

April 27, 2025
Divine Mercy Sunday
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@atlanticbbs.net
Facebook – [St. Francis of Assisi](https://www.facebook.com/St.FrancisofAssisi)
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

MEMORIAL MASS FOR +POPE FRANCIS – There will be a Memorial Mass for +Pope Francis at the Cathedral in Altoona on Monday, April 28th at 12 Noon. We will also be holding a Memorial Mass for +Pope Francis here at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Tuesday, April 29th at 6:30PM.

PASCHAL CANDLE – This year the Paschal Candle was donated by Andrew and Kathy Legat in Loving Memory of their Father, 30 Year Remembrance.

THANK YOU – To all who helped in any way with the decorating of the Church for the **Easter Season**, and all who helped with the **Seder Meal**, and also to **Heather Kmetz** for the wonderful Easter egg hunt for the Children! May God Bless you for your efforts!

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.

THE WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP – will hold their Trash to Treasures Indoor Yard Sale on May 9 and 10 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Theresa Social Hall, Upper Decker Ave., Something for everyone. Get your Spring cleaning done and donate your items. We will accept clothing. No large appliances or large furniture. Call 814-322-5558 or 814-248-8989 for pick up of your items or you can drop them off the week of May 6. Every little bit helps. Proceeds go towards, surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes, community events.

PARISH PICNIC – Our Annual Church Picnic will be held Sunday, July 27th at the ACRP grounds. More information will be available in the coming weeks!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$320.00; Adults – \$1,948.25; Monthly – \$85.00; Candles – \$154.00; Easter – \$3,450.00; Holy Thursday – \$415.00; Good Friday – \$438.00; Easter Flowers – \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission – \$15.00; Mandeville – \$10.00; Online Giving – \$435.00 – Total Collection – \$7,280.25

April 27, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter; more recently in our Church's history, it has become known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Our Gospel reading from St John is often referred to as the story of 'Doubting Thomas' but the passage involved so much more than the encounter with the skeptical Apostle. It is rich with lessons of Christ's mercy to all, including an encouraging word from our Lord, especially for us, His modern-day Disciples.

We see that none of the Apostles were at their best when Christ first appears to them after His Resurrection. They were paralyzed by fear and doubt, hiding and cowering and afraid. But Jesus returned to them on a mission of mercy. He comes to offer them peace and the restoration of their relationship with Him. And even more, He commissions them to become ministers of His mercy, by giving them the authority to forgive sins. What a precious and powerful gift is this Divine Mercy.

We will find that the more deeply we embrace the gift of mercy through regular Confession, the greater will be our capacity to offer mercy to others because we will see ourselves as we really truly are – forgiven sinners deeply loved by God. Let's commit ourselves to become faithful disciples, stewards of Christ's mercy 2,000 years after His Resurrection. We will be those very ones to whom Jesus gave a “shout out” during His encounter with Thomas: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed” – in His merciful love.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's reading, from the Gospel of John, is proclaimed on the Second Sunday of Easter in each of the three Sunday Lectionary cycles. This should alert us to the significance of the encounters with the Resurrected Jesus described in this reading. This Gospel combines two scenes: Jesus' appearance to His Disciples after His Resurrection and Jesus' dialogue with Thomas, the Disciple who doubted.

Part of the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. We do not know exactly what this form was like. Earlier in John's Gospel, when Mary of Magdala first encountered the Risen Jesus, she did not recognize the figure standing before her until Jesus spoke to her. In Luke's Gospel, the disciples walking on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus until He broke bread with them. We know from readings such as today's that in His Resurrected body, Jesus was no longer bound by space; He appeared to the Disciples in spite of the locked door. And yet, on this Resurrected body, the Disciples could still observe the marks of His Crucifixion.

In today's Gospel, Jesus greets His Disciples with the Gift of Peace and the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus also commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun. As Jesus was sent by God, so too does Jesus send His Disciples. This continuity with Jesus' own mission is an essential element of the Church. Jesus grants the means to accomplish this mission when He gives His Disciples the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us together as a community of faith and strengthens us to bear witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus' words to His Disciples also highlight the integral connection between the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Forgiveness and reconciliation are gifts to us from Jesus. With the grace of the Holy Spirit, we can share these with others. This is another essential aspect of what it means to be Christ's Church. The Church continues Jesus' Ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Thomas, the Disciple who doubts, represents the reality of the Church that comes after this first Community of Disciples. All but the First Disciples of Jesus must believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we may doubt the news that Jesus, Who was crucified and buried, appeared to His Disciples. It is part of our human nature to seek hard evidence that the Jesus Who appeared to the disciples after His death is, indeed, the same Jesus who was crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to be our representative who obtains this evidence. He gives witness to us that the Jesus Who was raised is the same Jesus Who had died. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are among those who are blessed for we have not seen and yet have believed.

PILGRIMAGE TO SACRED SITE OF FATIMA AND LOURDES – Resurrection Church is excited to announce an upcoming meeting to gauge interest in organizing a pilgrimage to the sacred sites of Fatima and Lourdes. This journey offers a unique opportunity for spiritual growth, reflection, and connection with fellow travelers as we visit these significant locations known for their miraculous stories and deep-rooted faith. Meeting **Details:** - **Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025- Time: 6:30 PM - Location: Resurrection Church Hall, 324 Chestnut St., Johnstown PA 15906** During this meeting, we will discuss the potential itinerary, logistics, and approximate costs associated with the pilgrimage. Your input and enthusiasm are vital in shaping this trip, so please come prepared to share your thoughts, ideas, and experience. Whether you are already familiar with these holy sites or simply curious to learn more, I encourage you to join us. Please feel free to bring along anyone who may be interested in this pilgrimage too.

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 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?

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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.

