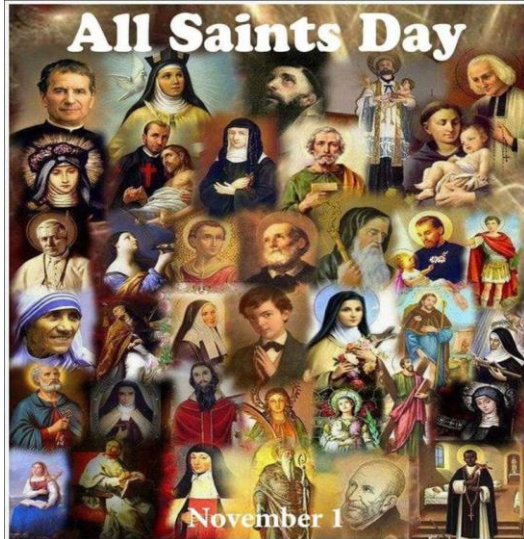


October 27, 2024
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULES – For November & All Saints Day are in the Main Vestibule. Please pick up your schedule.

ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS MASSES – All Saints Masses will be, Vigil on Thursday, October 31st at 5:30PM. All Saints Day Masses will be on Friday, November 1st at 9:00AM & 5:30 PM. All Souls Day Mass will be held on Saturday, November 2nd at 4:00PM. On All Souls Day, there will ALSO be the DAILY MASS at 9:00AM.

GABRIEL PROJECT – If anyone who is willing to donate old Christmas Cards that we are able to use for the Gabriel Project Angel Tree, we would appreciate it. You can drop them in the Collection basket or drop them off at the Parish Office during office hours. Thank you.

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 30th. 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 2nd. 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.

OUR ANNUAL JOE BARTKO MEMORIAL FOOD DRIVE – Non-perishable food and household items collection for the Joe Bartko Memorial, St. Vincent De Paul Food Kitchen is beginning. Parishioners are asked to share their bounty from God with those less fortunate. Monetary donations will also be accepted and may be placed in the envelope included in last weeks bulletin. Donations should be non-perishable and NO glass containers. Suggested items include canned vegetables, pasta, cereal, tuna, soup, stuffing mix, cake mix, salt, pepper, paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.). Please use the bag provided in the vestibule for your donations. **Collection will end Sunday, November 24th.**

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$75.00; Adults – \$2,575.25; Monthly – \$35.00; Candles – \$123.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$13.00; Cemetery – \$60.00; All Souls – \$10.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$5.00; Thanksgiving – \$40.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$327.50 – Total Collection - \$3,293.75.

DIocese OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN - EXPRESSIONS OF HOPE – All of the Faithful of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown are invited to share an expression of hope in the form of Art, Photography, or in this Jubilee Year. Pope Francis has welcomed the Universal Church in 2025 to set their eyes and hearts on the hope Jesus Christ offers us as we journey together as pilgrims of faith in a very diverse world. **DEADLINE OF SUBMISSIONS FOR PROCLAIM! MAGAZINE IS NOVEMBER 6, 2024 THE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 8, 2024 FOR ALL OTHER ENTRIES FOR DISPLAYS.** With your permission your work will be displayed on the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Facebook site, on Proclaim! TV, in Proclaim! Magazine, and as part of a public display at the locations of diocesan gatherings during the year. **OPENING MASS OF THE 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE YEAR 2:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, ALTOONA.** Your parish or religious community, school, college campus, correctional institution and elder care facility can send art and poetry works as a group or as individuals. **YOU MAY ILLUSTRATE ONE OR BOTH OF THESE CATEGORIES: 1. ILLUSTRATE WHAT "HOPE LOOKS LIKE OR MEANS TO ME..." 2. FOR VOCATIONS: "YOU ARE CALLED" TO BE A SERVANT OF HOPE AS A PRIEST, DEACON, RELIGIOUS BROTHER OR SISTER – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU OR THE CHURCH TO BE A SERVANT OF HOPE?** All Artwork, Poetry and Photo's with Information Form should be delivered or mailed: Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown: Jubilee 2025 2713 West Chestnut Avenue Altoona, PA 16601-1720

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel. In this Gospel, we find evidence of Jesus' fame in the sizable crowd that accompanies Him as He journeys to Jerusalem. Jesus' reputation as a healer has preceded Him. When the blind man, Bartimaeus, hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, he calls out to Him, asking for His pity.

When Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, the crowd around him tries to silence him. Yet Bartimaeus persists, calling out more loudly and with greater urgency. He will not be silenced or deterred from getting Jesus' attention. We notice how quickly the crowd's reaction changes when Jesus calls for Bartimaeus. Those who sought to quiet him now encourage him.

When Jesus restores Bartimaeus's sight, no elaborate action is required. (In other healing stories in Mark's Gospel, actions accompany Jesus' words). In this instance, Jesus simply says that Bartimaeus's faith has saved him. Throughout Mark's Gospel, the success of Jesus' healing power has often been correlated with the faith of the person requesting Jesus' help. For example, it is because of her faith that the woman with the hemorrhage is healed. When faith is absent, Jesus is unable to heal; we see this after His rejection in Nazareth.

Once his sight has been restored, Bartimaeus follows Jesus on His way to Jerusalem. In Mark's Gospel, Bartimaeus is the last Disciple called by Jesus before He enters Jerusalem. Bartimaeus hears that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by, but he calls out to Jesus using words of faith—"Son of David." Many in Jesus' time believed that the anticipated Jewish Messiah would be a descendent of King David. Bartimaeus's words prepare us for the final episodes of Mark's Gospel, which begins with Jesus' preparation for the Passover and His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. As Mark has shown us in our readings over the past few Sundays, however, Jesus will be the Messiah in a way that will be difficult for many to accept. Jesus will show Himself to be the Messiah through His Suffering and Death.

Oct 27, 2024 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Psalm today, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy," sheds light on our glorious Gospel reading about the healing of the blind man, Bartimaeus.

We can learn a lot from Bartimaeus when it comes to our own personal relationships with Jesus. Many of us struggle with something from which we need healing – physical blindness, illness, addiction, bad habits, anger, sin. In our weakness, do we confidently cry out to Jesus knowing that He will help us? Oftentimes we begin to, but then a voice in our thoughts tells us to doubt and encourages us to stop trying, like the crowd in our Gospel. Although that voice is persistent and strong, we are called to cry out all the more. If Jesus can hear one voice in a crowd of many, then He can hear our direct prayers to Him in our hearts.

Whatever it is that you desire to be healed from today, confidently cry out to Jesus in prayer. He is listening. And when you hear the voice of doubt, keep praying. Strive to have unwavering faith that Jesus is with you, He hears you and will heal you in His way and His time. Know that the Lord has done great things for us and will continue to do so – so let our hearts be filled with joy.

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: Joeseph & 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

