



# Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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



## September 17, 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:** 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



## 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times." - Mt 18:21-22

Thoughts from Father Anthony  
 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A (Mt. 18: 21-35)



A young woman was always dreaming, that Jesus was speaking to her. She went to her Pastor, and told him about it. The parish priest was skeptical. The young woman insisted. Just to test the woman, the parish priest proposed to her, to ask Jesus about his past sins. The woman agreed. She return to the church the following day. She saw the priest and told him that Jesus appeared again in her dreams. The priest said to her, “did you ask, Jesus about my previous sins? The young woman replied affirmatively. Then, the priest continued, “what were my past sins? The young woman answered, that Jesus said to her, “what I have forgiven, I have forgotten”. When God forgives us, he forgets our sins.

What I observed in many of us now, as if your excited and interested to know, what are the sins of the priest. therefore If we forgive , let us forget and move on. The Gospel tells us, that God freely forgives us. He is always willing and ready to forgive. And God forgives, without limit, without condition, without any hesitation. This explained the number seven. Seven signifies fullness, completeness. It is a perfect number for the Jewish people. So, when Peter suggested to forgive a sinner seven times, he was thinking that he was fulfilling, more than the Law required, when it comes to forgiveness. But Jesus answered him, seventy-seven times, he was telling Peter to forgive to the utmost of his capacity to forgive. We must forgive without limit because God’s forgiveness is without limit, without measure, and without end.

Jesus tells a story-a parable to illustrate the point. We must pay close attention, to every detail of the parable, if we are to fully appreciate the significance of Jesus’ teaching. A king’s servant owes his master “ a huge amount” How huge? So huge that he has absolutely no way of paying the king back. The king is a figure of God. We owe God everything, and there’s is nothing that we can offer that could ever repay God for all he has done for each and everyone of us. Similarly, when we sin against God, our offense is, beyond our ability to make up for it. The servant’s insistence that he will pay everything back, is nothing but a desperate attempt to gain time. He knows he can never repay the debt. It is at this point, that the parable illustrates the unlimited mercy of God. He forgives not because we deserve forgiveness, but because He is God, who is love and mercy. However if we, having been the beneficiaries, of so great a mercy, let us forgive one another. Like all of God’s gifts, his mercy and forgiveness, must be shared with others ,if it is ever to be truly efficacious in my own life. Remember, It is only in the measure that we forgive others that God will forgive us.

Let us take a look on the first reading from the book of Sirach. Wrath and anger are hateful things yet sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord’s vengeance, for he remembers theirs sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor’s injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?

An unwillingness to forgive breeds anger, resentment, bitterness. They do not only infect the person but they also infect his relationships. All sin, but especially the bitterness and anger, that accompany a lack of forgiveness, hurt those around us. And so we need forgiveness, and we must forgive not only for our own sake, but also for those we love. The closer the relationship the more damaging the lack of forgiveness becomes. At each and every mass we pray in the words that our Lord Himself taught us, “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” As we anticipate the moment of our reception of the Body and Blood of the Lord we say, “Lord I am not worthy...” How true! It is God who makes us worthy by forgiving our neighbor from our hearts. It is then by forgiving that we will experience true peace.

Remember our responsorial psalm today,  
**“The Lord is kind and Merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion”.**



### The Practice of Hope

Let us never make the grave mistake of assuming we earn our salvation in the same way we earn a wage. It is a gift lavished upon us by a God who does not count the hours of our labor or measure the amount of our output.

In today's readings, Peter is looking for a clear, bright line beyond which there is no hope of forgiveness.

How much, he seems to be asking, are we to tolerate from our brothers and sisters before we can write them off? As humans, we are all drawn to such definite boundaries. What's more, we tend to weigh God's mercy using our finite capacity for forgiveness as a measure, but as Christians, we know that God's forgiveness is limitless and if we hope in the eternal forgiveness of God, we must also offer that forgiveness to others.

### Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Januarius

Bishop of Benevento during the Diocletian persecutions, he went to visit two deacons and two laymen in prison and was himself imprisoned and martyred. His blood was collected and stored in two vials. As early as 1389, his blood has liquefied on this and other days each year.

### Wednesday is the Feast of Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang and Companions

Andrew, born in Seoul, was a convert to the faith and ordained as Korea's first native priest. In 1846, he was martyred along with his lay associate, seminarian Paul Chong Ha-sang. Between 1839 and 1867, 103 martyrs gave their lives for the faith in Korea.

