

**September 14, 2025**  
**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**  
**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](#)**  
**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** 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

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

**Important Notice:** For the Buses traveling to Washington DC for the Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, **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.**

**HITMIX MUSIC BINGO** – Will be held on **Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>** at St. Francis Activity Center at 134 Barron Avenue. Doors open at 5:00PM with first game beginning at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$20 each and includes food and non-alcoholic beverages, one bingo card for each game, and cash prizes every half hour. Also available for purchase are extra bingo cards, Qualifiers, 50/50, chances on baskets and \$10 beer bracelets. Cash bar. NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED. Tickets will be available after September 13<sup>th</sup>. Must be 18 or older to participate! Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667

**FISH FRY DESSERT TABLE** – The Fish Fry Committee has decided to add a \$1.00 dessert table. It will not be included in the dinner. We are asking members of the Parish to help in this endeavor by providing baked goods, such as cookies, cakes, pies, etc. which can be purchased individually for the cost of \$1.00. Please bring your donations to the Church Hall on Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup> between 12 Noon and 3:00 PM or Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 AM and 12 Noon.

**GOB ICING** - will be made on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 7 am - 11 am. Gob packing Wednesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am - 10:00 am. All help is greatly appreciated.

**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 22<sup>nd</sup>. All proceeds go to the Church!! Please help our Parish and pick one or more up before Mass!

**AMERICAN THEATRE CHRISTMAS SHOW BUS TRIP** – St. Francis of Assisi will be taking a bus trip on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> to see the 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**ST. THERESE CHURCH ANNUAL NOVENA** – St. Therese Church Johnstown will be holding their Annual Novena in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower of Jesus **starting Tuesday, September 23rd** and will continue for nine (9) days. Masses will be held at 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM **except on Saturday and Sunday, which will be Saturday at 9AM, 4PM, & 7PM and Sunday at 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 7:00 PM.** The closing of the Novena will be Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of September for Special Intention – From: Kathy Zierer**

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

In John's Gospel, Jesus' Death on the Cross as well as His Resurrection and return to the Father are one event. For him, the Cross is a sign of Exaltation. The serpent that Moses lifted up in the desert to offer healing to those injured by snake bites prefigures Jesus' being lifted up on the Cross, bringing Salvation.

The Eternal Life God offers through Jesus is not life without end but life lived in the unending presence of God. That is why it can begin now in this life. The world to which God sends the Son is not a place but those people who are at odds with Jesus and God. Jesus is sent to this world as a gift. Only believers accept the gift.

Finally, God's judgment on the world is not a future cosmic event but a present reality. God sent the Son out of love for the world. However, the world has to decide to accept Him. Those who accept Him have Eternal Life at the moment of the decision. Those who reject Him don't.

### **September 14, 2025 - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

Today's readings focus on the personal, passionate, and merciful love of God which should fill us with unending gratitude to Him. This gratitude is the fuel, if you will, that keeps the stewardship way of life rolling along.

How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as His good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of ourselves – the talents He has given us (to use for His glory), the time He has given us (to spend with Him in prayer), and the material resources He has given us (to advance His kingdom).

In so doing, we can make the words of St. Paul, a former enemy of Christ, our own stewardship motto: "I am grateful to Him Who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry." We must keep rolling, Christian stewards!

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**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY ON OCTOBER 19** – This year's theme for World Mission Sunday is "Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples" and it invites us to rediscover our role as bearers of hope rooted in Christ. It is especially meaningful that this World Mission Sunday will be the first under pontificate of Pope Leo XIV, who spent most of his priestly ministry as a missionary in Peru, serving communities in the Andean highlands and rural villages, always with humility, joy, and pastoral closeness.

**JUBILEE YEAR ECUMENICAL CHOIR CONCERT AT ST. JOHN GUALBERT** – On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM at St. John Guablert Cathedral. Choirs featured will be Diocesan High School Choir, including students from Bishop Carroll, Bishop Guilfoyle, and Bishop McCort; Westmont Presbyterian Choir; Greater Johnstown Community Choir; & Greater Johnstown Diocesan Festival Choir.

**THANK YOU** – To the Parishioners who are partaking in the Spiritual Bouquet for Seminarian Liam! Thank you & God Bless!!

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$185.00; Adults – \$1,824.25; Monthly – \$1,144.00; Candles – \$139.00; St. Vincent De Paul – \$32.00; Retired Priest – \$25.00; Funeral – \$200.00; Donation – \$587.00; Online Giving – \$320.00 – Total Collection – \$4,456.25

**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 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; 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?

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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.

