



# Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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

Bishop Larry J. Kulick, J.C.L.



## October 1, 2023

**Rev. Dick Anthony Cortado**  
**Administrator**

[dcortado@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dcortado@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:** First & Third  
Fridays - 4:30 to 6:00 pm

### Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday .....8:00 am  
Saturday: .....4:00 pm  
Sunday.....9:30 am

**Confessions:** Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

**Adoration:** Second & Fourth  
Wednesdays - 12:30 to 2:00 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



**"WHEN JOHN CAME TO YOU IN THE WAY OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS, YOU DID NOT BELIEVE HIM; BUT TAX  
COLLECTORS AND PROSTITUTES DID." —MT 21:32**

26<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

*Thoughts from Father Anthony*  
**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - Matthew 21:28-32**



**“ Well-Done is better than Well-Said”**

Let us focus our reflection on the two sons and on the father. The two sons did not make the father really happy. They both mislead the father. Both falsely assured their father. They both caused him a great sorrow. The first arrogantly refused the command of the father but later on obeyed and went to work in the vineyard. The second son gave the father a false hope. He said yes but did not fulfill his answer. He broke his promise to his father.

Here we can say that actions speak louder than words. Promises can never replace performance. Resolutions are not substitutes for good deeds. Words should be seen with actions. Say yes when we mean yes and say no when we mean no and do whatever it takes.

In the first reading, Ezekiel points out how the people of Israel keep missing God’s point. God speaks about justice in a simple language, yet it seems that Israel cannot keep up with God’s context. St. Paul concretely puts this context of God in Jesus in the second reading. He who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself. God emptied himself in Jesus so that he could speak our language.

In Jesus, God went down to meet us in our context of sinfulness. Indeed, when we see God’s point in Jesus, we experience the joy “by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart. The father was very understanding. He was considerate to his sons. He did not raise his voice nor he castigated his two sons. There was no ill feelings or harsh words from the father. He patiently waited on them to change their minds. He gave them time to think it over, to come to their senses, and to do what should be accomplished.

God is like that father. We have works from him and for him. And he is always waiting for us to make a response to act. God is always waiting for our answer. But our answer should be seen in actions and in our conversion, not in words and not in resolutions. Sometimes we profess our love for him but we run away from committing ourselves to him and to his mission. Sometimes we say yes to him but we ignore his commandments. We pray but we neglect to translate our prayers into actions. We read the Scriptures but we forget to actuality them in our lives.

The Gospel of Jesus is not for our Information but for our Transformation. Like the father in today’s Gospel, God does not condemn us. He does not blame us. There are no judgmental words from him. There is no physical retribution. God continues to love us. He is still lovingly treating us as his sons and daughters. Though we disobey God or disappoint him, he is waiting for our conversion, for our contrition. Sinners like tax collectors and prostitutes, as mentioned by Jesus in the Gospel, may have fallen short of hitting God’s mark. Jesus then reveals God’s context to them so that they can understand the God of mercy and compassion.

God does matter - on many times we fall from sin, on how many times we rise from falling. Confession is an avenue for us to be reconciled and make a contrition with God. God is waiting for us there!



**OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistically-centered faith community whose life is formed by our baptismal commitment to Christ; is nourished by Scripture, Church teachings and the Sacraments; and is supported by membership in the worldwide church around us. It is a community made up of the former faith communities of All Saints, Holy Rosary, Madonna, Saint Mary, Saint Procopius and Saint Thomas. There is a long and rich history here where all are welcome, trust is present, risks for the kingdom of God are taken and the gifts of everyone are called forth. Under the patronage of Saint Francis of Assisi, we strive to be an instrument of peace and all that God calls us to be.



God invites each of us to work in His vineyard, but it's our choice whether we "clock in" or stay home. Let us never fail to show up. It's the most important job we will ever have.



**16th Ordinary Synod of Bishops**  
 On October 4, Pope Francis will open the first session of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Begun in 2021, it culminates in 2023 in Rome.

The papal theme of the Synod is *to become a Synodal Church through Communion, Participation and Mission.*

The Holy Father has asked that the whole Church, throughout the world, join in prayer for the success of this undertaking which begins this week.

