

January 7, 2018
The Epiphany of the Lord
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

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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.



FISH FRY will take place on Friday, January 12 from 11:00AM until 6:00PM. Please consider sharing some of your time and talent to this endeavor. YOUR assistance is vital to the success of the Fish Fry. Donations of bottled water and soda are now being accepted for the Fish Fry as well as baked goods. May God Bless you for your continued help!

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.

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

THANK YOU to the following: *St. Francis Men’s Club* for their generous donation to the Parish and for helping to defray the cost of the children’s Christmas Party; to *Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home* for supplying the calendars for 2018 and to *the Catholic War Veteran’s* for their donation to the Parish. May God Bless you for your generosity!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PARISH LAST WEEKEND: Loose - \$407.00; Adults - \$1,747.30; Children - \$22.00; Monthly - \$7.00.00; Candles - \$121.20; Donation - \$110.00; St. Vincent de Paul - \$484.00; Christmas - \$187.00; Flowers - \$7.00; Holy Day - \$7.00; Religious Retirement - \$7.00; Misc. - \$150.00. Total Collection - \$3,256.35. 101 out of 314 families used envelopes. Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.



A HUGE THANK YOU to all who contribute to the food drive for St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen. For 2017, you’ve donated 3,055 pounds of food! That is more than a ton and a half of food. This is very impressive for the first year of this initiative. We will continue to collect food to “feed the hungry”, as the need is great. Thank you so very much!

PLEASE NOTE: Winner of the Winter Special Ticket will be paid on a WEEKLY basis. Thank you for your patience.

CANDLE BY OUR LADY QUEEN OF HEAVEN will burn this week for God’s blessings and improved health for Tamey Swank by Jeanne & Ray Toth.

Liturgical Reflection... Today is the Epiphany of the Lord and the last Sunday of Christmas time. Tomorrow, January 8, is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the formal ending of the Christmas season. Today the Church celebrates with the wise visitors from the East that the Word Made Flesh has arrived for all peoples and all nations. Jesus, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, and Crucified in Jerusalem, is Lord of all races and nations. May the Christian Gospel be proclaimed throughout the world to all inhabitants. 2018, *Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 925 S. Logan Blvd., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648.*

Stewardship Reflection... The three Magi from the East paid homage to the Infant Jesus with their “first fruits” of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gifts for my own necessity, and not my abundance, have I presented to the newborn Savior?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, January 7, 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

The Feast of the Epiphany

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt. Matthew’s Gospel tells a version of Jesus’ birth that is different from the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod...” The story of the census is found only in Luke’s Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew’s Gospel. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew’s Gospel, they represent the Gentile’s search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because Priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death. The word Epiphany means

“manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including His birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first miracle at Cana.

Epiphany Household Blessing

To take the celebration of Epiphany from church and the parish family to your home, all you need is holy water. Take the sign and place it above your doorway:

20 + C + M + B + 18
20 + C (asper) + M (elchoir) + B (althazar) + 18

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation: by the guidance of a star You led the Magi to Your Child and by the light of Faith You bring us to know Christ as Lord, the Messiah You have sent. Bless us as we mark our doors in Your honor.

While the house is being blessed:

Bless us as we sprinkle our homes with this water, sign of Lord Jesus’ Baptism in the River Jordan.

May our homes where these things are used in Faith, be dwelling places of goodness, humility, self-control, mutual respect for one another, hospitality toward strangers and loving obedience to Your Word.

May all who come to our home this year rejoice to find Christ among us; and may we seek and serve everyone we meet.

We ask this 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 Guarno, 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.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST – Knights of Columbus Council 1106 is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast at Resurrection Parish Hall, corner of 4th Avenue and Chestnut Street on Sunday, January 14 from 8:30AM to 12:30PM. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, and orange juice. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$2 for children under 12 years of age.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION will be having a Swiss Steak Dinner on Sunday, January 21 from 11:00AM to 2:00PM at the Church Hall, 201 Third St., Conemaugh. Cost: \$9.00. Take outs are available by calling 535-2698.

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.