



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

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



October 22, 2023

Rev. Dick Anthony Cortado
Administrator

dcortado@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: First & Third
Fridays - 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday8:00 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

BELONG

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“Repay to Caesar what
belongs to Caesar and to God
what belongs to God.”

MATTHEW 22:21

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

Thoughts from Father Anthony

**29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A (Matthew 22:15-21)**

Today's Gospel has two essential lessons for us. The first is about honesty. We must be true to our words. We must be honest in our actions. We must be transparent in our relationship when it comes to things and to people. Praises should not be used for one's advantage. Sweet words should not be spoken for one's personal benefits and interests. Everything must be based on honesty. Everything we say or do must be founded on goodwill and must be for God's greater glory. Jesus is always reminding us "Let your 'Yes' mean Yes and your 'No' mean No. Anything more is from the evil one."

The second lesson is against hypocrisy. Jesus asked them, "why are you testing me, you hypocrites?" Hypocrisy is pretension and deception. The opposite of hypocrisy is honesty and sincerity. We must give to God what belongs to Him. We must render to God what is due to Him, that is, our honest words and our sincere actions. Now the Gospel is telling us to worry less of trivial and petty things but pay more attention to God's words and will. We must put more emphasis on God rather than the acquisition of material things. God should be the first priority in our life. Our life comes from Him and we must return our life to God. Thus let us be eager to offer to God a pleasing, a penitent, and productive life.

To the question, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?," Jesus' reply was, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Excellent answer! Only Jesus can answer this way. Where was the trap? If Jesus said, "Pay your taxes," He would draw the fire of many Jews. They hated to pay taxes to the Roman Government. If He said, "No," He would be under fire from the Roman government. Jesus not only eluded the trap but taught them to be responsible citizens of government and God's Kingdom! Jesus pointed out to them that, through the coin which has the image of Caesar, they were able to transact business. Since Caesar's image was on those coins, all the services of those coins are the responsibility of Caesar. It was but fitting that taxes are collected for those services. This one was easy to understand and accept in spite of the excessive taxes exacted on them.

The main message was in the second part of Jesus' answer, "Repay to God what belongs to God." How can we repay God?" What is the relation between paying Caesar and paying God? Going back to Jesus' response, by asking for a coin which has the image of Caesar, we ask which or who has God's image? A true Jew, and I can also say, a true Christian should be able to answer it. The Book of Genesis has the answer. It is a basic teaching in the Christian Faith. "God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them." In each and everyone of us is God's image. Thus, God owns us. We repay God's goodness with our whole person with time, talent, and treasure.

Caesar is a person. God's image is in him too; thus, he himself belongs to God. In the end, we are commanded to be responsible citizens. More importantly, we ought to be responsible creations of God! Therefore, Give the Lord Glory and Honor. Obey God by loving Him. Accordingly, "There is a deep connection between love and obedience because a person can only obey to the extent that he/she loves.

**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.



Annual Priest Convocation - October 10, 11 & 12
 May God bless the priests of the Diocese of Greensburg! ♥

God is greater than this world and His truth is stronger than all its ideologies. Remember that no matter how we vote, who we agree with or what our background is, we belong to Him alone.

PARISH MEETINGS & EVENTS

VENDOR SHOW - Sunday, October 22

10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the social hall in Footedale. Vendors, Bargain Corner, Chinese Auction, and food will be available.

K of C Pie Sale continues with **final paid orders due by this Sunday, October 22** (please note earlier date). Delivery date remains Tuesday, November 7. Order forms are available at the Church entrances and must be returned with payment this weekend.

BINGO - Sunday, October 29 - 2:00 to 5:00 pm at the cafeteria in Masontown hosted by the Hospitality Committee. Admission of \$7 per person includes lunch. Come dressed in costume for a special "treat." Sign up sheets are located at the entrances of both worship sites. Deadline to register is October 24.

PARISH CASH BASH - Sunday, November 5 at the social hall in Footedale. Doors open at 2pm; drawings begin at 2:30 and take place every ten minutes through 7:00 pm. Donation of \$20 includes food and refreshments. Tickets are available at the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

ATTENTION LECTORS

Workbooks for the new Liturgical Year, which begins the weekend of December 2/3, will be available in the sacristy next weekend. Please make sure that you get your copy.

Benefit Concert Sunday, October 22, 2:00 pm at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Uniontown explores the symbolic and scriptural meaning of the church's stained-glass windows.

