



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue
Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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email: sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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



July 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: 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



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word
and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields
a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

Fr. Arnel's Reflections - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23



I am sure many of us, if not all, have the experience of planting seed or seedlings with great expectations of a bountiful harvest. We take time to till the soil and give it water and nourishment, and then wait for the plants to come forth and produce. Sometimes they do and sometimes they do not; and we never quite know why. The readings for today, the *15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*, use the analogy of farming and sowing seed to talk about how the teachings of God and Jesus, His Son, sometimes produce abundantly; but at other times do not.

In the *First Reading which is taken from the Book of Prophet Isaiah*, we hear the prophet preaching about the word of God coming like spring rain to soften the soil so that the seeds can grow. However, the people of Isaiah's time did not listen to the word of God. They turned away from Him and ignored His word. This led directly to the Babylonian Exile — God's way of punishing His “Chosen People” for their lack of faithfulness.

The *Responsorial Psalm* picks up the same theme of preparing the soil for planting and reaping a bountiful harvest because the soil was fertile. Everything came together as God expected: each aspect of His creation fulfilled its purpose. Each of us has a part to play in God's continuing act of creation and salvation. But are we doing it with attention and devotion?

In the *Second Reading which is from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans*, Saint Paul is saying that we human creatures of God are much like those seedlings. We are planted here on earth, not in a random scattering, but in a divinely ordered plan with great expectations and in hope that all creation will share in the glory destined for those who fulfill their role.

In the *Gospel Reading which is from Saint Matthew*, Jesus summarizes all of the readings with a parable. A parable is a story that has a single message hidden within the details. The objective of a parable is to get people to think and reason out the message. In this passage, to save time, Jesus explains the parable and the message.

The focus of the parable of Jesus is the harvest of souls for His eternal Kingdom. For those who accept the "word" of Jesus' Gospel of salvation, the seeds of faith took root in their receptive hearts, and they "are known" by the "fruit" of good works that bear testimony to their faith. Although some bear more "fruit" than others, in each case, their fruitful lives in service to Christ's Kingdom far exceeds expectations. It was common to expect that an excellent crop might yield about tenfold, but Jesus expects yields that are greater than average and even far beyond average.

Nowadays, God's Word is proclaimed to us in Sacred Scripture, through the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, and in the testimony of believers. As in the time of Jesus, people respond in different ways to hearing the words of God. Some people allow their hardships and sufferings to challenge their faith. However, as Saint Paul wrote in the Second Reading, the sufferings we endure in this life are nothing compared to the glory that God will provide for those of us who embrace His Holy Word. They will receive a new life in the Spirit in this life and His promise of a future of eternal fellowship with the Most Holy Trinity in the next life to come.

Saint Francis of Assisi Summer Celebration 2023

PASTA DINNER / SALAD BAR BAKE SALE and BASKET RAFFLE

Sunday, August 6, 11am to 4pm in Footedale

Eat in or take out, the cost of the **Pasta Dinner** is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children under age 12. Choose from several varieties of pasta along with traditional red, chicken alfredo or aioli sauce. Includes salad bar, bread & butter and beverage.

The Christian Mothers will host a **Bake Sale** featuring a variety of delicious homemade items and there will be a **Basket Raffle** on which you can take chances to win a beautiful themed gift basket.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

on the parish grounds in Masontown

Saturday, September 2

4:00 pm: Outdoor **POLKA MASS**
with **The Vibrations Band**

5:00 pm: Festival begins

6:00 to 9:00 pm: Live entertainment
featuring the **Shelly McCombie Duo** 🎵

Sunday, September 3

4:00 pm: Festival begins

5:00 to 9:00 pm: Live entertainment
featuring **The Vibrations Band** 🎵

EVERYONE'S help is needed to make the Summer Celebration a success! There is something that everyone can do to help. If you are not physically able, then please pray for us!

