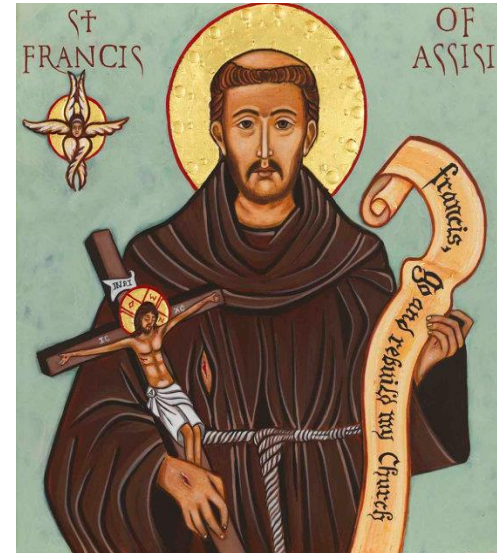


February 16, 2025  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF  
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

*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](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net)  
Facebook – St. Francis of Assisi  
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632  
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisijstown.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** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

PLEASE 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, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Izeke W. Pinkas**, Fallon, NV; **Lt. Col. Joshua P. Higgins**, US Army; **Lt. Col. Melinda Rován Corallo**, Travis Air Force Base, California; **PFC; Lance Corporal Jacob Taylor**, USMC; **Private 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 193<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing; **Lt. Col Steven Thomas**, USAF, deploying to the Middle East; **Captain Colin Harrington**, US Army, Bethesda, MD; **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.; **1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kasey Meredith**, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; **Cpl. Aunna Yingling**, US Army; **Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Gage Pollino**, US Navy; **Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** – Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** in Observance of President’s Day.

**Please keep in your prayers** – The Family and Friends of **+Verna Esposito**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

**Please keep in your prayers** – The Family and Friends of **+Edward Zierer**, who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

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

**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 8<sup>th</sup> from 9am-6pm at Saint Francis University. Theology on Tap continues at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm on February 26<sup>th</sup> with Fr. Dave Peles on The Jubilee Year of Hope: Lent & the Sacred Triduum, March 26<sup>th</sup> with Bishop Waltersheid, April 30<sup>th</sup> with Mike Aquilina, May 28<sup>th</sup> with Br. Isaiah Klena OCD, June 25<sup>th</sup> TBD, and July 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:geoffstumpo@gmail.com).

**MARIANNA’S SUB & PIZZA SALE** – St. Francis of Assisi Fundraising will be holding a Marianna’s 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 – \$87.00; Adults – \$1,670.25; Monthly – \$412.00; Candles – \$109.00; Online Giving - \$320.00 – Total Collection – \$2,598.25

**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](http://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. 16 - 22 – In Memory of Ethel Petak – From: Brian & Michele Osborne

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of February for – Special Intentions for two Dear Friends.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Last Sunday we heard Jesus call Peter to be His Disciple. Jesus then travels with Peter and the other Disciples. Luke reports acts of healing (a person with leprosy and a paralytic man) and the call of Levi, the tax collector. Jesus also replies to questions from the Pharisees regarding fasting and the observance of the Sabbath. In the verses immediately before today's Gospel Reading, Jesus is reported to have chosen 12 men from among His Disciples to be Apostles. *Apostle* is a Greek word that means “one who is sent.”

Today's Gospel Reading is the beginning of what is often called the Sermon on the Plain. We find a parallel to this passage in [Matthew 5:1-7.11](#) that is often called the Sermon on the Mount. As these titles suggest, there are differences and similarities between these Gospel Readings.

When spoken from the mountaintop in Matthew's Gospel, we can't miss the impression that Jesus is speaking with the authority and voice of God. The mountaintop is a symbol of closeness to God. Those who ascend the mountain see God and speak for God; recall the story of Moses and the [Ten Commandments](#). As Luke introduces the location of Jesus' Teaching, Jesus teaches on level ground, alongside the Disciples and the crowd. Luke presents Jesus' authority in a different light. He is God among us.

Another distinction found in Luke's version is the audience. Luke's Sermon on the Plain is addressed to Jesus' Disciples, although in the presence of the crowd; Matthew's Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the crowd. In keeping with this style, the [Beatitudes](#) in Luke's Gospel sound more personal than those in Matthew's Gospel—Luke uses the article “you” whereas Matthew uses “they” or “those.” There is also a difference in number: Matthew describes eight beatitudes; Luke presents just four, each of which has a parallel warning.

The form of the Beatitudes found in Luke's and Matthew's Gospel is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, such as in the Psalms and in Wisdom literature. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God. The word *blessed* in this context might be translated as “happy,” “fortunate,” or “favored.”

As we listen to this Gospel, the Beatitudes jar our sensibilities. Those who are poor, hungry, weeping, or persecuted are called blessed. This is, indeed, a Gospel of reversals. Those often thought to have been forgotten by God are called blessed. In the list of “woes,” those whom we might ordinarily describe as blessed by God are warned about their peril. Riches, possessions, laughter, reputation . . . these are not things that we can depend upon as sources of eternal happiness. They not only fail to deliver on their promise; our misplaced trust in them will lead to our demise. The ultimate peril is in misidentifying the source of our eternal happiness.

The Beatitudes are often described as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. We are challenged to examine our present situation in the context of our ultimate horizon, the Kingdom of God.

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**PURSES & PRIZES: A BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA WITH BIRTHRIGHT!** – Save the Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ The Willow. Doors @ 4:30, Dinner @ 5:30 and Bingo @ 6:30. Come out for a great evening with loads of fun, games of chance and amazing prizes. All proceeds benefit Birthright of Johnstown's pro life mission. See details and buy tickets @ [www.birthrightofjohnstown.org](http://www.birthrightofjohnstown.org) and click on Events. Call Mary Kay @ 814-535-8231

**MEN’S CLUB WINNING NEW YEARS TICKET** – The Winner of the Men’s Club New Year’s ticket is Brian Derubis. Congratulations!!