays for other events. Young adults of all faiths aged 18-39 are welcome to join us! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

2nd ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE - The 2nd Annual Blood Drive in honor of Dan Hutchison will be held in the St. Therese Social Hall on Friday, August 9th from 11:30AM – 5:00PM. For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and St. Therese or call 1-800-733-2767.

ST. BENEDICT CHURCH – Bedford St., Johnstown, will hold their 89th annual Reunion on Fri., Sat., and Sun., July 26, 27 and 28. Their famous Chicken and Waffle Dinner will be served on Fri. from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and again on Sun. from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Come and enjoy good food, games, entertainment, flea market and much, much more! Don't forget to take a chance on a car and a Disney Vacation.

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 – JULY 13th & 14th: Loose – \$272.00; Adults – \$1,505.50; Monthly – \$195.00; Candles – \$134.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$222.50 – Total Collection – \$2,359.00

CONTRIBUTIONS JULY 20th & 21st: Loose – \$136.00; Adults – \$1,771.25; Monthly – \$126.00; Candles – \$92.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$322.50 – Total Collection – \$2,477.25

ST. ANDREW ADORATION CHAPEL, 1621 Ferndale Ave, Johnstown: In this blessed time of Eucharistic Revival in our Church, consider visiting and/or committing to an hour at our Perpetual Adoration Chapel. We are always seeking adorers and substitutes. The chapel is open Sunday morning immediately following the 10:30 Mass and remains open until 7:20 AM - Saturday morning each week. Consider giving one hour to our Lord by spending time with Him. One does not need to be a member of St Andrew Parish in order to visit or commit in any way. Currently, we are most in need of committed adorers on Tuesday, 12 AM (midnight) - 1AM, and Thursday morning 1:00 AM - 2AM, Many hours only have one Adorer, and it is preferable to have two each hour. If you feel called by Our Lord to sign up for an hour, or have any questions, please call [814-288-4324](tel:814-288-4324) Ext 5 visit <https://standrewjtown.weadorehim.com/en/schedule>, or feel free to call or text Terri Roy @ [815-255-5645](tel:815-255-5645). Jesus is waiting for you!

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of July for Special Intentions for a Dear Friend.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent His Disciples to share in His Mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the Miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of His Authority and Divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this Miracle as a sharing of His Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."

In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the Miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this Miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish Feast of Passover. (In John's Gospel three Passovers are identified.) Jesus' language is similar to the language He used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of Heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who wants to make Jesus a King. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the Eternal banquet of Heaven.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed His Disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the Disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus Himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this Miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

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 Sobbecky, 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; 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, 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.

