



# 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](http://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](mailto:mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Rev. Arnel Patayon Tadeo**  
Shared Parochial Vicar  
[atadeo@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:atadeo@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

### Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ..8:00 am  
Saturday .....6:00 pm  
Sunday..... 8:00 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.....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

## January 1, 2023



## MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. - Lk 2:17-19

**Fr. Marlon's Reflections - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

(Num. 6:22-27; Gal. 4:4-7; Lk. 2:16-21)



As we start the New Year 2023, we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, thus reminding us of our other mother: The Blessed Mother Mary.

Based on my observation, when we are in danger, we instinctively call out: Mom! Mother! Mama! It is because the essence of being a mother is care, love, help, support and concern for her children. As Jewish proverb puts it succinctly: "God cannot be everywhere so He created mothers."

As we commemorate this solemn feast, the Church has for us this brief reminder:

In the year 431 AD, the Council of Ephesus, an ecumenical council of bishops of the Catholic Church settled whether Mary is to be called Mother of Christ (Christotokos) implying Jesus is merely human or Mother of God (Theotokos). The Council decided on the title Theotokos (Mother of God) for Mary. The council said: "Mary is rightfully the Mother of God." Therefore affirmed the divinity of Christ.

One of the biblical foundations for the declaration of this dogma is the gospel of Luke 1:43 in which the first person who refers Mary as the Mother of God is her cousin Elizabeth who said in a loud voice: "Who am I that the Mother of my Lord should come to me."

Motherhood is beautiful. It is a vocation. A mother, together with her husband, are entrusted by God with souls to take care with that someday these souls of their children be returned to God which is a great responsibility. Lives on loan to mothers to love, care for, mold and shape. There are people who may write off mothers as weak, but what they don't realize is mothers are the game-changers. It is mothers who have the greatest power and influence to change the culture because they are raising the next generation: the next leaders, teachers, priests, politicians, police officers, CEOs, and missionaries. Motherhood is beautiful. May all mothers become like Mary who followed God's will to be the Mother of Jesus even if she is in danger of being punished through stoning.



Thank you to all of you, our beloved mothers! Thank you for all that you do to your children. Your career is the most important in the world. You are a mother and it is amazingly beautiful!

And I wish all mothers — whether biological, adoptive, or spiritual — a most blessed Mother's Day, though it's not yet the month of May. May the Blessed Mother Mary intercede for all of you.

**OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistically-centered faith community whose life is formed by our baptismal commitment to Christ; is nourished by Scripture, Church teachings and the Sacraments; and is supported by membership in the worldwide church around us. It is a community made up of the former faith communities of All Saints, Holy Rosary, Madonna, Saint Mary, Saint Procopius and Saint Thomas. There is a long and rich history here where all are welcome, trust is present, risks for the kingdom of God are taken and the gifts of everyone are called forth. Under the patronage of Saint Francis of Assisi, we strive to be an instrument of peace and all that God calls us to be.

**Prayer at the Manger with Mary and Joseph**

May we follow the faithful, loving witness of Mary and Joseph as we seek to bring Jesus, your Word, into the world.

May we always follow His Gospel, now and forever. Amen

**THANK YOU CARLETTA!**



After 55 years of being an organist in the former St. Thomas Parish (now St. Francis of Assisi Parish) in Footedale worship site, Carletta France has decided to retire. It's hard to comprehend how many hours she spent in her lifetime practicing, practicing, and practicing. She must have stayed long stretches of time on both the piano and organ benches until perfection, or something close to it, is achieved.

We know that as an organist she played her instruments with both hands and feet, all four working together in splendid coordination for the outflow of melody and harmony that brings our convictions of faith even deeper into our hearts and lives. May God continue to bless you, Carletta! Thank you for being our organist. You are amazing. *(If you wish to send a gift or a token or a card, you may mail it to the Parish Office with a notification ATTENTION CARLETTA or you may drop it in the collection baskets for the next two weekends. Carletta's last service as our organist will be on January 15<sup>th</sup>.)*

**CONGRATULATIONS EMILY & JORDAN!**

I could not let the year 2022 end without expressing my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. & Mrs.

