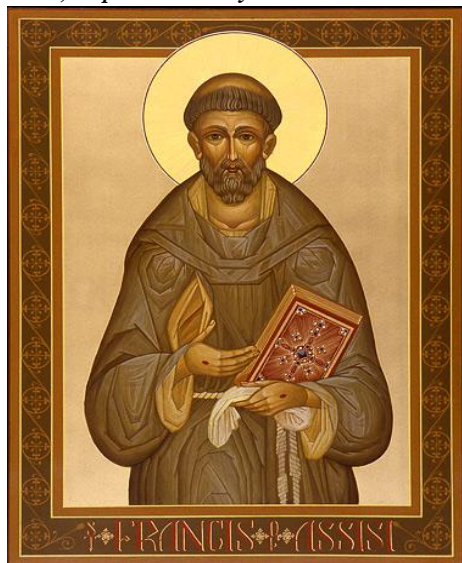


March 16, 2025
2nd Sunday of Lent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@atlanticbnn.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 –
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 – Holy Day – 5:30 PM

[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

LENT MASS SCHEDULE: Daily Mass will be celebrated at 9:00AM with the exception of Tuesday when Mass will be celebrated at 6:15 PM. Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday of Lent at 7:00 PM. Divine Mercy along with Lenten Lamentations and Benediction will be held on Sundays of Lent at 3:00 PM.

2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES DRIVE – The Catholic Ministry Drive begins throughout our Diocese this weekend. This year’s theme is “Follow Me” (Mt 16:24), invites us into a deeper relationship with Christ, as we share in His Mission of love and service, proclaiming the Good News to all. Our Parish Goal for 2025 is \$16,800.

MEN’S CLUB CORNHOLE – St. Francis Men’s Club will be hosting a Cornhole Tournament on Sunday, March 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.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LENTEN FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on Friday, March 21, 2025 and Friday, April 4, 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 1:00 PM on the day of the fish fry 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.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS - Parish Council is asking for volunteers to help with the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. St. Francis is volunteering on the 4th Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **Monday, March 24th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COFFEE ORDERS – We are selling St. Francis Coffee for Easter. Order forms are in the Main Vestibule. Orders are due to the Parish Office no later than Monday, March 31st. Pickup will be the weekend of April 5th and 6th after each Mass.

PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF POPE FRANCIS - Lord, we lift up Pope Francis to You, asking for Your healing touch upon his body and spirit. Grant him strength, comfort, and restoration, as he continues to serve Your Church with faith and love. May Your peace surround him and Your grace guide his recovery. We trust in Your mercy and ask that You bless him with health and vitality, so he may continue to lead us in Your truth. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$120.00; Adults – \$2,626.75; Monthly – \$660.00; Candles – \$254.00; Easter Flowers – \$115.00; Mandeville – \$179.00; First Offering – \$5.00; Black & Indian Mission – \$125.00; Donation – \$120.00; Online Giving - \$320.00 – Total Collection - \$4,524.75.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On the Second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert and temptation by the devil to the glory shown in Jesus' Transfiguration. On the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel always tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday, we always hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The report of Jesus' Transfiguration is found in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The context for Luke's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew and Mark. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about His Passion. After the prediction there is a discussion of the cost of Discipleship in each of these Gospels. The placement of the Transfiguration story close to Peter's confession and Jesus' prediction encourages us to examine the Transfiguration in the larger context of the Paschal Mystery.

The Transfiguration occurs on a mountain in the presence of just three of Jesus' Disciples—Peter, James and John. These are among the first Disciples that Jesus called in Luke's Gospel. We recently heard this Gospel at Mass, on the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Only Luke's Gospel, which often describes Jesus at prayer, indicates that Jesus is praying as His appearance changes to bright white. Luke indicates that the three Disciples were sleeping while Jesus prayed. They will be sleeping again as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane before His Passion and Death.

As they awake, Peter and the Disciples see Jesus Transfigured and Elijah and Moses present with Jesus. Elijah and Moses, both significant figures in the history of Israel, represent Jesus' continuity with the Law and the Prophets. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospels, there is reference to conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel explains that this conversation is about Jesus' later accomplishments in Jerusalem. Luke describes this as His exodus, connecting Jesus' Passion, Death, and Resurrection with the Israel's Exodus from Egypt.

On witnessing Jesus' Transfiguration and seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Having just awoken, perhaps Peter's offer was made in confusion. We also notice that Peter reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus "master" instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from Heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding that the Disciples listen to Him. This voice from Heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' Baptism which, in Luke's Gospel, spoke directly to Jesus as God's Son.

In His Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, the Disciples keep secret what they have seen. Not until they also witness His Passion and Death will the Disciples understand Jesus' Transfiguration. We hear this story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection even as we prepare to remember Jesus' Passion and Death.

March 16, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Lent

In last week's Gospel, we followed Jesus into the desert where He fasted and prayed. This week, He leads us up a mountain to witness His Transfiguration. Why these experiences? Because He is preparing us to go with Him in a few short weeks to a hilltop, Golgotha, where He will lay down His life for our sake – and finally He will take us to an empty cave where He triumphed over sin and death once and for all.

Jesus perfectly understands our humanity. He knows we need to experience times of self-denial and testing, in order to arrive at mountain-top moments when we see and feel His glorious presence in our lives. The reason for all of our fasting and prayer and almsgiving during Lent is to be reawakened to all God has done for humanity and to all that He has done for each of us personally. While there is nothing sinful in complacency in our daily routine, as Christian stewards we are called to so much more!

We need to train ourselves, or allow Jesus to train us, to say 'Yes' to His will and to offer our lives back to Him. In doing so, we too become 'transfigured.' This is what it means to live fully awake; this is a stewardship way of life and it is glorious indeed.

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 Guarno, USCG; **Master at Arms 2nd Class Izeke W. Pinkas**, Fallon, NV; **Lt. Col. Joshua P. Higgins**, US Army; **Lt. Col. Melinda Rovon 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.

