



# Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

Phone: 724-583-7866

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

Website: [www.sfoafayette.org](http://www.sfoafayette.org)



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

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



## November 19, 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



## Thoughts from Father Anthony

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A** (Matthew 25:14-30)

Accordingly successful people are never born; they are made. Success is no accident; it is a decision. Roger Bacon says that “buried seeds may grow but buried talents never.” Thus, the man who buried the one talent that his master entrusted to him was condemned. He was either afraid or lazy to invest the money of his master. It was rendered useless because it was not used.

In the kingdom of God, uselessness is an invitation to disaster. The tasteless salt, the fruitless tree, the weeds, the inedible fish and yes, buried money and talents. They are either thrown out or cut down to be burned. What is even worse is that the worthless servant was stripped even of the little that he had and was thrown outside into the darkness. Indeed, if you have not been trustworthy in handling money, who could entrust you with true wealth? Those servants who were faithful and industrious were rewarded greater tasks. They were able to work according to the talents given them, and these earned interests for the master. Since they were willing to accept responsibilities, they were rewarded with even greater responsibilities by the master.

In no way does God’s kingdom apply the utilitarian principle, but each one of us is expected to contribute with faithfulness in doing his respective assignment in this world. Usefulness means a decision to participate actively in building up God’s kingdom through the wise use and development of our talents. According to commentary, it is not a person’s talent which matters, what matters is how the person uses it. God never demands from a person abilities which the person does not have but He demands that a person should use to the fullest the abilities that a person does possess. People are not equal in talent but people can be equal in effort. The parable tells us that whatever talents we have, little or great, we must lay it at the service of God.

The writer Dennis Kimbro outlined four critical questions to ascertain our talents and abilities:

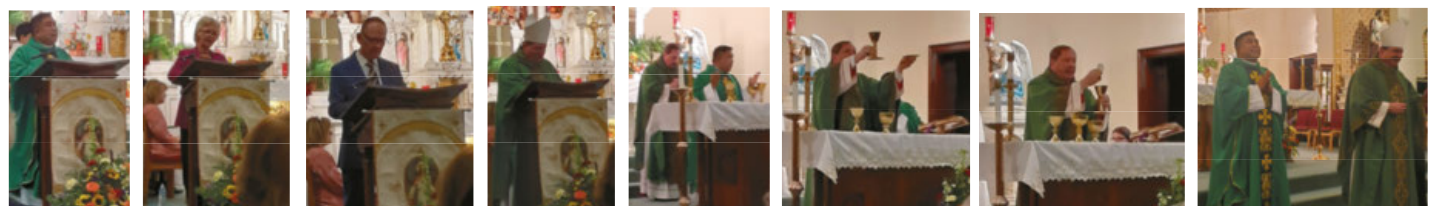
**First:** *What is it that we love to do?* We cannot do well what we hate to do. Somehow there is a particular activity or task that we never get tired of doing.

**Second:** *What will we do for free?* If we work on something without the thought of financial reward, we work as though we play. Some people identify this as a sense of fulfillment; others call this the sense of mission in life. We may describe this as a social responsibility; service is what we pay for the space we occupy in this world.

**Third:** *What comes easy for us but is difficult for others?* We may not be seven feet tall to dunk the ball into the basket like the NBA players but certainly, we have other qualities that we can develop and maximize.

**Fourth:** *Ask the people who know us best.* What can they see in us that we can do best? Well-meaning fellow humans can give us honest-to-goodness feedback on our potentials. Responsibility means to respond with ability.

Discover the abilities that God has endowed us with. Do not be afraid to respond to the call of service that He is inviting us to do. In proportion to our respective capacities and vocation, we are empowered by special graces to act accordingly and faithfully to our duties in this world.







**WORLD DAY OF THE POOR 2023**

In his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, Pope Francis designated the Thirty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time “World Day of the Poor.” He wrote: *“It will be a day that will help communities and each baptized person to reflect on how poverty is at the heart of the Gospel and on the fact that, as long as Lazarus lies at the door of our homes there can be no justice or social peace. This day will represent a genuine form of new evangelization which can renew the face of the Church as she perseveres in her perennial activity of pastoral conversion and witness to mercy.”*

It is suggested that, beginning tomorrow, the days before Thanksgiving be set aside for deeds of charity, penance and prayers for economic justice.



**Next Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King** marking the end of the Year of Grace 2023. As our Church Year draws to a close, we reflect on how we have been faithful to our source of life and recall those times we have failed.

The **Knights of Columbus** wish to thank all who purchased pies and donated food items. The food items will be shared with the Salvation Army and the Masontown Community Kitchen.

**Christmas of Remembrance Ceremony - 5pm Sunday, December 3**, at the John S. Maykuth Jr. Funeral Home for the families who lost loved ones during the past year. This ceremony is dedicated to help alleviate the pain experienced during the holidays after such a loss. Please join John & Susie in sharing the memory of our loved ones and the comfort and peace of the Christmas season.

**The GIVING TREE has arrived.** All who wish to participate in this special project are invited to take a tag, purchase the appropriate gift, attach the tag to the gift and **return it to the Church by December 10.**

**Annual Wigilia Dinner - Friday, December 15**  
The Polish Heritage Club, Inc. invites you to relive the tradition of an authentic Polish Wigilia (Christmas Eve Dinner). Learn the meaning of the customs, traditions and folklore of Old Poland. Wigilia begins at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 15, at the Uniontown Polish Club, 229 S. Mount Vernon Ave., Uniontown. For information and reservations, call 724-438-1036. All are invited to come and enjoy this annual tradition.

Those who use their gifts and talents in the service of one another, especially the poor and the needy, are blessed indeed. They shall be known as children of the light and will be ready for the Lord’s return.

