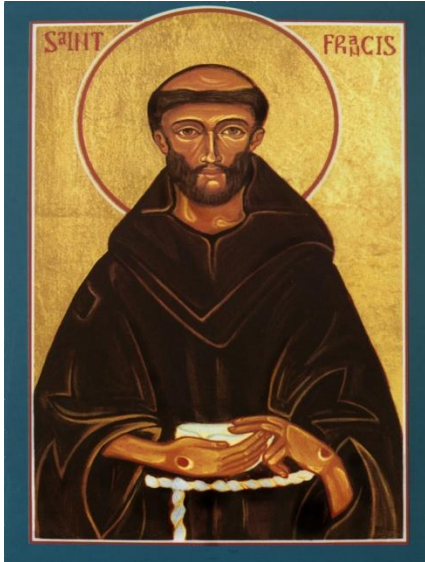


**January 18, 2026**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**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@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 CLOSED – On Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**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 25<sup>th</sup>. Save this date!** More information available soon.



**THE ART OF STAINED GLASS MAKING** – JANUARY 25<sup>th</sup> & FEBRUARY 1<sup>st</sup> – 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 25<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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, poster guidelines and PRIZES!!! For more information, please visit at [www.dioceseaj.org/youthministry](http://www.dioceseaj.org/youthministry) or pick up a flyer in the Main Vestibule!

**SLOVAK PRESENTATION – JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>** –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 18<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:madomnik@dioceseaj.org).

**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](http://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](mailto: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.**

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$122.00; Adults – \$1864.00; Monthly – \$355.00; Candles – \$117.00; St. Vincent De Paul – \$25.00; Solemnity – \$75.00; Initial Offering – \$35.00; Oplatek – \$323.00; Donation – \$20.00; Online Giving - \$325.00 – Total Collection - \$3,241.00

**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**

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current Liturgical Cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' Baptism last Sunday, on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' Baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about Who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the One Who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' Ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in this reading: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One Who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a Disciple. By our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

### **January 18, 2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today's readings provide clear and inspiring reminders of the most fundamental aspect of our identity – that of servants of our most high and holy God, His modern-day disciples and stewards. To be His servant is all that truly matters in this life, for us and for our children. Career paths, athletic accomplishments, the school we attend, or the city in which we live – all are secondary to the thing that matters most – that we have been called from the womb for the privilege of being God's servant.

Let us examine our daily lives and encourage our children to do the same. Does the way I spend my time reflect that God comes first? Do prayer and weekly Mass, regular confession and time with my family 'rank ahead' of everything else on my calendar? Do I use my talents, skills and energy to serve my family, parish and community in thanksgiving and recognition that God's Kingdom ranks ahead of any other goals or ambitions? Do I spend my money and use my material possessions to glorify God? Challenging questions, to be sure. But questions worthy of our high calling as Christian stewards offered a glorious mission in service of our Lord and His Kingdom.

---

**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.

**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.

=====

**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 Rovon 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.