41st Annual Carpatho-Rusyn Celebration

Sunday, **October 29**, Noon to 5pm at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall in Uniontown. Divine Liturgy at 3pm concelebrated by Fr. Vasyly Symyon and guest homilist, Fr. Mitch Pacwa of EWTN. There will be ethnic foods (holubki, halushki, pirohi, pagach, kolbasa & kraut) baked goods, entertainment by the Rusyn Folk musical group "Rusynsky Betjare" throughout the afternoon; presentations on Rusyn culture/customs, a church tour, displays, crafts, raffles, parish cookbooks, extensive bake sale, folk art demonstrations, children's activities. All are welcome!

Free Veterans Lunch - Saturday, November 4

11am/1:30 pm at The Meeting Place, 7 Main St., New Salem. Open to all veterans and their spouses/caregivers in the New Salem and surrounding communities. Sponsored by the New Salem American Legion Auxiliary Unit 753. RSVP by October 28 by calling 724-437-1640

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School Sports Boosters

Spaghetti Dinner - Sunday, November 5, 11am to 4pm. Adults \$12; children 10 & under \$5. Advance purchase is preferred but not required by calling 724-628-5600. Dinner includes: spaghetti with marinara or meat sauce, salad with dressing, bread and a dessert. All proceeds benefit Geibel Catholic Sports Boosters.

Iconography Workshop with Peter Pearson November 16-19 at St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown.

During this workshop participants will paint an icon from start to finish and learn a little about the history, spirituality and aesthetics of byzantine iconography. No previous art experience is required just a willingness to try something new. For more information, call Marko at 1-410-852-2249 or email: ikon71355@gmail.com



Today is World Mission Sunday

At Baptism, each of us were called to be a missionary; called to share our faith ... even to the very ends of the earth. World Mission Sunday provides us with a unique opportunity to fulfill that responsibility. Together with Catholics around the world, today we will gather at the Eucharist around the table of the Lord and offer our prayers and generous help so that the “Good News” of Jesus Christ may be proclaimed, in word and deed, to the poor and suffering in every corner of the globe.

This year, the spirit of Pope Francis’ theme, “*Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move,*” inspires us as we are reminded of the Holy Spirit’s Presence in the Church, leading us in energetic and unwavering faith that fuels our desire to share that faith with those who have not yet heard the Good News. May the fire in our hearts continue to inspire our feet to move in service to God’s mission.

Prayer for Mission: Dear Lord, ignite a fire in our hearts that burns brightly for You. Help us to see in every soul the value that You see. Lead us to the people who need to hear your message. Inspire us, sanctify us, send us. Here we are, Lord, send us! Amen.

Saturday is the Feast of Saints Simon and Jude

In the Gospel of Luke, Simon is called a zealot, a person of strong beliefs and actions. In those days, there was a radical group among the Jews called the Zealots. These radicals hated the Romans for taking control of Israel and wanted to remove the invaders by force; however, in Simon’s case, the word zealot may have meant that he took the Jewish law very seriously. According to legend, Simon the Zealot spread the gospel in Egypt.

In the gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jude is called Thaddeus. We call him Jude to distinguish him from Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus. He is called the patron saint of hopeless cases.

This feast comes just before All Saints Day. There are old customs for today that are about getting ready for “Hallowmas.” It was once a custom this day to go from door to door begging for the ingredients of “soul cakes,” which were eaten in early November as a way to share a meal with the dead. People would sing, “For the love of Simon and Jude, give us fixings for our food!”

The Lord is king and there is no other. We are to render to God, therefore, fitting praise and service, as is God’s due. God’s word to us, in turn, is a matter of power and strength, to be lived with conviction of heart.

rest in peace

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of:

† **Irene Joan (Solarchick) Kubica**

who was buried Saturday, October 14;

† **Steve Robert Molek**

who was buried Saturday, October 14;

† **Anthony J. Mojock**

who was buried Tuesday, October 17.

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



The Practice of Stewardship

The bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us, “Jesus not only calls people to Him but also forms them and sends them out in His service. Being *sent on mission* is a consequence of being a disciple.”

We are excited to showcase our new **Giving QR Code**. Located on the front page of our bulletin, scanning it gives you a direct link to our OSV online giving site.

We are very grateful for a gift of \$1,000 given to Saint Mary, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cemetery from the estate of Joanne M. Kozel.

Thank you for a memorial donation to the boiler fund given in memory of *Theresa A. Cassidy* and *Theresa J. Hoist* by Colette Freiberg.

