

February 2, 2025
The Presentation of the Lord
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@atlanticbbn.net
Facebook – St. Francis of Assisi
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijs-town.com>
Parish Secretary – Megan Billow
Office Hours – 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM – Mon. thru Thurs.
Parish Council President – Gary Woodruff – 248-1776
Finance Council President – Robert Bimeal
Cemetery Council President – William Heim – 254- 2942
Men's Club President – Philip Scott
Rosary Society – Cecilia Neiderer
Gabriel Project – 814-418-1813
Asst. DRE – Deacon Bruce Becker

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

BLESSING OF THROATS – Next weekend, February 8th and 9th will be Blessing of Throats at ALL WEEKEND MASSES.

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on **Monday, February 3rd** at 3:00 PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

MEN'S CLUB – Will meet on **Thursday, February 6th** at 6:30PM at the Activity Center. New Members are always welcome!



MUSIC BINGO on **Saturday, FEBRUARY 8, 2025**. Doors open at 5:00 PM. First game starts at 7:00PM. Ticket includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash prizes every half hour!! Also available for purchase will be Qualifiers, 50/50, & basket chances. \$7.00 Beer bracelets will be available. Tables can be reserved. \$20/person, tickets are available before and after all weekend Masses. You also can call Fran King at 814-536-3667.

\$5.00 TICKET – St. Francis Fundraising Committee is selling a \$5.00 ticket to go off April 1st evening Daily Number. Winner gets \$500, \$250 one number above, \$250 one number below. Tickets sold before all Masses. Your support is deeply appreciated.

BASKET DONATIONS – St. Francis Fundraising Committee is asking for donations of baskets for Music Bingo event. \$25 value. You may drop off at the ticket seller table or the rectory office. Thank you.

MAINTENANCE MAN NEEDED – St. Francis of Assisi is looking for a Maintenance man to do day-to-day upkeep at the Activity Building, Church, Rectory and former Convent. Anyone interested please contact the Parish Office at (814)539-1632. It's a part-time job opportunity of 18 - 20 hours per week, Monday - Thursday. Diocesan clearances for Protecting God's Children are necessary.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – Along with the Altoona group we are hosting a young adult retreat on March 8th from 9am-6pm at Saint Francis University. Theology on Tap continues at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm on February 26th with Fr. Dave Peles on The Jubilee Year of Hope: Lent & the Sacred Triduum, March 26th with Bishop Waltersheid, April 30th with Mike Aquilina, May 28th with Br. Isaiah Klena OCD, June 25th TBD, and July 23rd with Fr. Basil Cole O.P. All young adults aged 18-39 are invited to join us! We are also seeking sponsors. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

SUB & PIZZA SALE – St. Francis of Assisi Fundraising will be holding a Sub & Pizza Sale. These subs are delicious and have a variety of flavors to choose from and the extra toppings are vacuumed sealed to keep your sub fresh until you build it. There are also 3 varieties of pizzas available. All orders and money need to be returned by March 2nd and the Subs and Pizzas will be available for pick up on March 15th, from 9AM till 12 Noon. Order forms will be available in the Main Vestibule of the Church. Please consider supporting by placing your order. Don't forget to ask your family, friends and neighbors if they would like to order.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$124.00; Adults – \$1,748.25; Monthly – \$405.00; Candles – \$138.00; St. Vincent De Paul – \$237.00; Initial Offering – \$42.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$15.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$3,124.25

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The Presentation, which is celebrated 40 days after Christmas, is not mentioned in the other Gospels. Only Luke tells the story, most likely because he writes for Gentile Christians who are not familiar with the Jewish Rite of Presentation and Purification. In addition, the intent of Luke's Gospel is to show that God's promise to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus, extends to Gentiles.

Luke recognizes Joseph and Mary as faithful Jews who bring Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Here they present their firstborn Son to the Lord. Jesus is thus consecrated as required by the Law of Moses. Present in the Temple at this time are Simeon and Anna. Both are awaiting the restoration of God's rule in Israel.

Simeon had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see Christ the Lord, the Messiah, before he died. The holy man immediately recognized the infant Jesus as the promised Savior, a "light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Anna also recognized Jesus as the fulfillment of the promise of redemption and spoke about him to all.

Feb 2, 2025 – The Presentation of the Lord

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, when Mary and Joseph brought their infant Son to the Temple in obedience of the laws of their Jewish Faith. Even knowing their Son was God, they still carefully observed the faith practices of their day, bringing Him to the Temple "to present Him to the Lord." The Holy Parents were good stewards of their child, teaching Him to live in obedience of the practices of their Faith from His infancy and throughout His years.

Those of us entrusted with the care of children, whether our own children, godchildren, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, students, etc. – we have a vital role to play in the faith formation of these young ones. We, like the Holy Parents, must steward these children well, forming them in the Faith by both instruction and example throughout their lives.

What a privilege and high calling we have as Christian stewards. Let us take these stewardship lessons to heart and present our gifts and our young ones joyfully to the Lord.

DIOCESE OF ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN – STRENGTH IN CHRIST, MEN'S CONFERENCE – Sunday, March 30th, 2025 from 11:30 AM-5:30 PM at Mount Aloysius College, Cresson. Join us for a day that includes lunch, Sunday Mass, talks from local priests, personal testimonies, and a panel discussion with local Catholic men. There is no cost to attend. Visit www.dioceseaj.org to register online. For those unable to register online, paper registration forms can be found at each parish to complete and return via mail. Registration closes March 21st. Online registration is encouraged due to limited seating.

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of February – To End Abortion – From: Kathy Zierer

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn Feb. 2 – 8 – In Memory of Sisters, Ethel Petak & LeAnn Golby – From: Karen Golby

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EASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Deacon Bruce Becker, Sally Becker, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czyrnik, 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.

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; **Lt. Col. Melinda Rovon 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, Fort Moore, Savannah, GA.; **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 Elliott Mulvehill**, USMC, Birmingham, AL.; **1st Lt. Kasey Meredith**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **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?

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.