**Thursday is the Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.** His Gospel was intended for a largely Jewish-Christian audience as it seeks to portray Christianity as consistent with the Jewish tradition and a continuation of it. Tradition holds that Matthew preached in Judea and Ethiopia where he was martyred.

He is symbolized by the winged human being and is patron of accountants and customs officers.

### Saturday is the Feast of Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

Saint John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. More than 300,000 people braved excessive heat to fill Saint Peter's Square and nearby streets for the ceremony. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity and for Padre Pio's witness to the power of suffering.

If accepted with love, the pope stressed, such suffering can lead to "a privileged path of sanctity."

There is meaning in the suffering in your own life.

Search for it with patience and faith.

**Saints of God, pray for us!**



Each September 21 we celebrate **International Day of Peace**. In today's world, peace needs to be more than just a word. Imagine millions of pinwheels spinning in the wind throughout the world decorated with drawings, photographs, words of peace and harmony. At both worship sites this weekend, you will notice beautiful Pinwheels on our grounds giving witness for peace. We thank the Girl Scouts for coordinating this project and to the children who decorated these pinwheels. There was a booth at our Festival at which many of these pinwheels were created by children attending.

The **Saint Francis of Assisi Liturgy Commission** will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, **September 18**, at the social hall in Footedale. All members are asked to attend.

There will be a **Festival Meeting** at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **September 19**, at the cafeteria in Masontown. We will review this year's festival and plan for next year's. All who are interested are encouraged to attend.

The **Saint Francis of Assisi Golden Group** will meet on Wednesday, **September 20**, at 11:30 am in the social hall in Footedale. Lunch will consist of hoagies (\$5), desserts and snacks. Come join us for an afternoon of good fellowship and good fun.

**HOAGIE SALE** sponsored by our Youth Ministry Group after all Masses next weekend, **September 23/24**. Cost is \$6 for an 8" Italian hoagie made by New Salem Mini Mart. No preorders are needed. Thank you for your generous support of our Youth Ministry Group!

### NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The annual Knights of Columbus **Pie Sale** is now being held. Order forms are available at the entrances of both worship sites. Thank you for your support!

**Regular Meetings** are held the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am in the Masontown cafeteria.

The K of C is a global Catholic fraternal service order founded by Michael J. McGivney on March 29, 1882.

Knights uphold four key principles as pillars of the order: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.



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! Experience the **MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS** 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.

**Never Miss a Bulletin!** Sign up to have our weekly bulletin emailed to you at [www.parishesonline.com](http://www.parishesonline.com)

### NEIGHBORING EVENTS

#### 34th Annual Rosary Walk - Sunday, September 17

Beginning in the Garden of Prayer at St. George Church, Uniontown, at 2:00 pm. The intention of this walk will be "In Glory and Honor of Mary, the Mother of God." We will proceed to St. John Byzantine Catholic Church, St. John the Evangelist Church, St. Therese Church, St. Mary Nativity Church and St. Joseph Church. Participants driving from church to church are most welcome.

As we send our intercessions to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we invite all parishes, their friends and the entire community to join us.

#### Ethnic Food Festival hosted by Holy Transfiguration

Orthodox Church at the McClellandtown Fire Hall from Noon to 5pm on Sunday, **September 17**, featuring Cabbage Rolls, Pierogi, Haluski, Kielbasi, Chicken, Meatball Subs, Kids Meals, Homemade Baked Goods, Basket Raffle, TV Raffle, Chinese Auction & more.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of

† **Charles Walters III**

buried Tuesday, September 5

† **William Rostich**

buried Thursday, September 7

† **Gregory Martinko**

buried Saturday, September 9

May God grant them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.

### The Practice of Stewardship

Stewardship is not optional! "None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master," says St. Paul. "While we live, we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die, we die as His servants." See Romans 14:7-9

*Thank you* for the following donations to our boiler fund that were given **in memory of William Rostich** by Bernadine Redmond, Colette Freiberg

#### 2023 Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection

Next weekend is the Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection throughout the Diocese of Greensburg.

Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift in support of our Seminarians, men who are preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, the ongoing formation of our clergy and our International Priests. Please respond using the tear-off portion of the letter that was mailed to you, a special collection envelope in your envelope set from the parish, or online at [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org) Also, please support the clergy of our diocese who have *Hearts for the Mission* with your prayers.

