

September 29, 2024
26th 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

HALLOWEEN TICKETS – Halloween Lottery tickets are being sold for \$5.00 each in the Main Vestibule, please consider purchasing more than one ticket to support our church.



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. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS – New coffee orders can be placed until October 13th and pickup for coffee will be on October 19th & 20th. Order forms are in the Main Vestibule of the Church. You can put your order in an envelope and drop it in the Collection Basket at Mass. We thank you for your support!!

COME AND LISTEN – Jesus Christ is looking for you. A Catechesis for Adults and Youth – Where is God? Are you in a situation you can't fix or understand? Do you wake up afraid or anxious? Come and Listen! A Catechesis for Adults and Youth Beginning Sept. 16th, Mondays & Wednesdays 7:00 pm St. John Gualbert Cathedral Activity Center 110 Adams Street Johnstown, PA 15901 Free parking and babysitting.

FR. JOHN SLOVIKOVSKI LIVER TRANSPLANT FUNDRAISER – Visitation Parish in Johnstown will sponsor **GAME NIGHT FUNDRAISER** to help cover the post-liver transplant bills for its pastor, **Fr. John Slovikovski** on October 20th from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. **While we are seeking CORPORATE sponsors, anyone is able to contribute to this important and necessary fund.** The real purpose for the day is to raise awareness and to have fun playing games in the community. The cost is \$5.00 and will include admission and registration for games, pizza, popcorn, soda, water, and beer. You may register as individuals or as groups and you can reserve games. Games include Monopoly, Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit, Bamboozled, Scattergories, Family Feud, Johnstownopoly, CLUE, LIFE, *Right, Left, Center*, Corn Hole, POKER, UNO and many, many more. To register, please call or email the following: Visitation Parish: 814-536-6110; Kristyn Amendola 814-248-2942 or kamendola528@gmail.com; Debbie Magro: 814-243-9028 or ddmagro1958@gmail.com. Thank you for your support. God bless you for your kindness.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$114.00; Adults – \$1,776.25; Monthly – \$355.00; Candles – \$118.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$269.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$199.00; Online Giving – \$337.50 – Total Collection – \$3,173.75

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 we continue to read from the Gospel of Mark. Recall that last week we heard Jesus chastise His Disciples for their argument about who among them was the greatest. Jesus taught them that the greatest among them will be those who serve the least ones. In today's Gospel, the Disciple John questions Jesus about an unknown exorcist who was driving out demons in Jesus' Name. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. Previously in Mark's Gospel, Jesus healed a boy whom the Disciples had been unable to heal. John's question is further evidence that the Disciples have not yet grasped Jesus' words to them. They continue to compare themselves to others who seem to have greater healing powers, and they do not want to share the power of Jesus' name with others.

Today the demon possession described in the Gospels might be seen as a form of mental illness, but the need for healing these syndromes was as real then as it is now. Exorcism was a common practice in first-century Palestine. Some people had the power to heal the symptoms of possession. One of the strategies used was to invoke the name of a person or figure who was believed to have the power to heal.

The Disciples observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' Name and was successful in His healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' Name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. In His reply to His Disciples, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He also teaches that the Disciples should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others.

Later in this Gospel, Jesus teaches us not to create obstacles for those who are just beginning to have faith but to encourage even the smallest signs of faith. The Greek word used here for sin also connotes "stumbling" or "causing scandal." In vivid terms Jesus teaches His Disciples the consequences to those who would put obstacles before people who are on the road to faith.

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Our readings this week encourage us to not only be good stewards of all that God has given us but also to rejoice in the good stewardship of others.

We oftentimes look at another's strengths as our weaknesses whether it be in Parish life, in the workforce, or even in our own families. We are left with a bitter heart and a negative attitude when we become jealous of another. Jesus is calling us to cut out those sinful thoughts and attitudes from our lives. The next time we witness someone being a good steward of God's gifts – rejoice! And continue to examine how you are using your gifts and talents to ensure you are being a good steward of what God has entrusted to you.

This week when we witness other people in our lives using the gifts God has given to them, instead of becoming jealous or critical, say a prayer of thanksgiving and take time to reflect on what God has gifted you and how you can offer it to Him for His glory.

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 Rovon 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.

