



# 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](http://www.sfoafayette.org)

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

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



## July 23, 2023

**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:** Check bulletin

### Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday .....8:00 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.

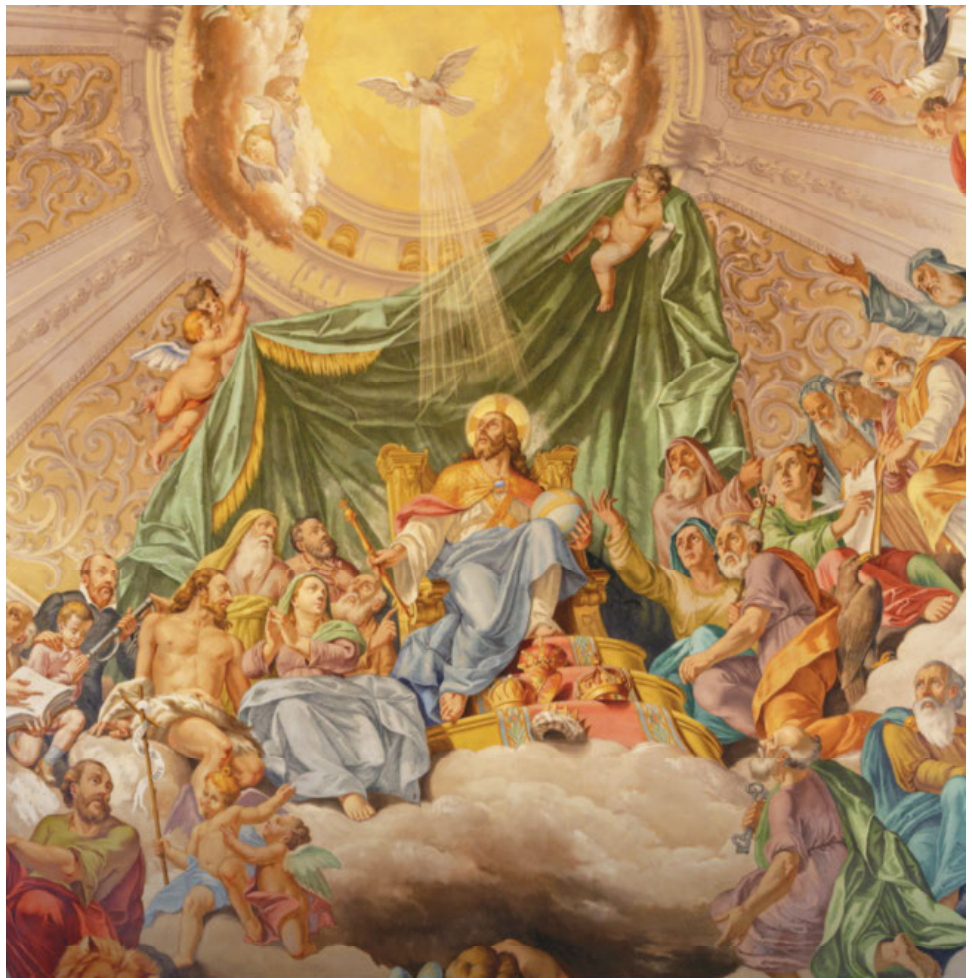
**Communion to the Homebound** is  
provided on a regular basis. Call the  
Parish Office to be added to our list.

**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



## 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the  
kingdom of their Father.” - Mt 13:43a

**Fr. Marlon's Reflections - 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
(Wis. 12:13, 16-19; Rom. 8:26-27; Mt. 13:24-43)



In the national news last month, two young boys, aged 8 and 9, were killed by gunfire as they played with kittens in the backyard of their home. The shooters apparently targeted another person but instead killing the two innocent boys in the process.

When things like this happen to innocent people, we sometimes wonder what God is doing. We even ask: How can an all loving and all good God allow such an evil to happen? The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat (Mt 13:24-43) may give us an answer. In its initial growth, the weed is hard to distinguish from wheat. Once it is recognized, its roots had already intertwined with those of the wheat. The tenants proposed to the owner that they pull up the weeds. But at that early stage, to pull them up would risk uprooting the wheat too. So, the owner told them, *Let them grow together until harvest.*

What in effect Jesus is teaching us is that when God, personified by the farm owner, allows the weeds and the wheat to grow together, he is not saying that he cannot do anything about evil. Rather, he wants both the wheat and the weeds - the good and the bad - to grow side by side so that the growth of the wheat will not be affected. The separation will come at harvest time, at judgment time.