**Parish Sympathy** is expressed to the families of *Sophia Berdar* and *Alverda Krofcheck* who passed away recently. May God grant to them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.

**The Practice of Stewardship**  
This Sunday’s Gospel is a continuation of last Sunday’s Gospel and is the hinge to next Sunday’s Gospel. The parable of the talents illustrates Christian stewardship of using God’s gifts wisely and prudently. When we use our gifts well, God rewards us with additional blessings. This Gospel demonstrates that using our gifts does not exhaust what we have been given but offers us additional blessings. God cannot be outdone in His generosity.

**Thank you** to David & Vicki Berish for a donation to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish that was given in memory of *George Rantovich*.

**Diocesan Poverty Relief / Catholic Relief Services**  
Our Diocese annually takes up the collection for the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund and Catholic Relief Services Appeal on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This appeal will take place this weekend. Because of the increased local need, funds from the CRS and the DPRF appeal will be divided so that 3/4 of the contributions will remain in the diocese to support the Diocesan Poverty Relief Fund, a quarter of which will be designated to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg to provide funding for heating fuel and utilities during the particularly difficult winter months. The remaining quarter of the collection will go to CRS, the U.S. Bishops’ overseas relief effort. Thank you, in advance, for your generous response to those most in need.

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## *November Faithful Challenge: Remember Those Who Have Died*

This month's faithful challenge is to remember those who have died. You are invited to join Bishop Kulick during this year of Eucharistic Revival to strengthen our Catholic Community by memorializing our departed loved ones and friends.

### **Accept Bishop Kulick's Faithful Challenge by:**

- **Lighting a candle**
- **Offering a Mass**
- **Visiting a gravesite**
- **Volunteering at a cemetery**
- **Donating to a cemetery**
- **Attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist**

These rituals of memorial can unite us to our departed loves ones.

This November, we give thanks for the time on Earth we shared with those who have died, and offer our prayers for family and friends in Heaven. The greatest prayer we can offer is Mass. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a deceased loved one, contact our parish office or e-mail the Diocesan Mission office at [missions@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:missions@dioceseofgreensburg.org) and someone will help you arrange this. Accept Bishop Kulick's November faithful challenge and remember those who have died.





# MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

## Saturday, November 18 -- Vigil: 33<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-F *Alfred & Julia Palo (Son, Frank)*  
6:00 pm-M Michael Shine (Nancy/Rick Zatlakovicz)

## Sunday, November 19 -- 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Ann & Steve Deli (Michele & Betti)  
9:30 am-F *Louise B. DelSignore (Tom/Patty Torrey)*  
11:30 am-M Pro Populo

## Monday, November 20 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Michael Zumerling Jr. (Family)

## Tuesday, November 21 -- Presentation of Mary

8:00 am-F *Christine Balabon (Kathy Duhon)*

## Wednesday, November 22 -- Saint Cecilia

8:00 am-M Peggy Dulik (Dennis/Michele Santella)  
12:30-2:00 pm-F *Adoration / Confessions*

## Thursday, November 23 -- Thanksgiving Day

8:30 am-F *Benefactors of Saint Francis of Assisi*  
10:00 am-M Benefactors of Saint Francis of Assisi

## Friday, November 24 -- Saint Andrew Dung-Lac

8:00 am-M Donna Stoffa (Taeseok Stoffa)

## Saturday, November 25 -- Vigil: Christ the King

3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*  
4:00 pm-F *Joan & Paul Cech Sr. (Son, Kevin)*  
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions  
6:00 pm-M Edward J. Pleban (Sons John, Ed/Families)

## Sunday, November 26 -- Christ the King

8:00 am-M Parents Shingleton & Miller (Debbie Miller)  
9:30 am-F *Anthony Mackowiak (Niece Marietta Kois)*  
11:30 am-M Terry Hoist (Rick/Nancy Zatlakovicz)

### Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-63; Lk 18:35-43  
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10  
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28  
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44  
Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-59; Lk 19:45-48  
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40  
Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-17; 1 Cor 15:20-28; Mt 25:31-46



### Eucharistic Adoration

#### Wednesday, November 22, in Footedale

12:30-1:30pm: Exposition / Confessions  
1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena  
1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction

**The Parish and Diocesan Offices will be closed this Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.**



In today's Gospel, the head of a household repeatedly invites others to share in his joy. Similarly, we are repeatedly invited to share in God's joy. God created the world and us and proclaimed it all good. Let us share in God's joy. God raised the Son to new life, bringing salvation to the many. Let us share in God's joy. God invites us all to eternal life. Let us share in God's joy. Gathered here today to share in this Eucharistic feast, let us share in God's joy.

### Thanksgiving will be celebrated this Thursday

Give thanks to God and praise for His abundant blessings! God has been extravagant with our country and, in response, we need to be extravagant with all of our neighbors around the world. This generosity is what brought our ancestors here and invites more to share in our good fortune. The delicate task is to *invite* others rather than impose on them. Let us give thanks for all of God's good gifts and blessings!

**Masses on Thanksgiving Day** will be celebrated at 8:30 am in Footedale and 10:00 am in Masontown and will be offered for **all of our benefactors** - the many people, both parishioners and non-parishioners, businesses and individuals - and all who support our parish and its ministries in so many ways.

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

- † **Sanctuary** - *All of the Benefactors who support Saint Francis of Assisi Parish*
- † **Blessed Mother** - *John & Bridget Berisko* requested by son, Philip  
*Elaine Rosnack* requested by Gerald & Barb Grimes
- † **Saint Joseph** - *Frank Magerko Jr.* requested by wife, Carolyn
- † **Saint Anthony** - *Ronald Wydra* requested by his cousin, Careletta
- † **Sacred Heart** - *Frank Palo* requested by Philip Berisko



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