#### Stewardship of Treasure

**September 10:** \$5,773; \$308; monthly \$1,153; children \$18; online \$352 totaling \$7,604

We also collected \$230 for the boiler fund and \$155 toward our Faith Formation Program

**Thank you for your support of our parish!**



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# MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday, September 16 -- Vigil: 24<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**  
 4:00 pm-F Martha & Steven Tretinik (Elaine Boyd)  
 6:00 pm-M Pro Populo

**Sunday, September 17 -- 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 8:00 am-M Nick Capo Sr. (Rick/Nancy Zatlokovicz)  
 9:30 am-F Wally Frost (Wally & Terri Frost)  
 11:30 am-M Joe & Brian Coll (Dolores/Lisa Santella)

**Monday, September 18 -- Weekday**  
 8:00 am-M Art Cerullo (Dolores & Lisa Santella)

**Tuesday, September 19 -- Saint Januarius**  
 8:00 pm-F Christine Balabon (Edward Balabon Fam)

**Wednesday, September 20 -- Weekday**  
 8:00 am-M Sylvia Krofcheck (Mary Anne Hritz)  
 12:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration / Confessions

**Thursday, September 21 -- Saint Matthew**  
 8:00 am-F Cecelia Kaparic (Niece, Carletta)

**Friday, September 22 -- Weekday**  
 8:00 am-M Timothy Tokish (Joseph/Patricia Fedor)

**Saturday, September 23 -- Vigil: 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**  
 3-3:30 pm-F Confessions  
 4:00 pm-F Adeline Kiec (Frank/Judy Richnavsky)

5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
 6:00 pm-M Carol Boyer (Paul & Irene Krokus)

**Sunday, September 24 -- 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 8:00 am-M Pro Populo  
 9:30 am-F John Olesh (Nieces Patti, Mickie, Families)  
 11:30 am-M Joseph Sabatelli (Wife, Rosalie)

## Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

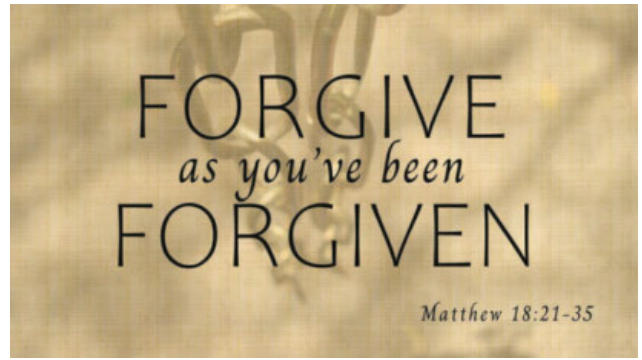
Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10  
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17  
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35  
 Thursday: Eph 4:1-13; Mt 9:9-13  
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3  
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15  
 Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20-27; Mt 20:1-16a



**Question of the Week:** How do I see myself letting resentment or bitterness build up in my heart?  
 Who do I need to reach out to and forgive?



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**Wednesday, September 20, 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



Today's readings remind us how important it is to forgive. More than that, they teach us to be forgiving people, showing mercy to all those who have wronged us, whether in matters great or small. After all, at the end of our lives we believe we will be completely reliant on God's mercy to forgive our many sins, great and small. Let us resolve to forgive our neighbor, to heal our relationships, and to live lives of kindness and mercy.



Each year, the Catholic Church in the United States designates the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday, a day on which to celebrate and pray for the Church's mission to teach the Gospel to all people.

This year's theme is "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened." -Matthew 11:28

We wish to thank our Catechists for responding to a call to share the gift of faith with others, even as they deepen their own faith. This calling ultimately comes from God whose Holy Spirit inspires and guides them.

Nicole Thompson (Pre-K/K); Angel Simon (1<sup>st</sup>);  
 Kim Stavish (Communion Class & Coordinator);  
 Mary Lou Taylor (3/4/5); Jessica Hajek-Bates (6/7);  
 Rosa Stoffa (Confirmation Preparation)  
 Rita Masi (Youth Ministry)  
 Bernie Redmond, Wanda Wokulich  
 and George Parish (RCIA)

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

† **Sanctuary** - William Rostich  
 requested by a Veteran

† **Blessed Mother** - Anniversary  
 Remembrance for Rose & Steve Bello  
 requested by their family

Adeline Kiec  
 requested by Angie & Francene



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