

October 19, 2025
29th 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 (OCIA) – 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 – 12 Noon followed by Benediction

Rosary Society – First Monday of the Month – 3:00PM in the Church

Men’s Club – First Thursday of the Month – 6:30PM in the Activity Center

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI LENTEN FISH FRY – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on Friday, October 24th at the Activity Center, corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. A LUNCH SPECIAL (Fried Fish Sandwich and French Fries, no substitutions) will be offered from 11AM until 1:00PM (Take Out Only). The full menu will be served from 2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat in or take out. Orders for lunch and dinner will be taken from 9:00AM until 1:00 PM on the day of the fish fry by calling 814-539-3518. We welcome walk-ins, but strongly suggest that orders be placed in advance. Meals will be served while supplies last.



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, October 23rd between 12 Noon and 3:00 PM or Friday, October 24th between 9:00 AM and 12 Noon.

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!

ALL SOULS – If you would like to have a picture of a deceased loved one placed in the Sanctuary area for All Soul's Day, please bring the picture to the Parish Office or the Church. All photos must be received no later than Monday, October 27th. Please include the name of the deceased and your name and phone number with the picture(s) you are bringing.

GRIEF HEALS WITH KINDNESS PRESENTATION – St. Benedict Parish, 2310 Bedford Street, Johnstown will be presenting a Community-Wide Grief Presentation "Grief Heals with Kindness". This one-day event will be held at 3 P.M. on Sunday, October 26, 2025. Come and discover the stages of grief and the corresponding forms of caregiving for each stage. This workshop will emphasize on the importance of expressing one's feelings and needs to others, as well as encouraging them to make decisions about activities in which to participate, who to be with and how to regain a sense of control. Adults in the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are welcome to attend. Tickets are not required. For more information contact Deacon Michael Russo at 814-288-3036 or by email at dcmlr@icloud.com

THE WEST END IMPROVEMENT GROUP – will host the Annual Basket Party once again, this year it will be a 2 day event, with a walk-through on Saturday, November 1st from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.00. Saturday, there will be baked goods for sale, including gobs. Sunday, November 2nd, doors will open at 11:00 AM and drawing will begin at 1:00PM. Tickets are \$10.00 which includes lunch. This year will include qualifiers/pull tabs, in addition to 50/50, Lottery Tree, etc. and over 135 baskets. You do NOT need to be present to win. Please join us at St. Therese Social Hall, 536 Decker Avenue in the West End. Proceeds benefit surveillance camera upgrades, flowers, gardens, and community projects. Any questions or to donate a basket, please call (814)248-8989 or (814)322-5558.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$113.20; Adults – \$1,724.00; Monthly – \$71.00; Candles – \$71.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$75.00; All Saints – \$10.00; All Souls – \$10.00; Retired Priest Medical – \$15.00; Assumption – \$5.00; Cemetery – \$10.00; Donation – \$50.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Online Giving - \$235.00 – Total Collection - \$2,468.20.

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

May Baby Colton and Baby Clark buried in our cemetery last Wednesday, REST IN PEACE!

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

This is the first of two parables that Jesus tells in Luke 18 about prayer. (The second will be read at Mass next Sunday.) This first parable is a lesson in persistence in prayer. (Next Sunday's parable will address attitude in prayer.) While the parable seems to present prayer as nagging God for what we want, such a reading misses the point. God is not like the judge in the parable, worn down by requests and coerced to respond. The key is found in the description of the judge as corrupt and unjust. Since God can be neither, we must understand Jesus to be saying that if even an unjust judge responds to the persistence of the widow, how much more so will God listen to our prayers. God truly wants to hear our needs and respond generously. It is the final lament of Jesus that gets to the point of the parable. The lesson is about the persistence of the one who prays. God wants us to be like the persistent widow, staying in relationship with God, confident that God hears and answers prayers. Then Jesus laments, "Will such faith be found when the Son of Man comes?" In this lament, Jesus notes how easy it can be for us to lose heart.

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The four pillars of parish stewardship are hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. They are intentionally presented in this order, with the idea that we cannot expect people to respond to calls to increase their prayer life, their formation, and their service within and outside the parish, if they do not first feel welcomed and valued through the warmth of hospitality. It just makes good sense. However, those who are already well-versed in the spirituality and practicalities of stewardship, know well that stewardship cannot succeed unless it is steeped in prayer. Today's readings show us the immense value of prayer and the privileged place it must have in our individual lives and in our parish community. Our job, as Christian stewards, is simply to remain faithful to our relationship with God through prayer. We should prioritize the Scriptures as a source of prayer, and we must lean on each other in our communities – family and parish – as we support each other in prayer. A strong pillar of prayer will make all our other stewardship efforts fruitful.

ST. BENEDICT PARISH BREAKFAST – St. Benedict Parish in Johnstown will be hosting a breakfast on Sunday, November 2nd starting at 8:30 AM in the school cafeteria. Proceeds from the breakfast will benefit the Johnstown St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen. **Last seating immediately after 10:30 AM Mass.** MENU: Scrambled eggs, ham, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, toast, French Toast, Pancakes, Pumpkin Pancakes (Strawberry and Apple Compote), Sausage Gravy and biscuits And new Egg Muffins (various kinds)! Meal includes choice of coffee, tea, milk (white or chocolate) or juice. COST: Adults \$10.00 - Children 6-12 \$5.00. Children 5 and under are FREE! Immediate family members of four or more \$30. Mastercard and Visa accepted!

And to show the Parish's appreciation for their service, veterans will eat free.

ST. CELEMENT PARISH – RAKIN' IN THE CASH GIVE-A-WAY – Take a break from raking leaves and take a chance on a great raffle that gives you 23 chances to win on each ticket! Grand Prize - \$5,000; 2nd & 3rd Prizes - \$1,000; AND...a chance to win 1 of 20 in \$100 Cash Prizes. Top 3 prizes are determined by the First Pick 3 7:00 PM PA Lottery Drawing on Friday, Oct. 31st, 2025. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at St. Clement Rectory, 112 Lindberg Avenue, Monday thru Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM until Wednesday, Oct. 29th or Call 255-4422 for mail delivery.

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 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

