



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue
Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

Phone: 724-583-7866

Website: www.sfoafayette.org

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*A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*



Rev. Marlon Pates, Pastor
mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Arnel Patayon Tadeo
Shared Parochial Vicar
atadeo@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown

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

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

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday8:00 am
Saturday:4:00 pm
Sunday.....9:30 am

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

November 27, 2022

PREPARE



“So too, you also must be
prepared, for at an hour you
do not expect, the Son of
Man will come.”

MATTHEW 24:44

Fr. Marlon's Reflections - First Sunday of Advent
(Is. 2:1-5, Rom 13:11-14, Mt. 24:37-44)



With the start of Advent we begin to relive the period of waiting for the coming of our Savior – the birth of Jesus on the first Christmas day. But actually, the Lord comes to us in three ways.

The first coming of Jesus had already taken place when the Word made Flesh. He then came as our Savior. This was the event long awaited for by the Jews of the Old Testament. During Advent, we relive in our lives their experience of waiting for the Lord's coming as our way of preparing for the anniversary of his birth. Like them, we long for the day when the Prince of Peace would so change people's heart that as we have seen in the first reading: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." (Is 2:1-5)

The second coming is the return of Jesus in the end time. Jesus who is now seated at the right hand of the Father will come again but this time as Judge of both the living and the dead.

The third coming is situated between the first two comings. It is Jesus' coming into our hearts here and now to become our personal Savior. This is our immediate and primary concern here and now. And this can happen only if we freely allow Jesus to act within us.

The gospel reading talks about the second and final coming of Jesus. This was then a burning issue among the early Christians. Being persecuted, they expected to be delivered from it with the return of Jesus. His response to this: "But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone." For this reason, Jesus urged them to be watchful and vigilant: "Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." To be watchful and vigilant means to throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light and to conduct ourselves properly as in the day.

The first is the story about what happened to the people in the time of Noah when the Great Flood wiped away sinful humanity. They were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. This was not unusual and there was nothing wrong with it. What they did wrong was in not living up to their call as children of the Covenant which God entered into with them beginning with their father Abraham: they, to be his people and he, to be their God. But though God was always faithful to it, they were not. Instead, they did what was abominable in God's sight: they worshipped idols. Signs were sent to warn them against their infidelity but they ignored them. In desperation at their being so stiff-necked, God wiped them off the face of the earth with the Great Flood. Only Noah and his family who remained faithful to the Covenant were saved.

What people were doing before the Flood, people still do today. True, in our day, especially in this age of materialism and consumerism, we as a people no longer worship molten idols. But worship idols we still do – wealth, power and fame. We have so filled our mind and heart with our desire for them that we have no room there for anything else. We have been warned repeatedly against their evil deeds but we do not seem to listen. And Jesus, who has already come into the world and is only too willing to come into our heart, cannot make us do so, respecting as he does our freedom. Thus our situation now is no different than it was in Noah's time or in Jesus' words, "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Advent is a call to watchfulness and vigilance especially as regards the coming of Jesus into our hearts. Thus, Jesus' admonition, "So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

At Jesus' birth, except for a small remnant, most of the people during his time did not recognize him as the promised Savior. This was because their interests and attention were focused everywhere else except on God. Advent reminds us not to repeat the same mistake as it will have terrible repercussions on our lives. Rather, Advent invites us to be like the remnants of old who were always on the watch for the coming of the Savior and thus were ready to receive him when he came.

Today we light the first candle on our Advent wreath. It is the “Prophecy Candle” which announces the waiting period that anticipates Christmas and honors those who first spoke the promise of the Christ Child. Their words sparked hope in the hearts of the faithful.



Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect. - Mt 24:37-44

Our new liturgical year begins today with the season of Advent - a time of hopeful expectation of the coming of the Lord. On the First Sunday of Advent, we look forward to the end of time when we will awaken to the dawn of Christ’s new day. Today we hear Isaiah speak of a day when God’s power will have brought universal peace and God’s Word will have instructed all people, radiating God’s light (teachings) into all of human society. Only when humanity walks in the light of the Lord, when all people desire to be instructed in God’s ways will the world be set aright and our deepest longings fulfilled. Today’s reading from Romans calls us to awake from sleep for this final day is at hand. Together this Sunday’s scriptures proclaim our Christian faith that Jesus is the One who will finally come to fulfill God’s plan of salvation. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Thursday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is the patronal feast day of the United States of America and a Holy Day of Obligation.

