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*A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*



April 16, 2023

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: 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.

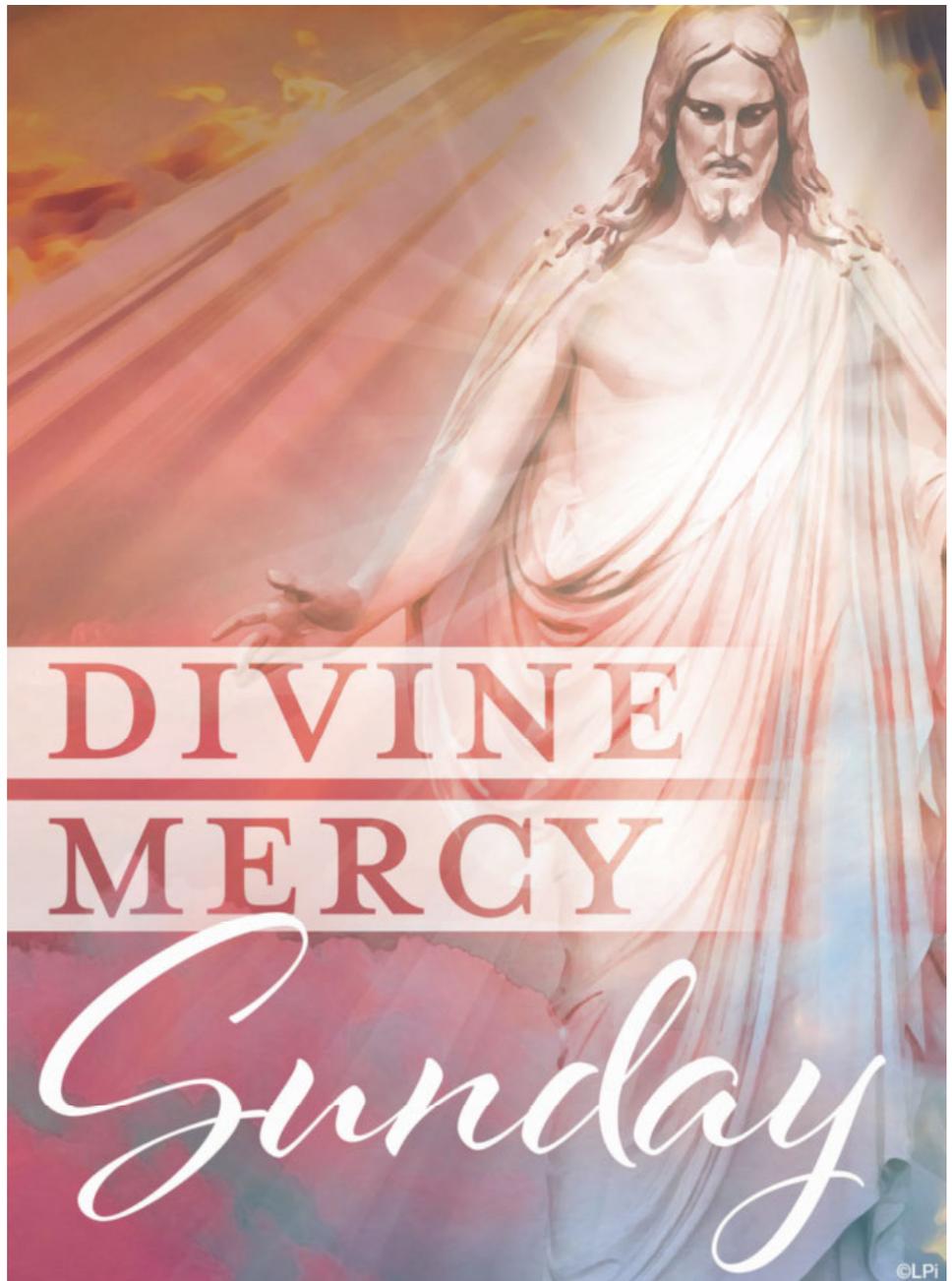
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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



Fr. Marlon's Reflections - 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Acts 2:42-47; 1 Pt. 1:3-9; Jn. 20:19-31)

ALLELUIA!



