

**October 13, 2024**  
**28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net)**  
**Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](#)**  
**Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632**  
**Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** – On Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Columbus Day.

**THANK YOU** - The St. Francis Fundraising Committee would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked the Music Bingo. The kitchen workers, ticket sellers, bartenders, change makers, and all the door people and DJ Tom Hoover. Everyone did an outstanding job! Thank you also to all the St. Francis parishioners and everyone else for supporting this fun event!

**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.

**GOB ICING** - will be made on Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7 am - 11 am. Gob packing Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am - 10:00 am. All help is greatly appreciated.

**ALL SOULS** – If you would like to have a picture of a deceased loved one placed in the Sanctuary area for All Soul's Day, please bring the picture to the Parish Office or the Church. All photos must be received no later than Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please include the name of the deceased and your name and phone number with the picture(s) you are bringing.

**ANNUAL MEMORIAL CELEBRATION** - of Parishioners who were laid to rest this year (November 1, 2023 – October 31, 2024) will be celebrated at **4:00PM** on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the families of the deceased are invited to take part in this Mass by lighting a candle in their memory. Please contact the Parish Office if you or a member of the family or friend of our departed loved ones are able to participate in this Liturgy. All are welcome to join us in this celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death, and the hope of Eternal Life.

**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 Slovickovski** on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM until 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. **While we are seeking CORPORATE sponsors, anyone can 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](mailto:kamendola528@gmail.com); Debbie Magro: 814-243-9028 or [ddmagro1958@gmail.com](mailto:ddmagro1958@gmail.com). Thank you for your support. God bless you for your kindness.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$121.00; Adults – \$2,215.25; Monthly – \$409.00; Candles – \$111.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$13.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$7.00; Cemetery – \$107.00; Donation – \$130.00; Online Giving – \$312.50 – Total Collection – \$3,425.75

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

**The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of October to End Abortion.**

**The Sacred Heart Candle will burn for Protection on former President Trump, an honest election and to end abortion. From: Joeseeph & Paulette Torchia**

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue reading the Gospel of Mark from where we left off last Sunday. Last Sunday our Gospel told how Jesus was tested by the Pharisees about the requirements for divorce. Recall that these chapters come from the second part of Mark's Gospel, which chronicles the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

In today's Gospel, an unnamed man approaches Jesus and inquires about what he must do to inherit Eternal Life. Jesus replies that one must follow the Commandments of the Law of Moses. The man acknowledges that he has observed all of these since his childhood. Jesus then says that only one thing is lacking; he must give his possessions to the poor and follow Jesus. The man leaves in sadness, and Mark tells us that this is because he had many possessions.

The belief in Resurrection and Eternal Life was a relatively recent development in Jewish thought at Jesus' time, and it wasn't shared by everyone. The Pharisees taught that there would be a Resurrection from the dead; the Sadducees did not share this belief. Jesus taught that there would be a final judgment for everyone and Eternal Life (the Kingdom of God) for believers.

Jesus makes two requirements of the wealthy man who approaches Him. First, he must give up his possessions. Throughout history, some Christians have taken this literally. Their example witnesses to us a radical commitment to the Gospel of Jesus. Some have read this as a particular requirement directed to this specific individual. Still others have sought to explain the meaning intended by the word *possessions* as those things that prevent one from following Jesus. Christians have generally understood that at the least, following Jesus requires that believers hold material possessions loosely and remain vigilant against seeking security in accumulating possessions.

The second requirement Jesus makes of this man is the invitation that Jesus extends to all would-be disciples: "follow Me." Jesus very much wants this man to be His Disciple. We believe that the Christian faith is one in which each believer is in a personal relationship with Jesus. Just as this Gospel tells us that Jesus loves the man and is sad when He departs, so too, Jesus loves us and is saddened when we are unable to follow Him.

We see in this Gospel reading another example of Mark's pattern, which shows Jesus offering further elaboration about His message and meaning to His Disciples. To His Disciples, Jesus laments the challenges faced by those who are rich in following Him and entering the Kingdom of God. In reply to the Disciples' astonishment at the strictness of the standard that Jesus speaks about today, Jesus reminds His Disciples that nothing is impossible with God. Salvation is determined by our ability to rely completely upon God.

Peter replies to Jesus by boasting that the disciples have already given up everything. Jesus acknowledges that those who have given up everything for the sake of the Gospel will be rewarded. This reward begins now, in the new community that one will gain in this life, and will continue in the eternal age to come. Our personal relationship with Jesus is also an invitation to the community of faith, the Church.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; Lt. Col Steven Thomas, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; Captain Colin Harrington, US Army, Bethesda, MD; 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kasey Meredith, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; Cpl. Aunna Yingling, US Army; Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino, US Navy; Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

