

August 4, 2024
18th 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

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

ROSARY SOCIETY - Will meet on Monday, August 5th at 6:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

THANK YOU - To all who helped out in any way possible to make our Parish Picnic a success!!

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 on **Thursday, August 8th 6:30 PM St. Clement Church, Upper Yoder Twp.**

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.

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.

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 LAST WEEK - Loose - \$196.00; Adults - \$1,897.25; Monthly - \$10.00; Candles - \$261.00; Donation - \$30.00; Online Giving - \$227.50 - Total Collection - \$2,621.25.

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 August for: Special Intentions for two Dear Friends.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we continue to read from the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, but not continuously. Our Lectionary omits John's report of Jesus' walking on water. This event is reported much less dramatically in John's Gospel than in the Synoptic Gospels. After the feeding of the multitudes, the disciples leave in a boat and Jesus follows them. The disciples are said to be terrified by what they see. Jesus reassures them and rejoins them. In today's Gospel, we learn that the crowd has noticed the departure of Jesus and His Disciples and so seeks them out in Capernaum. In the dialogue that follows between Jesus and the crowds, Jesus unfolds for us the gift of Himself that He gives in the Eucharist.

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing Him. They have been fed. Jesus acknowledges this, yet challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because He can give them Eternal Life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and His Mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the One sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. How strange this sounds since Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

But the crowd cannot see beyond the surface of the sign. They show this in their interpretation of the sign that came from Moses. In their description, they identify Jesus with Moses, as if to say, as Moses gave the people manna in the desert, give us a sign so that we will know that you are from God. They are looking to identify a prophet without realizing that God is standing before them. Jesus corrects their misinterpretation, saying that the manna received by their ancestors came from God. As God fulfilled their ancestors' needs in the desert, so God has provided them with food for Eternal Life. In the bread that they have received from Jesus, they have received physical nourishment and also spiritual nourishment. Jesus wants the crowd to see beyond the surface to the One who provides true nourishment.

The conclusion of the dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. They ask for what Jesus has just told them they have found: "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus answers plainly that He Himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus Himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed His name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for Himself. In the weeks ahead, we will see the offense that this gives to the people.

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.

