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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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



April 30, 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: Check bulletin

Masses in Footedale

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

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Adoration: Check bulletin

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



4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

"Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out." - Jn 10:2-3

Fr. Arnel's Reflections - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b4, 5, 6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

ALLELUIA!

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Easter and it is called as Good Shepherd Sunday, and, appropriately, this day is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Today, the Church calls us to reflect on the meaning of God's call for each of us and to pray for generous respondents God's personal call (vocation), to the priesthood, the diaconate, and the consecrated life, because the entire Christian community shares the responsibility for fostering vocations. Both the Old and New Testaments use the image of a Shepherd and His flock to describe the unique relationship of God with Israel and Christ with Christians.

In the First Reading which is from the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Peter, now inspired by the Holy Spirit and renewed by the forgiveness of Christ, stands before a crowd and explains the meaning of what they have done in crucifying their Messiah and what must now be done to gain forgiveness. That basic truth has not changed – even in our modern technology age now, that is - Forgiveness is available “to all those whomever the Lord our God will call.” Saint Peter then proclaims that the proper response to the Good News about Jesus is to repent and be baptized “in the name of Jesus Christ,” and thus to become members of the flock of the Good Shepherd. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, they will receive forgiveness for their sins.

The Responsorial Psalm is the familiar Psalm that we call The Lord is My Shepherd from its opening line. Now you might be wondering “why is this here, what has it got to do with the Resurrection?” Have you ever wondered why God did not get angry with the Jews or the Romans who put Jesus to death? He could have slaughtered them all with one strike, but He did not. It is because that is not God's way. He leads them rather than forces them, and He will lead us if we follow His voice as He tells us in the Gospel Reading.

The Second Reading which is from the First Letter of Saint Peter might be a confirmation of the use of the Psalm 23. Saint Peter encourages the suffering Christians to follow in the footsteps of their shepherd (“the suffering servant”), and to remember that they have been claimed by Him. Saint Peter also explains how Jesus, the innocent sufferer, was a model of patience and trust in God, and he reminds us that it is the suffering of Jesus which has enabled us to become more fully children of God. Indeed, Jesus was divinely patient when suffering for the love of all mankind to be the instrument of salvation. This was His purpose and mission; and He fulfilled it in the manner He would like us to do when we are hit with suffering of any kind because, when we offer our sufferings to God in the form of patience, it is accepted as grace.

In the Gospel Reading which is taken from the Gospel of John, it appears to be a strange reading within the Easter Time but it in fact follows along with the theme of the Psalm 23. The two brief parables about sheep reveal Jesus as our unique means to salvation. He is the selfless, caring “shepherd” who provides protection and life itself, and He is the “sheep gate,” the one gateway to eternal life. Jesus is simply telling us that He is the sheep-gate and if we are to enter heaven, we must enter through Him. For those who are not aware, shepherds would corral their sheep at night for protection and they would station themselves in the gateway to prevent wolves or thieves from entering. Thus, the shepherd would put himself at risk to protect his sheep. This is an act of love of the highest kind. We are being asked to look upon Jesus as our Divine Shepherd and to follow Him is to be led to eternal life.

So, the wonders of the Easter event continue, as they should, and we should remind ourselves daily that the Divine Shepherd is calling us to be His disciple, follower or servant. And we need to become good sheep in the fold of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Finally, we need to pray for good pastors and vocations. We encourage those who are being called by God to the ministerial priesthood, the diaconate and the consecrated life to make a prayerful positive response. All Christians need to share in the responsibility of fostering these vocations by continuously praying for vocations both in the Church and in their families.

**SACRED STEPS - Sacramental Celebrations
at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish**

**FIRST HOLY
COMMUNION**

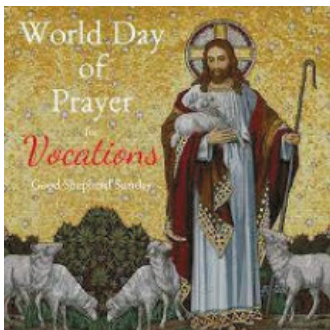
A major event happened in the life of these six children last Saturday. They received the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ for the first time in the Holy Eucharist.



Please continue to pray for *Mia Bozek, Xander Cialone, Brooklyn Thomas, Jordi Powell, Ruby Kasevich, and Chloe Thompson* that they may grow always in their relationship with Jesus each day.

Congratulations and God bless you always!

