

May 3, 2026
5th 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

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.

ROSARY SOCIETY will meet on Monday, May 4th at 3:00PM. Please join us for Rosary, Reflection and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

MEN'S CLUB – Will be meeting on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30PM at the Activity Building. New members are always welcome.

MEET & GREET – All parishioners are invited to attend a Meet & Greet on **Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Activity Center**. This event provides an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners, members of the Finance Council, Parish Council, Fundraising Committee, Men's Club, Gabriel Project, and the many individuals who serve in liturgical and support ministries. A brief overview of each ministry will be presented, along with information about available volunteer opportunities. We also welcome your questions and value your suggestions for continued improvement within our parish community. Beverages and light refreshments will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the main vestibule, please sign up so we have an approximate number for snack & refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – SAVE THE DATE – Our Annual Parish Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 26th at the Activity Center! More information will be available in the coming weeks!

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.

PUBLIC ROSARY – In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima on Saturday, May 9th at 12 NOON at Vine Street Parklet, Downtown Johnstown. Also on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church located at 114 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, PA 15905.

WEST END PICKERS – TRASH TO TREASURES – INDOOR YARD SALE – Come out to St. Therese's Church at 536 Decker Avenue. This is a **2 day event from Friday, May 8 and Saturday May 9, 2026**. Get your spring cleaning started and donate your items! Every little bit helps! Call 814-322-5558 or 814-248-8989 for pick up of your items or drop off on May 4th and 5th at the hall. Something for everyone! Doors open at 8:00 AM, both days, until 1:00 PM. No early sales. Food available. Proceeds from this sale go towards our projects- surveillance cameras, garden/flower boxes, & community events.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$131.00; Adults – \$1,733.00; Monthly – \$5.00; Candles – \$322.75; Easter – \$25.00; Good Friday – \$5.00; Mother's Day – \$10.00; Donation – \$60.00; Online Giving – \$245.00 – Total Collection – \$2,536.75

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the week of May 3rd – 10th for Special Intentions From: Kathy Zierer

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

BACKGROUND ON THE GOSPEL READING

The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before His Passion. Jesus tells His Disciples that He is going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He promises that where He is going, His Disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the Disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the Disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that He Himself is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the Disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the Disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told His Disciples, "If you know Me, then you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what He has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about His departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the Disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and His Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks His name to His Disciples: "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.

May 3, 2026 - 5th Sunday of Easter

The readings on this Fifth Sunday of Easter present us with themes of dwelling places and home. As Christian stewards, we are well aware that this world is not our permanent home. We are merely pilgrims here, making our way through the stewardship way of life to our true home, heaven.

Yet, as we make our way to Heaven, we are called to make our dwelling here – whether we are in a household of one or bursting at the seams – our true 'domestic church' starts at home. Stewardship is not just about going to Mass once a week, serving in ministries, and giving financially to the Parish. Those are all important, but stewardship begins long before we step onto our parish campus. It begins with our families, our domestic church.

Let us respond to God's great love by becoming good stewards of our earthly dwellings, making our homes true 'domestic churches' where we honor God with our prayer, our thoughtfulness to each other, and our generous hospitality to all. Let us never forget that stewardship starts at home.

THE PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL SHRINE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON OCTOBER 10, 2026, THE COST PER PERSON TO TAKE A BUS WOULD BE \$50.00/PER PERSON BASED ON 50 PEOPLE. EACH PERSON WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SNACKS & DINNER.

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 Czyrnik, Alicia Junghans, Rick McKinley, Rowen Ream, Alexandra Rice, Carly Rice, Doug Rice, Rose Rice, Gary Singel, 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 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.

