

September 22, 2024
25th 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

**** THERE IS STILL A NEED FOR 1 MORE NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER! ****

HALLOWEEN TICKETS – Are being sold in the Main Vestibule, please consider purchasing more than one ticket to support our church.

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 PICK-UP – Pick-up for Subs and Pizza's will be on **Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon** at the St. Francis Activity Center at 134 Barron Avenue.



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 Main Vestibule before and after Masses. Or you can call Fran at 814-536-3667. Please join us for a fun evening out supporting our Church!!

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. THERESE CHURCH, ANNUAL NOVENA - St Therese Church Johnstown will be holding their Annual Novena in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower of Jesus starting Monday, September 23rd and will continue for nine (9) days. Masses will be held at 9AM and 7PM except on Saturday and Sunday, which will be Saturday at 9AM, 4PM, & 7PM and Sunday at 7:30AM, 10:30AM and 7PM. The closing of the Novena will be Tuesday, October 1st. All are Welcome!

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 – \$150.00; Adults – \$1,415.25; Monthly – \$180.00; Candles – \$158.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$10.00; Assumption – \$3.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$10.00; Donation – \$30.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Online Giving - \$327.50 – Total Collection - \$2,433.75

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

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus again predict His Passion, Death, and Resurrection to His Disciples. The setting here is important. Jesus and His Disciples are preparing to journey through Galilee, a Jewish territory in which Jesus has already encountered problems with the Pharisees. Perhaps this is why Mark indicates that Jesus was trying to journey in secret. In predicting His Passion, Jesus is acknowledging the danger they will face and is trying to prepare His Disciples for it. Yet Mark tells us that the Disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying and were afraid to ask what He meant. Such hesitation on the part of the Disciples is not characteristic behavior. Peter had no fear about rebuking Jesus in last week's Gospel. Perhaps this is an indication that the Disciples were aware that a new situation was emerging.

Mark paints a vivid picture in today's Gospel. Having arrived at Capernaum, Jesus and His Disciples enter a house. In this private place, Jesus asks His Disciples about the argument they had while they were journeying. Again, the Disciples are uncharacteristically silent and afraid to answer. They have been found out. Jesus then summons the Twelve, whom Mark identified earlier in his Gospel as those chosen by Jesus to preach and to drive out demons. To this select group of Disciples, Jesus teaches that those who would be first in God's Kingdom must be servants of all.

Jesus then calls forward a child and teaches the Twelve that to receive a child in Jesus' name is to receive both Jesus and the One who sent Him. We might easily fail to understand the significance of this action. In first-century Palestine, children were without status or power, possessing no legal rights. In this action, Jesus is teaching His Disciples and us that when we serve the least ones among us, we serve Jesus Himself. Who are the people without power or status in our society that Jesus is calling us to serve? Do we do so willingly? Jesus teaches that God's judgment of us will be based on this criterion alone.

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Our readings today bring to light the daily struggle between good and evil and how we can combat this struggle through wisdom and gratitude. In our Second Reading, St. James encourages us to seek wisdom from above. "But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits..." When we seek the Lord, we will have the strength to choose good and the wisdom to properly use what we have received from Him.

When we are caught in the raging war of jealousy, fighting, and pride, and begin to become enslaved to our passions we are ultimately being ungrateful for what we have been given. We overlook the blessing God has given us and the gifts and talents He has entrusted to us.

Today, let us recall that we have an infinitely loving God Who cares deeply for us. Consider all that He has blessed you with, and how you can use those blessings for His glory.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Deacon Bruce Becker, Sally Becker, Galyann 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 Guarino, 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.

