

August 18, 2024
20th 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@atlanticbnn.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 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

****CCD TEACHER MEETING** - Faculty meeting for all CCD Teachers at St. Therese in the Church Hall on Sunday, August 18th 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.

MARIANNA'S SUB & PIZZA SALE – The Fund Raising Committee is having another Sub and Pizza sale. Order forms are near the entrance doors for pick up. Orders are due September 15th and Subs will be ready for pickup in Activity Center on Saturday, September 28th from 9 a.m. to noon. Please help by supporting our sale! By the way, I heard their new sub, the Sweet Lebanon Bologna, is quite delicious! If you have any questions, please contact Carol Mangus at 814-536-0152.

SAVE THE DATE: Coming **October 5th** at the Activity Center **MUSIC BINGO**. More info to follow!

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 27th.

ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi will have a **Fish Fry on Friday, September 13th**, 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!!



****DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED!!****

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 4th Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **Monday, August 26th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$74.00; Adults – \$1,878.25; Monthly – \$105.00; Candles – \$165.00; Assumption – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$307.50 – Total Collection – \$2,559.75.

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

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel elaborates further on the teaching that Jesus began in our Liturgy last week. In that reading, the crowds wondered about how Jesus could say that He had come down from Heaven because they knew Jesus to be the Son of Joseph. In this Gospel, some have difficulty with Jesus' Teaching that He is the Living Bread sent from God. Recall that Jesus had told them that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give Eternal Life. We hear the concluding verse of last week's Gospel repeated in today's reading: Jesus Himself is the Bread sent by God; Jesus' Flesh is the bread that is given for the life of the world.

Among the stumbling blocks for those who heard but did not understand Jesus is the teaching that the bread that Jesus will give is His Own Flesh. In response to the people who quarreled over His words, Jesus teaches with even greater emphasis that Salvation comes to those who eat His Body and Blood. Jesus doesn't seem to answer the question posed about how Salvation will come about, perhaps because this reality can only be understood after His Death and Resurrection. Instead, Jesus teaches about the life that He will give to the world.

To many ears, Jesus' words are jarring and difficult to hear. Many who heard Jesus could not accept what He said. Many today continue to struggle to accept these words. But they are important words because they reveal our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our Eucharistic Theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus' Body and Blood are made truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus Himself comes to dwell within us. This Communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us Eternal Life, and sends us forth to be Christ's Body for the life of the world.

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Jesus said to the crowd, "Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has Eternal Life..." We can hardly blame the crowd for their shock at this statement – eating the Flesh and drinking the Blood of our Lord should cause us a bit of shock. Yet how easy it is to show up at Mass Sunday after Sunday, receiving the Eucharist as simply part of a weekly routine.

If we really spent time contemplating the gift our Lord is offering us in this Sacrament, we would be awestruck at the love and power in this gift. Through it, our Lord is giving us the very best He has to give – Himself. Not even the greatest theological scholar or the holiest of Saints can fully understand this mystery.

The Eucharist is the ultimate inspiration for a stewardship way of life. When we contemplate this gift of God, we will want to make a joyful return to Him. Mass will become anything but routine and we will live each day as His passionate disciples.

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.

