

Rev. Marlon Pates, Pastor mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Arnel Patayon Tadeo Shared Parochial Vicar

Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ...8:00 am Saturday6:00 pm Sunday8:00 am & 11:30 am

Confessions: During Adoration **Adoration:** Friday 4:30-6:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday	8:00 am
Saturday:	4:00 pm
Sunday	

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm **Adoration:** Wednesday 4:30-6:00 pm

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bulletin Articles: The deadline for placing articles in the bulletin is Monday at Noon.

New Parishioners, Welcome! Please register as soon as possible.

Communion to the Homebound is provided on a regular basis. Call the Parish Office to be added to our list.

Sacrament of Baptism: By appointment. Prior to your baby's Baptism, you must be a registered, practicing member of this parish.

Sacrament of Marriage: Requires parish membership by at least one of the parties for six months prior to making arrangements for marriage.

Weddings should be scheduled one year in advance.

Prayer Chain: To request prayer, please call Patty 724-245-9746 or Valeria 724-583-9460

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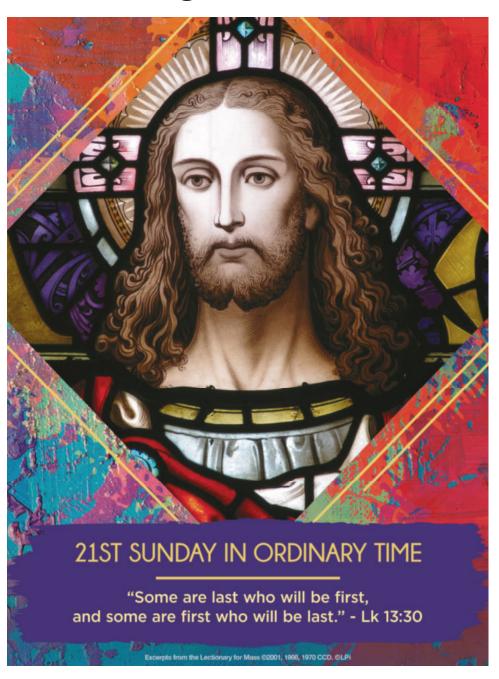
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Phone: 724-583-7866 Website: www.sfoafayette.org email: sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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August 21, 2022



Fr. Marlon's Reflections - Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Is 66:18-21; Heb 12:5-7,11-13; Luke 13:22-30)



When I entered in the seminary at the age of 17, I could still remember the intention that I prayed in the chapel, "Lord, I'm here now, and with your grace I will offer my life in the service of You and the church as your future priest. But please, my Lord, protect my family and keep them safe always."

But God's ways are really mysterious. On my second year in the seminary I lost my younger sister due to a car accident. And her death led me to ask many questions: "Is this the way that Jesus shows his love – by giving me and my family great pain? If God is really all good, why did he allow this to happen to me and to my family? After all, despite of our weaknesses and shortcomings, we were not doing very badly in life. So why this and why us?"

You, too, at one stage of life or another, may have asked the "Why this? And "why me?" questions. The readings for this Sunday help us find an answer to these questions.

While Jesus was in a village on his way to Jerusalem, someone asked him a question, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Jesus refused to answer the question. Instead, he gave three short parables to drive home a point, namely, to be saved, effort was demanded of every one.

In the first parable, Jesus said, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." The narrowness of the door is stressed to express the reality that salvation is not made for crowds. Neither is one entitled to a reserved seat in the basis of birth or baptism. Rather, confronted with the call of Jesus, each one is called to make a personal response.

The second parable, that of the locked door, refers to those who tarry in accepting Jesus, that merely to have eaten and drank with him and to have heard and been taught by him are not enough. Rather, having accepted his invitation, each one has to live by his teachings every moment of every day. To him who has not done so, the Master will say, "I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evil doers!"

In the third parable, Jesus said that descended from Abraham, Jacob and all the prophets – as Jews were – did not count; there is no such thing as national salvation. For as God tells us through Isiah in the first reading (Is. 66:18-21), the promised salvation is for all, "I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory." This is an outright rejection of all clannishness on the part of the Jews. This prophecy was filled when the Father sent Jesus as "Good News' – he gave his very life for the redemption of all.

In fact, even at the time of Jesus' ministry, many non-descendants of Abraham and the prophets, that is, the Gentiles were among the first to accept Jesus as he himself publicly acknowledged, "Some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

In effect, Jesus is telling us that salvation, even if it is for all, is not automatic; it is a task for all and not a right of a few. And this is where St. Paul's exhortation on discipline as found in the second reading (Heb. 12:5-13) comes in. Beginning with a quote from Proverbs, namely, "For whom the Lord loves, his disciples, he scourges every son he acknowledges," he adds, "All disciple seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it."

The problems and sufferings we have all experienced and will be experiencing are parts of the discipline we undergo to remain faithful in responding to God's invitation. Discipline and no other is the "narrow gate" through which we enter into eternal life.