For the evangelist John, Easter Sunday is also Pentecost Sunday. While the Synoptics used phrases, *he gave up his spirit* (Matthew), *he breathed his last* (Mark) and *he expired* (Luke) in describing the Death of Jesus, John used the phrase *handed over the spirit*. With this, he wants to express a double nuance of the dying of Jesus; as giving up his last breath or spirit and passing on the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why Jesus could already say to the disciples gathered in the upper room on the first Easter night, *Receive the Holy Spirit*. The Synoptics however placed this event only during the Descent of the Holy Spirit after Jesus had ascended to the Father.

In the gospel reading (Jn 20:19-31), we see the disciples huddled in the upper room, hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. But Thomas was not with them. Why?

To answer this, let us focus on the person and character of the apostle Thomas. Thomas is often described as the "doubting Thomas." But the gospels, especially that of John, depict him in a different way, namely, as the "courageous Thomas." And this because of his uncanny habit of speaking clearly his opposing views, regardless of the pressures to agree or remain silent. In Jn 11:16, after Christ told his disciples that he wanted to go to Judea despite the fact that his life was in jeopardy, Thomas exhorts the others, *Let us also go to die with him*. In Jn 14:5, Jesus is telling the Twelve about eternal life and then adds, *Where I am going you know the way*. In reality his disciples did not know what Jesus was talking about but lest they appear stupid, no one asked except Thomas. He broke into the Lord's dialogue with the query, *Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?* Had he remained silent like the rest, we never would have heard the great summary of the Lord's mission, *I am the way, and the truth, and the life*.

Thomas was independent minded. He was not the type who just went along with the tide. Thus, while the other disciples needed the security of numbers and hid behind bolted doors, Thomas was outside, all on his own. He was just that kind of a guy. No wonder he was not present when the Risen Christ made his unscheduled visit that first Easter night.

When Thomas was with them the following week, the others joyfully greeted him in unison, *We have seen the Lord*. Thomas appeared unimpressed and simply said that he wants to see the wounds before he shares their joy. When Jesus appears again and invites him to see and touch his wounds, Thomas offered no apologies and did not try to "explain" his need for further proof. The truth was now present and he expressed what he felt by falling on his knees saying, *My Lord and my God!* Thomas came to believe in the risen Jesus in the same way as the other disciples - when he sees the Lord for himself.

It was because of this unique character of Thomas that he stands for all those who have not seen the Lord but are asked to believe in him. If Thomas did not wait to see Jesus before he believed in him, then the Beatitude aimed at the generations of people who will not see the risen Lord would not have been uttered by Jesus, *Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed*. We have Thomas with his unique character to thank for that.

What lesson can we draw from the unique person of Thomas? A very simple but essential one. Even if faith is a gif of the Holy Spirit, it does not mean that once we have received it, we will have it with us for the rest of our life. And this is what Thomas wants us to prepare for. Thus, just as he did, he wants us to think, probe and question our faith. He wants us to make faith real and meaningful to us. In short, he wants us to have that kind of faith which is born out of conviction.

Why? Because faith, like love, is constantly exposed to the temptation of doubt and indifference. And only that faith which is thought about, probed, questioned and therefore allowed to grow and mature in the process can stand against the doubt and indifference that constantly bombard believer in our skeptical and indifferent contemporary world.

THANK YOU FOR A BEAUTIFUL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to all those who volunteered countless hours in helping to prepare our Liturgical celebrations for Easter. A parish of our size (with two worship sites) requires a team of dedicated volunteers who share their love for Jesus and our parish by giving of their time and talent.

Thank you to all the choir and cantors under the leadership of Eric Blanda for providing us beautiful music. We felt like “We’re really in the celestial temple of God” in every celebration. My special thanks to Michael Bello and Kim Stavish and to the rest of the decorating team in Footedale and Michele Bozek and Patty Ball and also the rest of the decorating team in Masontown for all the days and nights in transforming the environment of the Church for the various Liturgical seasons. From those who help clean the church each week, to all the lectors, ushers, greeters, sacristans, Eucharistic ministers, and to Brian Fronczek and Gary Ball for making the crucifixes so beautiful for the Good Friday Liturgy, I am so grateful to all of you ... you are all such a blessing.

I would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the Easter Flowers/Decorations. Your monetary contributions helped provide a beautiful environment from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. This included everything from pots, plants, and other supplies, as well as the formal arrangement used for Holy Thursday and Easter. Your generosity was greatly appreciated! I wanted to thank also those who gave us cards and gifts. On behalf of Fr. Arnel ... Thank you so much. Happy Easter and May God bless you always! – *Fr. Marlon*

Question of the Week: With eyes of faith, how do I see Christ’s wounds in my community?