## St Francis of Assisi FEAST DAY, OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>

### Saint Francis of Assisi | Feast Day October 4

Saint Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) left a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. Francis founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of Saint Clare, the Third Order of Saint Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.

Born in 1181 in Italy, Saint Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying as a youth. During a military expedition/battle between Assisi and Perugia, he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison and began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, Saint Francis of Assisi claimed to have heard the voice of Christ, who told him to restore the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. As a result, Saint Francis of Assisi abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the Catholic faith. Saint Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of nature and animals, is the patron saint of the environment and of animals.

**HAPPY FEAST DAY!**

*rest in peace*

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of  
 † **Theresa J. (Kozar) Hoist**  
 buried Sunday, September 24  
 † **Theresa Cassidy**  
 buried Tuesday, September 26  
 May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.



### Experience the MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you.

Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wisemen - along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah! as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals in this cherished holiday production from Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster.

**Our parish has reserved 35 tickets for the 4:00 pm performance on Thursday, November 9.**

The cost is \$185 and includes transportation, show ticket and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. You are encouraged to make your reservation as early as possible. **Payment must be made by October 1.**

The bus will pick us up at the Footedale parking lot and the Uniontown Mall. For questions and/or reservations, please contact Rosemary Regan at 724-245-8333.



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# October

## October is the Month of the Holy Rosary

At Fatima, Our Lady requested the daily recitation of the Rosary in reparation for sin and said that devotion to her Immaculate Heart will bring about world peace and the conversion of sinners. Pray the Rosary daily!



**October is Vocations Awareness Month.** Please pray *daily* for an increase in religious vocations.

During the month of October, please pray with Pope Francis **for the Synod**. We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

**October Count** - During the month of October, the diocese asks us to participate in the annual October Count, the process that involves the “counting and reporting” of the Mass attendance for each weekend Mass in October. This is why you will notice the ushers “counting” people.

**The BLESSING OF PETS** takes place Wednesday, **October 4**, on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, at 4:00 pm in Footedale and at 6:00 pm in Masontown. Please bring your pet, properly leashed or caged, and seek God’s blessing for them.



Saint Francis is known as the troubadour of divine love and friend to all creation. He had a great love and respect for animals ... may we always do the same.

“O Heavenly Father, protect and bless all things That have breath. Guard them from all evil and let them sleep in peace.” - Albert Schweitzer



## October Food Collection

During the month of October, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to share with our local food banks. If you have these items to donate, please place them in the boxes located at both worship sites. This project is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus who thank you for your support.

***Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible; suddenly you are doing the impossible.***

- Saint Francis of Assisi

## The Practice of Stewardship

The first son in today’s Gospel said he would do his father’s bidding but did not. The second son balked at first but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I like?

**Thank you** to all who made a gift to the **Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection** and are praying for vocations in our parish and diocese. Your prayers and contributions support our Seminarians, men preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, ongoing clergy formation and our International Priests. Those who have not done so can make a gift by returning the envelope that was sent to them or online at [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Thank you** for the following memorial donations:

### **Saint Francis of Assisi Parish**

In memory of *Terry Hoist*

by Frank & Priscilla Michalik, Mary Michalik

In memory of *Theresa Cassidy*

by the Reagan Cousins

In memory of *Bill Rostich*

by Rosemary Reagan

### **Boiler Fund**

In memory of *Cindy Mihalko*

by Colette Freiberg, Patty & Larry Stavish

### **OCTOBER CALENDAR TICKETS**

Several tickets remain available and it’s not too late to get yours! Contact the Parish Office (724-583-7866), Carletta (724-570-4133) or Karen (724-557-3421).

**Paper Products** to share with our local food banks are collected the first weekend of each month.

### **Stewardship of Treasure**

**September 24:** \$5,064; loose \$710; monthly \$436; online \$252; Accent \$65 totaling \$6,527

Seminary/Clergy Formation Support \$1,357

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

**Diocesan Rosary Rally Saturday, October 7** at Christ Our Shepherd Center. The rally begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Kulick at 9:00 am. All are invited to come together for this morning of prayer and devotion.