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Gary Ball on the recent death of his brother, *Charles M. Ball*. May God grant him eternal life and comfort his family.



Celebrated annually on Good Shepherd Sunday, this special day is set aside to invite the great family of Catholics worldwide to be concerned about the need for religious vocations. Looking at the tired crowds following Him, Jesus said: "The Harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the Harvest to send laborers into His harvest." (Mt 9:37-38)

Never before has there been such a great need for vocations - priests, missionaries, religious, dedicated lay leaders - all are needed and in greater number for the salvation of humankind. We are reminded that salvation comes to us through the work of the holy ministers of the Gospel. Please pray daily for vocations!

Lord Jesus, we praise you for your risen presence in the Eucharist we joyfully celebrate during these Easter days. May we more fully become the Body of Christ. Send more laborers into the harvest to serve as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons. Amen.

Monday, May 1, is the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. It is our task as Christians in the workplace and as business owners to do what we can to create and preserve jobs. Let us rejoice and give thanks for our jobs and pray that all the unemployed may be blessed with favorable employment.

The Practice of Stewardship

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal 2023 Update

I wanted to thank all of you who made your donations for this year's Diocesan Lenten Appeal. By your generous donations, you help our Diocese of Greensburg in funding the following: the International Priests Program (in which I'm one of the beneficiaries); the education and formation of our seminarians; the Faith Formation Programs; the Catholic Charities in which you become part of their mission in helping the homeless, the poor, and so on; and other diocesan ministries (ex. hospital, prison, etc.). As of today, we are so close to making our Diocesan Target of \$ 46,712.00. We are in need only of \$2,476. Once we make our Diocesan Target any donation will return to our parish that will be used for the installation of Security Systems for both of our worship sites. If you did not receive a pledge card, you can use an ordinary envelope and write your name on it. You can drop your donation in the collection basket or you can send it to the office via mail. Grateful to your response to this appeal, *Fr. Marlon*

Thank you for the following memorial donations to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish:

- In memory of *Wanda Valusek, Anna Mary Valusek and Frank Coppolino* by Mark & Beth Smearcheck & Family
- In memory of *Susan Ann Sabo Papa and Anna Mary Valusek* by Colette Freiberg
- In memory of *Gene Barnhart* by Rosemary Reagan

FOOD BANK REMINDER

Parishioners are reminded that our parish has agreed to provide paper products for the New Salem Food Bank. Distribution is the third Saturday of the month (9/10am) at the Presbyterian Church on Mill Street. Please place items in the container at each door. Thank you for your continued support in helping those in need.

CASH BASH - Sunday, June 25, at the social hall in Footedale. Doors open at 2pm; drawings begin at 2:30 and continue until 7pm. Cost of \$20 includes food and refreshments. Tickets are available at the Parish Office.

Stewardship of Treasure

April 23: \$6,201; loose \$352; monthly \$210; children \$10; Easter \$420; online \$327; total \$7,520

Your support is vital to the life of our parish!



MAY is the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the spiritual mother of the human race to whom all men are called to venerate and to be consecrated. As the Mother of God and the refuge of sinners, she can obtain for all the grace of salvation. During May, pray the Rosary and bring to your night prayer the ancient cry of the Church for our true and constant mother, the hymn of Mary - the

Regina Caeli: "O Queen of heaven, be joyful, alleluia! For He whom you have humbly borne for us, alleluia! Has risen, as He promised, alleluia!
Offer now our prayer to God, alleluia!

During May please pray with Pope Francis **for church movements and groups**. We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

Honoring Mary: Create a May altar in your home. A beautiful statue or art work of Mary should be the centerpiece. Placing fresh flowers and herbs, as well as candles and a Rosary, help express devotion and give honor to Mary. Most importantly, please make the Rosary part of your daily devotions.

Faith Formation: There will be an end-of-year Faith Formation Party on Friday, **May 5**, 6/8 pm at the Fairbank Bowling Center. Hosted by Youth Ministry, the theme is *Cinco de Mayo*. To help plan, **please RSVP by May 3** to kstavish@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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. Youth Ministry members will be in Masontown Sunday, **April 30, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm** to collect items that you wish to donate. You can also drop items off the day of the sale. Questions? Call Rita Masi at 724-208-6779.

COMMUNITY POPPY DAYS

Members of the New Salem American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 753, will be distributing poppies to the community on May 1 through 3 at the New Salem Mini Mart. The poppy is the official flower of the ALA and they are made by hospitalized and disabled veterans. All donations received are used for veterans and military personnel and their families. Members are asking local residents to stop by and support and honor our veterans by "wearing a poppy." Thank you!

