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
email: sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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
Saturday .....6:00 pm
Sunday.....8:00 am & 11:30 am
Confessions: Saturday 5:00-5:30 pm
Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 pm

Masses in Footedale
Tuesday & Thursday .....8:00 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

Third Sunday of Lent
March 12, 2023

Stations of the Cross

† **Wednesday, March 15, in Masontown**
Adoration 5:00 pm
Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm

† **Friday, March 17, in Footedale**
Adoration 11:00 am
Stations of the Cross 12:00 pm

Fr. Arnel's Reflections - March 12, 2023 - Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

Our readings for this Sunday use the symbolism of water. Living things cannot survive without water; water is necessary for life. This symbolism was very important for the Israelites, who lived in a land surrounded by deserts. However, our Biblical readings tell us there is more to life than having an adequate supply of water.

In the *First Reading*, we recall the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. God's miracles liberated them from slavery, and they journeyed out of Egypt under God's divine protection. However, the Israelites continually challenged God's plan for their future with their complaints. They did not trust God to provide for them, and they have shown unfaithfulness to God, even when He miraculously provided them water flowing from a rock to save their lives at Horeb.

The *Responsorial Psalm* reminds us that God is faithful. As a shepherd guides and cares for His sheep, God spiritually nourishes and guides His people on their journey through life. In the Psalm, the voice of the Lord also speaks to us today, warning us to be sincere in our trust and worship to Him. We must avoid being like the people of the Exodus generation who tested God and rebelled against His divine plan on the wilderness journey out of Egypt. The rebelliousness of the first generation of the Exodus cost them their inheritance in the Promised Land of Canaan. However, our disobedience could cost us our inheritance in the Promised Land of Heaven.

In the *Second Reading*, Saint Paul wrote about the life-giving love of God "poured out into our hearts." He tied that visual image to the piercing of the heart of Jesus as He hung on the Cross and the "living waters" of baptism and the Eucharist that poured forth from His body for the salvation of humanity. Furthermore, Saint Paul spoke of this event as proof of God's love in that "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." In His infinite love, God took the necessary action to bring about humanity's salvation. The self-sacrificial death of the Son of God is how God manifested His love for humanity.

Our *Gospel Reading* recalls the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. Jesus offered the woman "living water" that, He told her, leads to eternal life. In our Eucharistic celebration, Jesus is the "living water" in our midst as He was at the Rock of Horeb and Jacob's well. He calls us to believe "I am He," as Jesus told the woman of Samaria with the promise that He can pour out the love of God into our hearts through the Holy Spirit "today," "the day of our salvation," if only we will believe. Jesus is our source of life; He is the "living water" welling up for eternal life.

God calls us to accept His gift of eternal salvation through the Cross of Jesus with gratitude and the obedience of faith in Christ and His Church. The Israelites of the Exodus first generation forfeited their happiness when they lost the blessing of living in the Promised Land of Canaan because of their continual rebelliousness to God and His goodness. Let their failure be a warning for all of us now. Do not be rebellious to God so that we will not forfeit our eternal happiness in the Promised Land of Heaven.

Lenten Penance Services

Tuesday, March 21 - 6:00 pm
SS. Cyril & Methodius, Fairchance

Thursday, March 23 - 6:00 pm
Saint Francis of Assisi, Footedale

Sunday, March 26 - 3:00 pm
Saint Joan of Arc, Farmington

Monday, March 27 - 6:00 pm
Saint Joseph, Uniontown

Tuesday, March 28 - 6:00 pm
Saint Cecilia, Grindstone

Thursday, March 30 - 6:00 pm
Saint Therese, Uniontown

Lenten Afternoon of Reflection

Sunday, **March 19**, 2:00 pm at St. Mary Nativity Church, Uniontown.

Deacon Andrew Hamilton will speak on *The Story of Queen Esther of the Old Testament - A Model of Feminine Virtue.*

There is no charge for the afternoon. A social and refreshments in St. Mary Parish Center follows the presentation.

For more information, contact Bobbi at 724-366-1626. All are invited to attend this spirit-filled Lenten Sunday.

