

October 6, 2024
27th 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.

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!!



OKTOBERFEST – St. Therese Church, 536 Decker Avenue will host its Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct 12th from 4:00 – 8:00PM and Sunday, Oct 13th from 11:00AM – 4:00PM. Join us for delicious Ethnic food including KOLBASSI, HALUSKI, GERMAN POTATO SALAD, PIGS, PIROGHI, APPLE STRUDEL, HOME MADE PIES, BEVERAGES and MUCH MORE! Saturday there will be a **Meat Raffle Wheel** (5:30-7:30PM),

theme basket raffle. Music by the **Rhythm Masters** on Sunday from 12:30-3:30. Drawing for the Basket raffle will be at 4PM Sunday. Everyone is welcome!! Hope to see you there!!!



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 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; Debbie Magro: 814-243-9028 or ddmagro1958@gmail.com. Thank you for your support. God bless you for your kindness.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$85.00; Adults – \$1,731.25; Monthly – \$55.00; Candles – \$218.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$55.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$80.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$347.50 – Total Collection – \$2,606.75

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 to read from the Gospel according to Mark. For the past three Sundays, we have been hearing Mark's reports of conversations between Jesus and His Disciples. Recall that in Mark's Gospel, Jesus uses these private moments to teach His Disciples in greater detail about the Kingdom of God. Beginning with today's Gospel, Jesus returns to Judea, Jewish territory, and resumes His Public Ministry. The first verse of chapter 10 of Mark's Gospel tells us that crowds gathered around Jesus, and He taught them, as was His custom. Immediately, the Pharisees approach Jesus to test Him.

The Pharisees question Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce. Under specific conditions, divorce was an accepted practice among the Jewish people during the time of Jesus. It was regulated by the Law of Moses, as found in [Deuteronomy 24:1-5](#). This law only permits that a husband may divorce his wife if he finds her to be indecent. This is the justification that the Pharisees reference when Jesus inquires about the commandment of Moses. In reply, Jesus quotes from the Book of Genesis and counters that God's original intention was that men and women would become one flesh in marriage. Jesus describes the teaching of Moses as a concession made to God's original intention because of human stubbornness.

In private, Jesus' Disciples question Him further about this teaching on divorce. It is to His Disciples that Jesus lays out the implications of His teaching by explaining that remarriage after divorce is adultery. Jesus' teaching was more restrictive than the teaching of the Pharisees, which permitted remarriage. Jesus further distinguished His teaching from the cultural norms of His time by applying His words equally to men and women. Jewish culture permitted only that a husband may divorce his wife. Wives were not permitted to divorce their husband for any reason, including adultery.

At first glance, the final part of today's Gospel seems unconnected to the previous teaching about divorce. When read together, however, these passages present a strong picture of Jesus' emphasis on the importance of family. God intended for women and men to be joined together in marriage. Among the purposes of marriage is the raising of children. By welcoming children and fostering their relationship with God, parents and families bear witness to the Kingdom of God.

At the end of today's Gospel, the people were bringing their children to Jesus, and again Jesus' disciples show that they just don't get it. Recall that in the Gospel for each of the past two Sundays, Jesus has taught His Disciples the value and importance of these "little ones" in the Kingdom of God. Yet in today's Gospel, the disciples try to prevent people from bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus reprimands His Disciples and welcomes these children. Again Jesus offers these children as an example of the kind of complete trust and dependence upon God that ought to be the attitude of all believers.

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Our readings this week speak to each of our domestic churches – the little churches that we call our families. They bring us back to the very beginning of time and call us to restore what God had intended for each of us.

As Genesis reminds us, God created woman as a partner for man and He desires that they become unified. It is in this union of marriage that man and woman work together to bring their family to Heaven. This is the mission that our families must be united in. We must ask ourselves, how are we living out that mission? It should be the very heart and soul of our families.

As we think about our families this week – whether it be a single household or a family of 10 – let us find small ways in which we can live out our mission to bring our families to heaven.

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.

