

January 14, 2018
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
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.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS the family and friends of +Maggie Brue and +Robert Betts who were laid to rest last week. Welcoming God, receive from our hands the loved ones we return to You.

PLEASE NOTE: Mass on Monday, January 15 will be celebrated at **9:00AM**.

KUDOS to all who assisted in any way with putting up and taking down the beautiful Christmas decorations both inside and outside of the Church. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU to all who endured the cold weather last week to make icing and pack gobs. May God Bless you!

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 in the vestibule.



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. Baskets should be brought to the Parish Office or Activity Center by Sunday, January 21st.

THE GABRIEL PROJECT would like to express sincere appreciation to those who so generously donated presents for this year's Christmas Tree project. All the babies in our care received warm clothes, diapers and other necessities. Thank you so much!

MEN'S CLUB Valentine Day Tickets are available in the vestibule after all Masses.

THERE ARE STILL a few boxes of 2018 offering envelopes in the main vestibule. Please check to see if yours may still be there. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$306.07; Adults - \$2,073.29; Children - \$8.00; Monthly - \$548.02; Candles - \$76.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$40.00; Christmas - \$187.00; First Offering - \$222.00; Missalettes - \$129.02; Holy Day - \$161.50; Religious Retirement - \$20.00; Catholic Register - \$10.00; Misc. - \$75.68. Total Collection - \$3,719.50. 120 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.

PLEASE NOTE: Winners of the Winter Special Ticket will be paid on a WEEKLY basis. Thank you for your patience. Winners to date: January 1 - #389 – Betty Riley; January 2 - #253 – Alexander Smith; January 3 – #313 – Joe & Dolores Fatula; January 4 - #481 – Becky Caulifield; January 5 - #750 – Fred Sax; January 6 - #116 – James Sutt; January 7 - #630 – St. Francis of Assisi.

BISHOP MARK has directed parishes in the Diocese not to distribute the Precious Blood in any form effective January 13-14. It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. The Bishop has also directed that the faithful should avoid bodily contact, such as shaking hands, during the Sign of Peace. A genuine nod of the head with eye contact with others at Mass will be the temporary practice. Bishop Bartchak's directives are the result of an advisory from public health officials that cases of the flu and similar contagious viruses remain a serious health concern at this time. During this flu season, reception of Holy Communion on the hand is encouraged; however, reception on the tongue may not be denied. The Bishop's directive will be followed throughout the winter months or until the flu season ends. The Diocese will announce when parishes may return to their regular practices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 14, 21, 28 – Religious Education – 10:45AM – 12Noon
Sunday, January 21 – Confirmation Class – 6:00PM – 8:00PM (due to MLK Holiday weekend Jan. 14)
Friday, January 12 – Fish Fry – 11:00AM – 6:00PM
Saturday, February 3 – Mardi Gras – 6:00PM – 11:00PM
Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday – Fish Fry

ON SUNDAY, January 28, Bishop Gregory of Nysa of the Orthodox tradition will host an ecumenical service at Christ the Saviour Cathedral, 300 Garfield St. The service begins at 2:00PM. Bishop Mark Bartchak will be in attendance. All are invited to participate in this prayer.

Liturgical Reflection... In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points out Jesus, “Behold the Lamb of God!” At every Mass the invitation to receive the Body and Blood of Christ begins with, “Behold the Lamb of God.” When one of our members dies, the Church especially encourages the celebration of the Mass. The funeral liturgy is the central liturgical celebration of the Christian community for the deceased. As the deceased gathered weekly with the Faith community in life, so in death the Christian is commemorated at the Sacred Mysteries, call upon God's mercy. **Order of Christian Funerals**, 1998-1989, Number 46 and 264. 2018, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... Like Samuel in today's first reading, we may not immediately realize that it is God Who is calling us. However, when we do realize that God is calling us to be a servant of His, may we respond as Samuel did, "Here am I Lord; I come to do Your will!"

Families and the Gospel... January 14 – John 1:35-42 – Jesus' question in today's Gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children, or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

Called by Name – We now begin what the Church calls "Ordinary Time." Christmas Season is over, and we begin to see Jesus at work. We begin with a significant story, found in the first reading for Sunday. A young man named Samuel is sleeping in the Temple, as he was allowed to do. He wakes up instantly when he hears his name spoken out loud. He cries out, "Here I am!" and runs to his master, Eli, who is sleeping in another place in the Temple. "You called me, what do you want?" "I didn't call you," Eli rasps. "Go back to sleep." But the same thing happened again. Samuel runs to Eli, with the same result. On the third time, the old man at last understands. Wisely, he says, "Samuel if this happens again, say these words: "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening." Only God can satisfy the desire that is most precious of all in us: the reaching out for a person we want most and for whose sake we love others. So Samuel goes back to sleep. He hears his name called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Following instructions he says, "Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening!" God speaks and Samuel grows up accompanied by the Lord's presence. Another naming is represented in the Gospel. John the Baptist points to Jesus, Who is waiting for two particular men to notice Him and get interested. They start to follow and Jesus says bluntly, "What are you looking for?" They stammer some kind of reply, "Where are You staying?" Jesus replies as He does to you and me: "Come and see." They do go and see, spending the day with Him. One, of them, Andrew, runs to get his brother, Simon, shouting, "we have found the Messiah!" Jesus gives Simon the name Cephas, a new deep identity for him. The word Cephas' deep meaning is "the rock." Peter could never have become fully himself if someone had not called his name all the way to its depths. The same goes for Samuel. God can call any of us by a name that reaches all the way down into our soul, to a place that we do not even know about! Our job is to hear and to grow. Only God can know our very deepest desires, and only God can satisfy the desire that is most precious in all of us: the reaching out for a person we want most and for whose sake we love others. God. Do you sense in your insides a kind voice whispering such an invitation, calling you by your real name, calling you to be a partner of the Christ of God? *John Foley, SJ*