



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

Website: www.sfoafayette.org



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

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



December 24, 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



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus." - Lk 1:31

Thoughts from Father Anthony

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

Before Mary's big YES (fiat), there was confusion in her heart and mind and yet she pondered all that the angel had announced to her. Her constant reflection enlightened and enlivened her decision to accept the special calling to bear Jesus, the heart of the world.

Now we understand how Mary came to accept the angel Gabriel's revelation. Mary was full of grace and had deep faith. She had no doubt. Knowing it was the will of God, her faith prevailed and dominated.

Like Mary, may we never stop reflecting and examining ourselves. Through self introspection, we get to see our journey and how God manifests Himself in our life, consistently. Then let us develop the sense of fidelity. In such context of awareness as the servant of the Lord, Mary's faith was founded strongly on gratitude for what God has done for her by saying, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my savior because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid."

This is significant because there is a big difference between faith based on expectations of what God can do before us, and on faith based on gratitude for what we know that God has graciously done for us. In the former, we will serve God only with the assumption that He will grant our desires for miracles and signs. In the latter, which is the kind of Mary's faith, we will serve God because we are gratefully aware of the love and mercy He has shown for us.

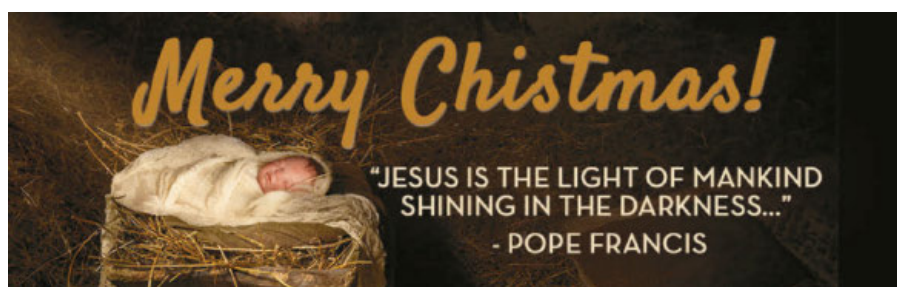
We are called to imitate Mary's kind of faith. She accepted everything with a humble and thankful heart. Our faith would become conditional if our obedience to God is conditional. In reality, we would like God to serve us according to what we want and we want that we are in control. The truth is we must serve God according to His will for us and let us allow God to be in control.

King David, in today's First Reading, feels good proposing to build a house for God but the Lord replies, through the prophet Nathan, "Should you build me a house to dwell in? The Lord will establish a house for you." David wishes to feel in control of his relationship with God. "No," says the Lord, "I'm going to lead you, not the other way around." In contrast, the Annunciation story tells us how, with her yes (Fiat), Mary gives God total control. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." She places all her life, in God's hands. She surrenders to God. She is a model of faith.

The Second reading challenges us to have obedience of Faith to the only Wise God who can strengthen us. Thus, to have faith in God like Mary we hope that the best is yet to come especially during this time of turmoil. Christ will give us for sure light that brightens our dark side of life.

The journey towards Christmas is a journey of reflection. This year, what is significant about your Christmas journey? May we choose to be like Mary, and like her, closely wait to celebrate the birthday of our Savior. Amen.

The best way to give ourselves is to accept His will. And forever be grateful by praying, "Forever I will sing of the goodness of the Lord."





Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. - Luke 1:26-38

Today, Luke tells us of the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary with his good news. "You have found favor with God," he tells her, "and you will bear a son." Not only that,

Gabriel tells her that Jesus is the Son of God, and a throne in heaven awaits Him. What joyful news! Mary accepted the news and further learned that her cousin, Elizabeth, was expecting as well. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Mary went to Elizabeth, eager to share her joy.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that only faith can embrace the mysterious ways of God's almighty power. The Virgin Mary is the supreme model of this faith, for she believed that "nothing will be impossible with God." (CCC 273)

As we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, let us allow our faith to guide us as it did Mary.



Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath. It is the *Angels Candle* which is the candle of joy and love, a reminder of the Good News that God has graced the world forever in the birth of His Son.

As the feast of the Nativity approaches, it is increasingly easy to forget that **the purpose of this celebration is to recall the love of God who took on our human flesh.** It is also easy to forget that if we truly make a roomy place in our hearts, our lives, and our celebrations, then the details of broken ornaments, etc. will be unimportant. Few of us have a prophet or an angel sent from heaven to speak the will of God to us. We are called to keep our ears, eyes, and minds open and seek the voices of God's messengers who are still alive, present, and working today. This is a time consuming effort but one that will be rewarding.

Come Lord Jesus!

