



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

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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: 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.

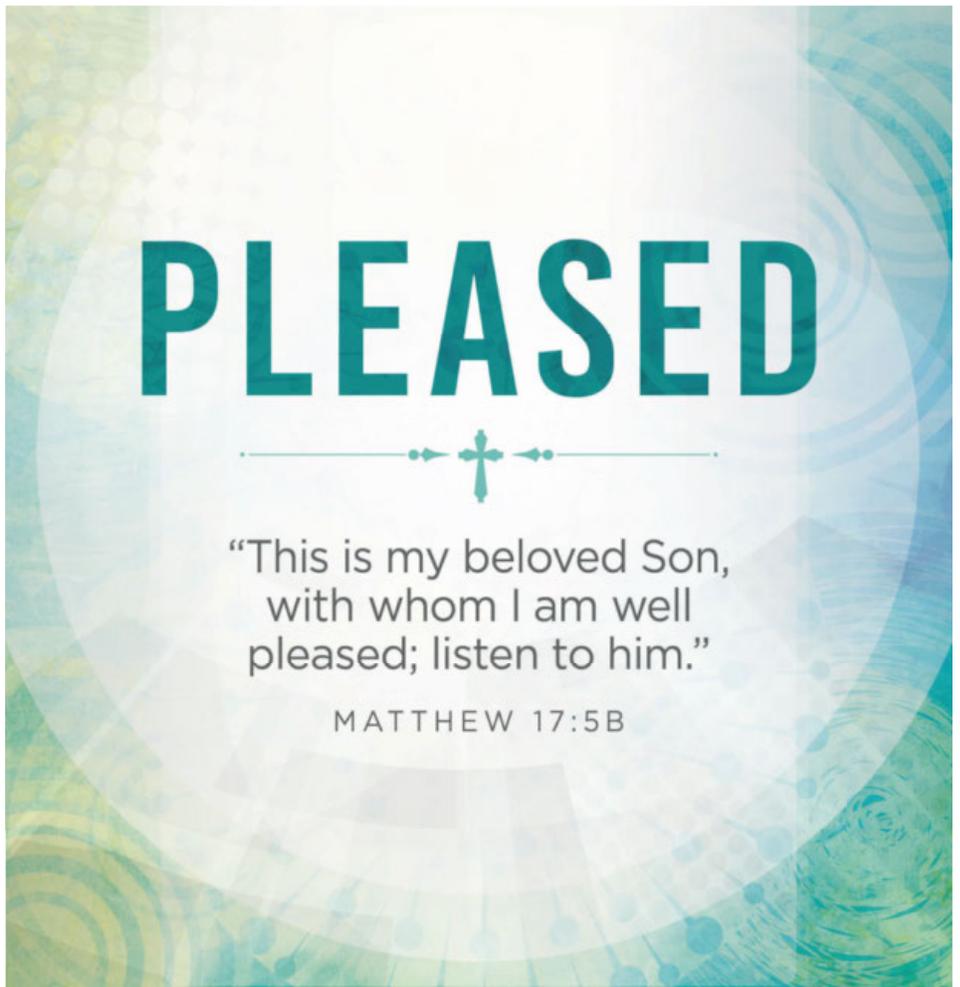
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

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

Second Sunday of Lent - March 5, 2023



Stations of the Cross

† **Wednesday, March 8, in Masontown**

Adoration 5:00 pm

Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm

† **Friday, March 10, in Footedale**

Adoration 11:00 am

Stations of the Cross 12:00 pm

Fr. Marlon's Reflections - Second Sunday of Lent
 (Gn. 12:1-4; 2 Tim. 1:8-10; Mt. 17:1-9)



All four gospels tell us that Jesus, in obedience to his Father “set his face” towards Jerusalem where he must suffer greatly, be killed and on the third day be raised. This revelation did not go well with Peter. Thus, he vehemently told Jesus: “God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you.

This might be Peter’s way of showing his love and concern for Jesus. But unknown to him, with these words he was reiterating Satan’s objection when he tempted Jesus three times – to deviate from his mission. Moreover, this revelation of Jesus was probably the final nail that sealed Peter’s doubt about Jesus. For was it not a fact that until only recently vast throngs of people followed Jesus wherever he went? Now, even some of his disciples had abandoned him and the religious leaders of the Jews had united against him. So was Jesus for real or was he just one of those false prophets who appeared now and then in Israel?

