



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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



December 4, 2022

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.

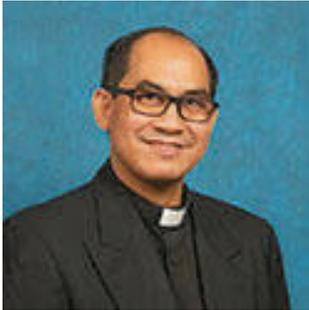
Prayer Chain: To request prayer,
please call Patty 724-245-9746
or Valeria 724-583-9460

CRY OUT



John wore clothing made of
camel's hair and had a leather
belt around his waist. His food
was locusts and wild honey.

MATTHEW 3:4

Fr. Arnel's Reflections - Second Sunday of Advent*Is 11:1-10; Rom 15:4-9; Mt 3:1-12*

On this Second Sunday of Advent, the readings are talking about conversion and repentance. In the First Reading, Isaiah is caught up in a vision in which he sees an end to all war and strife. His words issue from his prayer, and speaking for God he declares: "They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea." How we would all want for such a dream to come true! However, for Isaiah it was more than a dream. It was a promise coming from God whose love will never fail his world. For the dream to come true, we have to allow God's love to change our hearts and minds and our very lives.

The Responsorial Psalm speaks of God saving the poor and helpless when they cry. But for this to happen the king of Judah must remember that the poor belong to God and that he must exercise the justice of God in their regard. Psalm 72 is about good government, and people in positions of power could do well to meditate upon its words. However, it does not apply only to those in positions of power. For lasting peace to come to our world, all of us, whatever our way of life, need to be open to God's love and to allow it to change our lives.

The Second Reading from Paul offers us the example of holy men and women from the history of Israel, and sums up the attitude we should have in the following simple but beautiful words: "It is to God's glory for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you" (Romans 15:7). Simple words, but very beautiful when we think of the gracious way in which Jesus reached out to the poor, the marginalized, the broken and the lost of this world. Just imagine what the world would be like if we each reached out in love the way Jesus did! To learn to do this we need to repent.

Today's Gospel focuses on John the Baptist. He is dressed like Elijah, the ancient prophet who was said to be 'like fire' and 'whose word burned like a torch' (Sirach 48:1). Matthew sums up the preaching of John the Baptist with a call to repentance: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand" (Matthew 3:2). John challenged people to reform their lives, to repent of their sins and undergo a baptism of purification in the Jordan. When a group of Pharisees and Sadducees approached, he confronted their complacency and warned them not to depend upon the good name of past generations. Being a descendant of Abraham would count for nothing if good deeds were not evident in their lives. As a preacher, teacher and prophet, John pointed beyond himself and was a signpost to the coming of Christ into the world.

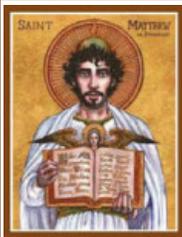
The call of John to repentance is an urgent invitation for us to prepare a way for the Lord to come into our hearts. And this is what Advent is all about – preparing to celebrate Christmas means renewing our lives by acknowledging our need for Christ who is constantly calling us to higher things. John warns us that the greatest obstacle to the coming of Christ into our souls is sin. We have the freedom to accept or ignore his advice. Our faith reminds us that we have a responsibility to make present the values of Christ wherever we go. This is not possible unless we are making a constant effort to root out the sin that keeps coming back into our lives. To settle for less is to treat Christ as if He were a passing guest and not a forceful presence influencing our actions.

Each Advent is an opportunity for us to come closer to Christ and deepen our relationship with Him through prayer and repentance. His power is at work in our lives when we make peace with the family member we have rejected, the relations we do not speak to, the neighbors we have fallen out with, the poor we have no time for and whose plight we do not want to know about. Those are few of the things we can do. Finally, breaking down those barriers will open the way for Christ to come to us and be born in our hearts at Christmas.



Today we light the second candle on our Advent wreath. It is the "Bethlehem Candle," a symbol of the preparations being made to receive and cradle the Christ Child. May our hearts be ready to receive the Good News!

HARMONY: Have you ever known a moment when, just for a brief instant, you felt that all was right with the world? It is just such a moment, stretched into eternity, that the writer of Isaiah describes in today's first reading: the perfection of everything, centered in God's spirit, where knowledge, justice and awe in God's presence reign. In such a paradise, everyone sees eye to eye and thinks in harmony with each other, as Saint Paul describes in his letter to the Romans. Even animals with a natural animosity toward one another coexist peacefully. John the Baptist understood that such harmonious relationships do not simply happen. They are the fruit of living in right relationship with God and others.



Year A - Matthew's Gospel

The new Liturgical Year begins in Advent; this is Year A and the focus throughout the year is on Matthew's Gospel. The writer of this Gospel, like each of the Gospel writers, gathered all the stories and traditions about Jesus into a coherent understandable story for the early Christian communities. Each Gospel was responding to the needs of a particular Christian community and audience in a particular location and time. Matthew's Gospel is well organized and well written. There is clear indication that the writer particularly addresses the Jewish community to show that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah according to Jewish tradition. Jesus' life is shown as the fulfillment of the promises God made to the Jewish people throughout their history. Jesus is often shown to be a true teacher of the Jewish Law. The Gospel describes Jesus' teaching in a simple effective way. Particularly, Matthew connects the continuity between Judaism and Christianity.

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.

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

Christmas Pine Orders will be available for pick up after all Masses at both worship sites **this weekend**. Thank you for your support of our cemeteries!

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 Giving Tree - all who took ornaments are reminded to return your gift to the Church **by December 11**. Please make sure that your tag is securely taped on the gift. Thank you to all who participated.

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.

