



# Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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email: [sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

*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:** 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.

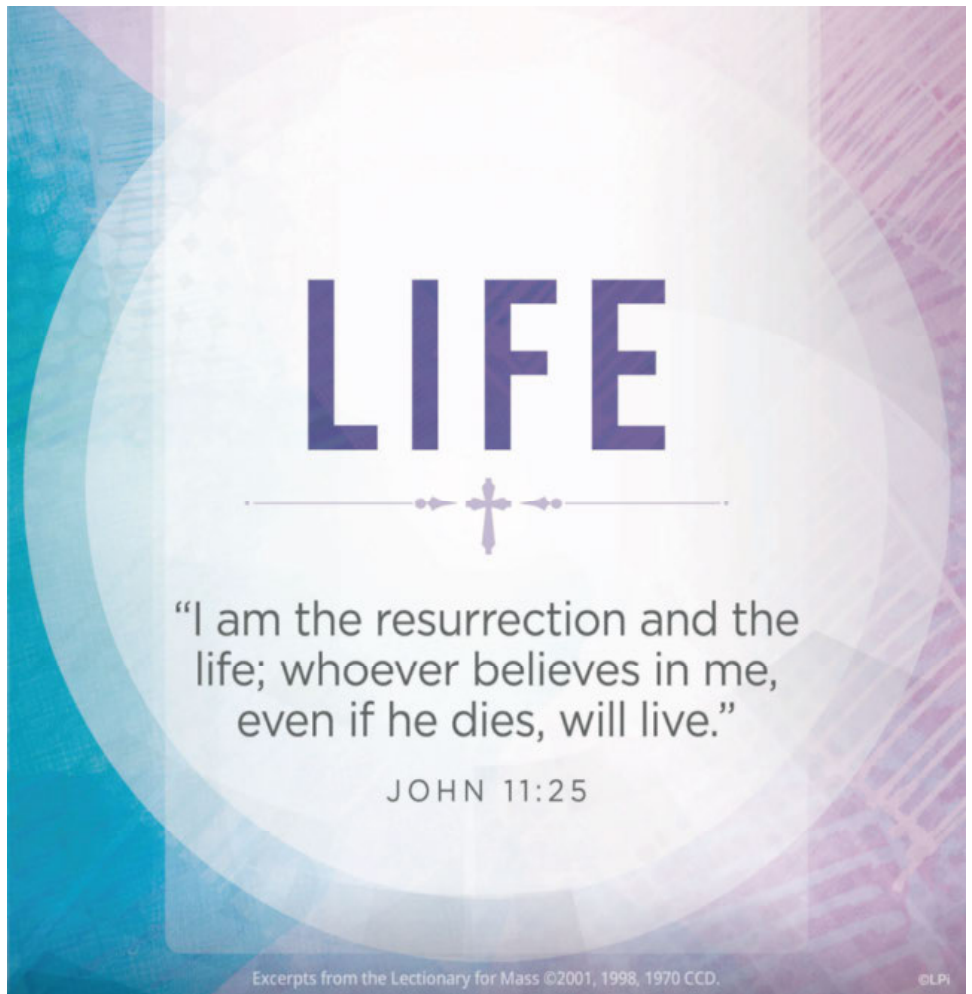
**Sacrament of Baptism:** By  
appointment. Prior to your baby's  
Baptism, you must be a registered,  
practicing member of this parish.

**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

## Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 26, 2023



### Stations of the Cross

† **Wednesday, March 29, in Masontown**

Adoration 5:00 pm

Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm

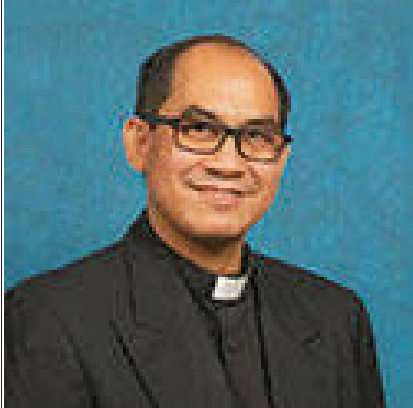
† **Friday, March 31, in Footedale**

Adoration 11:00 am

Stations of the Cross 12:00 pm



**Fr. Arnel's Reflections - Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
*Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-6b, 7b-8; Romans 8:8-11*



The theme of the readings this Sunday is God's gift of spiritual awakening and transformation that leads to "new life" in an intimate covenant relationship with God.

