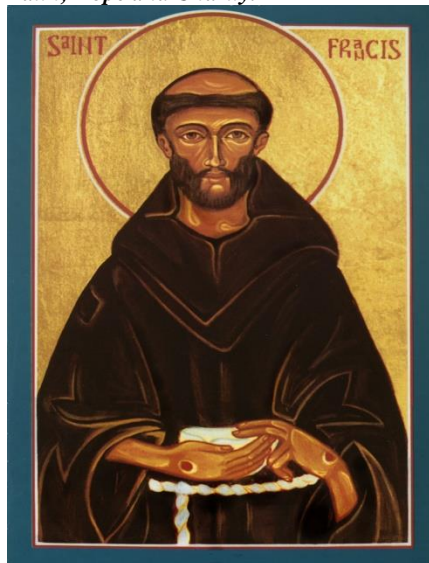


November 24, 2024
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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.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 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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED — Will close at 12 NOON on Wednesday, November 27th and will reopen on Monday, December 2nd. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS - Thanksgiving Day, November 28th Mass will be held at 9:00AM.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER – St. Francis Parish Office will follow the Johnstown School District's and/or Bishop McCort's schedule. If there is a 2 hour delay, the Parish Office will open 2 hours late (11:00 AM), and all meetings/ activities will take place. If school is closed or has a virtual/remote learning day the Parish Office will be closed and all meetings/activities will be cancelled. If there is an unscheduled early dismissal the Parish Office will close early and all meetings/activities will be cancelled. **Please note, scheduled Mass WILL BE celebrated regardless.**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS – There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule for Immaculate Conception, Christmas & New Years. Please sign-up as soon as possible so we are able to make sure all Masses are covered.

ALL SOULS PICTURE PICKUP - Those of you who brought in pictures of loved ones for All Souls, are being asked to please pick up your pictures at your earliest convenience on the table under the St. Michael the Archangel statue. Thank You!

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY – We will be holding our Annual Children's Christmas Party on **December 8th** at the Activity Building from 1-3PM. Children up to age 12 are welcome to join. Sign-up sheet is in the Vestibule. Last day for sign-ups is December 1st. If anyone is willing to donate any cookies or if there are any volunteers who would like to help out, or any high school students who need service hours, please contact Heather at (814)243-0715.

MEN'S CLUB ST. FRANCIS COFFEE – THIS WILL BE THE LAST TIME TO ORDER COFFEE!!!! All orders must be turned in by December 8th, no late orders will be taken. Pickup will be December 14th & 15th. For you early Christmas shoppers, remember, coffee makes a great Christmas gift! Thank you for your support! Any questions you can contact Phil Scott at 814-525-7090.

THANK YOU – For your generosity in helping to defray the cost of the new Divine Mercy Statue positioned in the Chapel wing.

GUESS WHAT?! – It has been announced that Blessed Carlo Acutis, the 15 year old Italian boy, will be canonized on Sunday, April 27, 2025!!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$117.00; Adults – \$2,322.25; Monthly – \$302.00; Candles – \$206.00; All Saints – \$26.00; All Souls – \$29.00; Thanksgiving – \$90.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$5.00; Online Giving - \$327.50 – Total Collection - \$3,424.75.

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

The Holy Family Candle will burn For: Special Intentions – From: Carol & Joel Mangus

A PRO-LIFE PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Father of mercies, God of all creation, Source of life and of every blessing, We thank you today, and every day of our loves, for all that you give us! Our Thanksgiving is not only a duty, But a joy and a source of strength, Because it reminds us of your faithful love, And inspires us with the hope of a future filled with blessings! Lord, we thank you for guiding our fathers, Who, inspired by the prophets and by the saving work of Your Son, Founded a nation where all might live as one, Acknowledging their dependence on you as the source of their right to life. We thank you for your blessings in the past, And for all that, with your help, we must yet achieve. We ask you to bless us as we thank you, That our giving thanks may be accompanied by our firm resolve to proclaim, celebrate, and serve the gift of human life, born and unborn. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church's Liturgical Year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the Passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

In John's Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today's reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John's Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against Him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; He is not a Jew, and He seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate's questions, Jesus distinguishes His kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus' mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.

Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John's Gospel. Recall that in His prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see [John 17:6-18](#)), Jesus prayed for His Disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. In today's reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that His Kingdom is not of this world: If His Kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save Him. Again we hear echoes of John's theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John's Gospel to understand the context for Jesus' words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John's language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John's Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as King and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus' kingship was hidden from many of His contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through His crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all.

Nov 24, 2024 – Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Today is our last Sunday of Ordinary Time for this liturgical year as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925, at a time when the world was experiencing a rise of secularism, materialism, individualism, and an increasing denial of Christ's existence and authority. The hope was that the establishment of this feast would accomplish three goals: that nations would see that the Church has the right to freedom, that leaders and nations would see that they are required to give respect to Christ, the King of kings, and that the faithful would be strengthened and encouraged by the reminder that Christ must reign in our hearts, minds, wills and bodies.

We are on the verge of a new Church year and the holy season of Advent, and this week is an ideal time to take stock of our priorities. To see if we really are allowing Christ to reign in all aspects of our daily lives and to ask if He comes first in our schedules, our budgets, and the use of our skills and talents. It's also a great moment to celebrate! We are not only servants of Christ the King, but we are also His brothers and sisters. This should fill us with great joy! After celebrating the Holy Eucharist, take some time to celebrate at home too. Christ is King.

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 Sobacky, 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.

