

May 17, 2026
7th 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

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MEN'S CLUB FOR THE FANTASTIC MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION FOR OUR DEAR MOM'S!!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED – Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 29th in Observance of Memorial Day.

PUBLIC ROSARY – In Honor of Our Lady of Fatima on Thursday, May 21st at 6:30 PM at St. Clement Church located at 114 Lindberg Ave, Johnstown, PA 15905.

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.

SIGHT & SOUND TRIP TO SEE “JOSHUA” – We will be going to see “JOSHUA” on **Tuesday, August 25th for the 3:00 PM Show.** Reservations need to be made by June 1st. For more information, please contact Fran King at (814)536-3667.

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. **PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING THIS COMING TOGETHER!!**

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.

CONTRIBUTIONS LAST WEEK – Loose – \$307.00; Adults – \$2,312.50; Monthly – \$435.00; Candles – \$151.00; St. Vincent DePaul – \$30.00; Ascension – \$49.00; Mother's Day – \$603.00; Cemetery – \$160.00; Online Giving – \$405.00 – Total Collection – \$4,452.50

The Blessed Mother Candle will burn for the weeks of May 17th – 31st 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

Today's reading is a prayer, which appears at the conclusion of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. At the end of the prayer, Jesus is arrested in the garden. The prayer might be read as Jesus' final commendation of Himself to the Father. In the prayer, Jesus also expresses care and concern for His Disciples.

Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, Who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father's work on earth. In this prayer we learn that Jesus' life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John's Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus' Death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over His spirit.

In today's Gospel we also note the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the Disciples. The Disciples are in the world, but they are separate from it because they have been given to Jesus. They are chosen from the world to be in service to the world for its Salvation. This Salvation has been accomplished in Jesus because Jesus has revealed the Father to the world, but the Disciples will be sent by Jesus to make both the Father and Jesus known to the world. Jesus' prayer is for the Disciples' work in the world.

May 17, 2026 – 7th Sunday of Easter

This week, we celebrated the great feast of the Ascension of our Lord, that glorious moment when Jesus, 40 days after His Resurrection, was lifted up – quite literally – into Heaven, as the Apostles watched in stunned amazement. It must have been an extraordinary thing to witness.

But the Apostles were not permitted to simply bask in the moment for very long. “While they were looking intently at the sky as He was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?’ In other words, ‘Don't just stand there, do something!’

Let us take a moment to ‘look up at the Heavens’ and ponder all the graces and blessings our loving God has given us. And then, let us do something! Let's put all those gifts to work as we serve as grateful witnesses to this amazing God.

MASS FOR WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS TO BE TELEVISED – Remember your loved ones on **Sunday, May 24, 2026 with a televised Mass Celebrated by Bishop Mark Bartchak at 11:00 AM on WATM ABC 23**. All spouses will be acknowledged and remembered at the Mass. All persons who have lost a spouse through death throughout the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese are invited to register by contacting the Family Life Office at 814-317-2643 or email familylife@dioceseaj.org. When registering, please give your **name, address, phone number and the name of your spoused who has passed away**. The last day to register is **Thursday, May 21, 2026**. The event is sponsored by the Diocesan Family Life Office and the Catholic Ministries Drive. Please be advised, a special broadcast of a sporting event on WATM ABC 23 may delay this broadcast. All names of loved ones will be seen during Communion.

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 Sobecky, 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.