Christmas Pine Order Pick Up

All who ordered Christmas Pine items in support of our cemeteries are reminded that they will be available for pick up after all Masses at both worship sites **next week-end, December 3/4.** Thank you for your support!

The Practice of Stewardship

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged “good stewards” if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.

Thank you to Bill & Sandy Garcher for their generous donation to Saint Agnes Cemetery and to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish given in memory of their son, Michael.

Stewardship of Treasure

November 13: \$3,872; loose \$506; monthly \$495; online \$317 - totaling \$5,190

Your support is vital to the life of our parish!

† Sacred Steps at Saint Francis of Assisi

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of **† Charles E. Cheresnye** who was buried Thursday, November 17. May God grant him eternal life and comfort his family.



PARISH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Advent: A Season of Prayer and Service

This Advent, you are invited to take part in a new SFOA Advent Tradition: *Soft Enough For A King* This activity will help us refocus Advent away from a period of frenzied pre-Christmas busyness to its real purpose - *anticipating the coming of Christ.* Each worship site has an empty manger on display. You are invited to obtain pieces of “straw” attached to suggestions for individual/family prayer or acts of service to perform and record on the “straw.” Return the “straw” to the empty manger each week. By Christmas, our acts of prayer and service will make our manger Soft Enough For A King!

The Giving Tree. All who took tags are reminded to return your gift to the Church by December 10/11.

Advent issues of THE WORD AMONG US are available at the Church entrances.

Family Christmas Trees - Beginning next weekend, we invite you to bring an ornament to decorate the Family Christmas trees in Church. Bring the ornament in through Christmas Day and place it on the trees!

❄ JANUARY CALENDAR TICKET

Winning numbers will be determined by the PA daily lottery evening number each evening in January. Daily cash awards range from \$100 to \$400. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the Parish Office or by mail. If you wish to have your ticket mailed to you, please enclosed a self addressed, stamped envelope. If you request a certain number, we’ll do our best to accommodate your request. **Thank you for your support!**

✂ -----

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Tickets requested _____

Requested ticket numbers _____

Please make checks payable to: St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

DECEMBER is the month of the Immaculate Conception. Conceived without original sin, Mary became a fitting dwelling for the incarnation of God the Son and that, preserved from the stain of all sin, the faithful may be cleansed through her intercession.

During the month of December, please pray with Pope Francis for volunteer non-for-profit organizations.

We pray that volunteer non-profit organizations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Regional Advent Penance Services

Tuesday, December 13 - 7:00 pm
Saint Francis of Assisi, Masontown Site

Thursday, December 15 - 7:00 pm
 St. Mary Nativity, Uniontown

Saturday, December 17 - 1:00 pm
 SS Cyril & Methodius, Fairchance

Sunday, December 18 - 3:00 pm
 St. Joan of Arc, Farmington

Tuesday, December 20 - 7:00 pm
 St. Peter, Brownsville

Thursday, December 22 - 7:00 pm
 St. John the Evangelist, Uniontown

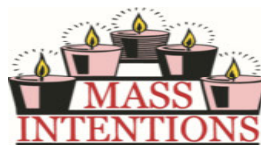
The Polish Heritage Club invites you to relive the tradition of an authentic **Polish Wigilia** (Christmas Eve dinner). Learn the meaning of the customs, traditions and folklore of old Poland. Wigilia begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, **December 16**, at the Uniontown Polish Club.

Door prizes, basket auctions, 50/50 are planned.
 For reservations, call Barb at 724-438-1036.

SS. Cyril & Methodius 2023 Calendar (tickets) are available. Each calendar has one 3-digit number giving you a chance to be a winner each day in 2023. Cost is \$25; daily prizes range from \$25 to \$500. To purchase a calendar, contact Nikki Fabrycki at 724-557-2217.

Tai Chi for Arthritis

Monday & Wednesday, November 28 to February 1
 2:15 to 3:15 pm at the Masontown Senior Center.
 Free for those 60 & over. To register call 724-583-7822.



