

**November 30, 2025**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**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**

<b>MASS SCHEDULE – Monday – 9:00AM, Tuesday – 6:15PM, Wednesday – Saturday – 9:00AM</b> <b>Saturday Vigil– 4:00PM, Sunday – 7:30AM &amp; 9:30AM – Holy Day – 5:30 PM</b>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**[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 (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

**PARISH OFFICE will be closed on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for Immaculate Conception.**

**St. Francis Fundraising Committee would like to thank the following for all their help in making the Music Bingo a great success. The workers, all those who donated baskets, monetary donations and those who purchased tickets to support the event. Also thank you to Scott Thompson and Cunningham Meats, Indiana, PA for the donation of the hams. THANK YOU!!!**

**THANK YOU ALL for your Birthday Greetings and gifts! Love and Prayers, Fr. Anthony**

**OPLATEK** – Is now available in the Main Vestibule of the Church. Please use an envelope provided for your donation and place in the Candle Money Box or in the Collection Basket.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS** – There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule for Immaculate Conception, Christmas & New Years. Please sign-up as soon as possible so we are able to make sure all Masses are covered.

**GIVING TREES** – are now located at the rear of the Church. We encourage of you to consider taking an ornament from one (or all) of the trees. The first contains names of children submitted by the Cambria City Mission. **Gifts should be wrapped with the ornament and returned to the Church or Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 14, 2024.** The ornaments on second tree are for Giant Eagle gift cards that will be distributed to those need to purchase food items for the holiday season. The gift cards should be placed in the collection basket. **(please do not place them under the tree!)** The Gabriel Project Tree has tags with suggestions for gifts for the babies and families being served by the Gabriel Project. Gifts should be returned no later than Sunday, December 14, 2024.



**ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** – We will be holding our Annual Children's Christmas Party on **December 7<sup>th</sup>** at the Activity Building from 1-3PM. Children up to age 12 are welcome to join. Sign-up sheet is in the Vestibule. **Last day for sign-ups is November 30<sup>th</sup>.** If anyone is willing to donate any cookies or if there are any volunteers who would like to help out, or any high school students who need service hours, please contact Heather at (814)243-0715.

**ALL SOULS PICTURE PICKUP** - Those of you who brought in pictures of loved ones for All Souls, are being asked to please pick up your pictures at your earliest convenience on the table under the St. Michael the Archangel statue. Thank You!

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER** – St. Francis Parish Office will follow the Johnstown School District's and/or Bishop McCort's schedule. **If there is a 2 hour delay, the Parish Office will open 2 hours late (11:00 AM), and all meetings/ activities will take place. If school is closed or has a virtual/remote learning day the Parish Office will be closed and all meetings/activities will be cancelled. If there is an unscheduled early dismissal the Parish Office will close early and all meetings/activities will be cancelled. Please note, scheduled Mass WILL BE celebrated regardless.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$57.00; Adults – \$2,174.20; Monthly – \$43.00; Candles – \$165.00; Cemetery – \$3.00; Thanksgiving – \$125.00; Catholic Charities – \$250.00; All Souls – \$23.00; All Saints – \$23.00; Donation – \$100.00; Online Giving - \$235.00 – Total Collection - \$3,198.20

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of a new Liturgical Year for the Church. The Advent Season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. It is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the Birth of Jesus. Key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new Liturgical Year, the Gospel of Matthew will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle A). In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the need for wakefulness, for watchful waiting, for the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew's Gospel is dated by most scholars after 70 A.D. Most believe that Matthew wrote for a primarily Jewish community, but one that was no longer centered on the Temple in Jerusalem. These were Jewish Christians trying to come to terms with their relationship to Judaism in a new situation: Judaism after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. There may have been Christians who believed that the events of the world around them gave evidence of the imminent return of the Lord in glory.

The passage from Matthew we read today is rather straightforward. No one knows the precise time of the coming of the Lord in glory, so watchful waiting and vigilance are required. The passage speaks to the uselessness of looking for signs; there will be none. As a thief sneaks in during the night, so will the Lord's coming in glory be.

The question for us as members of the Christian community, then, is how do we prepare for this? Today's passage speaks more about the manner of waiting, rather than the details of the preparation. Jesus compares the vigilance required of Christians to the vigilance of a homeowner who knows the plans of the thief. If one knows that the thief's action is imminent, one remains watchful. As Christians, we know *that* our Lord is coming even if we cannot know the precise timing. Jesus calls us to be watchful and vigilant, like the homeowner. If we become lax in our Christian living, we may be caught unprepared.

### **November 30, 2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Today we begin the beautiful Season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation – but for what exactly are we preparing? Two things actually – the celebration of our Savior's Birth and the anticipation of His Second Coming. These are weighty tasks that have eternal consequences. So, let us Christian stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways and we may walk in His paths."

How can we Christian stewards prepare ourselves and our families for a holy celebration of Jesus' Birth on Dec 25 and for His certain Second Coming at a date we do not know? We can push back against the world's pressure to have the 'perfect Christmas.' Scale back on the material kind of gift-giving, the complicated menus, and the unessential trappings of the season so that we have more time for spiritual preparation: confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, and performing acts of kindness.

It may feel like a mountain to climb, but in the end, we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, we will have become more like our Savior, and we will be ready for Him to come again. Let's go climb the Lord's mountain.

---

**ST. FRANCIS MEN'S CLUB 2026 LOTTERY CALENDARS** – The Men's Club is offering 2026 Lottery Calendars for sale in the main vestibule before and after each weekend Mass. Each calendar costs \$25.00 and makes an excellent Christmas gift! Calendars will be available through Christmas or while supplies last.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND**

James Edward Adams, Kathryn Barczak, James Bauer, John Bauer, Patricia Bauer, Deacon Bruce Becker, Sally Becker, Galynn Brady, Sister Carol Jean Czarnik, 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.

=====

**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 Rován 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 at Camp Lejeune, NC; 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.

