



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: Saturday 5:00-5:30 pm
Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

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

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm
Adoration: Friday 11:00 am

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.

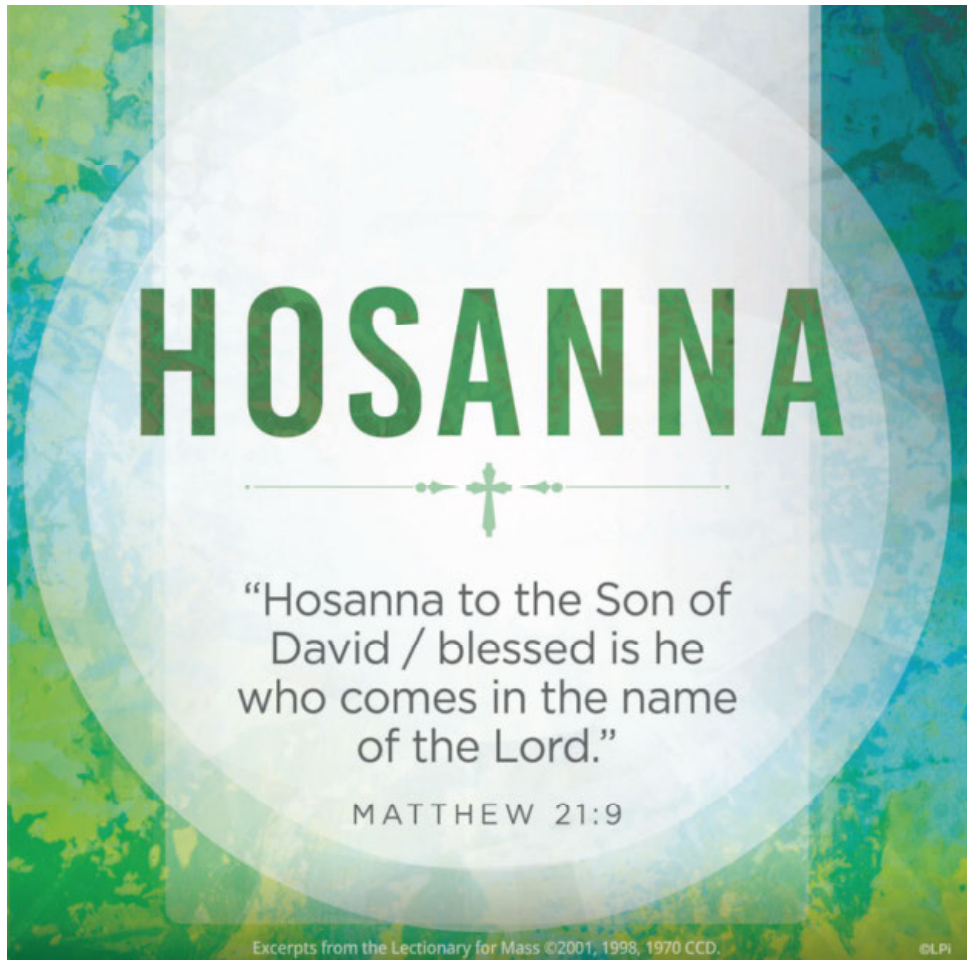
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord April 2, 2023



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Stations of the Cross

† Wednesday, April 5, in Masontown

Adoration 5:00 pm / Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm

Easter Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 8 - 8:30 pm in Masontown

Sunday, April 9 - 8:00 am in Masontown

9:30 am in Footedale

11:30 am in Masontown



FR. MARLON'S INVITATION TO EXPERIENCE THE SACRED TRIDUUM

I would like to ask a very serious favor from all of you, beloved parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi. Please help me invite those in our parish community who in the past have not taken part in the liturgy of Holy Week or have not attended the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Let us invite them to join in on the celebrations this year and see how the experience might impact their spiritual life and their faith journey in Catholicism.

We know that the Sacred Triduum is a remembrance of Christ's passion and death; and a celebration of His Glorious Resurrection. It has been called the "greatest love story ever told" because God thought we were worth dying for. Why is it so important to attend each celebration of the Sacred Triduum? Below is a brief explanation on the importance of every celebration.