Masses for 2023

are ready to be scheduled. Please help us to serve you better by observing the following:

- All Mass requests must be submitted *in writing* in order to save time and avoid mistakes. Mass intentions will *not* be taken over the phone or after Mass. *Send or drop them off* to us *in writing*.
- Only four Masses per year may be scheduled by any one person. Only one of these may be scheduled on a weekend or holy day of obligation.
- No Mass intentions will be taken for Easter weekend, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas.
- If there are any Mass intentions for your loved ones here (from funerals), we already scheduled a Mass on or near the anniversary date of death.
- Masses must be paid for at the time of scheduling. According to Diocesan guidelines, the offering for each Mass is a minimum of \$10.
- Please remember that Mass Intentions are a *request*. **We reserve the right to make changes to the Mass schedule if need be due to circumstances beyond our control** such as retreats, illness, etc. In this case, the next available date will be scheduled. **Please note:** we don't always have time to call you when a Mass needs to be rescheduled - please refer to the bulletin.

Please note: Church Law requires the pastor to offer one of the Mass intentions each weekend (Saturday Vigil or Sunday) and each Holy Day of Obligation for "All the people entrusted to his care." In 2023, the Pro Populo Mass (All Living & Deceased Parishioners) will alternate between worship sites each weekend.

Mass Intention Request Form

Intention for: _____

Requested by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date Requested: _____ Mass Time: _____

Alternate Date/Time: _____

Worship Site: _____ Footedale _____ Masontown

Payment is due at the time of scheduling. Please make checks are payable to: **Saint Francis of Assisi Parish**

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 26 - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm-F (M) James Berkey (SFOA Choir Footedale)
6:00 pm-M (M) Helen Miller (Egidi Family)

Sunday, November 27 -- Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-M (A) Art & Teddi Cerullo (R/N Zatlokovicz)
9:30 am-F (A) Joseph Novotny (Helen Suba)
11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

Monday, November 28 -- Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M Barbara A. Smith (Melissa Bulifant)

Tuesday, November 29 -- Advent Weekday

8:00 pm-F Adeline Kiec (Francene & Jeff Weimer)

Wednesday, November 30 -- Saint Andrew, Apostle

8:00 am-M John & Augie Wolfe (Bill & Patty Post)

Thursday, December 1 -- Advent Weekday

8:00 am-F Stanley Smith (Brother, Walter)

Friday, December 2 -- Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M 50th Anniversary of Paul & Irene Krokus
4:30-6:00 pm Adoration in Masontown

Saturday, December 3 - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions

4:00 pm-F () Pro Populo

5-5:30 pm-M Confessions

6:00 pm-M (A) Alfreda Kopec (Family)

Sunday, December 4 -- Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-M Marie Zawelensky (John/Sue Maykuth)

9:30 am-F Mike & Rosella Kremposky (Renne/Fam)

11:30 am-M Donald Beck (John Kormanik)

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 4:2-6; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-26; Mt 9:35-10:1
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 2, 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



Coffee and donuts will be available at both worship sites next **Sunday, December 4**. Please join us!



Already we are bombarded with urgent reminders to get ready for Christmas, but we gather here today to begin a different kind of preparation. Over the next four weeks (and it's a full four weeks this Advent), we will recall how Jesus comes to us. He has come as an infant lying in a manger; one day He will come like a thief in the night, as our judge at the end of time, but today and every day, He comes to us as Emmanuel, "God with us." Amid all the Christmas planning and holiday shopping, let us welcome God's most wonderful gift into our world, our homes, and our hearts.

Question of the Week

How can I walk in the Lord's path in my own community and with my own family?

Prayer for Advent: Mercifully hear, O Lord, the prayers of your people; that as they rejoice in the coming of Your only-begotten Son according to the flesh, so when He comes a second time in His majesty, they may receive the reward of eternal life. Amen.

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

† **Sanctuary** - 50th Anniversary of Paul & Irene Krokus requested by Linda & Cheryl

† **Blessed Mother** - Alice & Mary Niemits requested by Dolly Kroll

Alfreda Kopec requested by her family

† **Saint Joseph** - Joseph Stoffa requested by his daughter, Cheryl

† **Saint Anthony** - Ed Monaghan & Family requested by George & Sandy

Anna Guerrini requested by daughter, Dolores Solomon

† **Sacred Heart** - John "Pat" Clark requested by wife, Clara & Family

50th Anniversary of Paul & Irene Krokus requested by cousins, Barb, Carol, Colette & Sharon



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