The *First Reading* is taken from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel. At the time of this story, the people of Israel are captives in Babylon, languishing as if they were "dry bones in the desert." Through this vision of the dry bones, God tells the Prophet to announce that He will in time restore the exiled people of Judah. This will not be a return to their former status and shame under the Monarchy, but to a "new life" governed not by kings and princes but by the Holy Spirit dwelling within them.

The *Responsorial Psalm* is one of the seven penitential Psalms used in various liturgies in which God promises to redeem His people from their past iniquities. This Psalm continues the theme of "new life." This carries the promise that God will redeem His people from their sins and give them a "new life" through a new covenant relationship with Him. Hence, this is an instruction to all the People of God to wait patiently in hope for the Lord's redemption.

In the *Second Reading* which is taken from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, Saint Paul gives the Romans and all of us an updated teaching similar to that of the Prophet Ezekiel above. "Updated" because this writing comes from a time after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all mankind to guide us back to the Father. If we do not have the Spirit dwelling within us, we will be like those "dry bones in the desert."

The raising of Lazarus from the dead in the *Gospel Reading* is a sign of victory of Jesus over death that He accomplished in His bodily resurrection from the grave. This is the Good News. Death has no power over Lazarus, because of Jesus, and death has no power over Jesus, because He too rose from the dead. His resurrection is the proof or the evidence, that sin and death have been conquered.

This is also a sign of the hope of the promised "new life" that awaits all of us who follow Christ by submitting to a spiritual rebirth through water and the Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism. It is also the promise of the bodily resurrection of the dead at the end of time when Christ returns to claim His Church and raise her to glory.



With joy and thanksgiving to God, the Diocese of Greensburg announces that Bishop Larry J. Kulick, JCL has called **Deacon Andrew J. Hamilton** to the responsibility of the Presbyterate, and **Craig Alexander, David M. Slusarick and John Torres** to the responsibility of the Diaconate.

The priesthood ordination will be celebrated on June 3, 2023 and the diaconate ordination on May 20, 2023. Both liturgies will begin at 10:00 am in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg.





**Words of thanks to all who made our Anniversary celebration so beautiful and meaningful.**

Thank you to all who made our 10th Anniversary celebration on the formation of our St. Francis of Assisi Parish so beautiful and meaningful. Our Mass was beautiful and inspiring. Bishop Larry Kulick delivered an excellent and moving message to all present, and definitely helped you in the healing process due to the pains you experienced in the last decade. Our Choir, as usual, added such beautiful music before and during the Mass. Thank You to all who helped in any way at the Mass: ushers, greeters, readers, ministers, altar servers, offertory procession and the participants of the event. And a Thank you to John Maykuth for the St. Francis card he sponsored for the celebration.

As to the dinner and reception, you could not have experienced a better gathering and celebration. Thank you to all who worked on any aspect of the Anniversary. Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for the generosity in sponsoring our dinner. Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for doing a tremendous job. A lot of thought and planning was obvious as everything flowed so well. From the planning, organizing, seating, decorating it was just right.

Thank You for making our 10th Anniversary Celebration so wonderful. The celebration that we had will forever stay in my heart. God Bless You! – *Fr. Marlon*



*Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us!*

**Life From God**

As we approach Holy Week, our readings speak of a God who, in the midst of death, brings new life to the people. In Ezekiel, we hear that God will open the graves of the



people of Israel, who faced near extinction. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives new life to Lazarus in a manner that prefigures the resurrection of Jesus. Saint Paul tells the Romans that in Christ, God will not only give life to our bodies after death but God offers us abundant life here and now. We observe that the external conditions for the people described in these readings did not radically change. Israel was still in exile; Lazarus would eventually face death again; but now God’s presence and power are revealed. Even when our situation in life is difficult and perhaps not likely to change soon, we remember that the Spirit dwells within us.