The Practice of Charity

“Peace be with you.” His closest friends had run away in fear at His time of greatest need. The risen Christ begins not with scolding, but with the gift of peace. Perhaps you have relationships that are in need of this gift of peace.

We know that human beings are prone to hurting one another, failing one another, falling short of their own ideals when it comes to love of God and love of neighbor. Reach out. Offer the peace of Christ.

Until Pentecost, strive to carry out a corporal work of mercy each week. The corporal works of mercy are: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, and to bury the dead.

Take some time this week to pray Psalm 118, focusing on the words, “His mercy endures forever.”



**Jesus,
I Trust In You!**

DIVINE MERCY

Saint John Paul II named the Second Sunday of Easter *Sunday of Divine Mercy* in response to Saint Faustina Kowalska’s Divine Mercy devotion, which offered spiritual comfort to hearts worldwide. Pope Francis challenges us to make the comfort that we receive a gift we gladly share, saying that because mercy was first shown to us, we are therefore called to show mercy ourselves. The clearest expression of merciful love, says Francis, is pardoning others. He acknowledges how difficult it can be to forgive sometimes but, if we are to achieve peace in our hearts, pardon is the tool that has been put into our very fallible hands.

The necessary condition for living joyfully? We must let go of anger, hatred, revenge and violence. A tall order in a world seemingly bent on the destruction of every peaceful impulse. May Divine Mercy Sunday remind us that Jesus made mercy our life’s ideal and a criterion for our faith’s credibility: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” - Matthew 5:7

Divine Mercy Sunday Liturgy Celebration

Bishop Kulick invites the faithful of the Diocese to join with him in a celebration of God’s mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16. The liturgy is scheduled for 2pm in Saint Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed during this time of Eucharistic Adoration. Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor Eucharistic procession.

The Practice of Stewardship

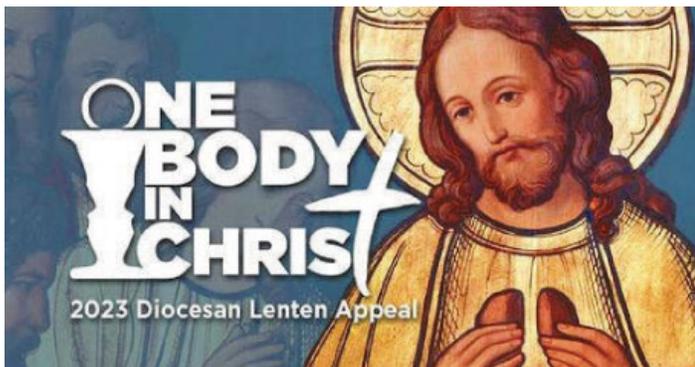
Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do I need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else’s need?

Thank you to the **Knights of Columbus** for their Easter gift of \$250.00 to our parish. God bless you!

Stewardship of Treasure

April 2, Palm Sunday: \$7,446; loose \$416; monthly \$595; children \$21; Online \$391; Accent \$90 totaling \$8,959

Our parish is grateful for your continued support!



2023 Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$46,712; Parish Goal - \$66,712
 Parishioner Pledges to date - \$30,161
 Parishioner participation to date - 36.4%

Thank you to those who have made pledges! Your participation has enabled us to reach 64.6% of our diocesan target! Everything raised beyond that target will remain in our parish. If you haven't made a commitment to this year's appeal, I respectfully ask that you please prayerfully consider a donation to assist our parish. We can't do it without you.

Thank You: The Knights of Columbus wish to thank everyone who helped to make our Lenten Fish Fry a great success. A special thank you to all who supported our project. God bless you all.

Hoagie Sale: 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 at the Parish Office in Masontown or the Social Hall in Footedale. Questions? Call Rita Masi 724-208-6779.

