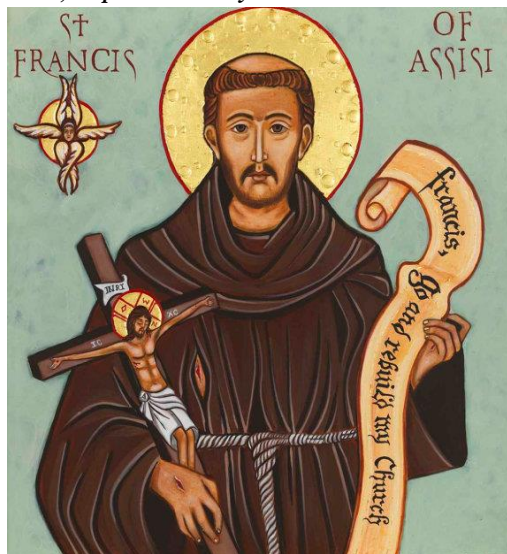


September 15, 2024
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
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

THANK YOU – To the Fish Fry Committee and all the workers and volunteers that made our First Fish Fry of the fall a success!

CCD REGISTRATION FORMS – This year we are joining with St. Therese's Church Religious Ed Program. 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.

CARD SHOWER FOR DEACON BRUCE – Let's show Deacon we are thinking of him and wishing him a complete recovery. Although he is in our prayers, it is always heartwarming to receive a note, or a card to uplift our spirits when we are going through tough times. Please send your cards to the Parish or drop them in the collection and we will make sure to get them all to him.

MARIANNA'S SUB & PIZZA SALE – Order forms are near the entrance doors for pick up. Orders are due **September 15th** and Subs & Pizzas will be ready for pickup in the Activity Center on Saturday, September 28th from 9 A.M. to 12 Noon. Money is needed at the time of order, please place orders and money in envelope and in the Collection basket marked Fund Raising Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Mangus at 814-536-0152. **ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN 12 NOON ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th.**



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 and cash giveaways every half hour! Tickets available in the vestibule before and after Masses. Or you can call Fran at 814-536-3667.

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN 2024 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – Join us for our 3rd Annual DAJ Women's Conference hosted at Mount Aloysius College at the Bertschi Center on **Saturday, October 12th**. Check-in will begin at 7:30AM. Bishop Mark will open the conference with Mass at 9:00AM and the conference will run until 4PM. Presentations by our speaker, Katie Prejean McGrade, lunch, refreshments, Sacrament of Reconciliation, time for reflection, prayer and fellowship with the women of our Diocese. There are Registration forms in the Main Vestibule, Fee is \$20 for adults and \$10 for High School Students.

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, September 23rd**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$176.00; Adults – \$2,815.25; Monthly – \$264.00; Candles – \$411.33; St. Vincent DePaul – \$20.00; Assumption – \$7.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$10.00; Donation – \$90.00; Online Giving – \$312.50 – Total Collection – \$4,106.08.

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

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

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading is the turning point in Mark's Gospel. In the presentation of the Life and Ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Mark, the deeds of Jesus have shown Jesus to be the Son of God. Yet many, including Jesus' Disciples, have not yet realized His Identity. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks the Disciples for a field report by asking what others say about Him. He then turns the question directly to the Disciples and asks what they believe. Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ.

The word *Christ* is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah, which means "the anointed one." At the time of Jesus, the image of the Messiah was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation. Jesus does not appear to have used this term for Himself. As we see in today's reading, Jesus refers to Himself instead as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the Book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that the phrase Son of Man is best understood to mean "human being."

Now that the Disciples have acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, Jesus confides in them the outcome of His Ministry: He will be rejected, must Suffer and Die, and will rise after three days. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely. The image of Christ that Jesus is giving is not the image of the Messiah that Peter was expecting. Jesus then teaches the crowd and the Disciples about the path of discipleship: To be Christ's disciple is to follow in the way of the Cross.

We can easily miss the fear that Jesus' Words must have evoked in His Disciples. Death by crucifixion was all too familiar as a method of execution in Roman-occupied territories. It was also an omnipresent danger to the Christian community for whom Mark wrote. The path that Jesus was inviting His Disciples to share meant tremendous suffering and death. This is the kind of radical commitment and sacrifice that Jesus calls us to adopt for the sake of the Gospel.

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"You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Jesus' words in our Gospel today challenge us to become imitators of Christ. This is not an easy request. It takes sacrifice, endurance, and commitment. Yet, it is profoundly rewarding.

Jesus encourages us to think, not as human beings, but as God. He is calling us not to look at life in relation to ourselves. Rather, He wants us to be open-minded and look at life in relation to God. This requires acceptance on our part – accepting the will of God and allowing it to mold us into Christ-like people. Jesus re-echoes this message as He addresses His disciples saying, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

This week let us sit in Jesus' presence and listen to what He is calling us to at this point in our lives. Let us rise each day with a commitment to follow Him, carry our daily crosses with Him, and live in total gratitude and service to God, family and neighbor.

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 Sobacky, 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.