**The Practice of Stewardship**

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, “This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God’s glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified.” Every aspect of our lives - our gifts as well as our sufferings - can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

*Thank you* for the following Memorial Donations:

**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish**

In memory of *Frank A. Palo*

by Rose Gabeletto, Colette Freiberg

**St. Mary, Madonna Cemetery**

In memory of *Frank A. Palo* and

*John & Bridget M. Berisko*

by Philip Berisko

**DLA - One Body in Christ**

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

Combined Diocesan/Parish Goal \$66,712

Parishioner Pledges to date - \$22,396

Parishioner participation to date - 25.9%

**Thank you** to those who have made pledges.

Your participation has enabled us to reach 47.9% of our diocesan target! Everything raised beyond that target will remain in our parish; therefore, if you haven’t made a commitment to this year’s appeal, please prayerfully consider a donation to assist our parish.

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**March 19:** \$4,733; loose \$343; monthly \$793;

online \$552; Accent \$282 totaling \$6,703

**Our parish is very grateful for your support!**

## 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 Christian Mothers will sponsor a **BAKE SALE** during the final Lenten Fish Dinner, Friday, **March 31**.

The members invite all parishioners to support their pre-Easter sale by donating and/or purchasing baked items. Monetary donations are also accepted. Items can be dropped off at the social hall the mornings of Thursday, March 30 & Friday, March 31. Questions? Call Dorothy - 724-437-4702. Thank you!!

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.

## 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.



## 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

## 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.

**Easter Egg Hunt** hosted by Youth Ministry which takes place at 12:30 pm on Saturday, **April 8**, in Footedale. They are in need of filled eggs and ask your help. If you have these items to donate, please deposit them in the barrels at both sites by Palm Sunday.

**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.

**Yard Sale:** Youth Ministry will participate in the Masontown Community Yard Sale on Saturday, **May 6**, and are in need of gently used items to sell. If you have these items to donate please drop them off - after Easter - at the Parish Office in Masontown or the Social Hall in Footedale. Questions? Call Rita Masi 724-208-6779.

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# MASS SCHEDULE

## Saturday, March 25 -- Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm-F (M) Richard Moncheck (Family)  
6:00 pm-M (A) Don Beck (M/M Ron Frasoni)

## Sunday, March 26 -- Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M (M) Pro Populo  
9:30 am-F (A) Bruno W. Smith (Brother, John)  
11:30 am-M (M) Mary Zaiglin (Dom/Valeria Galluzzo)

## Monday, March 27 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Richard Zaiglin (Bill & Elaine Hruska)

## Tuesday, March 28 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 pm-F Dolores Sofranko (Betty Gorman)

## Wednesday, March 29 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Sylvia Krofcheck (Rick/Denise Bobincheck)

## Thursday, March 30 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Agnes Frost (Bill & Carolyn Tolnai)

## Friday, March 31 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Helen Wesolowsky (John/Kathy Pleban)

## Saturday, April 1 -- Vigil: Palm Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions  
4:00 pm-F (M) Andrea Shimek (Fabrycki Family)  
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
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)

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

### Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Dn 13:41-62; Jn 8:1-11  
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30  
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20; 91-95; Jn 8:31-42  
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59  
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42  
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56  
Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;  
Mt 26:14-27:66

**With Mass next Saturday evening, we enter Holy Week.** Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, a day to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Are we moved to enter into the holiest of all weeks, the most sacred of days, the time of reconciliation? So that we might be forgiven, we must first look at those who have sinned against us and embrace them with tears of forgiveness.



On this final Sunday of Lent before Palm Sunday, we hear Jesus call Lazarus forth from the tomb.

Jesus calls us as well, calls us forth from our tombs of sin and death, where our harmful habits and attitudes separate us from God, from life. He is the resurrection.

He is the life. Jesus' words to Martha then are His words to us now: *"Do you believe this? Do you believe that God can bring life out of death? Do you believe that God can free us from the burial bands of sin?"*

Let us recover that faith within us and so prepare ourselves to witness the Resurrection.

### Question of the Week:

What spiritual darkness is Jesus calling me to come out of today? What difficulties can I anticipate in shedding these burial bands that separate me from God's grace?

**The Fridays of Lent are to be meatless for all Catholics.**



### Regional Lenten Confessions

**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

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

† **Sanctuary** - *Thanksgiving*

† **Blessed Mother** - *Adeline Kiec*  
requested by daughters, Angie & Francene

† **Saint Joseph** - *Barry Novasky*  
requested by George & Sandy Rantovich

† **Sacred Heart** - *Frank A. Palo*  
requested by Philip Berisko



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