



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

Phone: 724-583-7866

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Website: www.sfoafayette.org



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

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



January 21, 2024

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



3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will
make you fishers of men." - Mk 1:17

Thoughts from Father Anthony - 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



The call to repentance and conversion is a central theme in the teachings of Jesus and the message of the Gospel. It involves recognizing our need for God's mercy and forgiveness, turning away from sin, and turning towards God with sincerity and eagerness. In the first reading, Jonah is initially reluctant to go to Nineveh because he sees it as a city of godlessness and corruption; however, when the people of Nineveh hear the word of God, they respond with repentance and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. This shows that even those who may seem lost or hopeless can experience a change of heart and find reconciliation with God.

In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us that time is running out and that we should leave behind worldly distractions and focus on serving God. This highlights the urgency of repentance and conversion, as we are called to change our lives and align them with God's will in order to attain eternal life with Christ.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God and calls people to repent and believe in the good news. Some immediately leave what they were doing and follow Him. This demonstrates the importance of responding to the call of Jesus and embracing the message of the Gospel, which includes repentance and conversion.

The concept of repentance and conversion is about acknowledging our need for God, turning away from sin, and embracing a new way of life centered on God's love and mercy. It is a continuous process of growth and transformation, guided by the teachings of Jesus and the grace of the Holy Spirit. Thus, let us pray like in our responsorial psalm, *Teach me your ways, O Lord*.

The kingdom of God is still at hand. We must change our ways and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Jesus starts His work by the Sea of Galilee, not in a synagogue. The sea is rough, unpredictable, spontaneous, vast, and mysterious. On the other hand, the synagogue, is a product of human convention that rigidly separates the "pure" from the "impure" - categories created by human beings themselves - because if you are non-Jews, according to them, you are impure and not part of the chosen people of God and discrimination follows. Jesus calls not well-known Pharisees or Sadducees but unnamed fishermen. The Pharisees and the Sadducees draw authority from being acknowledged by name; however, to work with God and for God is to declare that there is only one name to whom every knee should bend in the heavens, on the earth, or under the earth. That is God and the credit is His alone.

Jesus begins His work by calling the first disciples by twos. Jesus calls the disciples by two; He will later commission them to preach by twos. The beauty and meaning of life and the presence of God are best savored in the joy of fellowship. Jesus preaches: *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* (Mt 18:20). To work with God, for God, and in God is to uphold the values of community, peace, communion. Through evangelization, converts are going to turn their hearts to God and to see God in a church, that is, a community of brothers and sisters. These men whom Jesus called were unprepared - they did not belong to the religious groups at that time but Christ approached them in their life situation as they carried out their everyday chores. This speaks of the creative word of Christ that can transform ordinary situations into invitations of God's grace.

In the plain and usual activity of fishing, the fishermen were challenged by Christ to follow Him so that they could be "fishers of men". In our everyday exercise of common chores and in common places, there is always the standing summon of Christ to follow Him. We only have to be responsible in discovering the God-given possibilities in our ordinary affairs; therefore, in what ever you do, do it with love and God will dwell in your heart. The glory of God is when man fulfills the task that God gives in his or her life. (Mark 1: 14-20)

The Practice of Faith

When Jonah warned the people of Nineveh of God’s impending punishment, they promptly repented. When Jesus summoned the Galilean fishermen to participate in the proclamation of God’s kingdom, they promptly joined him. When we hear Saint Paul urging the Christians in Corinth not to become preoccupied by worldly concerns, we hear that same invitation to ask ourselves if we are truly living as God intends or if we need to make changes in our lives. Take some time this week to scrutinize your life. What do you spend time on? What do you spend money on? When Jesus called His first disciples, they immediately left everything behind. Is there something in your life that you need to walk away from completely?

Monday, January 22 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

On this anniversary of the Supreme Court decision, *Roe vs. Wade*, all dioceses of the United States shall observe “a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” (GIRM, no. 373). Amidst the cultural challenges surrounding the sanctity of life, we come together on this day to pray for the protection of unborn children and to advocate for a culture that respects the dignity of every human life from conception to natural death.

