

August 3, 2025
18th 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
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Facebook – [St Francis of Assisi Church](https://www.facebook.com/StFrancisofAssisiChurch)
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 – Mary Frances King
Finance Council President – Teresa Thompson
Cemetery Council President – William Heim – 254- 2942
Men’s Club President – John Davis
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

Pilgrimage to Washington, DC to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception - October 17, 2025

Important Notice: We are beginning to take reservations for the Buses traveling to Washington DC for the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on **October 17th**. **The cost of the Bus is \$50.00 per person and includes the tip for the bus driver. The bus will depart at EXACTLY 6:30 AM from the HOME DEPOT parking lot, Galleria Extension Drive in Johnstown. ONLY 3 BUSES with 150 SEATS are available.**

Reservations will be taken on a first come first serve basis. To reserve a seat (s) and make payment to Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, please call Catherine Bennett, Secretary at 814-536-6110, x1. You are advised to CARPOOL to the HOME DEPOT because of limited parking. More information and an itinerary for the day will be distributed closer to the event. Please call as soon as possible because seats will fill up fast and these are the only buses reserved for the Johnstown area.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL – Thank you to all the worker-bees who made the Parish Picnic a SUCCESS! Anyone who had anything to do with any aspect of preparation, work during the picnic and clean-up after the picnic – YOU ALL ARE THE GREATEST!! Thank you and God Bless each and everyone of you!

ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGIES – Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating **1, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60+ years of marriage in 2025** (and their families) to attend the **Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**. Couples may attend Sunday, **September 21** in **ALTOONA** at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, **September 28** in **JOHNSTOWN** at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at **2:00 p.m.** Most Rev. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. **Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Friday, September 12th.**

MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR. MICHAEL J. MCGIVNEY – Please join your Brother Knights of Council 467 for a commemorative Mass in support for the Canonization of Blessed Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus in 1882. Mass will be held at St. John Gualbert in Johnstown on August 13th at 5:00 PM, followed by a small reception at the St. John Gualbert Activity Center. Food and drinks will be provided. For additional information please contact Council 467 Grand Knight Philip Brezovic at (814)410-3143.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/CCD MEETING – Will be held on Wednesday, August 6th at 6:30PM at the Rectory Office. All the present teachers and former teachers (within the last 5 years) are asked to attend.

LAND OF PEACE – In these challenging times, we invite you to a special event next weekend. Following all Masses, Noel Alshomali from Land of Peace, a non-profit organization will be with us to shed light on the struggles faced by Christians in the Holy Land. This mission aims to bring hope and support to Christian families and churches in the Middle East, who are enduring continuous violence and a decline in tourism. Your participation can help make a profound difference. Available for purchase will be religious articles made from Olive Wood, a material native to the Holy Land and Bethlehem. These items, including crucifixes and rosaries, offer a tangible connection to a Land that holds deep spiritual significance. We encourage you to join us and support this meaningful cause. For more information, please visit www.landofpeace.org.

FATIMA DEVOTIONS – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Wednesday, August 13th at 6:30 PM at the Sunken Gardens (In case of inclement weather, they will be at the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of St. Francis University). The presider will be Fr. David Dodd, T.O.R. **Bring a Friend!**

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$163.00; Adults – \$1,785.25; Monthly – \$191.00; Candles – \$236.00; Father's Day – \$10.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$2,655.25

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

In Chapter 12 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus instructs His Disciples and the crowd on how to be ready for the coming Judgment. A crowd of many thousands has gathered to hear Jesus. At first He speaks only to the Disciples, reminding them that it is not persecution they should fear but the Judgment that is coming for all who do not acknowledge the Son of Man. Suddenly a man in the crowd shouts out to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." He seems to have grown tired of Jesus speaking only to the Disciples. Jesus offers the man no help. Instead He uses the question to teach what, in light of the coming Judgment, life really consists of.

Jesus tells the crowd a parable. A rich man's lands have yielded more crops than expected. His response is not to consider how he might share all the extra food with others but to wonder how he can possibly store it all. He has what he thinks is a brilliant idea: to tear down his present barns and build larger ones. Then he will have many things stored up for years of eating, drinking, and making merry.

"You fool" is God's response to this man because that very night his life will be taken away. To whom will everything belong then, God asks. The rich man's world is small, just him and his possessions, and now he learns that he is to lose his life. What good are his possessions now? Jesus states the moral of the story. This is how it will be for everyone who stores up treasure for himself or herself but is not rich in what matters to God.

Centuries later St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist in possessions but in sharing what we possess with others. The goods of the earth have been given to everyone.

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Today's readings come as a pat on the back from Heaven for all of us striving to live a stewardship way of life. They remind us why we live the way we do, make the choices we make, and leave other things aside. Let's face it, if we truly embrace this way of life, there will be people who find our choices downright foolish.

To many people in our materialistic world, setting priorities that are not focused on earthly goals like wealth, status and power is foolish and naive. But look at what Jesus has to say about priorities in today's Gospel passage from Luke. He makes it clear that life is not about 'stuff'. "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Don't be ashamed of living differently from the people around you. Be confident as you set priorities based on what is above. You are wise in God's eyes, Christian steward. And you will be rich in what matters most.

SPECIAL 2ND COLLECTION – Due to the unexpected major expense to fix the AC unit in the Church, there will be a 2nd collection this weekend to help offset the expenditure. There was already a significant anonymous donation!! THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS!

FRANCIS UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS – Our upcoming fall **Fish Fries will be on Friday, September 26th and Friday, October 24th**! Fundraising Committee will also be selling a \$10 ticket; they will go on sale shortly to defray costs for the upcoming Music Bingo. Details will follow in the near future. Music Bingo will be held on Saturday, November 8th. Cinnamon Rolls will be sold near Thanksgiving!

25% OFF SHOPPING PASS FOR BOSCOV'S – The Parish is selling Boscov's Shopping passes for \$5.00 to get 25% off on the shopping day of October 22nd. All proceeds go to the Church!! Please help out our Parish and pick one or more up before Mass!

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

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of August for Joseph Torchia for his birthday & health. Love, Family

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, Patricia 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; Major Colin Harrington, US Army, Bethesda, MD; 2nd Lt. Ryan Powers, USMC, Camp Lejeune, NC; Senior Airman Anthony Rosage, USAF; Fort Gordon, GA; 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.