Needed for Both Events:

✓ **Cases of water** (16 oz) and **Coke & Pepsi products** (12 oz cans - regular and diet)

✓ **Theme Baskets - All Types**

Sports, movies, lottery tickets, gift cards, etc.

If you have these items to donate, please bring them to Church (both sites) on weekends or drop them off at the Parish Office in Masontown Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thank you!!!

✓ Summer Celebration Sponsors

We are asking for donations to help cover celebration expenses and entertainment costs. Donor levels are: Platinum \$250; Gold \$100/\$249; Silver Level \$50/\$99;

Bronze \$30/\$49. Sponsors will be displayed on the signs throughout the celebration grounds, in the bulletin and on our Facebook page.

Your sponsorship supports both events!

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of

† **John Vincent Shinsky, Jr.**

who was buried Monday, July 10.

May God grant to him eternal life and comfort his family. May he rest in peace.



BINGO - Sunday, July 23 - 2:00 to 5:00 pm
at the cafeteria in Masontown. Cost of \$7
includes lunch. All are welcome!

The **GOLDEN GROUP** meets Wednesday, **July 26**
at 11:30 am at the social hall in Footedale.
It's Hot Diggity Dog Month!

Christian Mothers Communion, Mass and Breakfast - Saturday, August 12.

Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am in Footedale
followed by a breakfast buffet at Mountain View Café,
1618 Georges-Fairchance Road, Smithfield.

Cost is \$10 per person; carpooling will be available.
Register for the breakfast buffet (& questions) by calling
Pattie Ainsley at 1-609-668-4046 **before July 30th**.

✂ -----

Sponsor Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

(Platinum \$250; Gold \$100-\$249; Silver \$50-\$99; Bronze \$30-\$49)

Include name on signs? Yes No

Please make checks payable to: **Saint Francis of Assisi Parish** and return to the Parish Office. Many thanks!

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds and the choice is ours where we scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom?

Stewardship of Treasure

July 7: \$5,212; loose \$491; monthly \$1,732;
children \$10; online \$352 totaling \$7,797

This week, we received \$3,250 toward the new boiler!

**Your support is vital to the life of our parish
and is greatly appreciated! May God bless you!!**



*July Faithful Challenge:
Don't take a vacation
from your faith.*

Summertime means vacation season is in full swing but don't take a vacation from your faith! Bishop Kulick's July faithful challenge is to attend Mass while you are on vacation. Our broad church allows different forms of music and culture, so don't hesitate to attend a Mass at parish near your vacation spot. You will recognize what is happening right away because every single Mass is the celebration and memorial of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. Even in this liturgical season of Ordinary Time, we are walking step by step with the Lord and finding him in ordinary circumstances, or extraordinary ones at a beautiful vacation spot! Learn more about the Eucharistic Revival by visiting DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Our Youth Ministry will participate in the **Masontown Community Yard Sale on Saturday, August 5.** They are in need of donations of children's toys and clothing, books and small household appliances. If you have these items to donate, they can be dropped off in Masontown on Saturdays - **July 22 & 29 10am to Noon.** You can also bring these items on the day of the sale. Thank you for your support!

Thank you for the following donations given toward the purchase of the new **Boiler:**
 in memory of *our parents*
 by Gene & Evelyn Burchianti
 in memory of *Michael & Helen Kovacic*
 by Rose Ann Kovacic
 in memory of *the deceased members of the Welc and Holloman Families*
 by John Welc
 In memory of *our parents, Joseph & Frances Stavish and Donald & Pauline Childs*
 by Larry & Patty Stavish
 In loving memory of *Jan Rocheck*
 by Paula & Tom Palko
 In memory of *Richard Hanula*
 by Linda & Cheryl

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

New Altar Servers ♥
 We thank God for giving our parish these three girls **Gracie, Maddie and Chloe** who responded to the needs of our parish and commit themselves to God's service as Altar Servers. May He grant that their ministry be fruitful and pleasing in His sight.