**The Saint Vincent College Concert Series** presents an organ recital: “*Classicism, Impressionism, and Cubism: The Visual Arts and Its Impact on Music*” with J. Christopher Pardini, Sunday, **October 8**, at 7:00 pm in the Saint Vincent Basilica. Admission is free.

**Men’s Evening of Reflection Thursday, October 19**, 6:30-8:00 pm at Mt. Saint Macrina Retreat Center. Presenter is Fr. James Tringhese; the cost is \$35; and the reservation deadline is October 13. Call 724-438-7149 or email [hpmsm@verizon.net](mailto:hpmsm@verizon.net)

# **MASS SCHEDULE** ©LPI

## Saturday, September 30 -- Vigil: 26<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-F Charles Kozub Sr. (George Sasko)  
6:00 pm-M George Homa (Judy & Joe Bogozi)

## Sunday, October 1 -- 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Pro Populo  
9:30 am-F Judith A. Scola (Joanne/Mary Jo Bashour)  
11:30 am-M Donna Waslousky (Fedor Family)

## Monday, October 2 -- The Holy Guardian Angels

8:00 am-M Nicolina Galluzzo (Dom & Valeria)

## Tuesday, October 3 -- Weekday

8:00 pm-F Michael Kudra (Eric/Lisa Amber/Fam)

## Wednesday, October 4 -- Saint Francis of Assisi

8:00 am-M Art Cerullo (Dennis/Michele Santella)

## Thursday, October 5 -- Saint Faustina Kowalska

8:00 am-F Anthony Mackowiak (Niece, Carletta)

## Friday, October 6 -- St Bruno & Marie Rose Durocher

8:00 am-M Michael Zumerling Jr. (Family)  
4:30-6:00 pm-M Adoration / Confessions

## Saturday, October 7 -- Vigil: 27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

*NO Confessions (due to a Funeral)*  
4:00 pm-F John V. Shinsky Jr. (Parents Rob/Judy Capeal)  
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
6:00 pm-M Paul Krokus Jr. (Mom & Dad)

## Sunday, October 8 -- 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M James Maher (Bill & Elaine Hruska)  
9:30 am-F Wanda Valusek (Nadia & Joe Novotny)  
11:30 am-M Pro Populo (Youth Ministry Mass)

### Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Mt 18:1-10  
Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56  
Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8; Lk 9:57-62  
Thursday: Neh 8:1-12; Lk 10:1-12  
Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16  
Saturday: Bar 4:5-29; Lk 10:17-24  
Next Sunday: Is 5:1-7; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43



**Coffee & Donuts** will be available after all Masses **this morning**. Please join us!



### Eucharistic Adoration

**Friday, October 6, in Masontown**  
4:30-5:30 pm: Exposition / Confession  
5:30-5:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy  
5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction



God has blessed us all with the gift of life. While we were still in the womb, God knew us and formed us. During our entire life on earth, God is with us showering us with love and mercy. We come together today to praise God for such wonderful love and mercy, but also for the gift of life in the first place. On this first day of **Respect Life Month**, may we be reminded of the value of all human life and God's call to cherish life at every stage.



### The Angelus Prayer

We will kick off the Angelus Prayer this weekend at the 6:00 pm Mass in Masontown. This prayer enhances our devotion to our Blessed Mother Mama Mary. We will pray this devotion before the 6:00 pm anticipated Mass. Copies of the prayer will be available in the vestibule.  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!**

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

- † **Sanctuary** - For our Parish Family♥  
*Saint Francis of Assisi Parish of Western Fayette County*
- † **Blessed Mother** - Birthday Remembrance for Steve & Rose Bello requested by their family  
*Cecelia Kaparic*  
requested by sister, Dolores & Bob Palaisa
- † **Saint Joseph** - David Solomon requested by Dolores Solomon  
*Mike Rosnack*  
requested by son, Ken
- † **Saint Anthony** - Birthday Remembrance for Lou Otto requested by his wife, Patty & Family
- † **Sacred Heart** - Donna Waslousky requested by Jude, Erik, Greg & Stacy



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