HOLY THURSDAY (6:00 pm at both worship sites) — At the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the words and rituals of the Eucharist, saying, "Do this in memory of me." The Eucharist is the center stage during the Holy Thursday liturgy, situated between the rituals of washing of one another's feet and adoring the Blessed Sacrament. As Catholics we attend Holy Thursday liturgy not only because Jesus asked us to remember Him in the Eucharist, but because Communion means "we do not come to Christ alone but with and through one another." Please make it your priority to attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and together we can recall that we also belong to a parish family. Leave time afterward to spend a few minutes before the Blessed Sacrament and in making the night one of remembering in your own home—remember the dearly departed in your family; remember the trials and the joys that you and your family have shared together and how they have made you hopefully stronger as a family.

GOOD FRIDAY (3:00 pm at both worship sites) — The cross that Jesus bears is a tool of torture and scandal that the Roman government reserved for lowest of criminals of the day—it was the electric chair of His times. By its use a slow and public death occurs and the Roman authorities made an example to others. At Golgatha the soldiers stripped and crucified Him but before breathing His last breath, Jesus says, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do," and according to John's Gospel, "It is accomplished."

But what Christ did upon that cross—His act of immense forgiveness—is twofold: first, he forgave our debt to God; second, He provides us with an example of how we are to respond to each other every day: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." What can we learn from this to help our families? We know the need for forgiveness in our homes. It is hard to live in one house in harmony. If one person, a spouse, snaps at another a chain reaction of hurtful comments begins. A sibling in a rage of impatience with another hurls a biting comment. Far too often we "know what we are doing." Christ gives us an example of Love—forgiveness is the answer—granting it, asking for it—even when the offender isn't sorry. This is mercy. Without mercy, sin grows all the more; with it, grace abounds, as St. Paul says.

EASTER VIGIL (8:30pm in Masontown church) - It is considered the crown jewel in the Church's liturgy. We enter into our church in darkness, with the Paschal Candle as the only light—and from that singular candle hundreds of other smaller candles are lit until the Christ light illumines us all. The history of the world comes to light in the Exsultet, sung only this night, followed by the readings which highlight the history of our faith. We renew our baptismal promises and celebrate the Eucharist in joyful communion with one another — combining music and song, light and darkness, hope and joy—the Resurrection of life everlasting.

For us and our families, this means that sin does not have the final word. "That no sacrifice made for our family, done out of love, is wasted. Our flawed attempts to do the right things are redeemed; our pettiness, or pride can be forgiven if we but recognize them for what they are and repent." God never gives up on anyone—and neither should we in our respective family.

Don't give up. God doesn't. Easter means that sorrow is now joy, suffering is victory, and the sting of death is transformed into everlasting life—all this if we surrender ourselves to God's love and providence. Join us this Holy Week and reawaken, renew and recommit ourselves to the Lord.

Please bring A FRIEND when you come to the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. A most Blessed and Sacred Triduum and Easter Season to you and your family.



Today we enter into the most sacred week of the year. There is no other time, no series of feasts, that begins to compare with these next few days. There was a time when our entire schedule changed for this week, when the world slowed down (and actually stopped on Good Friday) and we could enter these mysteries in deep prayer and reflection. Today the world does not stop, nor do we have the luxury of vacation and so **we must make the time, take the initiative and avail ourselves of every opportunity** to center in upon the events - the suffering, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

HOLY THURSDAY

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus celebrates the Last Supper in which He gives us His Body and Blood.

The **Chrism Mass** is celebrated this day at 10:00 am in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg. During this Mass, Bishop Kulick will bless the Sacred Oils used in the Sacraments: the **Oil of Salvation** for Baptism; the **Oil of Chrism** for Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination; and the **Oil of the Sick**.

All are welcome. Parking at the Cathedral is limited.

You may park at Our Lady of Grace Parish where a shuttle will be available to drive you to the Cathedral.

At Saint Francis of Assisi, the solemn **Mass of the Lord's Supper** will be celebrated at **6:00 pm** at both worship sites. This Mass calls to mind the Last Supper, the First Mass and the Institution of the Holy Priesthood.

GOOD FRIDAY

The traditional Three Hours that Jesus hung upon the cross (Noon/3:00 pm) should be kept in quiet prayer. The **Good Friday Liturgy** will be celebrated at **3:00 pm** at both worship sites and will consist of: Liturgy of the Word (Readings); Veneration of the Cross and Reception of Holy Communion consecrated the night before.

For all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59, Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence.