Jesus knew what was bothering Peter. Thus, after six days, he invited him along with the brothers John and James to go up with him on the mountain. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. Not only that, Moses and Elijah appeared conversing with Jesus. Finally, a voice was heard from the cloud saying: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him!

Moses represents the Law while Elijah stands for the Prophets. In the Old Testament God promised to raise someone like Moses and Elijah in the last days. Thus, their appearance with Jesus at the Transfiguration signified that the last days had come. This meant that there and then, God spoke no longer through the likes of Moses and Elijah but through Jesus. Thus, it was imperative that the three apostles and everyone else must listen to him so that they may be able to live their lives in accordance with his words. This is what to be a disciple, a Christian, means.

But at that time, all this was way beyond Peter. After such an unheard-of experience of seeing Jesus in his glory, and with his doubts about Jesus all gone, Peter proposed to build three shelters – one each for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Then all of them could stay there in bliss for good.

Jesus ignored Peter’s proposal. Instead he asked them to go down the mountain so that he could go on with his journey to Jerusalem. To fulfill what his Father willed. He also admonished them to tell no one about what they had seen and heard, until he had been raised from the dead.

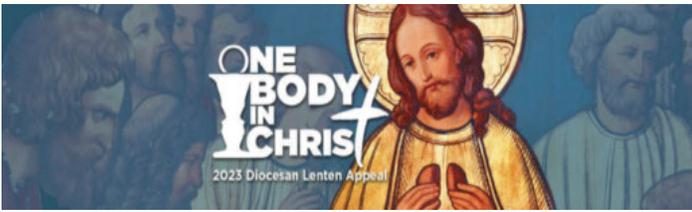
Being transfigured before them – seeing Jesus in the glory that would be his after his Passion and Death – was Jesus’ way of preparing them for the trying days ahead. Meanwhile, as the Father told them, they had to listen to him.

We are like Peter in many ways. We all have our own problems and preoccupations. We are so anxious over many things that we often forget to listen to Jesus.

The Transfiguration-event shows us the value of “withdrawing” now and then from our daily routine and “going up to the mountain” to “listen to him,” that is, to pray. We all know that when we pray, our problems and preoccupations do not necessarily go away. But after prayer, we return to the same world with a difference – with our heart and outlook transformed.

Thus, at prayer – constant and persevering prayer – we discover that what matters is to do God’s will not ours. At prayer you may be told not just to honestly earn as much as you can for your family but also to devote more time and attention to your growing children so that they will be brought up properly. At prayer you may be told to talk about the positive qualities of others instead of spreading gossips about them thus bringing about peace within yourselves and with one another. At prayer you may be told that what you own are not just for your exclusive use but are to be shared with others in need, etc.

As Christians we will have our own Transfiguration in the end-time. The pre-condition for this is to listen to Jesus, that is, to engage in persevering and transforming prayer so that even now we may already be transformed. Let this be our special project during this season of Lent.



DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL 2023

We have once again begun the DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL in our parish. For this year 2023 our parish goal is to raise \$66,712.00.

This goal would help us in two ways: First to meet our Diocesan Target of \$46,712.00 which would be used on the diocesan level to support the international priests, seminarian’s education, faith formation programs, Catholic Charities, and other diocesan ministries.

Secondly, the remaining \$20,000.00 will be used for the installation of Security Systems for both worship sites. Your gift to the Diocesan Lenten Appeal will enable us to fulfill the above projects.

Last year, \$44,387.00 was returned to our parish and helped to upgrade the electrical system in Footedale worship site for the air conditioning installation, to paint the windows of both worship sites, and to repair the roof over the restroom in Masontown church.

Last year our active participation in DLA was 45%. Let us make 2023 the year that we **increase our participation** by giving a gift to help both the diocese and our parish. If you did not receive a pledge card, please call the parish office (724-583-7866).

Please be as generous as you can so that we can meet our goal in this appeal. Thank you and may God continue to bless you. *Fr. Marlon*

Lenten Sacrifice Crown of Thorns

The 40 days of Lent have just started; so, you still have time to fashion a “Crown of Thorns” to remind you and your family to practice the three tenets of Lent: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. This simple centerpiece, made from a grapevine wreath and 40 toothpicks, is a reminder to think of others as you remove a “thorn” from the Crown with each act of giving or sacrifice. Your goal is to remove all the “thorns” by Easter Sunday and perhaps replace them with spring flowers, as you celebrate the Resurrection. Take a few minutes, create your “Crown” and begin a new Lenten tradition.

