

December 31, 2017
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
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.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.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.

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

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

PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED on Monday, January 1 and Tuesday, January 2.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Lewis Oliver who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved one we return to you.

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.)

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.

CANDLE BY SACRED HEART OF JESUS will burn this week for +Marilyn Raymond Cramer by Jeanne & Ray Toth.

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$309.00; Adults - \$3,067.77; Children - \$28.29; Monthly - \$35.00; Candles - \$178.01; Donation - \$125.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$37.00; Holy Day - \$18.00; Religious Retirement - \$25.00; Catholic Charities - \$5.00; Misc. - \$178.88. Total Collection - \$4,006.95. 187 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS: Loose - \$1,044.00; Adults - \$4,174.00; Children - \$58.00; Oplatek - \$88.00. Total Collection - \$5,364.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

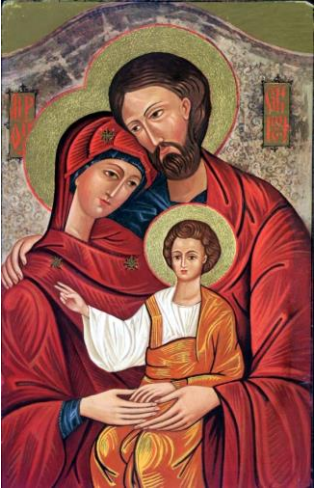
Wednesday, January 3 – Gob Icing
Thursday, January 4 – Pack Gobs – 8:00AM – 10:00AM; 6:00PM – 8:00PM
Friday, January 12 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, February 3 – Mardi Gras – 6:00PM – 11:00PM

Liturgical Reflection... We gaze at the Holy Family this Christmas time. We gather with our families these days at Christmas. Our attention is focused on the Infant Who is surrounded by love. We pray that our families be grounded in the love of the newborn Child. When faced with challenges and crises, turn to the Holy Family and seek guidance and protection. When the challenges of life seem overbearing, turn to Jesus, Mary and Joseph to find comfort. Pray for right judgment and the Faith to live in harmony. 2017, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... We are called to offer everything we have in Faith as an offering to God, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Christian stewards are called to “give thanks to God” as we offer our gifts in the “peace of Christ.”

I am humbled by your outpouring of Christmas greetings and your generosity of Christmas gifts of baked goods, Mass enrollments from various pious organizations and financial contributions. I am profoundly filled with gratitude and beg God's Blessings of Peace, Joy and Love upon you and your families. Shalom! *fr. Anthony Francis.*

The Feast of the Holy Family



Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative. Today's Gospel describes the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescription of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the first born son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth. Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after His birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, He was called Jesus, the Name He was given by the Angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor. Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the Feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the Infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and

Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the Infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the Cross. The Canticum of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimitis*, is prayed at Night Prayer, or Compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

Prayer of Blessing – Feast of the Holy Family – O God, You have created us in love and saved us in mercy, and through the bond of marriage You have established the family and willed that it should become a sign of Christ's love for His Church. Shower Your blessings on the families gathered here in Your name. Enable those who are joined by one love to support one another by their fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the Faith in all they say and do. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathy Barczak; Rose Blaschak, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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 Rovon 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.