Tuesday is the Feast of Saints Vincent & Marianne Cope
 Saint Vincent, a Spanish-born poet, sings his praises in his narrative poem *Peristephanon*. He is patron of wine-producers. Marianne Cope, a Sister of Saint Francis of Syracuse, NY, is known for her charitable works and virtuous deeds. She cared for the lepers on the island of Molokai and was canonized by Pope Benedict in 2012.

Wednesday is the Feast of Saint Francis de Sales
 We honor Saint Francis DeSales, the patron saint of writers and journalists, on this day. May his intercession guide us in spreading the message of love and truth

Thursday is the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul
 marking the moment when Saul, a persecutor of Christians, encountered Christ on the road to Damascus and was transformed into the Apostle Paul, a fervent evangelizer and one of the greatest saints in Christian history.

Friday is the Feast of Saints Timothy and Titus
 Timothy and Titus were companions of Saint Paul who were entrusted to proclaim the “good news.” The kingdom, like a seed, grows slowly to maturity.



**MEMORIAL MASS
 FOR
 FATHER ALVIN
 CABUNGAL**

February 8, 2024 at 6pm
 Light Refreshments will follow in the Parish Social Hall

**Saint John the Baptist
 3332 Pittsburgh Road, Perryopolis, Pa 15473**

All are invited to attend.

The Practice of Stewardship

There is a certain urgency in today’s Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples - Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately*, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?

Thank you for the following donations to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish:
 In memory of *Norma G. Echard* requested by Dave & Vicki Berish
 In memory of *Elaine T. Kovak* by Dave & Vicki Berish

2023 Contribution Statements will be mailed and should reach your homes by the end of January.

Stewardship of Treasure

January 14: \$4,578; loose \$480; monthly \$1,222; online \$407; Initial \$87; totaling \$6,774
Our parish is very grateful for your support!



Order online now through March 22.

Our Faith Formation students are hosting an online **Sarris Candy Sale**. To place an order, go to SarrisCandiesFundraising.com enter our code - 10-3965 then place your order. There is a flat shipping fee of \$5 and your order will be shipped directly to your home. All proceeds benefit our Faith Formation Program. Thanks for your support!

Created in God's Image

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will give a reflection followed by small group discussion, and opportunity for adoration & reconciliation.



Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites men and women from around the Diocese to participate in one of two upcoming events at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 300 N. Main St., Greensburg.

Transformed: A Gathering for Men

Men in the Diocese are invited to attend *Transformed* on Monday, January 22, at 6:30 p.m.

Beloved: A Gathering for Women

Women in the Diocese are invited to attend *Beloved* on Monday, January 29, at 6:30 p.m.

At each of these gatherings, Bishop Kulick will be the keynote speaker on the topic "*Created in God's Image.*"

Each will include time for prayer, reflection, small group discussion, Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation with multiple confessors.

We hope you will be able to join us for one of these gatherings for men and women in our Diocese. They are free and no registration is required.

Catholic Schools Week - January 28 / February 3

This year's theme is *United in Faith and Community*

Saint John the Evangelist Regional Catholic School will host an **OPEN HOUSE** on **January 28** from 12:00 Noon until 2:00 pm for current, new and prospective parents. Registration and Financial Aid Forms will be available and tickets for the Basket Raffle will also be available.

Students, Alice Frankhouser and Luke Fabery of Saint John School, will speak at the 4:00 pm and the 9:30 am Masses next weekend on behalf of their school.

The Saint Vincent College Concert Series features

An Evening of Music for Trombone and Piano featuring award-winning trombonist and composer Dr. Sean Durkin performing standards by Johann Sebastian Bach, Antonio Vivaldi, Gabriel Faure, and Alexandre Guilmant. Dr. Durkin will be joined by J. Christopher Pardini on piano and organ.

The event takes place **Friday, February 9**, at **7:00 pm** in the Mary, Mother of Wisdom Chapel (located in the Robert S. Carey Student Center).

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance

Saturday, February 10, 2024

American Legion Post 423
1977 McClellandtown Rd
McClellandtown, PA

Music by
DJ King Wolf

6 pm—10 pm
Doors open at 5:00 pm

Cash Bar

For tickets call (724) 317-4524
Or email: Masontownmatters@yahoo.com



All proceeds from this event used for the purpose of funding the fireworks and other Masontown area events

The Ladies of Charity of Southern Fayette Churches, operate a **Children "FREE" Clothing Closet** every **Thursday** from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm at St. Mary Parish Center, 17 Gilmore St., Uniontown.