During the season of Lent, there are many opportunities to enrich our faith lives as we move toward the glorious celebration of Easter. One such opportunity, specifically for the men of our Diocese, is **THE WELL: Be Not Afraid.** This dynamic conference, conducted by the Men's Ministry Team, will be held at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg, on **Saturday, March 25.** Registration begins at 8:00 am; the cost, which includes lunch, is $50. Scholarships are available. In addition to a wonderful lineup of speakers, there will be opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration. Bishop Kulick will conclude the day with the celebration of Mass at 4:00 pm. To register, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/TheWell

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

The Christian Mothers will host **Lenten Fish Dinners the Fridays of Lent** at the social hall in Footedale 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; eat in or take out. Dinners ($12) include: baked or fried fish, French fries or weekly side dish; green beans, cole slaw, cloverleaf roll & butter, beverage. Sandwich platters ($9) include: fish sandwich; French Fries or weekly side dish, beverage. **This week's side dish is homemade haluski.** To place an order, please call 724-245-2932.

The Knights of Columbus will host a **Lenten Fish Fry each Friday during Lent** at the cafeteria in Masontown - 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Dine in or take out. To order, call 724-583-8210.

♣ Prayer of Saint Patrick ♣

Christ be with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie down, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is of the Christ. May your salvation, O Lord, be ever with us.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

The Spring Clean-Up at our six parish cemeteries will take place the week of March 20/24.

At this time, we need to remove old flowers and debris prior to the first cutting. **Volunteers are needed!**

Please remove from the graves anything that you wish to keep by March 19. Everything remaining on the graves after this date will be removed and discarded. New flowers may be placed on graves after March 24. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

DLA - One Body in Christ

Diocesan Goal $46,712; Parish Goal $20,000
Combined Diocesan/Parish Goal $66,712
Parishioner pledges received to date $8,581
Parishioner participation to date 11.3%

The Diocesan Lenten Appeal mailings have gone out and should have been received by all parishioners by now. If you have not received your mailing, please contact the Parish Office - sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org (724-583-7866). **Thank you** to all who have made their DLA commitment already this year! If you have not yet made a commitment to this year's appeal, please prayerfully consider a donation to assist our parish. *- Fr. Marlon*

Thank you to all who helped in any way to make last Sunday's **Cash Bash** a great success! Your generous support enabled us to realize a profit of $13,778. Special thanks to Carletta and the Cash Bash Committee for all of the preparations and for the great food.

Winning numbers are: 449; 252; 626; 591; 926; 768; 609; 544; 029; 276; 373; 075; 605; 649; 123; 891; 126; 284; 890; 425; 851; 152; 159; 563; 757; 348; 586; 187

Stewardship of Treasure

March 5: $6,379; monthly $1,387; children $15; online $700 - totaling $8,481

We also collected $340 for our Social Ministry Fund

Our parish is grateful for your support!

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of

† **Richard Francis Zaiglin**
buried Wednesday, March 8;
† **Cynthia (Cheresnye) Glad**
buried Thursday, March 9.

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

FAITH FORMATION / YOUTH NEWS

Scout Mass - Sunday, March 26

All Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts or Scout BSA members are invited to participate in a special Scout Mass on Sunday, **March 26,** at 11:30 am in Masontown. Wear your uniforms! Those planning to participate are asked to contact Bethany Hughes @bethanyio@yahoo.com

Family Easter Experience - Sunday, March 26

Faith Formation will host a family Easter experience - ***Journey to the Cross*** - on Sunday, **March 26**, 2 to 4 pm at the social hall in Footedale. This special program will take you and your children through five stations to learn about Jesus' Journey to the Cross. We hope to see you there. Those planning to attend are asked to register with Kim Stavish at kstavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org

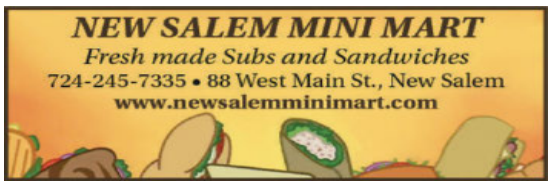
LENTEN PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES

Women's Day of Recollection - Sunday, March 26

hosted by the Christian Mothers of Saint Rita Parish, Connellsville. Retreat Master will be Deacon William Newhouse. The day begins at 1:30 pm, takes place in the church and includes: time for reflection, Rosary and Benediction. Women from all parishes are invited. Cost of $20 includes a coffee/cinnamon roll break and a catered dinner. Reservations are due by Monday, March 20; please call 724-628-6832.

