

July 13, 2025  
15<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 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** 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. (NOT DURING SUMMER MONTHS) NO 5:30pm Mass

**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

**FRANCIS UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS** – St. Francis Annual Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. **Our upcoming fall Fish Fries will be on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>!** 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. American Music Theatre Christmas Show – Deck the Halls on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00PM, more info to come soon!

**BASKETS NEEDED FOR CHURCH PICNIC** – Baskets are requested for our Annual Parish Picnic and may be brought to the Chapel area during weekend Masses. **PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ANY BASKETS WITH ALCOHOL/LIQUOR IN THEM.** For information contact Georgetta Labuda at 814-535-4252 or Gale Bala at 814-279-2195

**ST. THERESE CHURCH SUMMER BASKET & BURGER BASH** – On July 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM –8:00 PM & on July 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM–3:00 PM at the Social Hall at 531 Decker Ave. Live Entertainment from Desperados on Saturday from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. There will be a Themed Basket Drawing held on Sunday @ 3:00 PM. Craft/Bistro Style Burgers; Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pizza- Fresh Cut Fries, Water – Soda – Beer – Basket Tickets sold at the Door.

**BASILICA OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH** – In Loretto, will hold outdoor Masses every Sunday evening at 7:00 PM at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies beginning on Sunday, May 25 and concluding on Sunday, August 31. Please bring a lawn chair. In the event of inclement weather, the Mass will be celebrated in the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. Special Masses this Summer are as follows: July 20 Bishop's Mass for Married Couples; August 3 Bishop's Mass for Young People – Return to College, Work, Military. The historic Prince Gallitzin Chapel House, next to the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine, will be open on the following Sunday afternoons from 3:00 – 6:00 PM for self-guided tours, pilgrimages and visits: July 20, August 3, 17, 31.

**CLASS OF 2025 MASS WITH BISHOP MARK** – Bishop Mark invites all High School graduates of the Diocese to an Outdoor Mass at Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM. There will be a special blessing and gift for all graduates!

**FATIMA DEVOTIONS** – The Franciscan Friars, T.O.R., from Loretto, invite you to participate with them in celebrating the Fatima Devotions on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM 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 singing will be led by the choir of Our Lady Mother of Sorrows and the presider will be Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R. We look forward to seeing you!

**VINCENT DE PAUL SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS** – Parish Council is asking for volunteers to help with the St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. St. Francis is volunteering on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$99.00; Adults – \$2,314.25; Monthly – \$1,164.00; Candles – \$137.00; Father's Day – \$50.00; Donation – \$20.00; Online Giving – \$440.00 – Total Collection – \$4,224.25

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

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

As Jesus continues His journey to Jerusalem, He is confronted by a scholar of the law who wants to test Him. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus is asked about the greatest commandment. Here, in Luke's Gospel, the lawyer asks what we must do to inherit Eternal Life. In the other two Gospels, Jesus answers the question by quoting [Deuteronomy 6:5](#), on loving God with all your heart, and [Leviticus 19:18](#), on loving your neighbor. Here Jesus asks the expert to answer this question, "What is written in the law?" The man is caught and responds with Deuteronomy 6:5. This verse is one of the most important prayers in Judaism, and it was said twice a day in Jesus' time. Love of God and love of neighbor are what is required for Eternal Life. Jesus' response is simple, "Do this and you will live."

Having been shown up by Jesus, the lawyer tries another question: Who is my neighbor whom I must love like myself? In the society of Jesus' time, with its distinctions between Jews and Gentiles, men and women, clean and unclean, this was a trick question. Jesus responds with one of the most beautiful of all the parables, the Good Samaritan. It is found only in Luke's Gospel.

The road from Jerusalem to Jericho descends 3,300 feet in just 17 miles. Its narrow passes and rocky terrain made it an easy place for bandits to wait for travelers. The traveler in this parable is identified only as "a certain man." Luke uses this phrase in many of his parables so that the audience, Jew or Gentile, could identify with the man. After the attack, the man is left for dead, naked and bleeding on the side of the road. A priest comes along, but rather than helping, as one might expect, he moves to the other side of the road. Another religious person comes along, a Levite who assists in the Temple. His reaction is the same as the priest's. Both of them choose to not even find out if the man is alive. A third person comes along. The listeners would probably expect him to be an Israelite. This would make the parable a criticism of the religious leadership. Instead he is a Samaritan, an Israelite's most hated neighbor. Samaritans were descendants of Jews from the northern part of the country, who had intermarried with Gentiles and did not worship in Jerusalem. The Samaritan not only goes over to the injured man but cleans his wounds, puts him on his own animal, takes him to an inn to recover, and promises to pay all his expenses. The hated enemy is the compassionate neighbor in this parable.

Jesus has demolished all boundary expectations. It is not social definitions such as class, religion, gender, or ethnicity that determines who is our neighbor. A neighbor is a person who acts with compassion toward another. The point becomes not who deserves to be loved as I love myself, but that I become a person who treats everyone with compassion.

When Jesus asks the lawyer who was the neighbor in the story, the lawyer can't bring himself to say it was the Samaritan. All he says is that it was "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus' response was similar to that of the first discussion: "Go and do likewise." The lawyer, and we, know what is right. The key is to do it.

### **July 13, 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings show us that to live as good stewards means to follow God's commands and to live our lives as a gift in service to others. In today's Gospel passage, from Luke, we read the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan. Here, Jesus Himself teaches us in rich detail what stewardship in action looks like. The hospitality and generosity in serving others, shown through this parable, are essential to a stewardship way of life.

Do we have this same hospitable openness to others around us? What can we do to become more aware of the needs of others, and more open to setting aside our own plans to care for those in need?

That is how we live out God's commandments. That is true hospitality and service. That is how a good steward springs into action when he comes upon a neighbor in need. And Jesus says to each of us personally, just as He did in today's Gospel, "Go and do likewise."

**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 Czynnik, 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 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; Major 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; Capt. Kenneth Yacynych, US Army, Fort Hood; SSGt Elliott 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?

**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.

