

April 19, 2026
3rd Sunday of Easter
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 – 814 - 254- 2942
Men's Club President – John Davis
Rosary Society – Cecilia Neiderer
Gabriel Project – 814-418-1813
DRE – Deacon Bruce Becker – 814-418-6754

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

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

ASCENSION THURSDAY - There is a sign-up sheet in the Main Vestibule for Ministers & Lectors for Ascension Thursday, May 14th and the Vigil on Wednesday, May 13th.

MUSIC BINGO SETUP - All help is needed on Wednesday, April 22nd starting at 9:30 AM to help set up for Music Bingo.

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 which includes turkey dinner and non-alcoholic beverages, one bingo card for each game, and cash prizes every half hour. Also available for purchase are extra bingo cards, Qualifiers, 50/50, chances on baskets and \$10 beer bracelets. Cash bar. NO OUTSIDE ALCOHOL PERMITTED. Must be 18 or older to participate! Please contact Fran King at 814-536-3667

YOUNG ADULT GROUP (18-39) - Our next Theology on Tap is April 22nd at the Boulevard Grill at 6pm with Brother Francisco Whittaker OSB speaking on Divine Mercy. Over the last several months we have been averaging about 45 young adults per month with new members joining monthly. All young adults (18-39) are invited! There is no cost to attend. For more information contact Geoffrey Stumpo at (814) 659-7415 or geoffstumpo@gmail.com.

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.

HOLY NAME CHURCH - Ebensburg, will host guest speaker, Michael Franzese on Monday, May 4 at 7:15 PM. Michael is a former "caporegime" in the Colombo crime family. He turned away many years ago from a life of crime, spent time in prison and had a conversion experience and turned his life over to our Lord Jesus Christ. He has spoken over 1600 churches throughout the world; he has visited prisons to speak about leaving a life of sinfulness and crime and giving everything over to our Heavenly Father!

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK - Loose - \$64.00; Adults - \$2,149.00; Monthly - \$215.00; Candles - \$118.00; Easter - \$230.00; Ash Wednesday - \$20.00; Holy Thursday - \$15.00; Good Friday - \$28.00; Online Giving - \$295.00 - Total Collection - \$3,134.00.

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

On most Sundays during the Easter season in Cycle A, our Gospel is taken from the Gospel of John. This week's Gospel, however, is taken from the Gospel of Luke. As in last week's Gospel, today's Gospel shows us how the first community of disciples came to believe that Jesus had Risen from the dead. In these stories we gain insight into how the community of the Church came to be formed.

When we read today's Gospel, we may be surprised to learn that these friends of Jesus could walk and converse with Him at some length yet not recognize Him. Again we discover that the Risen Jesus is not always easily recognized. Cleopas and the other disciple walk with a person whom they believe to be a stranger; only later do they discover that the stranger is Jesus. We learn that the first community met and recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, just as we meet Jesus in the Eucharist.

We can imagine the feelings of the two disciples in today's reading. They are leaving their community in Jerusalem. Their friend Jesus has been crucified. Their hope is gone. They are trying to make sense of what has occurred, so that they can put the experience behind them.

Jesus Himself approaches the two men, but they take Him for a stranger. Jesus asks them what they are discussing. He invites them to share their experience and interpretation of the events surrounding His Crucifixion and death. When the two disciples have done so, Jesus offers His own interpretation of His Crucifixion and Resurrection, citing Jewish Scripture. In that encounter we find the model for our Liturgy of the Word—what we do each time we gather as a community for the Eucharist. We reflect upon our life experiences and interpret them in light of Scripture. We gather together to break open the Word of God.

In the next part of the story, we find a model for our Liturgy of the Eucharist. The disciples invite the stranger (Jesus) to stay with them. During the meal in which they share in the breaking of the Bread, the disciples' eyes are opened; they recognize the stranger as Jesus. In the Eucharist too we share in the breaking of the Bread and discover Jesus in our midst. Just as the disciples returned to Jerusalem to recount their experience to the other disciples, we too are sent from our Eucharistic gathering. Our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist compels us to share the story with others.

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Today's readings focus on a theme of 'sojourning.' As Christian stewards, we know that our lives are a sojourn toward the ultimate destination of Heaven.

Our second reading instructs us to "conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed... with the Precious Blood of Christ." What a powerful reminder during the Easter season of our 'why' for embracing the stewardship way of life – we have been ransomed by our Lord's saving death and resurrection. Our lives are a gift from Him – as we sojourn through life, we are to make our lives a gift to Him in return.

So, what can we do when we become discouraged – when we need our hearts set on fire once again? We can go to the same sources as the two disciples from our Gospel today on the road to Emmaus – the Scriptures (the living Word of God) and the Eucharist (the very source and summit of our faith). Frequent recourse to these two gifts from our Lord is essential to sustain us in the stewardship way of life.

ST. MARY BYZANTINE CHURCH – will hold a Spring Craft and Vendor Show on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Sunday, April 19 from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Join us for this two-day event featuring: handmade crafts; unique gifts; home décor; specialty items; local artisans and small businesses. Calling all vendors, reserve your space today! Space is limited, early registration is recommended. For more information, please call Fr. Timothy at 267-751-9492 or email stmarybyz@gmail.com

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, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Gary Singel, Joanna Stone, Carol Sobbecky, 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; 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.

Pope's Intention for the Month of April: For Priest's in crisis. Let us pray for Priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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.