Stewardship of Treasure

October 15: \$5,230; loose \$563; monthly \$725; children \$8; online \$882; totaling \$7,408

We also collected \$1,594 for the care of our cemeteries: St. Thomas \$937; OLPH \$290; St. Agnes \$237; Holy Rosary \$90; St. Procopius \$25; Madonna \$15

Our parish is grateful for your continued support!



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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, October 21 -- Vigil: 29th Ordinary Sunday
 4:00 pm-F *Mary & Casimer Glodziak (Mary J Ranney)*
 6:00 pm-M Patrick Krokus (Parents)

Sunday, October 22 -- 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M William Santella (John & Carol DelGrosso)
 9:30 am-F *Joe Sawyers (Mary Rose Whitaker/Fam)*
 11:30 am-M Pro Populo

Monday, October 23 -- Saint John of Capistrano
 8:00 am-M Michael Shine (K. Conor /S. Hawking)

Tuesday, October 24 -- Saint Anthony Mary Claret
 8:00 am-F *Joe Mehalek (Wife, Donna)*

Wednesday, October 25 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-M Terry Hoist (Stephanie Hoist)
 12:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration / Confession

Thursday, October 26 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-F *Anna Valusek (Nadia & Joe Novotny)*

Friday, October 27 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-M Guy & Carmela Porco (John/Mary Anne)

Saturday, October 28 -- Vigil: 30th Ordinary Sunday
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Pro Populo*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 6:00 pm-M August & Sarah Vittone (Family)

Sunday, October 29 -- 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Joseph P. Matyus Jr. (Kormanik Family)
 9:30 am-F *Mary Coppolino (Italian Mardi Gras Stand)*
 11:30 am-M Donna Parish (Hospitality Committee)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

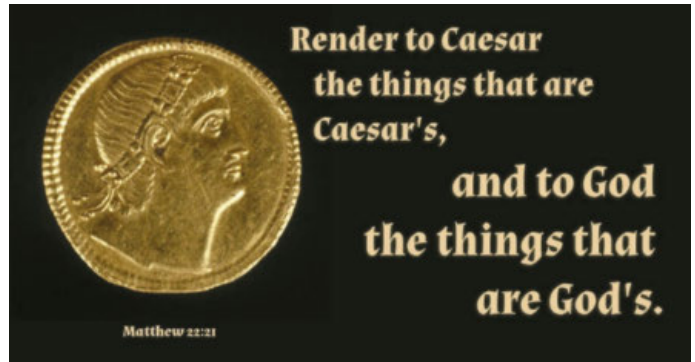
Monday: Rom 4:20-25; Lk 12:13-21
 Tuesday: Rom 5:12-21; Lk 12:35-38
 Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18; Lk 12:39-48
 Thursday: Rom 6:19-23; Lk 12:49-53
 Friday: Rom 7:18-25; Lk 12:54-59
 Saturday: Eph 2:19-22; Lk 6:12-16
 Next Sunday: Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5-10; Mt 22:34-40



Question of the Week: What can I do concretely to repay to God what belongs to God? How does giving back to God make me feel richer?



Eucharistic Adoration
Wednesday, October 25, 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



The words from today's Gospel, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," are a reminder of our struggle to integrate our lives as faithful citizens with our lives as faithful Catholics. We are obligated to do both: to bring our faith and values to all of our responsibilities, including our civic ones. May the Eucharist that we receive and share today strengthen us in fulfilling our mission in every respect.

What belongs to God? Christians believe that all things belong to God and that all we have is given to us by God. How, then, does the Christian live in a world of commercial and civic accountability? After all, the Church abides within the economic and political systems of a given time and place, to which it necessarily conforms much of the time, but it cannot serve two masters and it cannot deny its identity and mission. This means that Christian life is about seeking balance so that the Church will be what it should be: the light of the world.

The World Mission Rosary

Daily Prayer is the best way to make a real difference in the lives of children all over the world and the World Mission Rosary is an excellent way to pray for the missions. Each set of beads is a different color. **Yellow** is for Asia, where the sun rises first each day. **Red** is for the Americas, where missionaries journeyed, "on fire" with faith in Jesus. **White** is for Europe, home to the Pope, clothed in white. **Blue** is for the islands of the Pacific, surrounded by the ocean waters. **Green** is for Africa, with its many trees and plants.

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

- † **Sanctuary** - *Birthday Remembrance for Jan Rocek*
requested by her family
- † **Blessed Mother** - *Helen Kovacic*
requested by her children
- † **Saint Anthony** - *Leona Kois*
requested by daughter, Carletta



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