Christmas Offering - In your charity of giving this Christmas, please remember the Parish. We rely upon the Christmas and Easter collections to meet outstanding expenses. Your generous response to the needs of the Parish is needed and greatly appreciated.

Christmas Flower Memorials - Please use the envelope from your packets to list the names of your loved ones. These will be placed on the altar and remembered in prayer throughout the Christmas season.

The Children & Family Services Appeal is taken on Christmas. The Christmas Feast commemorates the gift given to each of us by God without question of our merit or eligibility. Your gift to this annual appeal can help to change the future of a child.

Bishop Kulick writes: As Bishop, it is one of my most important duties to call to mind our fundamental responsibility as Catholics to care for the needs of these too often forgotten and marginalized children of God. Christmas is the perfect opportunity to include in our gift-giving those, who like the Christ Child, could find no place to lay their heads, and for many, no food to sustain them. Your support of this collection allows those touched by poverty, violence, the slow economy, or brokenness to look beyond their present conditions and find the hope to work toward better circumstances.

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki) are available.

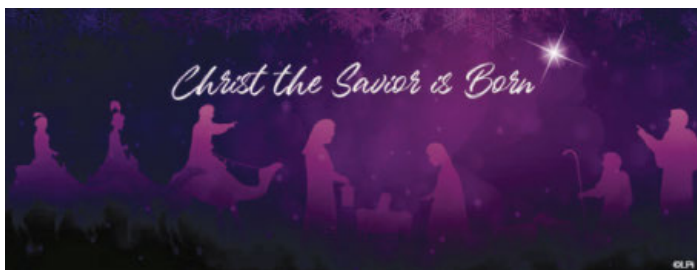
There are four wafers per package (three white and one pink); the offering is \$2.00 per package.

The Christmas wafer symbolizes the unity of the family.

According to beliefs, the bond of unity should exist between family members. The father is seen as the link in the unbroken chain of One Body, One Bread, One Christ, and One Church, while other family members join him in this eternal procession. Before partaking of the Christmas Eve meal, the family gathers around the table. The eldest member holds a large wafer and breaks off a piece to begin the ritual. The remaining wafer is passed on to another member while a prayer for loved ones is said. This continues until everyone at the table has a piece of the wafer. Finally, each family member gives wishes to every other family member, consuming a piece of wafer broken off of the wafer piece of the person to whom they were giving their wishes.

Christmas Holiday Schedule

Please note: There will be no morning Masses Tuesday, December 26 through Friday, December 29. The Parish Office will be closed Tuesday, December 26, and will operate on a limited basis December 27-29.



Merry Christmas! We celebrate God's greatest gift: Jesus Christ. He did not come into this world in a grand and spectacular way; no, He was born to an unassuming woman, in a humble stable, in an unfamiliar town, after a long and difficult journey but soon the skies filled with angels from heaven, announcing the glad tidings to the shepherds in the fields. We are those shepherds now, coming together in joy and wonder and expectation to worship our newborn king.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm in Footedale
(Children's Mass)
9:00 pm in Masontown

Monday, December 25
9:00 am in Footedale
11:00 am in Masontown

Please note: Morning Masses on Sunday, December 24, are for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and do not fulfill the Christmas obligation.

The **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**, is **not** a holy day of obligation this year however Masses will be celebrated that day - January 1 - at 9:30 am in Footedale and 11:30 am in Masontown Join us as we prayerfully welcome the New Year 2024.

Holiday Concert
The Greater Uniontown Chorale will perform *City of Hope - A Cantata for Christmas* by Tom Fettke and Jay Rouse, and *Christmas At The Movies* - a choral medley arranged by Mark Brymer, on **Thursday, December 28**, at 7:00 pm at St. Mary Nativity Church in Uniontown. All are welcome!

Drive Through Live Nativity
Saturday, **December 30**, 5:30-7:00 pm on the grounds of St. Joseph Church, Uniontown. Donations of non-perishable food will be taken for the Saint Vincent de Paul food bank.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Andy Rossi on the recent death of his sister, *Angeline Wiland*. May God grant to her eternal life and comfort her family.

The Practice of Stewardship
In today's first reading, God promises King David that His house and His kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me as you say." - that the promise finds fulfillment. See Luke 1:38

Thank you to the Saint Francis of Assisi Parish **Golden Group** for their donation of \$500 to the Church for Christmas. May God bless you!



Pray for Life Day - Friday, January 19
Everyone is invited to join in a day of prayer hosted by the Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women (DCCW) at **Christ Our Shepherd Center** in Greensburg on **Friday, January 19**, the day of the **March for Life** in Washington D.C. The day begins with the Rosary for Priests at 11:30 am followed by Mass at Noon, Rosary for Life, Stations of the Cross for Life, Diving Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 pm, Litany for Life at 3:30 pm and closing prayer at 4:00 pm. There is no cost. Those attending can stay all day or part of the day. The DCCW will also be accepting donations of baby items for pregnancy centers in the Diocese.

