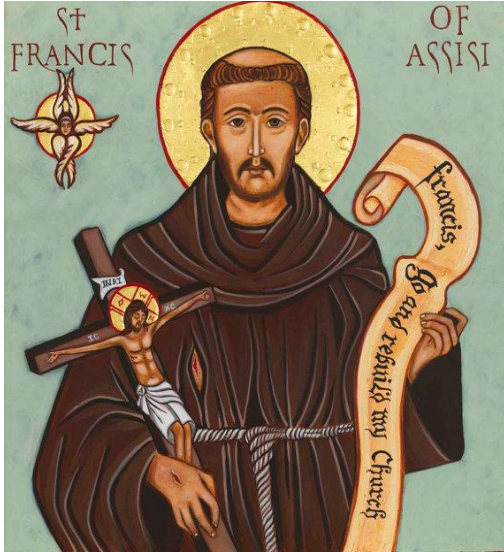


September 8, 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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/stfrancisofassisi)
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

CONGRATULATIONS – to **Joseph & Renee Karczewski**, having received the Sacrament of Matrimony on Saturday, September 7, 2024!

CONGRATULATIONS – Congratulations on the Baptism of **Evelyn Alura Rayman** and her parents, Edgar Rayman and Lauren Stiffler, and Godparents, Ralph and Judith Stiffler.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS – The Family and Friends of **+Agnes Sciullo**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

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.

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.

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.** We will take phone orders on Friday, September 13th from 9AM-1PM at (814)539-3518. Meals will be served while supplies last. All help is greatly appreciated!! ****DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED!!****



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.



ST. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS – Order forms are in the Main Vestibule of the Church and in this weekend's Bulletin. You can put your order in an envelope and drop it in the Collection Basket at Mass. We thank you for your support!!

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 – \$173.00; Adults – \$1,699.75; Monthly – \$751.00; Candles – \$308.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$7.00; Assumption – \$18.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$5.00; Donation – \$80.00; Online Giving - \$347.50 – Total Collection - \$3,389.25.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power, and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with Holy Oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to Him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophenician woman who asks Him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding the dogs the that is food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table, and He heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' Own Mission affirms the early Church's Mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the Good News of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of His healing power, which is evidence of His Identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

Sept 8, 2024 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Thus says the Lord: say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not!" Our readings today offer us a message of hope – God is with us and wants to heal us. May this message come ablaze in our hearts so that we might live with unwavering faith.

The prophecy in our first reading and the story in our Gospel overwhelm us with comfort and peace because we have a compassionate God who sees our physical needs. Yet if we reflect further on these readings, we see that God uses these moments of physical healing as opportunities to restore something much deeper – our souls.

This week let us seek God to heal our souls and transform our hearts. Let us pray that our eyes and our ears might "be open" to His workings, words, and promptings in our lives.

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.

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.

