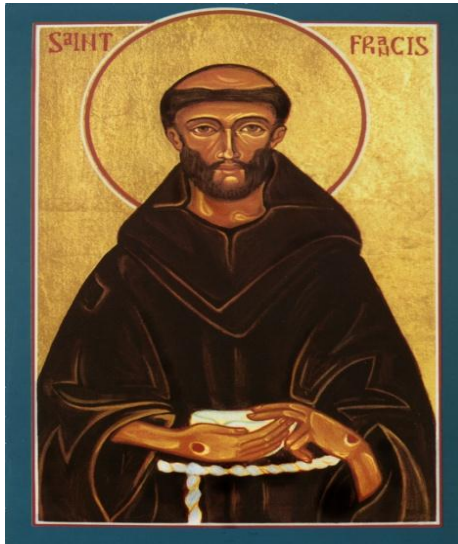


**March 1, 2026**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**THE FAITH COMMUNITY OF**  
**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

*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)**  
**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

**ST. FRANCIS FISH FRY** – St. Francis of Assisi Parish will have a Fish Fry on **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>** at the Activity Center, corner of D Street and Barron Avenue. **A LUNCH SPECIAL** (Fried Fish Sandwich and French Fries, no substitutions) will be offered from **11AM until 1:00PM (EAT IN & TAKE OUT)**. The full menu will be served from p2:00PM – 6:00PM, eat in or take out. Orders for lunch and dinner will be taken from 9:00AM until 1:00PM on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> by calling 814-539-3518. We welcome walk-ins, but strongly suggest that orders be placed in advance. Meals will be served while supplies last. All help is greatly appreciated. **\*\*DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED!\*\***



**UPCOMING EVENTS** – The St. Francis Fundraising Committee is currently selling a \$10 ticket to go off on **March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> off the Pa Lottery Daily Evening Number**. Tickets will help defray expenses for the upcoming **Music Bingo event on April 25<sup>th</sup>!** Tickets are available before and after Masses. Please contact Fran for tickets or information at 814-536-3667. **Save this date!** More information available soon.



**MEN'S CLUB MEAT RAFFLE – MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>** – Tickets are on sale and are \$5.00 each. The event is on **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Francis Activity Center, doors open at 12:00PM and the Raffle starts at 1:00PM**. Light meal is available. Tickets will be available before and after all weekend Masses. For more information please contact John Davis at 814-341-9461.

**SAVE THE DATE – SIGHT & SOUND TRIP** to see Joshua on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>! More details in the coming weeks!

**YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39)** – Our January event had about 50 young adults including 5 new members. March will be our 3-year anniversary and we are always seeking new members! All young adults (18-39) are invited! There is no cost to attend. Our next Theology on Tap is February 25<sup>th</sup> at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Fr. David Dodd TOR speaking on: The Scriptures and the Power of God: Highly Valuing the Scriptures. Our March 25<sup>th</sup> speaker is Metropolitan Archbishop William Skurla! For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or [geoffstumpo@gmail.com](mailto:geoffstumpo@gmail.com).

**OLYMPIC BOBSLEDDER COMING TO HOLY NAME PARISH, EBENSBURG** – On Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM Holy Name Parish in Ebensburg, will welcome Notre Dame outstanding 3 x pentathlon NCAA Champion and current Olympic bobsledder Jadin O'Brien as our parish Lenten mission leader. She graciously accepted the invitation through the Catholic Speakers Organization. She is a devout Catholic who has shown perseverance through her health struggles and injuries. She is excited about coming to visit our parish and school. Please help spread the word about this upcoming parish mission; also check out her billboard on Route 22. LET'S GO!!!

**CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK** – Loose – \$156.00; Adults – \$1,629.20; Monthly – \$75.00; Candles – \$160.00; Mandeville – \$102.00; Mandeville Loose – \$120.00; Initial Offering – \$10.00; Black & Indian Mission – \$55.00; Donation – \$75.00; Online Giving – \$245.00 – Total Collection – \$2,627.20.

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

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

## **BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING**

For the second Sunday of Lent, we move from Jesus' retreat to the desert to His Transfiguration. Each year on the first Sunday of Lent, our Gospel tells the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert. On the second Sunday of Lent each year, we hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. The story of Jesus' Transfiguration is told in the three Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In each of those Gospels, the Transfiguration follows Jesus' first prediction of His death and His teaching about the costs of discipleship. Jesus' Transfiguration is a promise of Jesus' glory, His Resurrection.

On a mountain in today's reading, a voice affirms that Jesus is God's Son in words reminiscent of the voice at Jesus' Baptism. In addition, the appearance of Moses and Elijah on the mountain connects this story with God's relationship to the people of Israel. Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, respectively. Together with Jesus, they represent God's complete Word. The Transfiguration occurs in the presence of just three of Jesus' Disciples: Peter, James, and John. In Matthew's Gospel, those disciples are among the first whom Jesus calls. The three men are identified as an "inner circle" among Jesus' Disciples when Jesus asks them to accompany Him to the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest.

### **March 1, 2026 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Our readings for this second Sunday of Lent offer us, as Christian stewards, the motivation to continue our 40-day journey towards deeper holiness.

The first reading from the book of Genesis describes God's call to Abram (who would later be called Abraham). God instructs Abram to leave his home and set out to a land that God had chosen for him. Abram's response is an ancient example of good stewardship. Instead of clinging to his comfortable way of life, to the only home he has ever known, he recognizes that all he has is a gift from God, puts his trust in God, and obeys. And God rewards him saying, "I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing."

To "be a blessing" is the true aim of a stewardship way of life. It is also an excellent way to live out the season of Lent. The sacrifices we take on, the spiritual disciplines we practice, and the extra acts of service we perform during this season – all give glory to God and transform our lives into a blessing for others. Let us rely on God's strength to aid us in our spiritual disciplines as we move through Lent. We will arrive at Easter with deeper holiness, as a blessing to God and others – and as better stewards of all God's gifts to us.

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

**The Sacred Heart Candle will burn week of March 1 - 7 for all Cancer Patients. From Karen Golby**  
**PUBLIC ROSARY – HONORING ST. JOSEPH & PRAYING FOR MARRIAGE** – On Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church. On Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon at St. Anne Shrine at St. John Gualbert Cathedral, Downtown Johnstown.

**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 Czarnik, Alicia Junghans, Tyler McKinley, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Gary Singel, Betty Spisak, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobocky, 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 - Every Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm we have a prayer vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood office in Johnstown, on Franklin Street. Please join us in prayer to end abortion.**

**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.