Support Ukrainian Refugee Fund
Support is needed for the Ukrainian Refugee Fund administered by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg, which provides assistance to individuals and families who have been forced to leave their homelands because of war. Visit ccharitiesgreensburg.org/donate/donate-now/ to donate. More than 100 families are on a waiting list to resettle in Western Pennsylvania.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 23 -- Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent
 4:00 pm-F *Renne Kremposky (Mike/Missy Komara)*
 6:00 pm-M *Donna Stoffa (Sister, Nancy Stajnrabh)*

Sunday, December 24 -- 4th Sunday of Advent
 8:00 am-M *Pro Populo*
 9:30 am-F *Erma Voytek (Yanik Family)*
 11:30 am-M *Theresa Cassidy (Paul/Bonnie/Charlene/Jennifer)*

Sunday, December 24 -- The VIGIL of CHRISTMAS
4:00 pm-F All Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 pm-M All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Monday, December 25 -- The NATIVITY of the LORD
9:00 am-F All Living & Deceased Parishioners
11:00 am-M All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26 -- Saint Stephen, the First Martyr
 8:00 am-F *No Mass*

Wednesday, December 27 -- Saint John
 8:00 am-M *No Mass*

Thursday, December 28 -- The Holy Innocents
 8:00 am-F *No Mass*

Friday, December 29 -- 5th Day of Christmas
 8:00 am-M *No Mass*

Saturday, December 30 -- Vigil: The Holy Family
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Don Bello (Marietta Kois)*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M *Confessions*
 6:00 pm-M *Rev. Leo J. Pleban (Family)*

Sunday, December 31 -- The Holy Family
 8:00 am-M *Teofilio Pates (Fr. Anthony & Staff)*
 9:30 am-F *Joan & Paul Sr. Cech (Mike/Missy Komara)*
 11:30 am-M *Pro Populo*

Monday, January 1 -- Mary, Mother of God
 9:30 am-F All Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:30am-M All Living & Deceased Parishioner

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
 Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1-8
 Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18
 Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-14; Col 3:12-21; Lk 2:22-40
 Monday, Jan 1: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21



love



Every so often the fourth week of Advent consists only of the fourth Sunday of Advent. This is one of those years. For three weeks we have been encouraged to use this season to prepare for Jesus' coming. Now it's time for the procrastinators to begin! But seriously, the fact that this Sunday falls on Christmas Eve is a wonderful opportunity for us all. On this day, may the word of God we hear and the Eucharist we share inspire us to prepare a home in our hearts for the Lord.

Prayer for the Fourth Week of Advent

Dear Lord, visit our homes! Visit our families! Bring Your goodness and light to every broken heart we've met on this journey of life. Your presence brings healing and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus!

God's plans are not always what we imagined. Sometimes they make us hesitate. Be like Mary. Say "Yes, Lord" and God will show you that His imagination is better than yours.

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

† **Sanctuary - Peace on Earth**

† **Blessed Mother** - *Carmella Washko*
 requested by Pete Rohol

Augustine Aello, Sr.
 requested by Edith & Family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Alverda & Barney Krofcheck*
 requested by Lud & Terri Kopeck

† **Saint Anthony** - *Daniel Fronczek*
 requested by Carletta & Family

† **Sacred Heart** - *George & Elizabeth Parish*
 requested by Mary Anne Hritz

Wayne Edenfield
 requested with love by Elaine



"Your Family Owned Funeral Home"
JOHN S. MAYKUTH JR.
FUNERAL HOME
 LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
724-583-8811

Marshall's
Monuments
 THE AREA'S OLDEST MONUMENT COMPANY
 50 E. FAYETTE ST., UNIONTOWN, PA 15401
438-5200

J & J MECHANICAL
 Residential Heating & Cooling
 Your Local, Authorized Lennox Dealer
 ~ 724-583-2687 ~
 201 North Main Mason Town

NICKMAN'S DRUG
 1878 McClellandtown Rd
 Masontown • 724-952-1040
FREE DELIVERY
 Store Hours:
 M-F 9-9 Sat-Sun 9-5

CROSSKEYS
 Human Services, Inc.
Serving the Elderly & Chronically Mentally Ill
785-6180

Compliments of
Kathleen Packroni
 TAX COLLECTOR
 407 N. Main St. • Masontown

BRODAK BEER
724-583-2222
CARMICHAELS BEER
724-966-1777
 Please Drink Responsibly.

