

March 2, 2025
8th 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
Asst. DRE – Deacon Bruce Becker

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 – Congratulations on the Baptism of **Stella Roma Glennon** and her parents, Michael and Chelsea, and Godparents, Daniel Glennon and Maura Glennon.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS – Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour on Sunday, March 9th!!

SPECIAL THANKS & BLESSINGS – to Gary Woodruff as he resigns from the position of President of the Parish Council.



MEN'S CLUB MEETING – Will be meeting on Thursday, March 6th at 6:30PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!!

LENTEN RICE BOWLS – This year, CRS Rice Bowl celebrates its 50th Anniversary. This is the time for us to recommit to our global family as we learn about communities in Nigeria, Guatemala and Bangladesh. At this very moment, millions of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are facing life threatening levels of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. At the root of this crisis is a perfect storm of poverty, climate change, conflict and inequality. There is no one solution to breaking the cycle of hunger – but we can do our part through CRS Rice Bowl by answering Jesus' invitation to us to share bread of life with our sisters and brothers during Lent – so all may live with dignity. **75% of alms collected through CRS Rice Bowls supports CRS programs around the world. 25% stays here in our Diocese to help fight hunger and poverty. Please help and do your part to help the less fortunate!**

ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on **Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025**, 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 1:00PM (Take Out Only)**. The full menu will be served from 2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat in or take out. Orders for lunch and dinner will be taken from 9:00AM until 1:00PM on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, by calling 814-539-3518. We welcome walk-ins, but strongly suggest that orders be placed in advance. Meals will be served while supplies last. All help is greatly appreciated. ****DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED!!****



YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – The Johnstown and Altoona young adult groups are hosting a young adult retreat on March 8th from 9am-6pm at Saint Francis University. We are welcoming Bishop Waltersheid from the Diocese of Pittsburgh on March 26th. All young adults aged 18-39 are invited to join us! For more information or to register for the retreat contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

SPECIAL THANKS – To Phil Scott and the Men's Club for the Organization of the Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles created by Blessed Carlo Acutis. And to all who provided protection for the Exhibit during opening hours each day, and to all who provided the food and drinks! God Bless you all!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$152.00; Adults – \$2,222.25; Monthly – \$70.00; Candles – \$121.00; Funeral – \$175.00; Initial Offering – \$5.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$5.00; Easter Flowers – \$20.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$5.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$3,010.25

Background on the Gospel Reading

The third and final section of Luke's Sermon on the Plain begins: and He told them a parable. There are actually four parables, three of which we read today. They are all about how to be a good disciple.

The blind cannot lead the blind. And a disciple cannot be a good disciple unless he or she has learned from the Teacher. Everyone who is fully trained is like the Teacher Who knows how to cure the blind. Before you can be a good disciple and teach others, you must take care of yourself. Do not try to take a speck out of your brother's eye until you have taken the board out of your own. Finally, only when you have purified yourself, can you produce the good works that the Teacher requires. Discipleship asks us to produce good deeds. But to produce them requires the integrity and purity of heart found in the Teacher. When people see your good deeds they will know that this is because you have a good heart.

The final parable, which we do not read today, is about building on the solid foundation of rock and not on sand. This is the only way to face the difficulties a disciple will encounter and survive.

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Today's readings exhort us Christian disciples to form ourselves – mind and heart – in imitation of Christ so we can better reflect His goodness in our daily lives.

Everything we have is a gift from God to be used for His honor and glory. This includes the gift of speech and, even more broadly, all forms of modern-day communication – email, text, Twitter, Facebook, etc. What comes forth from our mouths, and our phones and keyboards, reflects what is in our minds and hearts. Our ability to communicate with each other is itself a gift that we must steward well.

The more intentionally and frequently we look to Jesus as our mentor in these interactions, the more we will become like Him, our Teacher and our Lord. Then, all that we do and say (and Tweet and post) will bring others closer to Him. This is the life's work of the Christian steward. It is privileged work indeed.

MEN'S CLUB CORNHOLE – St. Francis Men's Club will be hosting a Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, March 9th and 23rd at the Activity Center at 134 Barron Avenue. Registration starts at 12 Noon and games start at 1:00PM. \$5.00 entry fee. Men, Women, Couples and Singles welcome! Payouts for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams! Food & Drinks available. Bring your own beer!

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP – on August 5th to see "NOAH" at a 3:00 PM show time. For more details, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667. RSVP no later than June 1st.

\$5.00 TICKET – St. Francis Fundraising Committee is selling a \$5.00 ticket to go off April 1st evening Daily Number. Winner gets \$500, \$250 one number above, \$250 one number below. Tickets sold before all Masses. Your support is deeply appreciated.

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of March for – Special Intentions for two Dear Friends.

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, 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 Guarino, 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, Fort Moore, Savannah, GA.; **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.