Jordan and Emily (Smercheck) Brumfield who were married last October 22, 2022 in Footedale worship site. Emily is a member of our Pastoral Council, Liturgy and Worship Commission, and Youth Ministry.



She is also our professional Altar Server. She and Jordan help in putting out church decorations all throughout the year. Your St. Francis of Assisi Parish family prays that the glow of love and happiness from your marriage day be with you for the rest of your lives! May the Good Lord bless you and keep you in His love. – Fr. Marlon

**Sacred Steps at Saint Francis of Assisi**

**Parish Sympathy** is expressed to the families of † **Donna E. (Belch) Waslousky** buried Wednesday, December 21 † **Theresa Ann (Mikeo) Wilk** buried Thursday, December 22 May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.



**Parish Sympathy** is expressed to Pam Herbst on the recent death of her father, *Clyde Moon*. May God grant him eternal life and comfort his family.

**Candles:** Beginning January 1, the cost of the **6-day votive candles** will increase from \$3 to **\$4 per candle** due to increased manufacturing/shipping costs.

**Organist Needed:** We are in need of an organist for the 4:00 pm Saturday Mass and the 9:30 am Sunday Mass at the Footedale worship site.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Fr. Marlon - mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**The Practice of Stewardship**

Today's second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the old law and have become sons and daughters of God. New Year's Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question: Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father has given me?

**Thank you** to the **Golden Group** for their donation of \$500 to the Church for Christmas and to the **Knights of Columbus** for their donation of \$100 to the Church for Christmas.

**Thank you** to **Carol & Eric Hanula** for their donation to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish given in memory of *Richard Hanula*.

*Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of. - Benjamin Franklin*

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**December 18:** \$6,851; loose \$351; monthly \$1,050; Thanksgiving \$260; online \$457 totaling \$8,969 We also collected \$1,768 for the care of our cemeteries: St Thomas \$778; OLPH \$294; St Agnes \$289; Holy Rosary \$162; St Procopius \$125; Madonna \$120 **Your support is vital to the life of our parish!**

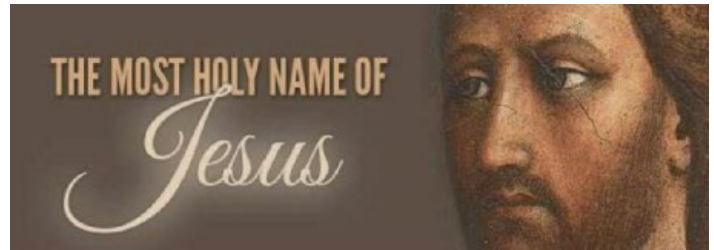
## THANK YOU BELOVED PARISHIONERS!

We've been saying "Merry Christmas" on these past days, and it's only right to exchange this greeting for our lives are merry because God-is-with-us; he is Emmanuel. But more than the Merry Christmas greeting I would like to say "Thank You" to all of you who gave your time, talent, and treasure in order to make our Christmas a meaningful and joyous season in our parish.

I thank you for the tremendous happiness you gave to so many less privileged kids in our community this Christmas through your participation in our "Angel or Giving Tree"; cards and letters mailed by our young men and women in the Youth Ministry to our homebound parishioners; to the efforts of decorating our churches by some individuals (you know who you are); to the many hours of practice by our choir to make every Mass filled with beautiful music and for making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lessons and Carols a successful and meaningful one; to the altar servers, ushers, lectors, sacristans, and Eucharistic ministers; to the Faith Formation teachers and kids who made the story of Jesus' birth alive once again in our midst; to the parish staff (Linda & Cheryl) and to all those behind-the-scenes who did so much to make sure that everything was ready and in good order.

A sincere thanks also to all who attended our Masses (those who came out despite of the bad weather), for those who gave more in their offerings (especial thanks to the Christian Mothers, Golden Group, and Knights of Columbus), for your many acts of kindness, for sincere wishes of support and gratitude, and pledges of prayers. The spirit of Christmas allows us to realize once again how truly extra special the ministries, families and spirit of St. Francis of Assisi Parish community continue to be evident. Thank you and Merry Christmas to all of you! May the New Year 2023 bring you happiness, health, and prosperity! Please know that you are always in my prayers.

