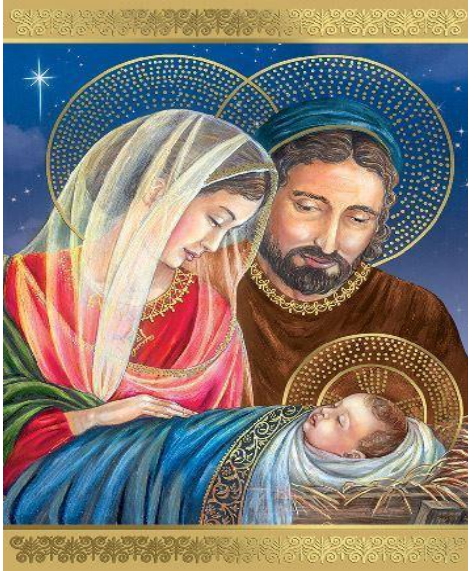


**December 28, 2025**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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 (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 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31st FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE & THURSDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL MASS IS A 5:30 PM AND NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS WILL BE AT 10:00 AM.**

**2026 WEEKLY ENVELOPES & CALENDARS-** 2026 Weekly Envelopes & Calendars are in the back of the Church.

**PROCLAIM! TO AIR CHRISTMAS SHOW AND MASS** – The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas special *Joy to the World: Christmas in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown* will air on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. on WWCP FOX 8. The one-hour show will highlight the spirit of Christmas throughout the diocese and include beautiful music from parish and Catholic school choirs, as well as the *Proclaim!* priests' choir. The *Proclaim!* TV Christmas Mass will air live from Saint John Gualbert Cathedral in Johnstown on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. on WATM ABC 23 with Bishop Mark as celebrant and homilist.

**BENEFIT BREAKFAST AT ST. BENEDICT'S SCHOOL CAFETERIA** – **St. Benedict Knights of Columbus** helps our local food pantry (which will surely need replenished after the holidays) as well as providing support as a philanthropic organization supporting various charities. **DATE: Sunday, January 4, 2026**  
**PLACE: School Cafeteria** **TIME: 8:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. (LAST SEATING IMMEDIATELY after 10:30 Mass.)** MENU: Egg muffins (plain, vegetable, ham and cheese). Ham, bacon, sausage (choice of two), breakfast potatoes, toast, French Toast with Berry Compote, and Plain, Blueberry, and Banana Pancakes and Sausage Gravy and biscuits. 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 is \$30. Mastercard and Visa accepted! We will once again be selling Apple Dumplings after all masses while supplies last! PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A NEW FRIEND! THE GREATER THE ATTENDANCE, THE GREATER THE DONATION!

**OPPORTUNITY: ACTIVITY CENTER HALL AMBASSADORS NEEDED** – We're seeking friendly and dependable individuals to join our team of **Activity Center Hall Ambassadors** to support our hall rental program. **What you'll do:** Open and close the Church hall for rental events, Conducting pre- and post-event walkthroughs, Confirm renters have the necessary resources, Remain onsite for the duration of an event. A modest stipend will be provided. If you're interested or would like to learn more, please contact the Church office at 814.539.1632 or [sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbbn.net) Thank you for considering this meaningful way to serve!

**ALL SAINTS PARISH POLISH CHRISTMAS CAROLS** – All Saints Parish in Boswell (Somerset County) will host their annual of Polish Christmas Carols (known as Koledy or Pastoralki) on Sunday, January 4, 2026 at 2:00 PM at their Church at 325 Quemahoning Street, Boswell. The carols will be sung by the Parish Polish Choir. Following the singing of the hymns there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and refreshments. While the singing of Koledy was once a very common practice in the Polish-American community, in recent times Church choirs that continue the tradition of singing Koledy have become increasingly rare. These hymns help to capture some of the finest sentiments, values, and emotions of the Polish Religious, National, and artistic heritage. Polish Christmas customs are very rich; whether you are Polish or not, please come and experience these time honored hymns celebrating the Birth of Christ. For more information, please call the Parish Office at 814-629-5551.

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. As we do so, our Gospel invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' Birth, an Angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The Angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the Angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This Feast is part of the Christmas Season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' Birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Recall that Matthew's story about the Birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character. Among Matthew's themes in this infancy narrative is Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Indeed, the story of the Holy Family's flight to Egypt recalls the story of Moses in the Book of Exodus.

It should also be noted that today's reading omits the verses that recount Herod's order of the massacre of the infant boys in and around Bethlehem. We mark this event on the Feast of the Holy Innocents on December 28.

These events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' Birth. While the story of the Magi's visit will be recalled in our Liturgy on the Feast of the Epiphany, our Christmas celebration is made more sober by the recollection that not everyone received Christ's Birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the Angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's Salvation.

### **December 28, 2025 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Today, as we continue our celebration of the Christmas Season, we focus our attention in a special way on the Holy Family. This is a great time to thank God for the gift of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the family as the “domestic church”, so today's Feast is also a fitting time to consider the importance of the virtue of hospitality – a fundamental aspect of the stewardship way of life – within the context of our domestic churches.

Why is hospitality so important to a stewardship way of life, beginning with family life? Well, we can hardly expect our family members to pray together, study their faith, and serve others if we have a home where we are disconnected from each other or the atmosphere is stressful and tense. Of course there will be moments like this. But we must be intentional in creating homes where everyone feels cherished, accepted and important. We want our homes to be the place where we can get recharged and filled up to go out and bring love to everyone we encounter outside our home.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$131.00; Adults – \$1,939.00; Monthly – \$15.00; Candles – \$138.00; Christmas – \$840.00; Christmas Flowers – \$59.00; Immaculate Conception – \$28.00; Thanksgiving – \$3.00; Priest Medical – \$20.00; Donation – \$15.00; Online Giving - \$285.00 – Total Collection - \$3,473.00

**The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the month of January for Special Intentions From:  
Kathy Zierer**

**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 Czynnik, 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.

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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 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?

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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.

