

July 7, 2024
14th 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!

BASKETS NEEDED FOR CHURCH PICNIC – Baskets are needed for the Church Picnic to be held on **Sunday, July 28** at ACRP grounds. Requested value is at least \$20-25. Proceeds from chancing off the baskets help to defray the cost of the picnic. Baskets or individual items can be brought to the Church during office hours (9AM – 3PM) or brought to Mass and given to Gale Bala. Thanks in advance for any donations. Call Cel at 534-0602 or Gale at 279-2195 with questions.

PUBLIC ROSARY – Saturday, July 6th 12:00 Noon at Central Park, Downtown Johnstown, and also on Thursday, July 11th 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church, Upper Yoder Twp.

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

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – We are hosting an outdoor Mass and picnic at Greenhouse Park Pavilion 6 on July 12th starting at 6pm with Fr. Stephen Waruszewski T.O.R. of Saint Francis University as celebrant. Our next Theology on Tap is 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.

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.

IRISH EVENING WITH “FULL KILT” – Visitation Parish will be sponsoring An Irish Evening with FULL KILT on July 13, from 7:00 PM until 10:00 PM in the Visitation Parish Hall at 1127 McKinley Avenue, Johnstown, PA. Tickets are being sold for \$20.00 and will include admission, a full meal, beer, soda, and water. Tickets may be purchased by calling Kristyn Amendola at 814-248-2942 or by email at kamendola528@gmail.com. All proceeds will benefit the Visitation Ongoing Maintenance Fund, which is earmarked for the replacement of the Church roof.

ST. THERESE CHURCH SUMMER BASKET & BURGER BASH – Saturday, July 20th 4-8PM and Sunday, July 21st from 11AM-4PM at St. Therese Church Social Hall. Live entertainment, Saturday, Cajun Norm presents The Foundry and Sunday 12-3pm Bo Moore. Themed Basket Drawing held on Sunday @ 4PM. Craft/Bistro Style Burgers, Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pizza-Fresh Cut Fries, & Funnel Cake. Water- Soda – Beer. Basket Tickets sold at the Door.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$134.00; Adults – \$2,814.25; Monthly – \$50.00; Candles – \$56.00; Father’s Day – \$25.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$353.50 – Total Collection – \$3,462.75

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of July for Special Intentions for a dear friend.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Gospel immediately follows upon last week's stories of the raising of Jairus's daughter and the healing of the woman with a hemorrhage. It sets the context of our Gospel readings for the next two weeks in which Jesus will extend the work of His Ministry to His Disciples.

Today's Gospel describes what many believe to have been the typical pattern of Jesus' Ministry: teaching in the synagogue followed by acts of healing. In His hometown of Nazareth, the people are amazed by what they hear, but they also cannot comprehend how someone they know so well might move them so powerfully.

In this Gospel, we learn some interesting details about Jesus and His early life. Jesus' kinfolk know Him to be a carpenter, an artisan who works in wood, stone, and metal. He probably learned this trade from His father. Family members of Jesus are also named. Mark describes Jesus as the Son of Mary, which is an unusual designation. Adult males were more typically identified with the name of their fathers. It is unclear why Mark deviates from this custom. Brothers and sisters of Jesus are also named. Scholars are divided on how to interpret this. As Catholics, we believe that Mary was and remained always a virgin, thus we do not believe that this Gospel refers to other children of Mary. Some have suggested that these family members might be Joseph's children from a previous marriage, but there is little evidence to support this. Others explain this reference by noting that the words *brother* and *sister* were often used to refer to other types of relatives, including cousins, nieces, and nephews.

This Gospel tells us that Jesus is hampered from performing miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Jesus is said to be surprised by this. He did not predict or foresee this rejection. In this detail we find a description of the very human side of Jesus.

This passage unfolds a continuing theme of Mark's Gospel: Who is Jesus? His kinfolk in Nazareth might know the carpenter, the Son of Mary, but they do not know Jesus, the Son of God. Mark is foreshadowing Jesus' rejection by His own people, the people of Israel. He is also reflecting on and trying to explain the situation of the community for which he wrote. While many of the first Christians were Jewish, Christianity took hold and flourished in the Gentile community. Mark's community was mostly a Gentile community, who may have been experiencing persecution. By showing that Jesus *Himself* was rejected, Mark consoles and reassures his first readers. He also prepares us to accept this possible consequence of Christian Discipleship.

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Our readings today portray three figures that experienced challenges – Ezekiel, St. Paul and Jesus. It is a reminder for us that, even in our weakest and toughest moments, God has a plan.

As Christian stewards, we are not always accepted. It might be because of what we believe in, the principles we stand for, how we spend our time and money, what we choose to participate in or not, or even how we raise our families.

Today, as we hear about these three figures in the Scriptures, let us reflect on our lives. Recall that God loves us more than we could ever imagine. There is not a moment that goes by that He does not have us in mind. He has a specific plan for our lives. Therefore, may we encounter life's challenges, our weaknesses and moments of feeling unwanted with confidence in Christ.

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 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 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.

