



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue
Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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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

December 18, 2022

SAVE



“She will bear a son and
you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his
people from their sins.”

MATTHEW 1:21

Fr. Marlon's Reflections - Fourth Sunday of Advent
(Is. 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-24)



Just recently the Chapman University in Orange California published the result of their 2022 survey on the Top 10 Fears in American. The results are the following: 1. Corrupt government officials (62.1%); 2. People I love becoming seriously ill (60.2); 3. Russia using nuclear weapons (59.6); 4. People I love dying (58.1); 5. The U.S. becoming involved in another world war (56.0); 6. Pollution of drinking water (54.5); 7. Not having enough money for the future (53.7); 8. Economic/financial collapse (53.7); 9. Pollution of oceans, rivers, and lakes (52.5); 10. Biological warfare (51.5)

Fear is a common problem from which none of us is immune. According to a well-known doctor, 90 percent of the chronic patients who see today's physicians have one common symptom and that is, FEAR.

The angel in today's gospel says to St. Joseph: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife..." The angel said these words because St. Joseph was planning to part ways with Mary secretly even if he is already betrothed to her when he finds out that Mary is pregnant. There were severe laws against pre-marital sex and adultery in Biblical times. If a man discovered that his fiancée was pregnant by another man, he had right to denounce his wife. She could be sentenced to death by stoning. The husband-to-be would cast first rock. And Joseph discovers Mary's pregnancy. Joseph, being a righteous man the Bible tells us. He believed in and truly worshipped God and tried to follow God's laws. God's laws were clear that adulterers were to be stoned. And Mary had been seemingly caught committing adultery, so she has to be stoned to death. But being righteous, he chose to keep things quiet. He put aside his own feelings of hurt to take care of matters in a way that would not end with Mary being disgraced and maybe executed and so he wanted to part ways with Mary secretly.

One bishop commented that St. Joseph was not afraid to take Mary to be his wife. What St. Joseph was afraid of was that he would be the legal father of Jesus. If St. Joseph had to take Mary as his wife, he also had to accept Jesus as the Son of Mary. Since he knew who Jesus was and he knew that to be the legal father of Jesus this would mean to carry on a very personal and intimate relationship with him. St. Joseph became fearful of the challenges and demands that the relationship might require of him.

All of us have fears. Some are good and they protect us and some are bad and they destroy us. If we are persons of many fears, our life will not only be miserable but we are easy target for Satan. Satan is so happy if we are afraid. Satan preys on our fears, like fear of rejection, fear of growing old, fear of pain and may be fear of loneliness.

How to overcome this fear? There are so many ways but I like these suggestions:

First is learn to admit them. This is the first step for resolving any problem. Jesus said: "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Second is verbalize your fears. This gets them out in the open where they can be dealt with. Third is don't allow your fears to control you. It's okay and normal to be scared out of your socks at times. However, it's immature to allow your feelings to control your actions. You can control your actions regardless of your feelings. It's not always easy but it is a choice we all have. Fourth is if your fears are imaginary, acknowledge this and refuse to believe them. Get facts before jumping to conclusions. Remember, what the mind dwells on, it will eventually believe and act on. Refuse to dwell on fearful thoughts. Fifth is if a fear is an on-going anxiety that has no apparent cause, realize that it is most likely a symptom of some hidden fear. If so, it may be wise to see a trained counselor to help you find and resolve the cause. Sixth is if the fear is real, accept your situation but take whatever steps you can to change the circumstances that cause your fear. If you fear of dying, it would be of great help to accept that death is a natural process, be grateful of your experiences and live in the present, focus on making the most out of your life, and make plans for your passing away. Seventh is learn to trust God, above all. There is no greater way to overcome fear. And this is a choice we all can make. Scripture has it: "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe" (Proverbs 29:25).

But above all, we should not be afraid because Jesus is Emmanuel which means, "God is with us." In Matthew 28:20, Christ, God the Son, told his disciples and all of us, "I am with you always." If Christ is with us what are afraid of? We celebrate today the 4th Sunday of Advent. Throughout the history of our faith, God never tires of singing the love song, "I am with you."

Let the king enter; he is king of glory.
- Psalm 24





Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. It is the “Angels Candle” which is the candle of joy and love, a reminder of the Good News that God has graced the world forever in the birth of His Son.

GOD WANTS TO BE ONE WITH US

What great lengths God will go to in loving and saving us! Think of the most outlandish circumstance you might conceive. That seems to be what the Lord is saying to Ahaz in today’s first reading, “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.” Not only is the idea of a virgin conceiving beyond comprehension in Ahaz’s time, so would the concept of God wanting to be with us be, as the name Emmanuel indicates and yet, this is what we celebrate in the Incarnation - God wants so completely to be one with us that God came to be with us in a son born to a virgin, the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is more to this story than even these amazing and outlandish occurrences, however. God wants to be one with us so deeply that God partners with us to make God’s presence known.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available at the Church entrances. There are four wafers per package (three white, one pink); the offering is \$2.00 per package. The Christmas wafer reflects a tradition which is at least 2,000 years old. The father of the family solemnly breaks the wafers on Christmas Eve and distributes them to those present as a symbol of love and peace. These pieces are then shared with wishes for luck, health and happiness.

Parish Family Christmas Trees - Everyone is invited 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!

Christmas Flowers - we invite you to use the Christmas Flower Offering envelope from your packets to list the names of those to be remembered throughout the Christmas season. Your donations are used to purchase the flowers needed to decorate the Church for Christmas.

The Word Among Us Advent issues are available at the parish entrances.

Christmas Offering - In your charity of giving this Christmas, please remember the Parish. We rely upon the Christmas and Easter collections to help meet outstanding expenses. Your generous response to the needs of the Parish is very much appreciated.