New Born/5T clothing, diapers, wipes, coats, mittens, hats, boots, handmade quilts, crocheted afghans, books, toys, nursery items for all families in need.

All items are **FREE**. *To serve, rather than be served ... St. Vincent de Paul*

Compliments of
Kathleen Packroni

TAX COLLECTOR

407 N. Main St. • Masontown

PALM - We will be collecting blessed Palm from previous years to burn in preparation for Ash Wednesday. If you have these to share, please bring them to Church or drop them off at the Parish Office.

MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, January 20 -- Vigil: 3rd Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-F Adeline Kiec (Grant/Regina/Gabriel Watson)
 6:00 pm-M Frances Oravets (Regis Bozek/Becky Marin)

Sunday, January 21 -- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Michael Shine (John & Dana Pisula)
 9:30 am-F Amelia & Vincent Kopec (Family)
 11:30 am-M Pro Populo

Monday, January 22 -- Day of Prayer for the Unborn

8:00 am-M Elaine Kovak (CDA Court Uniontown 505)

Tuesday, January 23 -- Saints Vincent & Marianne Cope

8:00 am-F Bernadette Kroll (John/Annette Mamula)

Wednesday, January 24 -- Saint Francis de Sales

8:00 am-M John S. Maykuth Sr. (Maykuth Family)
 11:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration & Confessions

Thursday, January 25 -- Conversion of Saint Paul

8:00 am-F Martin Magerko Jr. (Unit 753 ALAux)

Friday, January 26 -- Saints Timothy & Titus

8:00 am-M James Maher (Regina Shankle)

Saturday, January 27 -- Vigil: 4th Ordinary Sunday

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F Kathy Reposky (Cindy Nichols/Renee Bendo)
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 6:00 pm-M Healing for Anna Salek (Sister, Rose Lacey)

Sunday, January 28 -- Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Pro Populo
 9:30 am-F George Sofranko (Family)
 11:30 am-M Don Beck (Caroline Marella)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 1 Sm 24:3-21; Mk 3:13-19
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12-19; Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
 Thursday: Acts 22:3-16; Mk 16:15-18
 Friday: 2 Tm 1:1-8; Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-17; Mk 4:35-41
 Next Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Question of the Week:

How do I go about inviting others to journey to the kingdom with me?

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, January 24, in Footedale

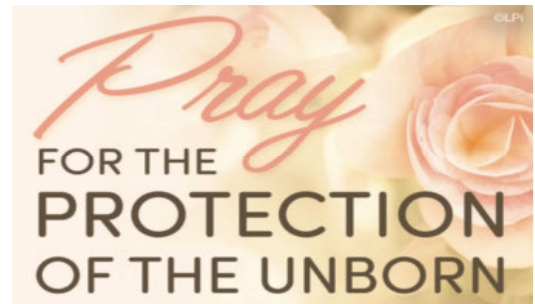
11:30-1:30: Exposition / Confession
 1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
 1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction



In today's Gospel, Jesus passes by the Sea of Galilee and calls the first four disciples, two pairs of brothers: Simon and Andrew, James and John.

Follow me, he tells these four fishermen, *and I will make you fishers of more disciples.*

Jesus continues to call disciples; indeed, we were all called when we were baptized. On this Sunday of the Word of God, may the stories of Jonah, of Paul, and of the first four disciples inspire us to drop our nets and follow more closely our Lord as His disciples.



Monday, January 22 - Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

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

† **Sanctuary** - Norma G. Echard
 requested by Dave & Vicki Berish

† **Blessed Mother** - Alice Pevarnik
 requested by daughter, Priscilla Michalik

Lauren Madison
 requested by her family

† **Saint Joseph** - William A. Tomotchko
 requested by his mother

† **Saint Anthony** - Health of Lisa
 requested by her husband & son

† **Sacred Heart** - Augustine Aello Sr.
 requested by wife Edith and
 daughter Barbara Rhoades



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