

April 12, 2026
Divine Mercy Sunday
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
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

PASCHAL CANDLE – This year the Paschal Candle was donated in memory of Sam & Rose Trapanotto From
– Dave & Fran King

THANK YOU – To all who helped in any way with the decorating of the Church for the **Easter Season**, and all who helped with the **Seder Meal**, and also to **Heather Kmetz** for the wonderful Easter egg hunt for the Children! May God Bless you for your efforts!

MAINTENANCE 2nd COLLECTION - next weekend, we will be holding our monthly 2nd collection to help with the upkeep and maintenance with the buildings.

THANK YOU – To all the CCD Teacher's and CCD Students who made Easter cards for our Parish homebound. It was greatly appreciated!

BASKET DONATION FOR MUSIC BINGO – Baskets and Gift cards are now being accepted for the Music Bingo. Baskets can be left in the back of the Church or at the Church Office. Gift cards can be put in the collection basket and marked for Music Bingo. We greatly appreciate your help with making this fundraiser a success!



HITMIX MUSIC BINGO – Will be held on **Saturday, April 25th** at St. Francis Activity Center at 134 Barron Avenue. Doors open at 4:30PM with first game beginning at 7:00PM. Tickets are \$25 each. Also available for purchase are extra bingo cards, Qualifiers, & 50/50. **NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED.** Must be 18 or older to participate! Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667

FINANCE COUNCIL OPPORTUNITY – We are seeking dedicated individuals with education or experience in financial management, business, administration, law, or property management to serve on our Parish Finance Council. This is a meaningful leadership opportunity that supports the long-term stewardship and mission of our Parish community. Finance Council members play a vital role in reviewing and approving the annual parish budget, monitoring income, expenditures, overall financial health, and offering guidance on construction and renovation projects. If you have skills in any of these areas, we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Office at 814-539-1632 or Finance Council President, Teresa Thompson at 814-659-6798.

SMALL GAMES OF CHANCE WORKSHOP – The Learning Lamp and the Cambria County Drug and Alcohol Program will present a free Small Games of Chance Workshop on Tues., April 14 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at First Summit Arena (in the Stars and Stripes Room) 326 Napoleon St. in Johnstown. Doors open at 5:30 PM. Register online by Mon., April 13 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/sgoc-4-14 26. Registration will close early if full. Come and brush up on the law with a trainer from the Pennsylvania State Police. This is the perfect opportunity to clear up confusion and ensure that your organization is making the most of your Small Games of Chance permit. Topics will include legal and illegal gambling activities; types of permits; Bingo laws; special occasion permits; use of proceeds for groups with/without liquor licenses.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$421.00; Adults – \$1,664.00; Monthly – \$753.00; Candles – \$47.00; Easter – \$2,869.00; Holy Thursday – \$261.00; Good Friday – \$423.00; Donation – \$550.00; Online Giving – \$525.00 – Total Collection – \$3,279.00

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

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

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The Gospels tell us that Jesus appeared to the Disciples on several occasions after they discovered that His tomb was empty. Part of the Mystery of Jesus' Resurrection is that He appeared to His Disciples not as a spirit but in bodily form. The bodily form was not one that the Disciples recognized though. In John's Gospel, Mary of Magdala does not recognize that the figure standing before her is Jesus until He speaks to her. In Luke's Gospel the Disciples who meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus do not recognize Him until He breaks bread with them. The Resurrected Jesus had a physical presence, but the Disciples couldn't recognize Jesus unless He allowed them to. His Resurrected body, nonetheless, showed the marks of His Crucifixion.

From readings such as today's Gospel, we also see that in His Resurrected body, Jesus seems to be free of physical constraints. He appears to the Disciples despite the fact that the doors were locked. Jesus greets His Disciples with the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. In doing so, Jesus commissions His Disciples to continue the work that He has begun: "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." During the meeting, Jesus also shows the integral connection between forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of Thomas illustrates our Christian experience today: We are called to believe without seeing. In fact, all Christians after the first witnesses have been called to believe without seeing. Thomas's doubt is hardly surprising; the news of Jesus' appearance was incredible to the Disciples who had seen Him crucified and buried. Thomas's human nature compelled him to want hard evidence that the Jesus who appeared to the Disciples after His Death was indeed the same Jesus who had been crucified. Thomas is given the opportunity to act on that desire. He is our witness that Jesus is really Risen. Our faith is based on the witness of the Church that has preceded us, beginning with Thomas and the first Disciples. Through Baptism we receive the same Holy Spirit that Jesus brought to the first Disciples. We are among those who are "blessed" because we believe without having seen.

April 12, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

The Christian steward approaches life with an "Easter vision" rooted in gratitude for and confidence in the salvation our Lord has won for us through His Death and Resurrection. Today's readings on this Divine Mercy Sunday teach us how this approach plays out in daily life and reminds us that we can have complete trust in the mercy of God to lead us, step by step, to heaven.

Our first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles, describes this beautiful way of life as it was practiced by the first Christians. "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." And "they ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people." This is a snapshot of the very first community of Christian stewards living out their daily life – embracing prayer (the breaking of the bread), formation (the teaching of the apostles), hospitality (the communal life and fellowship through joyful meals together) and mutual service. What an inspiration to us modern-day stewards!

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 Czynnik, Alicia Junghans, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Gary Singel, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobacky, 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 Rovon 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; **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 - Every Thursday from 11:00am to 12pm Noon 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.