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of
 † **Pauline (Burke) Gaffey**
 who was buried Thursday, March 30
 † **Susan Ann (Sabo) Papa**
 who entered eternal life Monday, April 3
 † **Eugene "Gene" Robert Barnhart**
 who was buried Monday, April 10
 † **Wanda M. (Sadlo) Valusek**
 who was buried Monday, April 10
 † **Shelby Hutson**
 who was buried Tuesday, April 11
 † **Anna Mary (King) Valusek**
 who was buried Wednesday, April 12
 † **John Michael Sargent, Jr.**
 who was buried Wednesday, April 13
 † **Frank James Coppolino**
 who was buried Wednesday, April 13
 May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.



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Annual Diocesan Scout Convocation Mass

The Diocese of Greensburg's Catholic Committee on Scouting invites all members of the scouting family to attend the Diocesan Scout Convocation Mass at 3pm on **Sunday, May 7, at St. Regis Church, Trafford.** Bishop Kulick will be the main celebrant. Catholic Scouts who have completed work on their religious emblems in the past year will be recognized. Units are encouraged to attend as a group and display their unit flags. A light reception will follow. Information on the religious emblems program and the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting will be available. Registration is not necessary; however, units planning to attend are asked to contact Diocesan Scout Chaplain, Fr. George Saletrik at gsaletrik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Magnificat Breakfast April 29

The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat - A Ministry to Catholic Women will hold a breakfast Saturday, April 29, 9:00 am to Noon at Rizzo's Banquet Hall in Crabtree. Guest speaker Father John-Mary Tompkins, OSB will talk about his faith journey. Cost is \$25. To register, call 724-836-2094 by April 24 or visit www.magnificatgreensburg.com

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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, April 15 -- Second Sunday of Easter
 4:00 pm-F (M) Mike & Ann Bernot (Children/Grandchildren)
 6:00 pm-M (M) Michael Zumerling Jr. (Wife, Irene)

Sunday, April 16 -- Second Sunday of Easter
 8:00 am-M (M) John & Donna Chatlak (Lisa Chatlak)
 9:30 am-F (M) Frank Palo (Philip Berisko)
 11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

Monday, April 17 - Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-M William J. Berish Sr. (David & Vicki)

Tuesday, April 18 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 pm-F Frank Duda (Vince & Patti Demaske)

Wednesday, April 19 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-M Larry Gashie (Bill & Patty Post)

Thursday, April 20 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-F Mary Ann Kordella (Sons, David/Frank)

Friday, April 21 -- Saint Anselm
 8:00 am-M Marino & Lucy Galluzzo (Dom/Valeria)
 4:30-6:00 pm Adoration in Masontown

Saturday, April 22 -- Vigil: Third Sunday of Easter
 10:00 am-M **First Eucharist**
 3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F (M) Catherine Shimshock (Eugene/Roseanne)
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 6:00 pm-M (M) Philip Griffith (Mother & Family)

Sunday, April 23 -- Third Sunday of Easter
 8:00 am-M (M) Peggy Dulik (Tom & Rita Malesky)
 9:30 am-F (M) Patricia Stunja (L/A Bogus & D Muratore)
 11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday:	Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8	
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7-15	
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21	
Thursday:	Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36	
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15	
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21	
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:14-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35	

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 21, in Masontown

4:30 to 5:30 pm: Exposition and Confession
 5:30-5:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction



Today, on Divine Mercy Sunday, we celebrate God's everlasting mercy, which heartened the Chosen People again and again over many centuries, found its purest expression in the sacrifice of God's only Son, and will continue to overflow into our world and all God's creation until the end of time. Conscious of both God's mercy and Jesus' command to do for the least of our brothers and sisters what he has done for us, we pray that we may be merciful and forgiving to others, sharing that most precious gift God gives us.

The Fifty Days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one 'great Sunday.' - St. Athanasius, *Epistula festalis*

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

Please pray for the young people of our parish who will receive the **Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time** on Saturday, **April 22**, at 10:00 am in Masontown.

† Lord Jesus, bless all those who are receiving You in Holy Communion for the first time. May each one of them know Your love and mercy in a personal way. May all Your people open their hearts to receive You that they might be transformed by Your love. Amen.

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

† **Blessed Mother** - Steve & Anna Sandrosky requested by granddaughters, LuAnn & Mary Lou

Sandra (Hromada) Sofocle requested by Philip Berisko

† **Saint Joseph** - Bruno W. Smith requested by his brothers & sisters

† **Saint Anthony** - Dan Fronczek requested by wife, Carletta

† **Sacred Heart** - Joanne Liptock requested by Harry & Maxine



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