

August 25, 2024
21st 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](#)
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 REGISTRATION FORMS – This year we are joining with St. Therese's Church. Registration forms can be found in the Main Vestibule of the Church. Please register your child/children as soon as possible so that books and other materials can be ordered.

GOB ICING – will be made on Tuesday, August 27th from 7 am – 11 am. Gob packing Wednesday, August 28th from 8:00am – 10:00 am. All help is greatly appreciated.

MARIANNA'S SUB & PIZZA SALE – The Fundraising 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! Money is needed at time of order, please place orders and money in envelope in collection basket marked Fund Raising Committee, or you can bring to church office during business hours. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Mangus at 814-536-0152.



MUSIC BINGO BASH – The St. Francis Fundraising Committee will be sponsoring a Music Bingo Bash Saturday, Oct. 5. at the St. Francis Activity Center. Doors open at 5 pm. Food will be served at 6 pm. Admission \$20. Includes dinner, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. 5 Bingo cards. Beer bracelet is \$7.00. Qualifiers, 50/50, Cash giveaways every half hour! Tickets available in the vestibule before and after Masses. Or you can call Fran at 814-536-3667.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – We had a successful July with Theology on Tap, Benediction & Board Games, and our first young adult hike. Our next Theology on Tap is August 28th at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Fr. Stephen Mary Waruszewski T.O.R. of Saint Francis University speaking on The Blessed Virgin Mary. Young adults of all faiths aged 18-39 are welcome to join us for faith and fellowship on last Wednesdays for Theology on Tap and second Fridays for other events! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

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!!****



Background on the Gospel Reading

For our Gospel today we hear the conclusion of the “Bread of Life Discourse” in the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. In the preceding verses, which we have heard proclaimed in our Liturgy over the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus explain that He is the Bread of Life, given so that those who believe may have Eternal Life. This discourse follows the miracle in which Jesus fed more than five thousand people with five barley loaves and two fish. As Jesus has been teaching these things, John’s Gospel describes a murmuring crowd unable to accept Jesus’ words. In today’s Gospel, the crowd has dwindled in number, and John no longer references them, or the Jews. Instead John describes the questioning of those considered to be Jesus’ own Disciples.

Today’s Gospel first records the response of those in the crowd who are described as Jesus’ Disciples. Just as the larger crowd had struggled with Jesus’ Teaching, these disciples also cannot accept Jesus’ Words. Jesus is said to know about their murmuring. He responds by acknowledging their unbelief and by reiterating that only those chosen by the Father will follow Jesus to the end. John’s Gospel reports that many of those who had been Jesus’ Disciples ceased to follow Him at this point. The number of people following Jesus dwindled from a crowd of more than 5,000 to only 12 people. And it is to these Twelve that Jesus now turns His attention.

Simon Peter’s response to Jesus’ question as to whether those closest to Him will also leave, reminds us of the reports of Peter’s confession of faith in the Synoptic Gospels. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about Himself: Jesus is the One from God in Whom they have found the path to Eternal Life.

This conclusion of the Bread of Life discourse focuses on personal faith in the life of Christian discipleship. Each person must make his or her own judgment about Who Jesus is and in doing so determine the way of life that he or she will follow. God’s grace invites us to be Jesus’ Disciples, but each person must respond to the grace of God and confess as his or her own the belief that Jesus is the One from God. This faith then commits us to the path of life, leading us to Eternal Life.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$175.00; Adults – \$2,066.25; Monthly – \$475.00; Candles – \$185.00; Assumption – \$531.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$327.50 – Total Collection – \$3,789.75

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Deacon Bruce Becker, Sally Becker, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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.; **1st Lt. Kasey Meredith**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **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.

