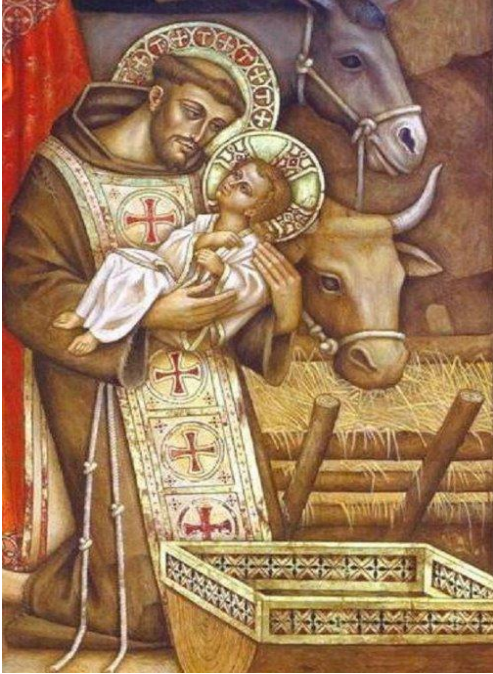


December 24, 2017
Fourth Sunday of Advent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Mission Statement: St. Francis of Assisi is a Roman Catholic worshipping community, dedicated to ministering to our members and to the greater community in the image given to us by Jesus. This 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

Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632

Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofofassisijohnstown.com>

Daily Mass Schedule at St. Francis of Assisi

Mon., Wed.; Thurs., Fri. – 8:00AM; Tues.–6:30PM;
Sat - 8:00AM

First Friday 8:00AM and 5:30 PM

Confession – Tues., 6:00PM, Sat. 3:15 – 3:45PM

First Friday 5:00PM

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 4:00PM / Sunday – 7:30AM / 9:30AM

Parish Secretary – Carol Pisula

Office Hours – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. thru Thurs

Parish Council President – Ryan Woodruff – 659-9781

Acting Finance Council President – Brian Mayko

Cemetery Council President - William Heim – 254- 2942

Director of Religious Education – Carol Pisula 254-1961

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 6 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 8:30AM – 5:30PM.

Rosary Society – First Monday of the month at 6:00PM. Recitation of the Rosary, Reflection, Benediction.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 – Vigil of the Nativity – 4:00PM Mass, 11:45PM Christmas Carols, 12Midnight Mass
Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord – 9:00AM Mass
Sunday, December 31 – **NO VIGIL MASS** for Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Monday, January 1 – 9:00AM Mass – **Not** a Holy Day of Obligation

SPECIAL DAILY MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS WEEK: Wednesday, December 27 – 9:00AM; Thursday, December 28 – 9:00AM; Friday, December 29 – 9:00AM; Saturday, December 30 – Regular 8:00AM.

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, as well as Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2.

CAROLERS NEEDED – Wednesday, December 27 – 6:00PM. Meet at the Barron Avenue Entrance of the Church and dress for caroling in the neighborhood. Bring a flashlight! Refreshments afterwards in the Church Hall. Please call Gale at 539-0155 or Dawn at 244-2385 so we can get a count. Start humming!

GOB ICING will be made WEDNESDAY, January 3 and gobs will be put together on THURSDAY, January 4. Please note change of days due to the Holiday. Please consider helping to pack. Hours: Thursday, 8:00AM – 10:00AM and 6:00PM – 8:00PM.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 is the First Friday of the month. Adoration will begin after the **8:00AM Mass** and continue until 5:30PM. Signup sheets are in the vestibule of the Church. There should be at least two adorers present for each time slot. (This is also a matter of safety for the Blessed Sacrament – adorers adore and protect.)

SANCTUARY CANDLE will burn this week for +Mr & Mrs. Stephen Prebehalla & +Mr. & Mrs. Albert Dadey, Sr. by Jim & Sue Ellen Dadey.

WINTER SPECIAL tickets for the month of January 2018 will be available for purchase this weekend. Chance to win \$500 on New Year's Day, \$100 on Saturdays and Sundays and \$50 each weekday, \$200 – Martin Luther King. Cost: \$5.00. **ALL TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 in order for winners to be paid.** Any unsold tickets become the property of the Parish.

MARDI GRAS – Saturday, February 3, 2018 featuring “Flood City Brass” from 6:00PM until 11:00PM. Delicious Turkey Dinner, great door prizes, chances to win all evening with qualifiers, baskets, 50/50 tickets, etc. Tickets: Adults - \$20, children 6-17 - \$10, under 5 – free. “All You Can Drink” Beer bracelet for \$5.00. Cash bar available – no outside beverages. Doors open at 5:00PM. Tickets are now on sale.