Dear Lord, Grow Your word, truth, identity, and mission in us. Inspire us with the fruit You would have us produce. Help us to stay close to You. Amen

**Saint Francis of Assisi Parish
 SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 July 17-21, 2023 / 9:00 am to Noon
 at the Social Hall in Footedale**



PRAYER FOR A SUCCESSFUL PARISH VBS 2023

Heavenly Father, we lift up our prayers for the success of our parish Vacation Bible School.

We pray for the safety of each child and all who will come to VBS.

We pray that each child will feel loved by the teachers, volunteers, and by you, Father.

We ask that each child would come to know your Son, Jesus, in a closer way.

Lord, we ask that this VBS would be life changing to each child, teen and adult who volunteers to help.

We pray that all the efforts given to this VBS will yield great fruit - fruit of feeling loved by YOU and fruit of getting closer to YOU.

May your loving hand guide each part of this experience. We ask this in the name of Jesus, and with the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Francis of Assisi. Amen.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 15 -- Vigil: 15th Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-F (A) Renne Kremposky (SFOA Liturgical Com)
6:00 pm-M (M) Joseph Matyus Jr. (Mary Ann & Dave)

Sunday, July 16 -- 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M (M) Michael Shine (John & Mary Anne Cox)
9:30 am-F (M) Martin Magerko Jr. (Wife, Gloria)
11:30 am-M (A) Pro Populo

Monday, July 17 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Linda Marano (Mike & Betti Moser)

Tuesday, July 18 -- Saint Camillus de Lellis

8:00 pm-F Helen Pollick (Eugene/Roseanne Thomas)

Wednesday, July 19 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Mary Kay Ricknafsky (R/D Bobincheck)

Thursday, July 20 -- Saint Apollinaris

8:00 am-F Joe Mehalek (Wife, Donna)

Friday, July 21 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Gene & Nancy Barnhart (Hospitality Com)
4:30-6:00 pm-M Adoration & Confessions

Saturday, July 22 -- Vigil: 16th Ordinary Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F (M) James Olesko (Cindy & Mark Kutek)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M (M) Pro Populo

Sunday, July 23 -- 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M (M) Vincent Radzilowski Sr (R/N Zatlakovicz)
9:30 am-F (M) Ann & Al Mullen (Joan Cech)
11:30 am-M (M) Ann Valusek (Guappone Family)

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

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Ex 14:5-18; Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday: 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 20:20-28
Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Mt 13:1-9
Thursday: Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20; Mt 13:10-17
Friday: Ex 20:1-17; Mt 13:18-23
Saturday: Ex 24:3-8; Jn 11:19-27; Lk 10:38-42
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:3-12; Rom 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52

Question of the Week: What kind of fruitful work am I able to do? How can I change my behavior or attitude so that I may bear fruit?



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, July 21, in Masontown

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



Today's Gospel begins with the words, "On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea." Many of us may wish to do the same thing on this midsummer day.

We can imagine the feeling right now, leaving our home and finding a nice refreshing spot where we can relax. We can further imagine being part of the crowd that walked down to the seashore to listen to Jesus as He got into a boat and preached.

May we take this opportunity today to take a break, listen to the Lord and absorb His message for us.

PARISH EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Our Parish will offer a Eucharistic Revival activity entitled "KNOW HIM: THE LAST SUPPER AND THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST" on **August 19, 2023, Saturday, 9:00am-11:30am** at Footedale Worship Site. All parishioners are humbly asked to save the date and participate in this very special event in our parish. Please watch out for complete details and signup instructions next weekend.

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

† **Sanctuary** - Thanksgiving

† **Blessed Mother** - Josephine Ryan
requested by her family

Mary Ann Suba
requested by Mary Anne Marian

† **Saint Joseph** - Joe Mehalek
(Birthday Remembrance)
requested by loving wife, Donna

Martin Magerko
requested by Magerko & Juroscos Families

† **Saint Anthony** - Michael Shine
requested by Debbie Hlebinsky

† **Sacred Heart** - Birthday Blessings
for Fr. Marlon



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