O Antiphons: From December 17 to 23, the Church sings the O Antiphons. These antiphons are ageless sighs of deep longing. Each begins with a striking name for God. Slowly pray and meditate on these ancient spiritual gems each morning and evening these days.

December 17: O Wisdom

O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern
All creation with your strong yet tender care.
Come and show your people the way to salvation.

December 18: O Adonai

O sacred Lord of ancient Israel,
Who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush,
Who gave him your holy law on Sinai mountain;
Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

December 19: O Flower of Jesse

O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised
up as a sign for all peoples; the powerful
stand silent in your presence; the nations
bow down in worship before you. Come,
let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

December 20: O Key of David

O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel,
Controlling at your will the gate of heaven;
Come, break down the prison walls of death for those
who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and lead your captive people into freedom.

December 21: O Dawn

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light,
Sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell
In darkness and the shadow of death.

December 22: O King

O King of all the nations, the only joy of
every human Heart; O keystone of the mighty
arch of humankind; Come and save the
creature you fashioned from the dust.

December 23: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire
of the nations, Savior of all people:
Come and set us free, Lord our God.

Stewardship of Treasure

December 11: \$5,417; loose \$486; monthly \$1,467;
children \$7; online \$367;

Immaculate Conception \$1,789 totaling \$9,533

Our parish is very grateful for your support!



Advent Penance Services

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



Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24

4:00 pm in Footedale (Children's Mass)

6:00 pm and 8:00 pm in Masontown

10:00 pm in Footedale

Sunday, December 25 - 9:00 am in

Footedale; 11:00 am in Masontown

ALL ARE WELCOME
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Visit on Thursday, December 29

between 1:00PM and 4:00PM to tour

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Contact Erin at the Parish Office

for more information

724-539-8629 ext. 16; erin.colcombe@stvincent.edu

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300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of

† Samuel Anthony Bartoni

who was buried Monday, December 12.

May God grant to him eternal life and comfort his family. May he rest in peace.



Thank you, Carletta 🎵❤️ After fifty-five years of faithful, dedicated service, Carletta has decided to retire as parish organist effective January 15, 2023.

There are no adequate words to express our gratitude for the service she has rendered to our church.

May God bless her with a long, peaceful, happy and healthy retirement.

Organist Needed: Upon the retirement of Carletta, we are seeking an organist for the 4:00 pm Saturday and 9:30 am Sunday Masses in Footedale. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Fr. Marlon.

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 21, in Footedale

4:30-5:30 pm: Exposition and Confession

5:30-5:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction

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For more information, please call George and Pat Ziringer at 724-335-4966 or ziringer@comcast.net or www.greensburgengagedencounter.com.

The next scheduled weekends will be held in Greensburg on February 24-26 and September 15-17.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 17 - Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm-F (A) Janice Rocheck (Tommy & Family)
 6:00 pm-M (M) John & Carolyn Takacs (Family)

Sunday, December 18 -- Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-M (M) Chuck Cheresnye (Dave/Vicki Berish)
 9:30 am-F (A) Dolores Sofranko (Christian Mothers)
 11:30 am-M (A) Pro Populo

Monday, December 19 -- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M Tom Pavlovich (M/M Bernard Kopec)

Tuesday, December 20 -- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 pm-F Helen Pollick (Joan Voytek)

Wednesday, December 21 -- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M Joe & Bertha Gashie (Bill/Patty Post)
 4:30-6:00 pm Adoration in Footedale

Thursday, December 22 -- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am-F Lou Otto (Fedor Family)

Friday, December 23 -- Late Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M Donna Stoffa (Grandson, Taeseok)

Saturday, December 24 -- Vigil of Christmas

4:00 pm-F (A) All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 6:00 pm-M (A) All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 8:00 pm-M (M) All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 10:00 pm-F (M) All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, December 25 -- The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am-F (M) All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 am-M (M) All Living & Deceased Parishioners

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Jgs 13:2-25; Lk 1:5-25
 Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
 Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45
 Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
 Friday: Mal 3:1-34; Lk 1:57-66
 Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-16; Lk 1:67-79
 Next Sunday: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18, 5:00 pm in Masontown. Readings proclaimed by the youth of our parish; music by the combined choirs. Refreshments follow in the cafeteria. Please join us!



*Lord, I rejoice at the Good News of Your coming.
 Make my heart ready!*



We are now only a week away from the day when we celebrate the Lord's coming in the Incarnation.

In Jesus - Emmanuel - God is with us, as we are reminded in today's readings. For thousands of years, a waiting world, yearned for this momentous event. Now we know that God's actual, physical presence in the world has been realized. Amid all the hustle and bustle of these final days before Christmas, let us not overlook the greatest gift of all.

Question of the Week

Through all the excitement and stress of this coming week, can I be attentive to how Jesus remains with me and discern how God is calling me?



As the feast of the Nativity approaches, it is increasingly easy to forget that the purpose of this celebration is to recall the love of God who took on our human flesh. It is also easy to forget that if we truly make a roomy place in our hearts, our lives, and our celebrations, then the details of broken ornaments, etc. will be unimportant. Few of us have a prophet or an angel sent from heaven to speak the will of God to us. We are called to keep our ears, eyes, and minds open and seek the voices of God's messengers who are still alive, present and working today. This is a time-consuming effort but one that will be rewarding.

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

† **Sanctuary - World Peace**

† **Blessed Mother - Mary Rohol**
 requested by her grandchildren

† **Saint Joseph - Martin Magerko Jr.**
 requested by wife, Gloria

† **Saint Anthony - Anthony Graziani**
 requested by Carolyn Magerko

† **Sacred Heart - Joseph & Ann Sumego**
 requested by Debi, Ed & Roseann

Louise B. DelSignore
 requested by Cindy & Jim Nichols



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