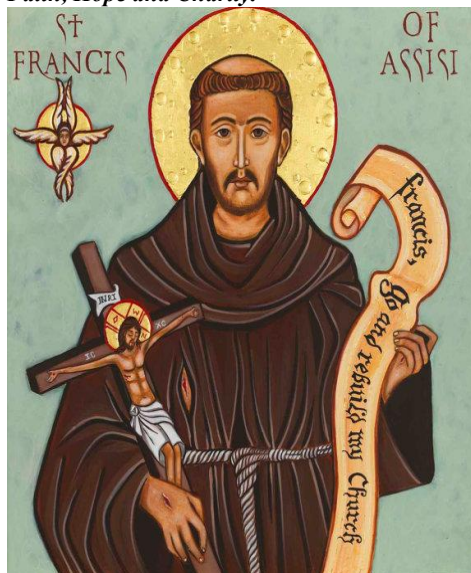


February 1, 2026  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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@atlanticbnn.net](mailto:sfassisich@atlanticbnn.net)  
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

**GOB ICING** – will be made on **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** beginning at **7:00 AM**. Gobs will be filled on **Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM until 10:00AM**. All help is greatly appreciated.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** – The St. Francis Fundraising Committee will be selling a \$10 ticket to go off of the Pa Lottery Daily Evening Number. It will be a two-day ticket with a giveaway of \$2,000. More information in the coming weeks. This ticket will help defray expenses for the upcoming Music Bingo event in April. Tickets will soon be available before and after Masses. **Music Bingo coming on Saturday, April 25th. Save this date!** More information available soon.



**GRIEF SHARE** – Fr. Patrick Corrigan, TOR, will be hosting the “Grief Share” program beginning on Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 2:00 PM at St. Bernardine Monastery, 768 Monastery Road, Hollidaysburg. The “Grief Share” program is a 12-week bereavement workshop for those who have experienced a significant loss, and to assist in understanding and processing emotions. A workbook and resources will be provided for use throughout the program. For questions regarding the program or to enroll, please call 814-695-3802.

**AN INVITATION TO JOIN CCW SISTERS FOR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT – Foundation of Faith: Catechism of the Catholic Church – Part Two** The Catechism Helps Catholics Understand Why the Church Teaches What It Does. The Catechism is an important book for the Church, yet many Catholics have never read it. Drawing from 2,000 years of Church history, the writings of over 50 saints, and almost every book of the Bible, this foundational document reveals what Catholics are called to believe and how they are called to live, worship, and pray on earth to spend eternity with God in heaven. The series will utilize DVD’s, presentations and discussion. Sessions will take place at on February 9, 23, March 2, 23, 30 at CCW Incarnation Center from 10 AM-12N and at the Basilica of Saint Michael in Loretto from 6 – 8 PM. Participants will find it helpful to have a copy of the Catechism for their personal use to read assignments. Please register by February 4 by contacting: For sessions held at Incarnation Center: [CommunityofficeCCW@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityofficeCCW@gmail.com), [smarilynw@CCWCommunity.org](mailto:smarilynw@CCWCommunity.org) or call 814-886-4098. For sessions at Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel call:8144728551 to register.

**HEALING MASS** – Holy Spirit Ministry will hold a special Healing Mass on Tues., Feb. 3 at 7:00 PM at St. Michael Church, Hollidaysburg. This powerful night of hope and healing is for all who are suffering physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Fr. Jeremy Mohler will be the main celebrant. Praise and worship will precede the Mass at 6:30 PM and prayer ministry will follow the Mass. If you are suffering physically, or from an addiction, or hurting or struggling in any way, come and experience the healing power of Jesus and be set free! All are welcome!

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

**The Sanctuary Candle will burn for the month of February for – Special Intentions for 2 Dear Friends.**

**The Holy Family Candle will burn for the month of February for – Special Intentions for Margaret & Pansy Scott**

**The St. Therese Candle will burn for the week of February 1 – 7 for Nicki Davis for strength**

**The Sacred Heart Candle will burn February 1 – 7 for Sisters, LeAnn Golby & Ethel Petak**

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, which is found in Matthew's Gospel. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favor with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as *happy, fortunate, or favored*. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favor is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

### **February 1, 2026 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's Gospel Reading from Matthew recounts what we know as Christ's Sermon on the Mount. This entire reflection could be devoted to that, of course, but as always, there are also messages that are important in the other readings. The Sermon on the Mount is the first of five teachings Jesus gives us in the Gospel of Matthew. The Lord gives this relatively early in His Ministry, not long after He has been baptized. In the entire New Testament this is the longest continuous section of Jesus speaking, and it is perhaps the most widely quoted part of the four Canonical Gospels. It contains, after all, the central rules of discipleship.

Today's Gospel provides us with instructions from Jesus as to what kind of people His disciples should be. There are more than enough key words on which to reflect and pray: poor, mourn, meek, hunger, mercy, peacemakers, clean and persecuted – to name a few. We could concentrate on each one, but it is worth pointing out that these all are traits the Lord calls us to.

For example, when Jesus says that to be blessed, we need to 'hunger and thirst for righteousness,' He is reminding us of what our focus in life should be. In our world people hunger for many things that may not be that important – things like power, success, wealth, possessions and comfort. The idea of being righteous in His eyes is more important than any of those.

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**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** - Loose - \$85.00; Adults - \$1,165.20; Monthly - \$35.00; Candles - \$135.00; St. Vincent De Paul - \$217.00; Solemnity - \$15.00; Funeral - \$100.00; Donation - \$25.00; Online Giving - \$245.00 - Total Collection - \$2,022.20

**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, Elsie Cable, Sister Carol Jean Czzyrnik, 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.