— grateful, Fr. Marlon



### January is the Month of the Holy Name of Jesus.

At the Holy Name of Jesus every knee must bend to proclaim Him as Lord. In His Name, the faithful gather to worship, the Gospel is preached, sins are forgiven and prayers are offered to the Father.

### UNITED IN PRAYER

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for 2023 will represent a wide array of challenges facing humanity and are the result of much prayer and discernment. Areas in need of prayer in 2023 will include educators, non-violence, victims of abuse, World Youth Day and for the Synod.

#### The intention for January is for educators.

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

### STAND UP FOR LIFE!

A Pro-Life Mass and Reception  
Saturday, January 21, 2023  
at 10:00AM

St. Francis of Assisi in  
Footedale location  
528 Footedale Road,  
New Salem, PA 15468

Reception with light  
refreshments to follow in

Social Hall

RSVP to Rita

[rmasi00@yahoo.com](mailto:rmasi00@yahoo.com)

by January 12

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# MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

## Saturday, December 31 -- Vigil: Mary, Mother of God

4:00 pm-F (M) Mike/Betty Olesh & Steve/Rose Bello  
6:00 pm-M (A) Ellen Duffy (SFOA Masontown Choir)

## Sunday, January 1 -- Mary, Mother of God

8:00 am-M (M) Mary Zaiglin (Rita Arendosh/Family)  
9:30 am-F (M) Walter Suba (Denise/Rick Bobincheck)  
11:30 am-M (A) Pro Populo

## Monday, January 2 -- Saints Basil & Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 am-M Paul & Patrick Krokus (Parents)

## Tuesday, January 3 -- The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 pm-F Bob & Betty Berish (Martin S. Berish)

## Wednesday, January 4 -- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 am-M Linda Marano (Debbie Malinsky)

## Thursday, January 5 -- Saint John Neumann

8:00 am-F Joseph Labons (Joanne/Dale Langanke)

## Friday, January 6 -- Saint Andre Bessette

8:00 am-M Michael, Ron, John Zavatchan (Rose)  
4:30-6:00 pm Adoration/Confessions in Masontown

## Saturday, January 7 -- Vigil: Epiphany of the Lord

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions  
4:00 pm-F (A) Barbara/Paul Sirilla & Deceased Family  
5-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
6:00 pm-M (M) Joseph & Patricia Fedor Family

## Sunday, January 8 -- The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am-M (A) Amelia & Vincent Kopec (Family)  
9:30 am-F (A) Pro Populo  
11:30 am-M (M) Donna Parish (Mary Anne Hritz)

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

### Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42  
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Lk 4:14-22  
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11  
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-6; Mt 2:1-12



### A New Year's Blessing

The Lord Bless you and keep you!  
The Lord let His face shine upon you  
And be gracious to you!  
The Lord look upon you kindly  
And give you peace!  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

**A Blessed New Year to all!**



How appropriate that on the first day of every year we honor **Mary, the Holy Mother of God**, for it was her willing obedience to God's plan that enabled the Incarnation and therefore initiated what in time became Christianity.

Today is also the **World Day of Peace** and so we look to Mary, the Queen of Peace - who bore the Prince of Peace - as our model and inspiration for holding peace in our hearts, our communities and in our world.

### The World Day of Prayer for Peace,

begun by Saint Pope Paul VI is celebrated on the first day of the New Year. On January 1st, the Holy Father asks that, in a special way, we pray for Peace on Earth.



*"It would be our desire, then, that this celebration take place each year as a sign of hope and promise, at the beginning of the calendar which measures and guides the journey of human life through time, in order that peace, with its just and salutary equilibrium, will dominate the unfolding of history yet to come."* - Saint Pope Paul VI

**Our Merry Christmastime** unfolds with the blessing of a new year, the astonishing good news of peace on earth and with the treasures pondered within the heart of Mary.

### Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, January 6, 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

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

† **Sanctuary** - Paul & Patrick Krokus requested by their parents

† **Blessed Mother** - Marie Berdar Morgan requested by Stephanie Liptock



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