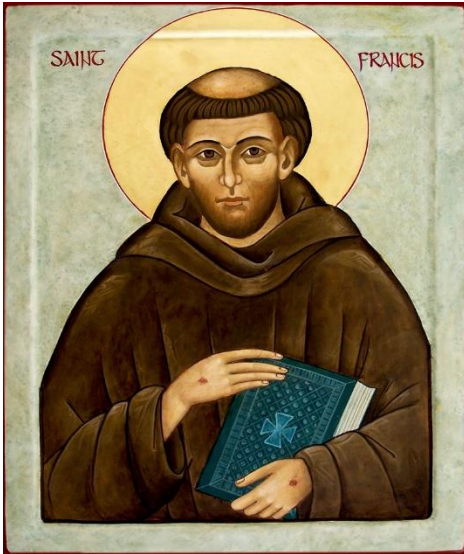


April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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@atlanticbnn.net
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](#)
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijtown.com>
Parish Secretary – Megan Billow
Office Hours – 9:00AM to 3:00PM – Mon. thru Thurs.
Parish Council President – Gary Woodruff – 248-1776
Finance Council President – Robert Bimeal
Cemetery Council President – William Heim – 254- 2942
Director of Religious Education – Deacon Bruce Becker
Men's Club President – Philip Scott
Rosary Society – Cecilia Neiderer
Gabriel Project – 814-418-1813

MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM
Saturday Vigil– 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM & 9:30AM

[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 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 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

OUR LADY OF ANGELS PROVINCE – Fr. Jobe Abbass, OFM Conv., the Delegate for the Our Lady of the Angels Province Marian Apostolate, **will visit our Parish May 11 & 12** and preach on the lives of three contemporary Polish saints, St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, OFM Conv., St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, OLM, and Pope Saint John Paul the Great and their devotion to Mary Immaculate. The holy lives of these great saints of the twentieth century continue to bless the Catholic Church and the world. In his talk, Fr. Jobe will look at each saint's unique "entrustment" to the Immaculate Mother of God that inevitably led to a deeper relationship with Christ and a fuller understanding of God's will in their lives – and reflect how this "entrustment" may deepen our own relationship with Christ. During Fr. Jobe's visit, first-class relics of the three saints will be displayed for the veneration of the Faithful!

MOTHER'S DAY TICKETS – Please consider helping the St. Francis Fundraising Committee to sell our Mother's Day tickets. Stop by our table in the vestibule and sign up and take tickets to your families or places of work. We really need to make this a team effort. The ticket is \$10.00 with chances to win \$500 each day Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Mother's Day!! You may also call Cindy at 814-539-3128. St. Francis Fundraising Committee.

PIZZA SALE – St. Francis of Assisi Fundraising Committee will be having a **Marianne's Sub and Pizza Sale. Orders will be due with money by June 2nd and pickup will be on June 15th.** Watch for order forms in the Main Vestibule next week!

GOB ICING – Welcome, Therese Cassat, as the new coordinator for our famous St. Francis Gobs. The Gob Icing will be made on April 30th from 7:00 AM to 10 AM. Gob packing will be on Wednesday, May 1st, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Please come help Therese and the gob crew. There will be a gob sale on May 18th from 9:00 AM – 12:00 Noon.

ST. FRANCIS COFFEE ORDERS –Orders will be ready for **pickup on April 27th & 28th.** Next tasting will be on Mother's Day weekend after each Mass at the Activity Center! We thank you for your support!!

SIGHT & SOUND ~ "DANIEL" – St. Francis will be taking a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound to see "Daniel" on Tuesday, August 6th, show time is 3:00 PM and the cost is \$177/person and includes bus, ticket for show & lunch at Shady Maple Smorgasbord Restaurant. If you have any questions, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS TO BE TELEVISED – Remember your loved ones on **Sunday, May 26, 2024 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 am on WATM ABC 23 and will be rebroadcasted that night at 9:00 p.m. on the Breezeline Channel 9.** All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office 814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org. When registering, please give your **name, address, phone number and the name of your spouse who has passed away.** The last day to register is **Wednesday, May 22, 2024.** The event is sponsored by the Diocesan **Family Life Office** and the **Catholic Ministries Drive.**

PARISH PICNIC – Our Annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, July 28th at the ACRP grounds. Moving forward, our annual picnic will be held on the last Sunday of July every year.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing His Disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' Farewell Discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs His Disciples about the importance of following His example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for His Disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about His relationship to His Disciples. In His metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh Himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches His Disciples that His relationship with them will not end after His Death; He will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and His Disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that He began. Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that He began. Jesus also Teaches His Disciples about the importance of the words He has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the Disciples, so too will His Words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in His Name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in His Name.

April 28, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Our readings today teach us what it means to bear fruit as disciples of Christ. We hear in each of our readings that it is from the Lord that good effects will be produced in our lives. And Jesus clearly tells us how to do this in our Gospel, as He says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing." We can remain in Christ by staying faithful to His commandments and frequently receiving the Sacraments. And our day-to-day moments should be a reflection of those commitments. Let us begin this week reflecting on these questions, 'how is God bearing fruit in my life?' and 'have I invited the Holy Spirit to work in my life?' Then let us consider the areas of our days that we can more fully invite the Lord into. May we strive to stay connected to the Vine.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK: Loose – \$230.00; Adults – \$2,207.25; Monthly – \$75.00; Candles – \$265.00; Cemetery – \$25.00; Initial Offering – \$5.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving - \$338.50 – Total Collection – \$3,175.75.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Sally Becker, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czynnik, Clara Dudash, Verne Esposito, 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; Petty Officer 1st Class Paul Rambish, US Navy, Coronado Naval Base, San Diego; Lt. Col. Melinda Rovano 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, Poland.; 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 Eliott Mulvehill, USMC, Birmingham, AL.; Kasey Meredith, O.C.S., USMC, Quantico, VA; 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.

