

July 27, 2025
17th 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](#)
Oremus Ministry (Prayer Chain) – 814-539-1632
Web Site: <http://www.stfrancisofassisiatown.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 **Tuesday, July 15th at 10:00 AM. 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.

CONGRATULATIONS – Congratulations on the Baptism of **James Walter Custer** and his parents, Walter Custer III & Rebecca Custer and Godparent, Timothy Scarff.

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!

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.**

CLASS OF 2025 MASS WITH BISHOP MARK – Bishop Mark Bartchak will be principal celebrant at a special outdoor Mass for graduating seniors at the Shrine of our Lady of the Alleghenies in Loretto on Sunday, August 3rd at 7:00 PM. All young people entering or returning to college, and those entering the workforce or military service, are invited to this Liturgy, along with their families. Bishop Mark will offer a special blessing for these young people, and there will be ample opportunity for him to meet with them after Mass.

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.

THEOLOGY ON TAP – YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) – Theology on Tap on August 8th is a Rosary and Bonfire at Greenhouse Park at 6:00 PM, and August 9th at 9:00 AM is our 2nd annual Hike at Laurel Highlands Trail Route 56 Trailhead. All young adults (18-39) and young families with their children are invited to join us for faith and fellowship! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$122.00; Adults – \$2,197.25; Monthly – \$45.00; Candles – \$122.00; Cemetery – \$100.00; Donation – \$170.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$2,991.25

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

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Luke gives more attention to Jesus' Teachings on prayer than any other Gospel writer. He also mentions Jesus at prayer more than the others. In today's reading, from the beginning of Chapter 11 of his Gospel, Luke presents the core of Jesus' Teaching on prayer. It consists of Jesus Teaching a prayer to His Disciples, a parable on the persistent neighbor, and assurances that God hears our prayers.

The Disciples notice Jesus praying "in a certain place." They ask Him to teach them to pray just as John the Baptist had taught his disciples. Jesus Teaches them a simple version of the most famous Christian prayer, the Our Father, or the Lord's Prayer. Matthew's version shows signs of being shaped by public prayer. Luke's version is probably closer to the original form that Jesus taught. Stripped of much of the language we are used to, Luke's version seems simple and direct. We pray that God's name will be recognized as holy and that His rule over all will be established. This is followed by petitions for our needs for bread, for forgiveness, and for deliverance. Luke uses the more theological language of "sins" rather than "debts," which is used in Matthew's version.

Having taught His Disciples a simple, daily prayer, Jesus goes on to reassure them that God answers prayers. First He tells a parable about a persistent neighbor who asks a friend for bread at midnight. The friend is already in bed and has no desire to disturb his family by opening the door. But because the neighbor is persistent, the sleeping man gets up and gives him all that he needs. If a neighbor is willing to help us if we are persistent enough, how could God not respond to our requests?

This teaching concludes with the reminder that if we seek, we will get a response. If a human father, with all his faults, knows how to give good gifts to his children, how much more will our heavenly Father give us? Instead of good gifts, however, Luke substitutes the word *Holy Spirit*. This foreshadows the gift of the Holy Spirit, who is central to Luke's theology and who will play an important role in the growth of the early Church after Pentecost.

The parable and the concluding teaching in this section should not lead us to think of prayer as a series of requests presented to God. Rather, as Jesus teaches in His model prayer, prayer consists in recognizing God's holiness and His rule over all things.

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The teachings of our Catholic faith are inexhaustibly deep, but they are also amazingly simple. Today's readings take us back to the basics, reminding us how we as Christian stewards are to approach our relationship with God and others. The Gospel reading from Luke takes us back to the basics of prayer. In this passage, some of Jesus' Disciples ask our Lord to teach them how to pray. Jesus offers them the beautiful prayer which we call the Our Father. This prayer is so rich that it still forms the basis of our approach to God the Father over 2,000 years later. At the same time, it is so simple, we teach it as a first prayer to young children.

The Our Father is truly a steward's prayer. In it, we call upon God in an intimate way, as Father. We ask that His will be done (not ours) and that His kingdom come (not ours). In other words, we remember that He is our Creator, everything is His, and our focus in life should be on His priorities, not our own.

At the end of the Gospel passage, Jesus offers one more "basic" for us stewards about our relationship with the Father: Ask Him, seek Him, knock on His door. He can hardly wait to bless us, His children. Remember that this week, then go and be a blessing to others. Stewardship is really just that simple.

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.

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; 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?

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.

