

**July 6, 2025**  
**14<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.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** 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.

**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

**ROSARY SOCIETY** –Rosary Society will meet on **Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM**. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

**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 814-535-4251 or Gale Bala at 814-279-2195

**St. VINCENT DE PAUL FAMILY KITCHEN – SIP, ROCK, & DUCK DROP** – On Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at People Natural Gas Park, Downtown, Johnstown. Gates open at 5:30 PM; Jimmy Adler Band at 7:00 PM; Duck drop at 8:00 PM; and North Mississippi Allstars will perform at 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Tickets can be purchased at this website:

<https://events.eventgroove.com/event/Sip-Rock-And-Duck-Drop-Feat-North-Mississippi-108174>

**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.

**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 – \$66.00; Adults – \$2,579.25; Monthly – \$455.00; Candles – \$194.00; Easter Flowers – \$3.00; Election Hall Rent – \$250.00; Donation – \$60.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$3,842.25

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

**The Blessed Mother Candle will burn July 6<sup>th</sup> to July 13<sup>th</sup> for 62<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary for Joseph and Paulette Torchia.**

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

Today's Gospel begins immediately after the final verse in last Sunday's Gospel. After strong language about the difficulties of discipleship, Jesus immediately appoints 72 people to go ahead of Him to every town and place He plans to visit, proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand. He sends them in pairs. In the Law of Moses two witnesses were needed for a testimony to be credible. It was probably also a safer way to travel.

Jesus admits it will be difficult, that He is sending them out like lambs among wolves. Yet they are to bring nothing with them, not even a money bag or sandals. They are to greet no one on the way so as not to be distracted from their mission. When they enter a house, their message is simply "peace." The response they will receive may be positive or negative. Either way, they are to know that the Kingdom of God is at hand. They are not to demand special treatment but eat and drink whatever is given them. They are to stay in one house and are not to look around for one that provides better accommodations. They are to heal the sick as a sign that the Kingdom of God is at hand for them. Like Jesus' Miracles, healing is a sign of the coming of the Kingdom. If the town will not receive them, they are to shake the dust from their feet and move on. Even in the case of such rejection they should know that the Kingdom of God is at hand.

When they return from their journeys, they are rejoicing because their mission has been successful. Demons were under their power because of Jesus' name. Jesus may have sent them out as lambs among wolves, but at the conclusion of this passage He assures them that they have been given power over the enemy and nothing will harm them, not even serpents and scorpions.

A key theme of today's Gospel and last Sunday's Gospel is discipleship—its challenges, its difficulties, and its rewards. Sharing in the Mission of Jesus is difficult, but everyone is called to do it, not just some professionals trained for Ministry. Even for us today, the harvest is plentiful. We should pray to the master of the harvest to send out workers for His harvest.

### **July 6, 2025 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's Gospel passage, from Luke, we find our Lord appointing disciples to go out and prepare others to receive His invitation into the Kingdom of God. "The Lord appointed 72 others whom He sent out ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place He intended to visit." In His wisdom, Christ sent His disciples out not as individuals, but in pairs - as teams. The disciples could lean on each other for mutual support and encouragement, helping each other to stay on task and to put their heads together to pray and problem-solve. This teamwork approach is just as relevant to us modern-day Christian stewards. It takes courage and commitment to go out and invite others into the Christian life, and we need to work together.

There is also symbolic importance to working in teams. It points to the reality that when we invite others to embrace the Good News of the Gospel, we are not merely inviting them into a belief system, but into a relationship with Christ and into Christ's family.

We are not meant to live as isolated individuals within the parish any more than we are meant to live in isolation within our families. We are meant to be in community. That is why it is so important for us to foster a vibrant, supportive, welcoming parish life - and that is why hospitality is one of the pillars of stewardship. We must invite others into our community, and offer a place and a mission, for them in the Church and within our parish 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.

**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 Rovon 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; Captain 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; Sgt. Adken Torchia, US Army, Fort Drum, NY; 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.

