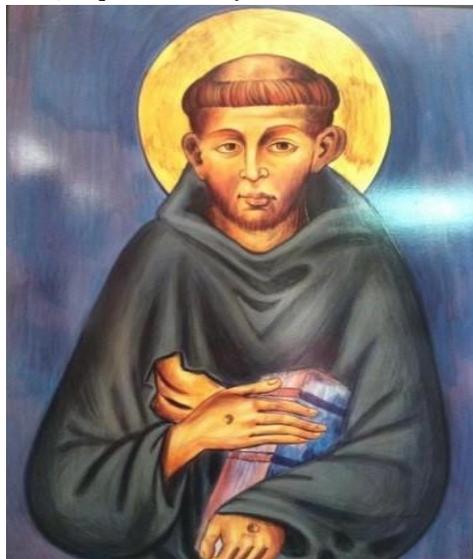


March 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Lent
THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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.stfrancisofassisijohnstown.com>
Parish Secretary - Megan Billow
Office Hours - 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM - Mon. thru Thurs.
Parish Council President -
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 - Holy Day - 5:30 PM

[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 THE BASKETS – Fr. Anthony Francis will be Blessing Easter Baskets at the Activity Center on Barron Avenue on Holy Saturday, April 19th at 12:00PM (Noon).

CHILDREN'S EASTER PARTY – St. Francis Children's Easter Party will be held on Saturday, April 19th at St. Francis Activity Center from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. Please sign-up in the Main Vestibule on the sign-up sheet. If anyone is willing to volunteer and/or donate cookies & juice boxes, please contact Heather at (814)243-0715.

SIGHT & SOUND BUS TRIP – on August 5th to see “NOAH” at a 3:00 PM show time. For more details, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667. RSVP no later than June 1st.

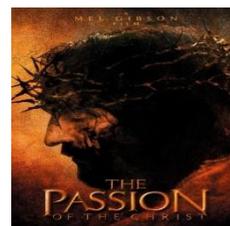
SEDER MEAL – Sign-up sheet for the Seder Meal is in the Main Vestibule. It will be held on Thursday, April 17th at 5:00PM at the Activity Building. We ask that you bring a covered dish. The Church will provide the Paschal Lamb and meat.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LENTEN FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on Friday, April 4, 2025 at the Activity Center, corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. A LUNCH SPECIAL (Fried Fish Sandwich and French Fries, no substitutions) will be offered from 11AM until 1:00PM (Take Out Only). The full menu will be served from 2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat in or take out. Orders for lunch and dinner will be taken from 9:00AM until 1:00 PM on the day of the fish fry by calling 814-539-3518. We welcome walk-ins, but strongly suggest that orders be placed in advance. Meals will be served while supplies last.



NUT ROLLS, POPPY SEED ROLLS, AND BREAD: St. Clare of Assisi Parish is taking orders for Nut Rolls and Poppy Seed Rolls. The cost is \$15.00 per roll. The cost of the Bread is \$5.00. Orders can be placed by contacting the St Clare Parish Office, (814)-535-1133. Pick-up will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 10,11 and 12 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM in the St. Clare of Assisi School Hall. **The pick-up for Bread is Saturday, April 12th, 10:00AM to 6:00PM only.

MOVIE & FAMILY NIGHT – St. Francis of Assisi Parish Council & Men's Club will be hosting a Movie Night presenting “**The Passion of the Christ**” **Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 6:00PM – 8:00PM** at the Activity Building at 134 Barron Avenue. Hot Dogs, snacks & beverages will be available for purchase. Come & enjoy an evening in the presence of Jesus, Who died for us! Please sign-up in the Main Vestibule.



PUBLIC ROSARY – Praying for Vocations to the Priesthood Thursday, April 10th 6:30 PM ST. CLEMENT CHURCH, Upper Yoder – Saturday, April 12th NOON CENTRAL PARK, Downtown Johnstown OR St. Anne Shrine @ St. John Gualbert Cathedral (depending on weather).

PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF POPE FRANCIS - Lord, we lift up Pope Francis to You, asking for Your healing touch upon his body and spirit. Grant him strength, comfort, and restoration, as he continues to serve Your Church with faith and love. May Your peace surround him and Your grace guide his recovery. We trust in Your mercy and ask that You bless him with health and vitality, so he may continue to lead us in Your truth. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$130.00; Adults – \$1,894.25; Monthly – \$15.00; Candles – \$367.00; Easter Flowers – \$335.00; Mandeville – \$15.00; Initial Offering – \$5.00; Solemnity of Mary – \$10.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$3,006.25

Background on the Gospel Reading

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as He journeys to Jerusalem. As He teaches, the Pharisees and Scribes complain and challenge Jesus because He is welcoming sinners at His table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to His critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

The Pharisees taught a scrupulous observance of Jewish Law. In their interpretation and practice, observant Jews who shared table fellowship with sinners would be made unclean. Like Jesus, the Pharisees hoped to lead sinners back to God. The Pharisees, however, required that sinners first become ritually clean—observant of the Pharisees' interpretation of Jewish Law—before sharing table fellowship. This appears to be one of the major differences between the Pharisees and Jesus. Jesus reaches out to sinners while they are still sinners, inviting them to conversion through fellowship with Him. Jesus is God acting among us; by befriending us, He is inviting us to return to friendship with God. Through friendship with Jesus, our sins are forgiven and we, in turn, bear fruit for God. Recall last Sunday's Gospel and the barren fig tree.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behavior of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honor the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honors him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.

March 30, 2025 - 4th Sunday of Lent

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not "measuring up" in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. In fact, the word "lent" comes from the Old English word, "lencten," which means spring. Lent is intended to be a springtime for us in our spiritual lives where all can become new again.

We owe God everything! But let's start by giving him one little thing. Take even a faltering step closer to Him – go to confession, join in the Stations of the Cross, call a family member or friend you are at odds with and try to reconcile. With just the tiniest bit of spiritual "spring cleaning" we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what Lent is all about.

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 Czzyrnik, 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; Lt. Col. Melinda Rován 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?

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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.