The coexistence of bad and good in the world is a reality we have to live with. Good and bad people are with us in church, in our workplaces and even at home. And this reveals to us the reason why Jesus came: not as Judge but as Savior. Sure, he will be our Judge, too, but later, at the Last Judgment. Meanwhile, he continues to remain ever patient and forbearing, lovingly persuading us to follow the straight and narrow path so that we will not have ourselves condemned to eternal damnation.

Jesus was never selective of people he dealt with. In fact, the Pharisees openly criticized him for associating with crooks, prostitutes, tax collectors, etc., -"sinners" in the Pharisees' vocabulary. He also mixed with children and the poor - society's "little ones." For he knew that all communities of people are a mixture of the good and the bad, the crook and the straight. In the end, it is Jesus who was weeded out by the bad guys and thrown into the killing fields. This is the scandal of God's patience and forbearance with us.

Neither did Jesus come to cure the healthy but the sick. Nor did he condemn anyone to death. In fact, in the only instance in which he was confronted with affirming the death of a person - the woman caught in adultery who according to the law must be stoned to death - all he said was, *Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her* (Jn 8:7). No, Jesus did not come to judge but to save. And in this regard, he gives every person the chance to avail of his saving grace and thus reform himself. The judgment only comes when our time runs out, after death.

The parable also tells us that in the same field on which the Sower sows are also found the seeds of the weed. In other words, the evil that we speak out against and want to eradicate in others also thrives in us in our hearts. We find this hard to accept since we often think that we are the good guys and others, the bad guys. But all we have to do is to look deep into our hearts to discover how wrong we are. In our hearts, as in the hearts of others, we also find anger, pride, revenge, lust and what have you.

The difference between the good and the bad does not consist in the fact that the good have no weaknesses at all or do not commit sins. Rather, the good recognize their shortcomings and sins and work hard to slowly overcome them. For his part, God continually sends them the grace to succeed in their efforts. If we all fight the evil inside us, then with God's help, good deeds will come out from within us. Then there will be less evil in the world, less evil done by people to one another.



# Saint Francis of Assisi Summer Celebration 2023

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!



**VOLUNTEERS for both events are needed** and welcomed! If you can't help out during the events, please consider helping us to prepare beforehand and/or to help us clean up afterwards. Call the Parish Office with questions and for more information. *Any help* you can give will be very much appreciated! Young people seeking service hours are welcome!



## PASTA DINNER / SALAD BAR BAKE SALE and BASKET RAFFLE

**Sunday, August 6, 11am to 4pm**  
at the social hall in Footedale

**Eat in or take out**  
The cost is \$12 for adults  
\$6 for children under age 12.



Choose from several varieties of pasta along with traditional red, chicken alfredo or aioli sauce. The dinner includes a salad bar, Italian bread & butter and a 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 beautiful themed gift baskets. Please join us for a delicious family dinner!

### 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!!!

### ✓ **October Calendar Ticket**

This ticket replaces the traditional book of raffle tickets and is very important to the overall success of the Summer Celebration. Winning numbers will be determined by the PA Daily Lottery Evening Number; prize total for the month is \$7,000; the donation is \$20.

Need a special number? Please contact Carletta (724-570-4133) or Karen (724-557-3421) Tickets will also be available at the Parish Office.

### ✓ **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!**

✂ -----

Sponsor Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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!



## LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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**

*Compliments of*  
**Kathleen Packroni**

TAX COLLECTOR

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**The “Monumental” Vacation Bible School** in our parish was a great success. The children learned together the ways that God is at work in our world and how we can look up, look around, and look within to see God’s fingerprints in our world.

Thank you to Kim Stavish and Nicole Thompson for a job done well with organizing a positive and uplifting experience for children and volunteers alike.

Thank you to the volunteers (teens and adults) who have given their time and love so freely last week. We couldn’t do it without this amazing team of volunteers. It’s often said that children are the future of our church.

Yes, they are - but they are also our present. We have a sacred responsibility right now - not someday in the future - to raise them in the faith as others have raised us.

It is a high honor to minister a church who does this so well. Thank you, thank you! - *Fr. Marlon*



### The Practice of Stewardship

“Those who are just must be kind” says today’s first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord’s harvest. See Wisdom 12:19

#### Stewardship of Treasure

**July 16:** \$7,140; loose \$334; monthly \$1,416; online \$427; boiler \$250 totaling \$9,567

We also collected \$1,843 for the care of our cemeteries:

OLPH \$572; St Thomas \$518; St Agnes \$278; Madonna \$235; St Procopius \$165; Holy Rosary \$75

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

*rest in peace*

*Parish Sympathy* is expressed to the family of

† **Anthony J. “Antek” Mackowiak**

who was buried Tuesday, July 18.

