

**August 11, 2024**  
**19<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**  
**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, AUGUST 15<sup>th</sup> IN OBSERVANCE OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.**

**SPECIAL THANKS** to David and Mary Francis King for the fantastic outing to Sight & Sound! Thank you!!

**THANK YOU to the anonymous person/persons that made the generous donation in this past weekend's collection!**

**SIGN-UP SHEET for ASSUMPTION** – A sign-up sheet for Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, The Assumption of Mary (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION) is in the Main Vestibule. Please sign-up where you are able to Minister.

**\*\*CCD TEACHER MEETING\*\* - Faculty meeting for all CCD Teachers at St. Therese in the Church Hall on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.**

**CCD REGISTRATION FORMS** – Are in the Main Vestibule. This year we are joining with St. Therese's Church. Registration forms can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Please register your child/children as soon as possible so that books and other materials can be ordered.

**ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY** – Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2024 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. **Couples may attend Sunday, September 8 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 15 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral.** Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00PM, Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the Mass for anniversary couples and their families. Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY** – St. Francis of Assisi will have a **Fish Fry on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**, at the Activity Center, corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. **A LUNCH SPECIAL (Fried Fish Sandwich and French Fries, NO SUBSTITUTIONS) will be offered from 11AM until 1:00 PM (TAKE OUT ONLY).** The full menu will be served from **2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat-in or take-out.** Meals will be served while supplies last. All help is greatly appreciated!!



**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, August 26<sup>th</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

**FATIMA DEVOTIONS** – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Sunken Gardens at Saint Francis Friary. In case of inclement weather, they will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University. The presider will be Fr. Bob Sutton from St. Aloysius Parish in Cresson.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$145.00; Adults – \$2,386.25; Monthly – \$864.00; Candles – \$168.00; Donation – \$2,030.00; Cemetery – \$5.00; Picnic – \$25.00; Assumption – \$30.00; All Souls – \$5.00; Thanksgiving – \$5.00; Christmas – \$5.00; Christmas Flowers – \$5.00; Retired Priest – \$5.00; Catholic Charities – \$5.00; Immaculate Conception – \$5.00; Online Giving - \$352.50 – Total Collection - \$6,040.75.

## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the “Bread of Life discourse” found in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. Recall that we have been reading from this chapter for the past two weeks and will continue to read from it for another two. Last week, the crowd asked for a sign that would show that Jesus came from God. Jesus replied by saying that He is the sign and the Bread of Life sent by God. At this point, our Lectionary omits six verses in which Jesus predicts the unbelief of the crowd and further develops His connection with God the Father. In these verses, Jesus says that He was sent by God to do the Father’s will. Jesus promises that those who look upon the Son with faith will find Eternal Life. Some of these themes are repeated in today’s Gospel reading.

Today’s Gospel begins with a report that the Jews complained about Jesus’ claims regarding His Identity. They knew His family, and they knew He was the Son of Joseph. They could not comprehend what Jesus meant when He said that He came down from Heaven. Jesus responds to the complaints by saying that only those who are chosen by God will recognize Him as the One that God sent. This is a recurring theme in John’s Gospel, that God has chosen those who will have faith in Jesus.

In the verses that follow, Jesus talks more about His unity with the Father. He is the One Who has seen the Father and, therefore, knows the Father. Those who listen to God will recognize that Jesus is the One sent from God. Those who believe will have Eternal Life. Jesus concludes with the central element of our Eucharistic Theology. He promises that the Bread of Life will bring Eternal Life to those who partake of it, and He tells us that the Bread of Life will be His Own flesh, given for the life of the world.

In today’s reading, we hear Jesus say again, as He did in last week’s Gospel, that He is the Bread of Life. We also hear Jesus add that He is the living bread. Both of these statements help us understand better the gift that Jesus gives us in the Eucharist. We celebrate this gift of Jesus each time we gather for Mass. We believe that receiving Jesus in the Eucharist will lead us to Eternal Life.

### **Aug 11, 2024 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Our readings today continue to educate us on the Eucharist. “I am the living Bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this Bread will live forever; and the Bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

Just as the angel reminded Elijah in our first reading, in moments of despair or desolation, we are called not to give up but to get up and keep going. And thankfully we do not need to keep going on our own – we have Food that will nourish us and give us strength on our journey to freedom. This food is not food that perishes, but food that continues to sustain us.

The Eucharist affects our lives more than we can comprehend. We are receiving God Himself. Let us strive to receive Him reverently and with open hearts. And as we exit our church this week, let us not forget Who we are carrying in our hearts all week long.

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**The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of August for: Special Intentions for two Dear Friends.**

**The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of August to End Abortion – From: Joe and Paulette Torchia**

**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 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.