Congratulations to our young parishioner, Bailey Thompson, who has been selected as the 2023 Miss Poppy! Bailey is the daughter of Nicole and Harold Thompson, both 20-year retired veterans of the U.S. Air Force. We thank them for their service.

Men's Prayer Gathering - Monday, May 1

The Diocesan Men's Ministry Team invites you to attend **Transformation: Men's Prayer Gathering** on Monday, May 1. Be renewed in your faith journey in this season of Easter as we gather at 6:45 pm in the Crypt at Saint Vincent Basilica Parish, 300 Fraser Purchase Rd, Latrobe. This gathering will end at 9:00 pm. There is **no cost** for this evening of reflection and **no reservations** are required. Take a break from your hectic schedule and be renewed with leadership development, spiritual growth, prayer, music, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation. We hope to see you on May 1.

The Diocese of Greensburg Men's Ministry Team

**PLEASE JOIN US
AS WE CELEBRATE THIS
SPECIAL OCCASION IN
HONOR OF OUR
BLESSED MOTHER MARY!**

**ROSARY WALK
& MAY CROWNING**

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish
101 West Avenue,
Masontown, PA 15461**

**Sunday, May 7, 2023
3:00 PM**

**Refreshment to follow
in the school cafeteria**

See you!



National Day of
PRAYER

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 29 -- Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm-F (M) Adeline Kiec (John & Margie Gebe)
6:00 pm-M (M) Irene O'Brien (Soroptimist Int/Fayette)

Sunday, April 30 -- Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M (M) Pro Populo
9:30 am-F (M) Sandra Sofocle (John & Linda Zembar)
11:30 am-M (M) Cindy Cheresnye Glad (Rich/Linda Girod)

Monday, May 1 -- Saint Joseph the Worker

8:00 am-M Paul Verska (Joe & Judy Bogoz)

Tuesday, May 2 -- Saint Athanasius

8:00 pm-F Angela Pikulski (Daughters)

Wednesday, May 3 -- Saints Philip & James

8:00 am-M Vincent Zapotosky (Lisa Chatlak)

Thursday, May 4 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-F Louise B. DelSignore (John/Dorothy Grahek)

Friday, May 5 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-M Stella & William Raho (William J. Raho)
4:30-6:00 pm Adoration in Masontown

Saturday, May 6 -- Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Easter

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F (M) Betty Reagan (Family)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M (M) 50th Anniversary, Paul & Thelma Lipchinsky

Sunday, May 7 -- Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M (M) Fred Mazurik (Rick/Nancy Zatlokovicz)
9:30 am-F (M) Millicent Thomas 102nd Birthday Remembrance
11:30 am-M (M) Chuck Cheresnye (Janice/Rick Sikora)
3:00 pm-M Rosary Walk and May Crowning

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Acts 11:1-18; Jn 10:11-18
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20
Friday: Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12



FESTIVAL MEETING - MAY 2

A meeting to begin planning for this year's Labor Day Festival will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **May 2**, at the cafeteria in Masontown. All are invited to attend.

**When at night you cannot sleep,
talk to the Shepherd and stop
counting sheep. - Anonymous**



The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

- John 10:11-18

Today is called **Good Shepherd Sunday** because the gospel readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, always from John, deal with shepherds and sheep.

Because Jesus knows God as a loving and merciful Father, He shows us the way through the darkness. He is the good shepherd who looks after the needs of His flock rather than His own interests. He protects us from harm at the cost of His own life. Jesus not only tends our flock, He looks after all God's children, even when we don't recognize them as our brothers and sisters.

One day, we will stand face to face in a world without fences and will be surprised to see how much we resemble each other. Until then, we cannot let the darkness of the world blind us. With Christ to guide us, we dwell as one flock with one shepherd who leads us safely home. As sheep willingly follow their own shepherd, whose voice they recognize and who calls them by name, we willingly follow the Lord Jesus, for we know His voice and He calls us each by name. Gathered together on this **Good Shepherd Sunday**, let us pray that we may become more attuned to His voice so that we may more effectively continue His mission in the world.



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, May 6, in Masontown

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

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

† **Blessed Mother** - Angela Pikulski
requested by her daughters

Jean Baron
requested by Cindy & Jim Nichols

† **Sacred Heart** - Adam & Elizabeth Freiberg
requested by daughters & their families



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