Fasting requires limiting oneself to one full meal, with light nourishment taken on two other occasions (no eating between meals). This fast is minimal; if your health permits, you might wish to consider a more intense fast.

Abstinence - all Catholics, age 14 and over, are bound to abstain totally from meat on Good Friday.

HOLY SATURDAY

The beautiful tradition of blessing Easter food baskets takes place at **11:00 am in Masontown and 12:00 in Footedale**. Following the blessing in Footedale, there will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** in the parking lot.

The most important, most beautiful liturgy of the entire Church year is found in the **Easter Vigil which takes place in Masontown beginning at 8:30 pm**.

In the early hours of the final night of our Easter journey, we pause to keep watch. A fire begins to flicker, the Easter Candle is lit from the new fire, carried prominently into the midst of the assembly and we begin to tell the story of who we have been and are becoming.

The Easter Vigil is comparable to sitting around a campfire listening to the stories of generations past.

Easter water is blessed, bells ring out, *Alleluias* and *Glorias* are sung for the first time in six weeks. It is the night of all nights, the heart of Christianity. It is Easter!



The Paschal Candle is a symbol of the risen body of Christ and the fire of the Spirit. It is decorated with a cross (*Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end*); the Greek Alpha and Omega; and the numbers of the current year (*All time belongs to Him and all the ages to Him be glory and power through every age forever*).

Four grains of incense, sealed with red wax nails, are inserted at the ends of the crossbars and one is inserted where the crossbars meet (*By His holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen.*)

The candle remains lit throughout the fifty days of Easter and is extinguished on Pentecost. It is then used for its resurrection symbolism at baptism and funerals.

Our grateful thanks to the following who donated this year's Paschal Candles in memory of:

Masontown - In memory of **our deceased members** by the Knights of Columbus Council #4261

Footedale - In loving memory of **Nicholas Ursiny** by his parents, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed Holy Thursday (April 6) through Easter Monday (April 10).

The Parish Office resumes normal hours on Tuesday, April 11 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A Blessed Easter to all!

ENCOUNTER WITH THE CROSS

The journey of Lent brings us to an encounter with the cross. During Lent, we have been led more deeply into questions at the heart of our faith: Who is God? . . . and . . . who are we, the Church?

The Gospel of Matthew indicates that, in the crucifixion, God's true nature is most fully revealed in Jesus. In Jesus, God is the self-emptying One, who embraces humility and suffers rejection, as Paul tells the Philippians. God's power is redefined, present not in coercion and violence, but in Jesus' unbounded love.

We, the Church, can learn who we are - the followers of the Crucified One - when we bear crosses that offer life and hope to the world. We more fully become "the Church" when we empty ourselves by sharing in others' sufferings, rejecting violence, and taking risks for justice and reconciliation. Like Jesus we may reveal God's power as compassion and mercy.

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection; through whom we are saved and delivered.
- Entrance Antiphon, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

SARRIS CANDY ONLINE

Our Faith Formation Program is sponsoring an online fundraiser **now through April 2**. To participate, visit SarrisCandiesFundraising.com - order online using our organization name **St. Francis of Assisi Faith Formation** and our group number **10-3965**. Sarris will ship your order directly to your door for free; however, a \$5 packaging/handling fee will be applied. Our group will earn a 25% profit with every purchase.

Hoagie Sales: To raise money for the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Youth Ministry will sponsor Hoagie Sales (made by New Salem Mini Mart). Hoagies are \$6 for an 8-inch Italian Hoagie or you can purchase a Hoagie Card for the same price. Orders will be available for pick up after all Masses at both sites the weekend of April 29-30. **Order deadline is April 20.**

Order forms are available at both worship sites. Orders with payment can be placed in the collection basket. Questions? Contact Rita 724-208-6779.

The Albert Gallatin Assembly of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a **Priest Appreciation Dinner** on **May 3**. The cost is \$25 per person. Please RSVP by April 11 by calling Joe at 724-583-7719.



Knights of Columbus #4261
Masontown, PA

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New Members Welcome! 724-583-8210

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of

† **Clarinda Rose "Keena" Erminio Tokish**

who was buried Thursday, March 30

† **George Lawrence Homa**

who was buried Monday, March 27

May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Linda Zembar on the recent passing of her sister, **Sandra Lee (Hromada) Sofocle**. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family. May she rest in peace.