Question of the Week

We have been tasked with the awesome responsibility of bearing witness to Jesus transfigured. We have seen what is real. We have heard what is true. Do we have the courage to rise and not be afraid?

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.

The Practice of Stewardship

Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel, Saint Paul tells Timothy in today’s second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share? See 2 Timothy 1:8b

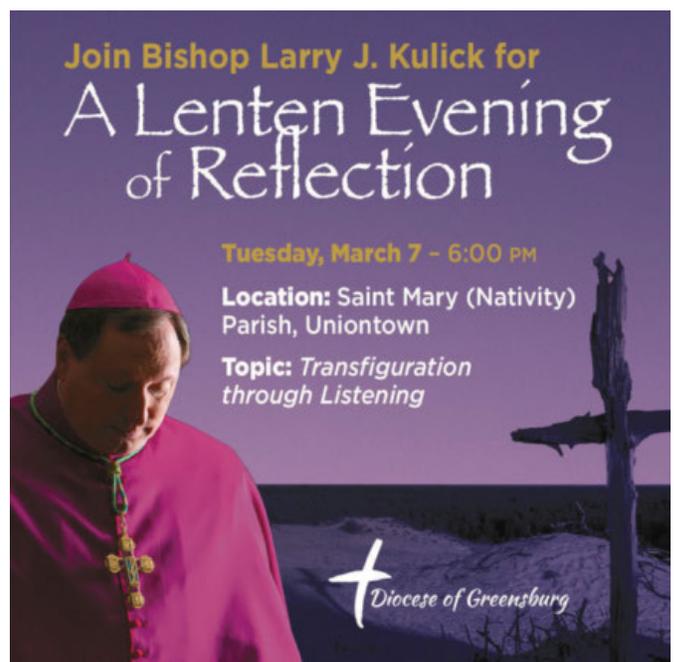
Thank you for a donation to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish given in memory of *Sister Karen Flaherty* by Rosemary Reagan. Our grateful thanks.

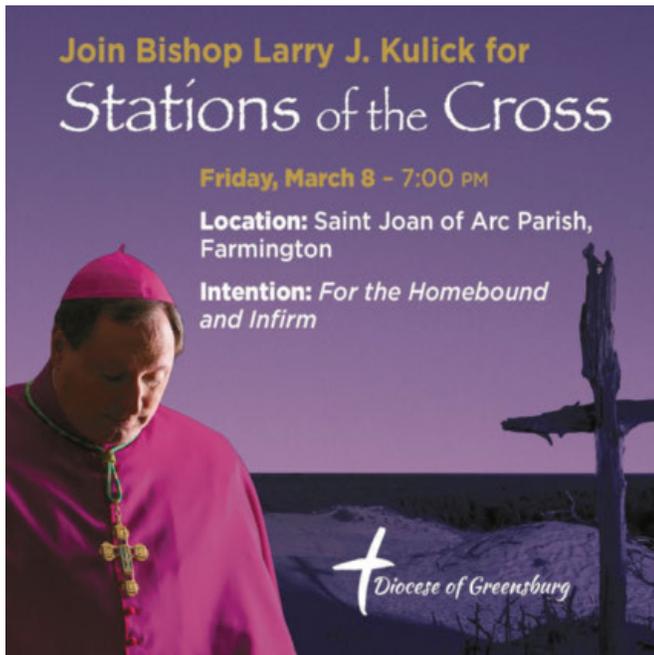
Stewardship of Treasure

February 26: \$6,166; loose \$551; monthly \$1,075; children \$9; online \$442; Ash Wednesday \$2,188 totaling \$10,431

Our parish is grateful for your support!

Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. - Saint John Paul II





Lenten Afternoon of Reflection

The Ladies of Charity of the Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown will hold a Sunday of Lenten Reflection on **March 19**, at 2:00 pm at Saint Mary Nativity Church. 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 will follow the presentation. For more information, please contact Bobbi at 724-366-1626. All are invited to attend this spirit-filled Lenten Sunday.



Widowed, Divorced or Separated?

