

January 4, 2026
The Epiphany of the Lord
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 (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

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

ROSARY SOCIETY – Will meet on **Monday, January 12th** at 3:00PM. Please consider joining us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



PUBLIC ROSARY – **Praying for the Protection of Life on Thursday, January 8th at 6:30 PM at ST. CLEMENT CHURCH and on Saturday, January 10th at 12 NOON at ST. JOHN GUALBERT CATHEDRAL, Downtown Johnstown in the St. Anne Shrine.**

RESPECT LIFE POST CONTEST, SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA – JOHNSTOWN RESPECT FOR LIFE COMMITTEE – The Theme is “Respect for Life: Celebrating Gods Gift in Every Person”. There are different grade divisions, postor guidelines and PRIZES!!! For more information, please visit at www.dioceseaj.org/youthministry or pick up a flyer in the Main Vestibule!

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 M

asses while supplies last! PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A NEW FRIEND! THE GREATER THE ATTENDANCE, THE GREATER THE DONATION!

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 Pastorki) 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$169.00; Adults – \$2,471.00; Monthly – \$75.00; Candles – \$296.50; Christmas – \$3,452.50; Christmas Loose - \$849.00; Christmas Flowers – \$35.00; Immaculate Conception – \$60.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Online Giving – \$660.00 – Total Collection - \$8,218.00

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

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

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' Birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual Birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a Savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in Salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' Kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of His Divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' Death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including His Birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, His Baptism by John, and His first Miracle at Cana.

January 4, 2026 - Second Sunday of Christmas

As our celebration of Christmas continues, this week we observe the great Feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means manifestation of appearance. The stewardship way of life is one in which we live in grateful response to God's countless manifestations in our lives.

As Christian stewards, we are all called to manifest God's love to each other in the sharing of our gifts. St. Paul describes this beautifully in our second reading in his letter to the Ephesians, saying, "You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit..." We have all been given unique and wonderful gifts from our good and generous God. He wants us to share these gifts to benefit others and so to give Him glory.

Let us rejoice in God's manifestations in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King in the year ahead.

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 Guarino, 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 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.