A story is told of a wealthy woman who, when she reached heaven, was shown a very plain mansion. She objected. "Well," she was told, "that is the house you prepared for yourself." "Who is that fine mansion across the way?" she asked. "It belongs to your gardener," was the answer. "How is it that he has one so much better than mine?" The houses here are prepared from materials that are sent up," she was told. "We do not choose them: you do that by your earthly faithfulness."

When we discipline ourselves, then, with God's grace, we can remain faithful in our following of Jesus.

Will only a few be saved? That is not the issue. For God loves all of us and wills us to be saved. The issue is to discipline ourselves so that we will be able to respond faithfully and at every moment to God's call and thus, with his help, attain salvation. This will then serve as the materials we send up to heaven for the mansion being built for us.



In times past, most of the important church festivals were celebrated for eight days. This period of eight days is called an *octave*. In church tradition, an octave represents eternity and in the early church, it was a symbol of perfection and of heaven.

This Monday, August 22, is the eighth day after the solemnity of the Assumption. We honor Mary as the *Regina Caeli*, the Queen of Heaven. Psalm 45, sung on Assumption Day, is sung again today. It speaks of a queen in a golden robe. Wherever she goes, she brings justice and splendor and great rejoicing. Jewish songs refer to the Sabbath in that way. When it arrives, it is like a queen whose beauty chases away all sorrow.

"Perfect model of the apostolic spiritual life is the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Apostles. While on earth, her life was like that of any other, filled with labor and the cares of the home; always, however, she remained intimately united to her Son and cooperated in an entirely unique way in the Savior's work." - Vatican Council II

Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Rose of Lima, a mystic who lived a life of penance and solitude, caring for the homeless, elderly and the sick. She is patroness of the Philippines, South America and of florists and gardeners.

Wednesday is the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, an apostle about whom not much is known. The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke mention him in their lists of the Twelve. The first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles mentions him waiting with the other disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Known as Nathaniel in John's gospel, he preached the gospel in India and Armenia.

Thursday is the Feast of Saint Louis. Louis became King of France when he was only 12. He was a model ruler and father of eleven children who cared especially for lepers; built Sainte Chapelle in Paris as a reliquary for the crown of thorns. He is patron of masons & sculptors.

Thursday is also the Feast of Saint Joseph Calasanz.

Dedicated to helping poor children, he faced many trials and calumnies for his work. He is patron of all Christian schools dedicated to assisting the poor.

Saturday is the Feast of Saint Monica, who after thirty years of prayer, she obtained the conversion of her dissolute pagan husband and under the guidance of Saint Ambrose, she won the conversion of her eldest son, Saint Augustine. She is patroness of mothers.

The Practice of Stewardship

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself - my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God - is as important as the monetary gift I offer. See Isaiah 66:20

The CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY and CATHOLIC SCHOOLS in the DIOCESE COLLECTION

Annually, a second collection is taken in the Diocese of Greensburg to support Catholic education, both locally and nationally. This year fifty percent of this collection will go to support The Catholic University and fifty percent will be used to aid the Catholic schools here in our own Diocese. The Catholic University in Washington, D.C. is unique among the Catholic institutions of higher education because it is the national university for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the only higher education institution founded by the American bishops and chartered by the Vatican.

Here in the Diocese of Greensburg, we have ten grade schools and two high schools that offer a wholistic education that combines Christ's teachings with academic excellence and service to others. Our Catholic schools are an asset to our communities and they prepare future leaders for the Church and the nation.

Your financial support is critical to the success of our Catholic schools. I ask you to support this collection prayerfully and generously. Envelopes are available at the exits of our church. Please don't forget to pick one. You may mail them to the office or drop them in the collection basket next weekend's Masses. Thank you! — In Marlon

FOOD BANK REMINDER: I would like to remind you that our parish has agreed to provide paper products as our counterpart for the Food Bank in our communities in Masontown and New Salem. You may bring your donations next weekend. Please place items in the container at each door of our church. Thank you for your continued support in helping those in need. — 7r. Marlon

VENDOR SHOW - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the social hall in Footedale. Questions? Please contact Sharon - 724-208-1284.

Stewardship of Treasure

August 14: \$5,986; loose \$420; monthly \$1,385; children \$14; online \$392 totaling \$8,197

Your support is vital to the life of our parish!



Labor Day Weekend

Saturday, September 3 & Sunday, September 4 6:00 to 10:00 pm on the parish grounds in Masontown

Needed: Cases of Water and Coke & Pepsi products

Needed: Theme Baskets - ALL TYPES

Sports, movies, lottery tickets, gift cards, etc. (Please bring these items to either Church on weekends or drop them off at the Parish Office in Masontown Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Needed: Baked Goods

We need your help in supplying home baked goods for this popular stand.

Needed: Volunteers! It takes 60-70 volunteers each night to prepare, staff the booths, clean up, etc. and we need your help! We can't do this without you! Sign up to volunteer by contacting the Parish Office.

Needed: Summer Celebration Sponsors

We are asking for donations to help cover celebration expenses and entertainment costs. Donor levels are: Platinum \$250; Gold \$100/\$249; Silver Level \$50/\$99; Bronze \$30/\$49. Sponsors will be displayed on the signs throughout the celebration grounds.

