

**April 6, 2025**  
**5<sup>th</sup> 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@atlanticbbn.net](mailto: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 –**  
**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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**THANK YOU** – To St. Francis of Assisi Fundraising Committee and all who volunteered to make our Lenten Fish Fries a success! May God Bless you for sharing your time and talents!

**NO LIGHTING CANDLES** – Please do NOT light any 6-day candles and 4 hour votive candles after TODAY, SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>. No candles should be lit from Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday) through Holy Week until after the Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday (April 19<sup>th</sup>).

**BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS** – Fr. Anthony Francis will be Blessing Easter Baskets at the Activity Center on Barron Avenue on Holy Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM (Noon).

**HOLY WEEK MINISTRY** – We are in need of 1 more Altar Server and Eucharistic Minister for Holy Thursday. 1 more Altar Server for Good Friday. 1 more Eucharistic Minister for Holy Saturday.

**CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY** – St. Francis Children's Easter Party will be held on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Activity Center from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Please sign-up in the Main Vestibule on the sign-up sheet. If anyone is willing to volunteer and/or donate cookies & juice boxes, please contact Heather at (814)243-0715.

**RICE BOWLS** – Please return your Rice Bowls in the collection basket as soon as possible!

**SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP** – on August 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**SEDER MEAL** – Sign-up sheet for the Seder Meal is in the Main Vestibule. It will be held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM at the Activity Building. We ask that you bring a covered dish. The Church will provide the Paschal Lamb and meat.

**PUBLIC ROSARY** – Praying for Vocations to the Priesthood Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM ST. CLEMENT CHURCH, Upper Yoder – Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> NOON CENTRAL PARK, Downtown Johnstown OR St. Anne Shrine @ St. John Gualbert Cathedral (depending on weather).

**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.

**WEST END PICKERS, TRASH TO TREASURES INDOOR YARD SALE** – St. Therese Church Social Hall on May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Get your spring cleaning going and donate your items. We will accept clothing. No large appliances or large furniture. Call 814-322-5558 or 814-248-8989 for pickup of your items or drop off the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds from this sale go towards our projects of surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes, and community events.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$130.00; Adults – \$2,184.25; Monthly – \$105.00; Candles – \$166.00; Easter – \$12.00; Easter Flowers – \$75.00; Holy Thursday – \$5.00; Good Friday – \$5.00; Catholic Relief – \$197.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$3,114.25

## Background on the Gospel Reading

The Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter among Jesus, the Scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

In John's Gospel, the conflict between Jesus and the Scribes and Pharisees occurs much earlier than in the Synoptic Gospels. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem is reported at the beginning of John's Gospel. Even after this event, Jesus continues to teach in the Temple. After returning to Galilee for a time, Jesus again enters Jerusalem and cures a man on the Sabbath. From this point forward in John's Gospel, the Pharisees are described as making plans for Jesus' arrest and seeking His Death.

In the chapter preceding today's Gospel, Jesus was teaching in the Temple area. Feeling threatened by His teaching and His actions, the chief priests and the Pharisees are already sending guards to arrest Jesus. The guards return, however, without arresting Jesus because they have been impressed by His words. Even more than this, some among the crowds are considering the possibility that Jesus is the Messiah. The Chief Priests and the Pharisees change their plan. Before making an arrest, they seek to gather more evidence against Jesus by posing a question intended to trap Jesus.

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The Scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in [Mark 12:13-17](#). Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with His finger, addresses those who stand before Him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to His writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what He wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (See [Luke 18:9-14](#)).

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the One Who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the One without sin and thus our Judge, offers us who are sinners His mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

**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 Czrynik, 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.