CEMETERY CARE

We wish to acknowledge with very grateful thanks the volunteers who did the spring clean up at our six parish cemeteries:

Jim Matis: Holy Rosary; St. Mary, Madonna; St. Procopius and St. Thomas Cemeteries

Karen & Mark Hughes: St. Agnes Cemetery

Joe Krysak: St. Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cemetery, Leckrone

The Practice of Stewardship

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name! See Luke 19:38

Forgot your envelope? Use *Online Giving* to keep up on offertory. Go to our parish website and click on the *Online Giving* link, it's quick and easy. Your support throughout the year helps sustain our church.

Thank you for the following Memorial donations given to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish:
In memory of **Clarinda "Keena" Tokish**
by David & Vicki Berish

DLA UPDATE - One Body in Christ

Diocesan Goal - \$46,712; Parish Goal - \$20,000

Parishioner pledges received to date - \$25,466

(we have reached 54.5% of our Diocesan Goal)

Parishioner participation to date - 30.2%

Thank you to all who have participated! If you haven't yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider a donation to this year's appeal to assist our parish!

Stewardship of Treasure

March 26: \$5,793; loose \$392; monthly \$734; children \$9; online \$227; Accent \$100 totaling \$7,255

Your support is vital to the life of our parish!

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 1 -- Vigil: Palm Sunday

4:00 pm-F (M) Andrea Shimek (Fabrycki Family)
6:00 pm-M (A) Pro Populo



Sunday, April 2 -- Palm Sunday

8:00 am-M (M) Paul & Patrick Krokus (Parents)
9:30 am-F (M) Mary Coppolino (The Golden Group)
11:30 am-M (A) Mike & Margaret Gashie (Bill/Patty Post)

Monday, April 3 -- Monday of Holy Week

8:00 am-M Harry Adams (Frank & Colleen Ricco)

Tuesday, April 4 -- Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 pm-F Helen Pollick (Son, James & Josephine)

Wednesday, April 5 -- Wednesday of Holy Week

8:00 am-M Wynona Gashie (Greg Billick Family)
5:00 pm-M Adoration
6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross

Thursday, April 6 -- Holy Thursday

6:00 pm-M (M) Mass of the Lord's Supper
6:00 pm-F (S) Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 7 -- Good Friday

3:00 pm-M Good Friday Liturgy
3:00 pm-F Good Friday Liturgy

Saturday, April 8 -- Holy Saturday / Vigil of Easter

11:00 am-M Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
12:00 pm-F Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
12:30 pm-F Easter Egg Hunt
8:30 pm-M (M) All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Sunday, April 9 -- The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 am-M (A) All Parishioners
9:30 am-F (M) All Parishioners
11:30 am-M (M) All Parishioners

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



Humbling Himself out of love for us, Jesus did not shield His face from buffets and spitting, but offered His life on the cross. He relied on His Father's love.

We greet the Lord today with palm branches and hosannas, welcoming Him to the holy city of Jerusalem.

His missionary journey and our Lenten journey are nearing their completion. Soon Jesus will celebrate the Passover with His closest disciples here in the center of the Jewish world. Before the sun rises, He will be betrayed by one of His friends, arrested and taken away. He will be tortured, put on trial and sentenced to death. He will die on the cross, be taken down and be buried. From there He will be raised and will ascend to the holy city that is our eternal home. Today, as we shout our hosannas and wave our palm branches to welcome our Lord into Jerusalem, we look forward to the day when we will all be welcomed into the new Jerusalem.

The Blessing of Palm, the tree branches used to greet Jesus, takes place at each Mass today.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated as a manifestation of the coming of the kingdom of God. It is this celebration of Palm Sunday that the Church's liturgy solemnly opens Holy Week. (CCC 560)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9; Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Ex 12:1-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:5-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
Saturday: Gn 1:1-22; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14;
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4;
Ez 36:16-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10
Next Sunday: Acts 10:34-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9



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

† **Sanctuary** - All Parishioners

† **Blessed Mother** - Rose Fidek
requested by Michael & Constance Bernot
Liz Alworth

requested by the Voytek Family

† **Saint Joseph** - Marty Magerko
69th wedding anniversary remembrance
requested by Gloria Magerko

† **Saint Anthony** - Alice & Steve Wallace
requested by daughter Maureen & family

† **Sacred Heart** - Parish & Richnafsky Families
requested by Mary Anne Hritz



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