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



*Thank you* for a donation to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish that was given in memory of *Irene O’Brien* by the Albert Gallatin Human Services Agency

### Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Inquiry Stage of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a time for searching, questioning, discussing and reflection. No decision is required during this period. This Rite is designed for:

- † Those who have never been baptized;
- † Those who have no church to call their own;
- † Catholics who have been baptized but have not received Confirmation or Eucharist;
- † Those who would like to come into full communion with the Church;
- † Catholics who have strayed from their faith but would now like to be reconnected.

If you or someone you know is interested, please call the Parish Office - 724-583-7866.

### GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Kulick desires to recognize all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2023.

The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends should contact their local parish office to register the couples for this recognition. The Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Even though personal circumstances may not permit individuals to participate in the Mass, all registered couples will receive a scroll signed by the bishop commemorating their anniversary.

Join Bishop Kulick for a special commemoration of the **Fest of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** at Christ Our Shepherd Center on Tuesday, **August 15**, beginning with Mass at 7:00 pm in St. Joseph Chapel.

An outdoor candlelight procession led by an image of Mary follows. All parishes are invited to participate in this special celebration honoring our Diocesan patroness, Our Lady of the Assumption.

Volunteers and a paid cook are needed at the Masontown Senior Center. For information, call 724-583-7822.



# MASS SCHEDULE

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

4:00 pm-F (M) James Olesko (Cindy & Mark Kutek)  
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 Zatlokovicz)  
9:30 am-F (M) Ann & Al Mullen (Joan Cech)  
11:30 am-M (M) Ann Valusek (Guappone Family)

## Monday, July 24 -- Saint Sharbel Makhluf

8:00 am-M Cpl. Lawrence Slovensky (Pleban Family)

## Tuesday, July 25 -- Saint James, apostle

8:00 pm-F Joan Barchetti (Family)

## Wednesday, July 26 -- Saints Joachim & Anne

8:00 am-M Cindy Cheresnye Glad (J/R Sikora)  
12:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration & Confession

## Thursday, July 27 -- Weekday

8:00 am-F Millie Check (Daughters)

## Friday, July 28 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Linda Michalik (Gary & Patty Ball)

## Saturday, July 29 -- Vigil: 17th Ordinary Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions  
4:00 pm-F (M) Eleanor Sigwalt (Children/Grandchildren)  
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
6:00 pm-M (M) George Homa (Joe Jr/Louise Seiaman)

## Sunday, July 30 -- 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M (M) William, Stella & Robert Raho (Bill)  
9:30 am-F (M) Wanda Valusek (Elaine/Bill Hruska/Boys)  
11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

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



In His patience, the Lord allows both weeds and wheat to grow together, both saints and sinners to respond to salvation in the Kingdom. This Lord is good and forgiving, lenient to all, and desiring repentance for our sins. May the Spirit of God assist us in our weakness!

Today's readings emphasize how unfit we are to take on the role of judgment that belongs only to God and how inadequate is human mercy when compared to the unfathomable mercy of God. As Saint Paul says, without the help of the Holy Spirit, we can't even know our hearts, never mind the hearts of others. What's more, Jesus tells His followers that the weeds and the wheat should be allowed to grow together - Christians live in charity with the world, not sit in judgment over it. We know and emulate Jesus, who lived with sinners in order to bring them whole into the kingdom.

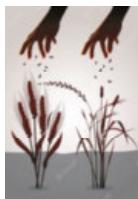
This week deliberately choose to be charitable rather than judgmental in your thoughts and actions. What aspects of your life do you sit in judgment over? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray about these.



Two years ago, Pope Francis established the **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**, to be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday of July. The pope spoke of grandparents providing a younger generation a link to generations who have passed away. We are called to value and heed the wisdom and experience of our elderly. In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a tiny mustard seed that over time grows to be a huge bush. Today's elderly were all once tiny mustard seeds themselves. With the Lord's blessings, they have persevered and thrived and continue to help realize the kingdom of heaven in this world.

### Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

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



**The Saint Francis of Assisi GOLDEN GROUP will meet at 11:30 am this TUESDAY, JULY 25, at the social hall in Footedale.**



### Eucharistic Adoration

**Wednesday, July 26, in Footedale**  
12:30-1:30 pm: Exposition/Confession  
1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena  
1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction

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

† **Sanctuary** - All Grandparents & Elderly  
† **Blessed Mother** - Linda Michalik requested by sister, Janet Michalik



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