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Sponsor	Name		
Address			
Phone _	E-mail _		
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In	clude name on signs?	Yes	No
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Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which one becomes a member of our Catholic faith. The process not only teaches the Doctrine of the Church but also explores its practices.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Parish Office - 724-583-7866.

Required Faith Formation Class: Children entering First Grade this fall will need to enroll and complete one year of religious instruction *before* entering the Sacramental Class for First Communion and First Reconciliation. Attendance at a Catholic School fulfills this requirement. Students who have not fulfilled this requirement in First Grade will need to complete a year of religious instruction prior to enrolling in the Sacramental Class this year.

Confirmation: Students entering Seventh Grade this fall will be required to attend Faith Formation during their Seventh Grade Year. This is the Confirmation Preparation Class that you will need to attend *prior* to receiving Confirmation in the Fall of 2023. You may use the Faith Formation Enrollment Forms to register. Please contact Kim Stavish with any questions.

SNOW PLOWING: We are now accepting bids for snow plowing at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Footedale Worship Site. Must be able to provide proof of insurance coverage. Please send bids to the Parish Office: 101 W. Church Ave., Masontown, PA 15461; call 724-583-7866 or email sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org before September 15, 2022. — 7n. Marlon

Support for Ukraine Concert - August 28

The VFW 8543 Band's *Support for Ukraine Concert* takes place at 3:00 pm on Sunday, **August 28**, at the State Theatre. Doors open at 2:30 pm. For this event, monetary donations will be accepted and channeled to the brave, proud and patriotic people of Ukraine through Brother's Brother Foundation in Pittsburgh.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Stepping Stones Bereavement Support will begin the fall program for the newly bereaved at 7:00 pm on Monday, September 12, at Third Presbyterian Church, 425 Union St., Uniontown. Those experiencing a recent loss and those still suffering from a loss after some time are welcome. There is no cost. For information or to register, please call Lillian at 724-439-1683.

Never Miss a Bulletin! Sign up to have our weekly bulletin emailed to you at **www.parishesonline.com**



Saturday, August 20 -- Vigil: 21st Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-F Adam & Josephine Smith (Son, Walter) 6:00 pm-M Robert A. Raho (Bill Raho & Family)

Sunday, August 21 -- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Pro Populo

9:30 am-F William J. Winter (Saundra Winter) 11:30 am-M Geno Coll (Wife, Lydia Coll)

Monday, August 22 -- Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am-M Joseph Sabatelli (Wife, Rosalie)

Tuesday, August 23 -- Saint Rose of Lima

8:00 am-F Vincenza Congelio (Tom & Patty Torrey)

Wednesday, August 24 -- Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

8:00 am-M Lindakay Rendina (Family)

Thursday, August 25 -- Saints Louis & Joseph Calasanz

8:00 am-F Dolores Sofranko (The Golden Group)

Friday, August 26 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Clement Ryan (Family) 4:30-6:00 pm Adoration in Masontown

Saturday, August 27 -- Vigil: 22nd Ordinary Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions 4:00 pm-F Elaine Rosnack

6:00 pm-M Wynona Gashie (Tony/Judy Gashie Family)

Sunday, August 28 -- 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Esther Pleban (Sons, John, Ed & Family)

9:30 am-F Pro Populo

11:30 am-M John Alexander (Raymond Trincia Sr.)

(M) Fr. Marlon / (A) Fr. Arnel

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-12; Mt 23:13-22 Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-17; Mt 23:23-26 Wednesday: Rv 21:9-14; Jn 1:45-51 Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9; Mt 24:42-51 Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25; Mt 25:1-13 Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30



Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-29; Heb 12:18-24; Lk 14:1-14



Eucharistic Adoration Friday, August 26 in Masontown

4:30-5:30 pm: Exposition and Confession 5:30-5:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy 5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction

Hold your eyes on God and leave the "doing" to Him. That is all the "doing" that you have to worry about.



It is no accident that the words "disciple" and "discipline" come from the same root word, the Latin disciplina, meaning teaching. As disciples of the Lord, we are taught through discipline. We need that discipline when we are tempted to compromise our ethics or ignore our conscience and do something we shouldn't or fail to do something we should. Hebrews reminds us today that God's discipline is given out of love, to keep our conscience strong and our feet on the narrow path. May we keep to the discipline of being a true disciple and resolve to learn from our missteps.



Dear Lord,

As our children, teachers and staff head back to school, please bless them, protect them and watch over them. Amen.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS TODAY

Children of the parish are invited to bring their backpacks to Mass with them this weekend to have it blessed for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES RESUME

on September 18 and will take place in Footedale on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:45 am.

ENROLLMENT for the new Faith Formation year is underway. Enrollment packets are available at both worship sites. Please return the completed forms via the collection basket or the Parish Office by **August 31.**

Memorial Candles burn this week in loving memory of or for the special intention of:

† Sanctuary - World Peace

† **Blessed Mother** - *Thomas Gorman* requested by wife, Betty

John & Betty Reagan requested by Rosemary Reagan

† Saint Joseph - Adam & Josephine Smith requested by son, Walter

† **Sacred Heart** - *Louise Drzazgowski* requested by her daughters



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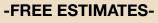
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