MARDI GRAS COMMITTEE is asking for donations of baskets valued at a minimum of \$25 or donations of items for baskets. Please call Alice at 536-0948 for more information.

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Frances Nagy whose name was inadvertently omitted from the calendar.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$401.00; Adults - \$2,573.32; Children - \$25.00; Monthly - \$93.00; Candles - \$103.20; Donation - \$50.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$5.00; Holy Day - \$23.00; Christmas - \$345.00; Christmas Flowers - \$40.00; Religious Retirement - \$51.00; Oplatek - \$59.00. Total Collection - \$3,768.52. 165 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 27 – Christmas Caroling – 6:00PM
Friday, January 12 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, February 3 – Mardi Gras – 6:00PM – 11:00PM

Liturgical Reflection... The Word of God at the time of death reminds believers of the promise of life. The biblical readings proclaim to those gathered at the Paschal Mystery, teach remembrance of the dead, convey the hope of being gathered together again in God's Kingdom, and encourage the living to give witness to the Christian life. The living Word of God provides those mourning the opportunity to hear God speak to them in their needs, fears, and hopes. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998/1989, General Introduction, Number 22. 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... "After Jesus it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example teaches most perfectly the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life; she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as 'handmaid' in terms of service and fidelity." (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, USCCB, 1992).

Families and the Gospel –December 24 – Luke 1:26-38 – Q: What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son who ran away from them and was eventually executed as a criminal? A: HOLY! Two lessons: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God.



The Eternal Word of God becomes flesh and make His dwelling among us. This is Christmas Day and the Christian world celebrates the mystery of God becoming one like us in all things but sin. In the course of time and when all was ready, God sent His only Begotten Son. The God Who has no beginning or end has arrived as an infant in a manger. We are filled with holy awe; we gather with the Angels and shepherds to sing our Christmas praises. Glory to God in the highest and peace to people of good will! 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Families and the Gospel – December 25 – Luke 2:15-20 – This Christmas remember your task as a parent is the same as Mary's: We must not let our doubts, fears and unfulfilled expectation get in the way of our loving **acceptance** of our children.

A Prayer for Christmas Dinner

Lord Jesus, Our loving Savior, this Christmas we again honor Your coming among us, born in a poor stable, in the humble village of Bethlehem. Watch our family as we gather to celebrate this Holy Day. Keep us always in Your peace, love and charity. Fill this home with Your comforting presence, and grant health and happiness to us all our loved ones throughout this Joyful Season. Bless the food we now share, those who have provided it and those who prepared it. Fill our hearts with gratitude for Your many wonderful gifts, and with generosity to help care for those less fortunate. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czarnik, Mary Davis, Joan Delusa, LeAnn Golby, Alicia Junghans, Kathryn Legat, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Larry Olek, Ed Popovich, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, James Schuster, Mary Slezak, Bernadette Solomon, Fr. John Slovikovski, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobecky, Leona Sutt, Agnes Swarney, Jeanne Toth, Irene Virus, and Sheila Weppner, Helen Yursky.

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; **Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Rambish**, US Navy, Coronado Naval Base, San Diego; **Major Melinda Rován Corallo**, Lakenheath Air Force Base, England; **HMC David Bakos**, US Navy; **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, **Airman 1st. Class Maxwell Schutte**, F. E. Warren, WY; **Sgt. Bryan Maxwell Porath**, **Captain Aaron Donahey**, US Army, Fort Stewart, GA; **Petty Officer 1st Class Heather L. Dovala**, Great Lakes, IL.; **Spec Jarod Pisarchik**, Army National Guard; **Ens. Kara Yingling**, Pentagon; **Lt. JG Shannon Yingling**; **Pvt Daniel Maslo**, Camp Geiger, NC; **Senior Airman Devon Gilbert**, Deployed to Middle East; **Senior Airman Daniel Christner**, USAF, 193rd Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **2nd Lt. Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2nd Lt. Ryan Powers**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **Senior Airman Anthony Rosage**, USAF; Fort Gordon, GA; **Tech Sgt. Daniel Bracken**, USAF, deployed to Kobal Afghanistan; **Adken Torchia**, US Army, Fort Benning, GA; **PVT. 1st Class Lucas Tomak**, US Army, Fort Hood, TX; **Lt. Kenneth Yacynych**, US Army, Afghanistan; **Cpl Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, New River, NC.; **A1C Jeremy Williams**, Sheppard AFB, Texas.

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PRO LIFE VIGIL Every Thursday from 4:00PM - 5:00PM we hold a prayer vigil across from the Franklin Street Planned Parenthood facility here in Johnstown. For more information, call Gale at 539-0155.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: Connect with your Creator, Redeemer, and Spiritual Guide in a stress free environment at the Eucharistic Adoration every First Friday of the month from 8:30AM until 5:30PM at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

