

August 17, 2025
20th 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
Facebook – [St Francis of Assisi Church](#)
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
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

VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MEN'S CLUB OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH for their very generous donation for the repairs of the AC Unit of the Church!! **THANK YOU. THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!**

THANK YOU to Dravyn Fabina for his years of Ministry as an Altar Server here at our Parish. Good luck and God's Blessings as he pursues his academic life in the College arena, You will be missed!

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.**

FRANCIS UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENTS – Our upcoming fall Fish Fries will be on Friday, September 26th and Friday, October 24th! Fundraising Committee is selling a \$10 ticket, they are on sale now to help 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!

MARIANNA'S SUB, PIZZA AND SALSA SALE – The Fund-Raising Committee is again having a Sub and Pizza Sale and now will be including the NEW delicious Salsa! Hope you tried some at the picnic. Be the first in our area to get this new item. Flavors are COWBOY- (mild, with black beans and corn), CLASSIC-(medium, tomatoes, peppers and onions) and MPH- (bold-sweet mango, pineapple and habanero). My favorite, full of flavor and not really hot! Order forms are at the doors of the church. Orders are due Sunday Sept. 7th and pick-up is Friday, Sept. 19th from 5-7 pm. Please note the new pick-up day and time. Payment is due with the order. Thank you for your continued support of our committee and our church!

AMERICAN THEATRE CHRISTMAS SHOW BUS TRIP – St. Francis of Assisi will be taking a bus trip on Friday, November 21st to see their 2025 Christmas Show "Deck the Halls". Price is \$135.00 per person and includes the show and bus. Dinner is on your own at Cracker Barrel. Reservations by October 1st. Please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY DRIVE COLLECTION – The Catholic Ministries Drive is more than a fundraiser—it's a call to live out our faith through action. Every gift supports vital ministries that bring Christ's love to our neighbors in need. From nurturing vocations and strengthening Catholic education to feeding the hungry and comforting the sick, your generosity fuels the mission of the Church in our diocese. This year, we invite you to be part of something bigger than yourself. Your donation helps ensure that our parishes, schools, and outreach programs continue to thrive and serve with compassion. Whether it's a child discovering Christ in a classroom, a future seminarian answering God's vocation call to the priesthood, or a family receiving hope during hardship—**you make that possible**. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Catholic Ministries Drive. Every dollar stays within our diocese and directly supports the ministries that touch lives every day. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Church rooted in faith, hope, and love.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$308.00; Adults – \$1,582.25; Monthly – \$198.00; Candles – \$161.00; Assumption – \$45.00; Easter – \$25.00; Donation – \$30.00; Online Giving – \$395.00 – Total Collection – \$2,744.25

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

Having reminded the Apostles and the crowd that facing the coming judgment takes patience, Jesus now goes on to speak of how difficult it will be to wait. He tells them that He has come to set the earth on fire. Recall that in chapter 3 of Luke's Gospel, John the Baptist tells the crowd that he is Baptizing with water, but someone mightier is coming who will Baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire Jesus speaks of here is the distress caused by the coming Judgment. It is also the fire of the Spirit that Luke, in the Acts of the Apostles, will describe descending on the Disciples on Pentecost. That fire will strengthen them to go out to the whole world to preach the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection.

Jesus will be the first to experience the distress of the coming Judgment. His Baptism will be the conflict into which He will be immersed as He approaches Jerusalem and His Death on the Cross. His followers will not be spared that distress. The angels at Jesus' Birth proclaimed peace on earth, and Simeon, holding the baby Jesus in the Temple, said to God: "Master, now you may let your servant go in peace." Here Jesus tells the crowd not to think He has come to bring peace; He has come to bring division. Simeon said as much when he turned to Mary and said that the child was destined for the rise and fall of many and to be a sign that will be contradicted. Peace is the ultimate end of the Kingdom of God, but peace has a price. Jesus is warning the crowd that wherever the Word of God is heard and acted upon, division occurs. Fathers will be divided against sons and mothers against daughters.

The coming Judgment forces us to look at the implications of our commitments. As Jesus warned in last Sunday's Gospel, a commitment of faith requires us to change our attitude toward material possessions and to take even more seriously our moral responsibilities. Here He reminds the crowd that those who commit to Him will find it affects the way they relate to friends and family members. The angel who announced the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah said John would go before Jesus to turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. But a commitment to Jesus forces us to change the way we live our lives, and this can put strains on relationships.

We don't expect to hear such difficult words from Jesus in the Gospel. But it is good to be reminded once in a while that the decision to do the right thing, the good thing, is not always easy and without conflict. Jesus Himself did not make easy decisions and avoid conflict. In today's reading, He reminds His followers to be prepared for difficult decisions and conflict as well.

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Today's readings set a high bar for us Christian stewards, reminding us that a stewardship way of life is meant to be a challenging way of life.

The stewardship way of life helps us to stay in good racing shape. By putting God first in all areas of our lives, we rid ourselves of the burden and sinfulness of over-attachment to ourselves and our things. We get lean and fit and strong for the long race to Heaven. We begin to look and act more like Jesus, the leader and perfecter of Faith.

The stewardship way of life sets a high bar indeed. But deeply embraced, this way of life focused on God and others will make us the saints we are called to be.

ST. 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 4th Monday of each month. We are asking for 6 volunteers for the next date, **Monday, August 25th**. There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule.

The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of 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 Guarino, 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?

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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.