Stewardship of Treasure

November 20: \$6,142; loose 431; monthly \$2,437; children \$8; online \$287 totaling \$9,305
Campaign for Human Development \$746

We also collected \$965 for the care of our cemeteries:
St Thomas \$342; OLPH \$248; St Agnes \$220;
Holy Rosary \$70; St Procopius \$65; Madonna \$20

Your support is vital to the life of our Parish and we are very grateful!

❄ 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.



On Thursday we celebrate the patronal solemnity of the United States and the greatest of Mary's Advent

festivals as we remember Mary's conception in the womb of her mother. In this liturgy, we affirm our belief that God prepared Mary to be the mother of the son of God by allowing her a share, from the moment of her conception, in the salvation that would be won for all by Christ.

Five mothers make their presence felt this day. The first is **Eve**, the mother of all the living. The second is Mary's mother, **Anne**, who conceived, brought to birth and nurtured an *immaculate* daughter who would become the mother of the Word made Flesh. The third is **Elizabeth** who conceived her son, John, *in her old age*. The fourth is **Mary** herself. Finally, the letter to the Ephesians and the texts of the Mass for this feast remind us that **the Church** has been *chosen* to be a *spiritual mother*.

In this Advent time, we are called, as Mary was, to make room for Christ in our hearts. What will it take, what will be the cost for us to become, as Mary became, real *bearers of the Word*? Let us be open to the intercession of Mary on our behalf, that we may become more and more like her beloved Son.

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of
 † **Helen J. Blasinsky**
 who was buried Monday, November 21.
 May God grant her eternal life and
 comfort her family. May she rest in peace.



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**

RECONCILIATION

Advent resounds with the theme of reconciliation and the call to repentance. That call is not about dwelling on our sins and being even more burdened by them, but the opposite: bringing them to God in sorrow and hope for forgiveness. It is a fitting time to approach Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be able to approach Him in the Eucharist on Christmas with a renewed heart.

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

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



The Accent On-Air: The Symbols of Christmas

airs at 11:30 am on WTAE-TV Channel 4, on Sunday, December 4. In this episode, the staff of The Catholic

Accent explores the popular symbols of Christmas, including St. Nicholas. Bishop Kulick talks about his visit to the Vatican, his audience with Pope Francis and the importance of the gift of the Eucharist. Learn about the meaning of the Christmas decorations in your home.

The wreath, Christmas tree and luminary lights are all steeped in symbolism. Bells will be ringing this season as churches across the Diocese join together to ring church bells as a reminder to many to celebrate the birth of our Savior, and Bishop Kulick is back in the kitchen with a traditional Slovak Christmas Eve soup. The Accent On-Air is always on at TheAccentOnline.org



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 3 - Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm-F (A) Pro Populo
6:00 pm-M (M) Alfreda Kopec (Family)

Sunday, December 4 -- Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-M (M) Marie Zawelensky (John/Sue Maykuth)
9:30 am-F (M) Mike & Rosella Kremposky (Renne/Fam)
11:30 am-M (A) Donald Beck (John Kormanik)

Monday, December 5 -- Advent Weekday

8:00 am-M Wynona Gashie (Josephine Machinak)

Tuesday, December 6 -- Saint Nicholas

8:00 pm-F Frank Duda (M/M Tom Torrey)

Wednesday, December 7 -- Saint Ambrose

8:00 am-M Andy Spirnak (Wife & Family)
4:30-6:00 pm Adoration/Confession in Footedale

Thursday, December 8 -- Immaculate Conception

12:00 pm-F (A) Theresa Olesko (Husband, Jim/Family)
6:00 pm-M (M) Pro Populo

Friday, December 9 -- Saint Juan Diego

8:00 am-M Health of Sandy Garcher (Husband/Family)

Saturday, December 10 - Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F (M) Joe Mehalek (Wife, Donna)
6:00 pm-M (M) John & Nellie Bozek (Jerry/Cheryl Takacs)

Sunday, December 11 -- Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am-M (M) Pro Populo
9:30 am-F (M) Brenda J. Otto (Husband, Louis/Son Louis)
11:30 am-M (M) Cliff Beck (Paul & Bonnie Cassidy)

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Gn 3:9-20; Eph 1:3-12; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-11; Mt 17:9-13
Next Sunday: Is 35:1-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11



Coffee and Donuts will be available following all Masses this Sunday, December 4. Please join us!



Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, December 7, 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



“Welcome one another,” Saint Paul commands us, “as Christ welcomed you.” Indeed, the Lord welcomes us here each Sunday as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist, but let us not forget the first part - that we are also called to welcome one another.

Moreover, as Paul welcomed Gentiles and the wolf became a guest of the lamb, we are called to welcome those who are not like us: those coming from other cultures, speaking other languages, or expressing other viewpoints. Let us welcome all to this celebration.

Question of the Week: Of what do I need to repent and how can my repentance produce good fruit?

On Thursday, December 8, we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation are:

12:00 Noon in Footedale (Rosary prayed at 11:30 am)
6:00 pm in Masontown (Rosary prayed at 5:30 pm)

The Parish and Diocesan Offices will be closed this day.

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

† **Sanctuary** - *Richard Hanula*
requested by Linda Rohol

† **Blessed Mother** - *Donna Stoffa*
requested by Grandson, Taeseok

Beatrice Dunlevy
requested Daughter & Family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Andrew & Carol Mihallik*
requested by the Mihallik Family

Mary Cuteri Copeland
requested by sisters, Rose Pallotta,
Josie Ercejovic, Vicki Scarmazzi

† **Saint Anthony** - *Mary & John Pasquale Jr.*
requested by children & grandchildren

† **Sacred Heart** - *William A. Tomotchko*
requested by his mother

92nd Birthday of Edith Aello
requested by daughter, Barbara Rhodes



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