Eggstravaganza - Sunday, March 26

Noon to 4:00 pm at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Uniontown. The event includes: egg artist demonstrations and sales, egg bazaar (egg dyes, beeswax, tools, books, videos & pysanky kits); Bake Sale, egg decorating workshop, children activities, raffles and church tours. Traditional Easter basket items will also be available (embroidered covers, candles, lamb butter molds, egg wraps). Easter crafts and Lenten luncheon items will be available for purchase.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 11 -- Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent
4:00 pm-F (M) *Casper Voytek (Granddaughters)*
6:00 pm-M (M) Peggy Dulik (Jean/Mike/Dave Lewandowsky)

Sunday, March 12 -- Third Sunday of Lent
8:00 am-M (A) Tony Fugozzotto (Lisa Chatlak)
9:30 am-F (A) *Irma Yandura (Stephanie Liptock)*
11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

Monday, March 13 -- Lenten Weekday
8:00 am-M Donna Stoffa (Rick/Denise Bobincheck)

Tuesday, March 14 -- Lenten Weekday
8:00 pm-F *Louis A. Otto (Wife, Patricia & Family)*

Wednesday, March 15 -- Lenten Weekday
8:00 am-M Mary Homa (Bill & Elaine Hruska/Sons)
5:00 pm-M Adoration
6:00 pm-M ✝ Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 16 -- Lenten Weekday
8:00 am-F *Donald A. Handley (Bozak Family)*

Friday, March 17 -- Saint Patrick ♣
8:00 am-M Sam Bartoni (Janice)
11:00 am-F Adoration
12:00 pm-F ✝ Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 18 -- Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent
3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
4:00 pm-M (Bishop Kulick) Pro Populo
5:00-5:30 pm-F *Confessions*
***6:00 pm-F** (E)* *Robert Cole (John & Joann Pecsko)*

Sunday, March 19 -- Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:00 am-M (M) Robert Kenney (Frank/Mary Maykuth)
9:30 am-F (M) *Angela Pikulski (Daughters)*
11:30 am-M (A) Mary Kay Richnafsky (Zatlokovicz Fam)

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1-13; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Bishop Kulick has announced a dispensation for Catholics in the Diocese of Greensburg from their obligation to abstain from meat on St. Patrick's Day. The Bishop will permit Roman Catholics to fittingly observe March 17th this year with *another choice of penance* rather than to abstain from meat.

We hear the Chosen People grumble in today's first reading, for they are thirsty and have no idea how long their journey through the desert will last. "Is the LORD in our midst or not?" they complain.

Here in this place, where we gather with God's people to worship the Lord, to listen to God's word, and to receive the Lord's body and blood, we can be assured that the Lord is in our midst. Jesus has quenched our deepest thirst with living water, with water welling up to eternal life.

Together let us give witness to our faith - - that God remains always in our midst.

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

10th Anniversary Celebration Mass

Saturday, March 18, 2023
4:00 pm in Masontown

Celebrant: Bishop Larry J. Kulick
Con-Celebrants: Fr. Marlon, Fr. Bill, Fr. Arnel, Fr. Chris Pujol

Thanksgiving Dinner
5:30 pm in the cafeteria

If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP via the attendance sheets located at the Church entrances at both worship sites so that we can plan accordingly.

Please note: For this weekend only - Mass on Saturday (March 18) in Footedale will be celebrated at 6:00 pm.

Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!

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

✝ **Blessed Mother -** *Steve Tretinik*
requested by Elaine Boyd

William, Louise & Bill Drzazgowski
requested by LuAnn & Mary Lou

✝ **Saint Joseph -** *Special Intention*

✝ **Saint Anthony -** *Esther & Edward Pleban*
requested by John & Kathy Pleban & Family

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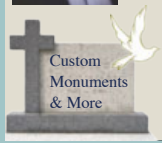

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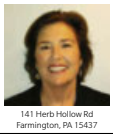

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