The loss of a spouse is a traumatic experience. The **Beginning Experience®** ministry provides a weekend program to help widowed, divorced, or separated men and women of all faiths to work through their grief to move forward on their life journey with hope. The next weekend program takes place **April 14-16**, at **St. Emma Retreat Center in Greensburg**. Visit www.BeginningExperiencePittsburgh.com to register or to make a confidential call to **Kim, 412-352-2653** or **Dick, 724-255-7407** to learn more about this healing ministry.



Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, **March 12**. Remember to **turn your clocks AHEAD one hour** before retiring next Saturday!

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.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry is hosting **Gift Basket Raffles** during the Lenten Fish Dinners **at both sites**. Proceeds benefit various Youth Ministry activities such as attending the National Catholic Youth Conference, hosting Faith Formation events, and homebound projects at Christmas and Easter. If you wish to help by donating a basket, it can be delivered to the Parish Office in Masontown or the Social Hall in Footedale.

Youth Ministry seeks donations of **filled Easter Eggs** for the **annual Easter Egg Hunt** which takes place Holy Saturday at the parking lot in Footedale. If you have these items to donate, please place them in the bins located at each worship site beginning March 18/19.

Never Miss a Bulletin! Sign up to have our weekly bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 4 -- Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm-F (M) Vernie Borytsky (Michael/Constance Bernot)
6:00 pm-M (A) Nancy Barnhart (Jude Fedor/Sylvia Volek)

Sunday, March 5 -- Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M (M) Pro Populo
9:30 am-F (M) William, Lousie & Bill Drzazgowski
11:30 am-M (A) Josephine Yash (SFOA Golden Group)

Monday, March 6 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Don Beck (Dolores & Lisa Santella)

Tuesday, March 7 -- Saints Perpetua & Felicity

8:00 pm-F Adam & Josephine Smith (Sons/Daughters)

Wednesday, March 8 -- Saint John of God

8:00 am-M Ellen Duffy (Sue Ann Malinsky)
5:00 pm-M Adoration in Masontown
6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 9 -- Saint Frances of Rome

8:00 am-F Traversari & Mehalek Parents (Donna)

Friday, March 10 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Linda Marano (Melinda Hamborsky)
11:00 am-F Adoration in Footedale
12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 11 -- Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F (M) Casper Voytek (Granddaughters)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
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

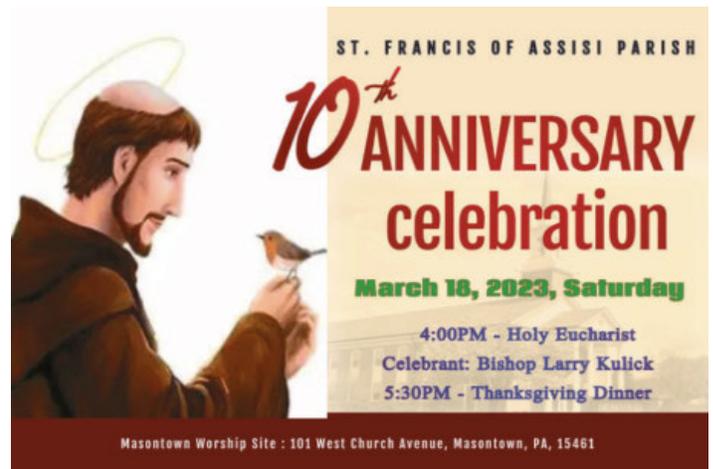
(M) Fr. Marlon / (A) Fr. Arnel



As we continue this forty-day journey through Lent, we do not want to lose sight of what the future holds - for Jesus in the Gospel and for us in our own lives.

Jesus will suffer greatly and will be put to death and laid in a tomb; but on the third day, He will be raised and will ascend to the Father in glory, opening the way to eternal life for us all.

We mark this season with prayer and fasting, almsgiving and repentance, knowing that our destiny lies in eternal life with the Lord. Let us worship Him, for He has transformed our destiny.



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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10-20; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-28; Mt 21:33-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-20; Lk 15:1-32
Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-8; Jn 4:5-42



The Parish Office will be closed Thursday, March 9, so that we may attend a special diocesan conference.



All of the Fridays of Lent are to be "meatless" for all Catholics.

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

† **Blessed Mother** - Annabelle Frost
requested by her children & grandchildren

Margaret Moore
requested by her children

† **Saint Joseph** - Henry Bashour
requested by daughter, Mary Jo

† **Sacred Heart** - Donald A. Handley
requested by the Bozak Family



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