

September 28, 2025
26th 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.stfrancisofassisijsitown.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

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING THE BEAUTIFUL TRANSITUS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD AT 7:00 PM, COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI.

THANK YOU – To everyone that helped support the Marianna's Pizza & Salsa Fundraiser! We made a profit of \$748 from this sale. Total profit from all the Marianna's Pizza sales we have made \$3,478!! Thank you to all who help support this fundraiser!!!

HITMIX MUSIC BINGO – Will be held on **Saturday, November 8th** 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 which 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 are available now! Must be 18 or older to participate! Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667



DONATIONS OF BASKETS OR ITEMS FOR BASKETS NEEDED – Baskets or items for baskets are needed for our Music Bingo prior to November 8th. Donations can be left in the Chapel Area of the Church or contact Carolyn at (814)421-6016. Help us make this a huge success!

MEN'S CLUB – Will be meeting on Thursday, October 2nd at 6:30PM at the Activity Building. New members are always welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, October 6th at 3:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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

HAPPY CELEBRATION DAY IN HONOR OF OUR HOLY FATHER ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI – There is a booklet entitled “The Prayer of St. Francis” A Call to Worship and Love on the table in the back of the Church. A little gift on this glorious Feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. **PLEASE 1 booklet per family** for this weekend. Extra copies may be available later. God Bless!

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 1st.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$174.00; Adults – \$2,076.05; Monthly – \$65.00; Candles – \$136.00; St. Vincent De Paul – \$115.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$181.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Online Giving – \$235.00 – Total Collection – \$2,987.05

NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN ON OCTOBER 5TH – On October 5th, the National Life Chain will be happening along Broad St. Johnstown, near the former St. Columba Church in Cambria City, from 1pm-2pm. The National Life Chain is an annual pro-life event where individuals gather to peacefully and prayerfully stand against abortion, typically held on the first Sunday of October.

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

A major theme in the Gospel of Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. In the parable found in today's Gospel, Jesus contrasts the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus, who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. Both die. Lazarus finds himself in Heaven; the rich man in the netherworld. The rich man asks for assistance from Lazarus in his torment. But Abraham reminds the rich man of the good things he had in his life and describes the current situation as a reversal of fortunes. The rich man then asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his family, but this is denied with the reminder that Moses and the Prophets have warned of judgment for those who neglect the care of the poor.

In the context of Luke's Gospel, this parable, delivered in the presence of a crowd of listeners, is part of Jesus' response to some Pharisees. These Pharisees are described in Luke's Gospel as "loving money." (Note: The Pharisees were followers of a sect of Judaism active before, during, and after Jesus' lifetime. They taught an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses as the basis for popular Jewish piety. They put less emphasis on Temple worship and more on applying the law to everyday life. Though they are often portrayed negatively in the Gospels, they shared many of Jesus' and the early Church's concerns about the Law.) Jesus observed that the actions of some Pharisees betrayed misplaced priorities: they spoke one way, but acted in another. The story of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the importance of the care of the poor and is a reminder to those who would follow Jesus of the unimportance of wealth in the eyes of God.

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Our Lord Himself gives us a very clear illustration of the urgency for us to put our powers to good use in today's Gospel Passage from Luke. He tells the rather chilling parable of the rich man who ignored poor Lazarus during their lifetimes. At the moment of the rich man's death, he goes down to the netherworld while Lazarus is taken to the eternal joy and comfort in the bosom of Abraham. The rich man keenly regrets his complacency towards the needs of Lazarus, but it is too late for regret. His choices have played out and now the rich man will face the consequences of his failure to use the gifts God gave him.

We have all been given power by God, in the form of our time, talents and treasure. Today's readings remind us to use that power for great good, and not let it go to waste.

The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown has an opening for a full-time Technology Services Help Desk/PowerSchool Support Specialist for the Pastoral Center IT Department, To view a full listing of responsibilities and qualifications and to apply, please go to

<https://humanresources.dioceseaj.org/general-employment-opportunities/>

Resumes may also be sent to mporada@dioceseaj.org or araymond@dioceseaj.org.

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

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

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.

