

January 11, 2026
The Baptism 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@atlanticcbbn.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

Please keep in your Prayers — The Family and Friends of **+Barbara Shook** who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

Please keep in your Prayers — The Family and Friends of **+Robert Delusa** who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

Please keep in your Prayers — The Family and Friends of **+Irene Rok** who was laid to rest last week. Welcoming God receive from our hands the Loved Ones we return to You.

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

SPECIAL 2nd COLLECTION – Next weekend, January 17th & 18th we will be holding our monthly 2nd collection for our Parish upkeep and maintenance.

THE ART OF STAINED GLASS MAKING – JANUARY 25th & FEBRUARY 1st – All Saints Parish in Boswell will be hosting a two-class course by Owen Shotts on the art of making stained glass at 2:00 PM on January 25th and February 1st in their parish hall (505 Center Street, Boswell). Because of the nature of stained glass making, the course extends over two classes and due to the cost of the materials there will be a \$50 fee per student. Students will learn the basics of stained glass, walk through a project, and make their own project. The class is limited to twelve students. To register please call All Saints Parish office (814) 629-5551 by January 20th.

RESPECT LIFE POST CONTEST, SPONSORED BY THE DIOCESE OF ALTOONA – JOHNSTOWN RESPECT FOR LIFE COMMITTEE – The Theme is “Respect for Life: Celebrating God’s 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!

SLOVAK PRESENTATION – JANUARY 18TH –Queen of Angels Parish in Central City (Somerset County) will host a presentation on the Cultural History of Slovakia by Dr. Renáta Kamenárová on Sunday January 18TH in the parish activity center (738 Sunshine Avenue, Central City). Dr. Kamenárová is the Director of the Slovak Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh, the only university program in North America where students can take Slovak language and culture classes and opt to receive a Minor in Slovak Studies. Dr. Kamenárová holds a PhD in Slovak Language, and a MA (combined) in Slovak Language and Literature / History from Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. In addition to teaching at Pitt, she has been a visiting researcher at the University of Regensburg and the University of Leipzig in Germany as well as serving as a visiting scholar at the Institute of Polish Philology at the University in Lublin in Poland. She has received numerous awards and has published many scholarly works. Her presentation will begin at 2:00 PM and will serve to be an occasion for fascinating information about Slovak culture and history presented in a down-to-earth way by a serious scholar. The talk is free and open to all; however, those who wish to participate are asked to register by calling the parish office at (814) 754-5224 or emailing parish secretary Maggie Adomink at madomnik@dioceseaj.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$292.00; Adults – \$1,955.00; Monthly – \$580.00; Candles – \$160.00; St. Vincent De Paul – \$27.00; Christmas – \$386.00; Christmas Flowers – \$80.00; Immaculate Conception – \$5.00; Solemnity – \$711.00; Initial Offering – \$352.00; Funeral – \$150.00; Online Giving - \$590.00 – Total Collection - \$5,288.00

**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 2
Dear Friends.**

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The Baptism of Jesus is attested to in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The account that appears in Matthew is the only one to include the dialogue between Jesus and John, however. Another difference in Matthew's presentation of this event is the announcement made by the voice from Heaven, which says, "This is my beloved Son . . ." In Mark and Luke, this voice addresses itself to Jesus: "You are my beloved Son . . ."

The baptisms that John performs prefigure Christian Baptism. John baptizes for repentance from sin. In accepting this baptism, Jesus unites Himself with all sinners even though He is sinless. In Matthew's Gospel, John the Baptist distinguishes his practice of baptism from the Baptism that the Messiah brings: "I am baptizing you with water . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

The Baptism of Jesus is another manifestation of Christ, another epiphany. Christ's Baptism inaugurates His mission. In an analogous way, our Baptism inaugurates our mission as Christians.

This Sunday marks a transition from the Christmas Season to Ordinary Time. In a way, today's Feast is the high point of the Christmas Season. Before Jesus' Birth, angels announced to Mary and to Joseph Who Jesus would be. At His Birth, the shepherds and the Magi recognize Jesus as the Messiah. At His Baptism, Jesus accepts that He is God's Son and inaugurates that mission.

January 11, 2026 – The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus's Baptism is a story we've heard before, so it is easy to lose sight of just how incredible it is – that Jesus wished to be baptized in the Jordan River by His cousin, John. We just spent the last two weeks marveling at the fact that this Savior of ours was born as a baby in a crude stable for our sake, and now this! Stop and contemplate our Lord, in all His perfection, waiting quietly and patiently in line with a bunch of sinners (like us) in order to "lead by example." His love and humility in serving and self-giving are beyond all telling.

And just in case there was any doubt about the extraordinary actions of Jesus that day at the Jordan River, we learn of the powerful affirmation of the Father. Who, immediately after the baptism, opens the heavens and sends the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in bodily form and says audibly, "This is My beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased!" Wow!

HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH – Church in the US. taught by Fr. Aron Maghsoudi at All Saints Parish in Boswell on Mondays & Tuesdays, dates are on the signup sheet. Classes are from 6:00 to 8:30 PM (7 weeks) beginning January 26. The cost of the class is \$35.00 and MUST be turned in with the Registration Form. To Register please visit the diocese website at www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry, or see your parish priest or secretary for a registration form or by contacting Jessica, Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry at (814) 361-2000 or via email at jgramling@dioceseaj.org. All are welcome! **Please Note that the Registration Deadline for this class is Friday, Jan. 23, No registrations will be accepted after this date.**

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 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.