DEARTH FUNERAL HOME
 New Salem, PA
 Clark B. Dearth Since 1900

Millers
Home Health Care
 214 S. Main St.
 Masontown
 724-208-2111

Jerry's Catering Service
"Where Our Noodle is Always A'Dente"
 Kathleen Ward Hughes, Owner
 16 Legion Street, Republic, PA 15475
724-246-8889 or 724-785-3036
 Like us on Facebook

Ralph's Garage Doors
 Sales • Service • Installation
 Doors & Parts • Electric Openers
 (724) 966-2879 **Carmichaels**

R&D
WATERS
 SEPTIC SERVICE
724-966-2477

STRICTLY DUCTLESS
FAYETTE FURNACE
 4 Monroe Street
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 Carrier
724-438-5400
 fayettefurnace.com

Uniontown Dental Associates
 7829 NATIONAL PIKE
 UNIONTOWN, PA 15401
 Telephone (724) 438-0241
Office Hours By Appointment

compliments of
TYGART
 INDUSTRIES

BERISH
AGENCY, INC.
 Insurance - Real Estate
"Celebrating 85 Years of Service"
 1937 to 2023
 12 South Main St.
 Masontown, PA 15461
724-583-7767
 berishagency@atlanticbb.net

LaFayette Manor, Inc.
 & Beechwood Courts
 147 LaFayette Manor Road
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 — 724.430.4848 —

Ben's Auto Parts SINCE 1976
 For all your body shop supplies and mechanical needs!
 107 River Avenue • Masontown, PA 15461
 Phone: 724-583-8335 Fax: 724-583-7766 Email: bensautopa@gmail.com
 1-800-446-8335

Lifetime PA150270
Awnings
 John P. Banasick - Owner
 724-554-6067
 www.lifetimeawnings.com
 Veteran Owned And Operated

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!
 They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!

Fayette Heating & Air Conditioning
 2100 University Dr. • Uniontown
 724-439-2323 • fayetheatingac.com

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Terravecchia-Haky
 HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.
Family Owned & Operated
 Michael K. Sauritch SUPERVISOR John S. Terravecchia OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR
724-583-7777
 www.terravecchiahakyfh.com • 515 N. Main Street • Masontown, PA 15461

EQ MUFFLER & AUTO CENTER
 COMPLETE CARBURETOR & FUEL INJECTION SERVICE
 COMPLETE BRAKE, EXHAUST & SUSPENSION SERVICE
724-439-3669
 Route 40 East • Uniontown, PA 15401


NEW SALEM MINI MART
 Fresh made Subs and Sandwiches
 724-245-7335 • 88 West Main St., New Salem
 www.newsalemminimart.com

LAKESIDE VENUES
 Your Event Specialist
 • Room for 600 guests allows for social distancing
 • Situated on 60 picturesque acres
 • Perfect for your event, big or small
 400 Old Rt. 21 Rd • McClellandtown, PA 15458
 Call for updates. 724-439-3111 www.lakesidevenues.com

PENN PLUS, LLC
Ready Mix Concrete & Supplies
 313 State Route 166 - Masontown, PA 15461
 724-583-8844 | www.PennPlusServices.com

Place Your Ad Here and Support our Parish!
 Instantly create and purchase an ad with
AD CREATOR STUDIO

 4lpi.com/adcreator

catholicmatch
 Pennsylvania

 CatholicMatch.com/PA

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
 Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!
CONTACT ME Sue Novosel
 snovosel@4LPi.com
 (800) 477-4574 x6318

SWEET PEAS
 TEXT "JOB" TO 888-62-SWEET (888-62-7338)
 NOW HIRING Cashier Maintenance Management Seasonal
 Or you can visit our store at 301 North Main Street Masontown, PA 15461

Compliments Of
Dan Shimshock

FAY-WEST GLASS
 VETERAN OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1992
 Installing, Repairing & Replacing Glass in Homes, Business & Industry
 724-439-8600 • www.FayWestGlass.com

Watters pools Quality Inground & Above Ground Pools
 1564 E. Roy Furman Hwy. • Carmichaels
724-966-2040

PATTERSON'S AUTOMOTIVE
 354 Ronco Rd. • Masontown
724-322-2403
 Complete automotive repair services.

KOPEC INSURANCE AGENCY
 Lud Kopec • Cristy Kopec-Frantz
 An Independent Agency Representing the Erie Insurance Group
 211 S. Main St. • Masontown • (724) 583-2634

TRI-COUNTY HVAC
 Sales • Service Installations
-FREE ESTIMATES-
Call Terry or Tyler 724-785-7171

Knights of Columbus #4261
 Masontown, PA
 Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism
 New Members Welcome! 724-583-8210