

**September 7, 2025**  
**23<sup>rd</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**  
**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

**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



**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.

**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL FATIMA FAMILY FESTIVAL** – The Franciscan Friars would like you to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship & faith! Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 2:00PM located in the Sunken Gardens, Loretto, PA. We will have food trucks, bouncy house, face painting, confessions, property tours, Rosary at 4:30PM and outdoor Mass at 5:00PM. For more information, please contact [lweakland@franciscanstor.org](mailto:lweakland@franciscanstor.org) or (814)419-8885.

**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!

**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). 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH FALL FESTIVAL** – St. Patrick's Church, 609 Park Ave. Johnstown, PA 15902 is having their Annual Fall Festival September 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> from 8AM - 4PM. There will be a Gigantic Basement Sale with Bake Sale of our famous gobs, cookies, and pies. Hot Foods will include barbeque pulled pork, haluski, hot sausage sandwiches, mac and cheese, and hot dogs. Take outs available – call ahead to order – (814)341-8861. Please join us for your lunch, afternoon snack, etc. to support a local charity.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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>.

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

In chapter 14 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus is speaking to people gathered at the table about the difficulties of following him. This group of people is suspicious about Jesus, looking to catch him doing something wrong. Jesus speaks to them in parables, emphasizing that although there is a right way to be a disciple and enter into the kingdom of his Father, it is a difficult path to follow. Many, even some of the guests at the table, reject the invitation. So Jesus turns to the crowds and speaks to them of discipleship. Jesus explains that, when it comes to making a choice for the Kingdom of God, nothing can get in the way. When Jesus describes "hating" one's father and mother, He is not talking about feelings. Rather, He is emphasizing very strongly that choosing to be a disciple means that everything else—family, money, your own life—must come second. In Matthew's version of this story (Matthew 10:37), Jesus refers not to "hating" father or mother, but to *loving them more* than Jesus. Jesus makes it very clear that being a disciple is not easy. It means to bear one's own cross. These difficult sayings of Jesus are followed by two brief parables (a person constructing a tower and a king marching into battle) that make an obvious point—don't start what you cannot finish. Discipleship is difficult and is something we can commit to only if we are prepared to put the Kingdom of God before everything else.

### **September 7, 2025 – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings make very clear the demands that will be made of those wanting to be called disciples of Christ. We must be prepared to give our all to Him. But in the end, the life of discipleship – the stewardship way of life – is the only life that can truly satisfy.

He knows that if we do not live with great intentionality – putting Him first before all else – we will easily be swallowed up by the earthly cares that weigh us down – our material things, our status, and our egos. He knows that these things cannot satisfy us. He knows this because He is our Maker, and He made us for more.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$194.00; Adults – \$2,657.25; Monthly – \$55.00; Candles – \$134.00; Assumption – \$10.00; Ascension – \$3.00; Donation – \$44.00; Online Giving – \$355.00 – Total Collection – \$3,219.25

**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**

**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.

