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.

January 28, 2024

Rev. Dick Anthony Cortado
Administrator
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 - **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**

In today's Gospel two things were revealed about Jesus and the unclean spirit which represented evil. The first was that evil knew who Jesus was. Second, evil was afraid of the Lord Jesus. Knowing the Lord is not enough, even evil knows the Lord. In fact, evil knows the Lord better than most of us. Evil's knowledge of the Lord is based on experience. How many of us had experienced the Lord? Only when we have truly experience the Lord could we really know Him; so, what differs us from evil? Our knowledge is for the purpose of loving and serving Him. In other words, we have faith in the Lord. For evil, it is just because it recognized the Lord as an adversary. Evil is wise in the sense that it knows its enemy in order to have an advantage; however, evil is no match no matter what it does. In any case, evil recognizes the Lord.

Our knowledge leads to faith and is for the purpose of faith. Knowledge should not be only "knowing about" but also knowing by experiencing. Have you met the Lord? Lord Jesus, He may not be appearing physically, but we can meet Him in the Eucharist in the Holy Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration, other people, nature, events, and in all Creation. Seize that moment. Experience the Lord then, believe in Him. Have faith in Him. Believe that He can fulfill what He promised and His words are perfect guides to our journey towards holiness and belonging in His Kingdom.

Secondly, the unclean spirit feared the Lord. It is a recognition of Jesus' authority. It is a resignation to Jesus' divinity. Thus, when Jesus commanded the unclean spirit, it did not have a choice but to follow. Evil knows that it cannot do anything against Jesus. We also fear the Lord in this sense. We are afraid of God's punishment for doing wrong. Sinning against the Lord has extreme consequences but there is another fear which is more spiritually healthy and that can differ us from evil. Let us fear that we will be separated from the Lord. That is what is meant by that phrase in the prayer, Act of Contrition, when we say, "I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell." We see the consequences of our sin as not only experiencing the pains of hell, but also, the loss of heaven. We fear being separated from God. Our separation from Him leads us to nothingness. Our life is with the Lord. This is a similar experience when we try not to hurt our love ones because we are afraid it will lead to our separation from them. While evil fears the wrath of God, we fear more by losing Him. Be different from evil. Know the Lord by experiencing Him so we can love and serve Him. Fear the Lord not only because of punishment but because we cannot endure being separated from Him.

Here in today's gospel also Jesus has shown kindness. There is compassion on his part. Jesus was not after the destruction of the man in the gospel, He just wanted to save the man with an unclean spirit. What Jesus desired was the complete healing of the possessed man. Jesus did not condemn the man. He did not judge the man as if accusing him, "Maybe you are living an unclean and immoral life and that is why you had been possessed by the demons." Jesus was compassionate to the possessed man. What Jesus saw in that possessed man was not his sinfulness, not his unclean living, not his questionable past life, Jesus considered him as a person in need of help, of healing, a soul to be saved from the dominion of sin and Satan and because of this, a miracle was performed. A cure was achieved. Jesus healed him. Jesus has silenced the unclean spirit. He said, Quiet! Come out of Him!

Jesus did not want His identity to be revealed. Why? Jesus did not want to be recognized merely as a miracle worker and because of that, people would just come to Him for the mere reason of miracles. Jesus wanted people to come to Him because of their faith. He desired that people approach Him because of their love for Him. Now maybe, at this time of our life Jesus is also telling us to be quiet. It means enough of our words, enough of our promises, enough of our resolutions. What Jesus demands from us now is our love. What Jesus is asking now is our contrition, our concrete actions for conversion. Yes, Jesus is telling us the commanding words "Be Quiet," that is, no more quarrels, no more debates and discussions, no more divisions especially in the community, no more hatred, no more judgmental and vindications, no more separation especially within the church, no more biases and prejudices, no more individualism and passiveness. What Jesus asks of us is our caring actions, co-operation, healing, forgiveness, active participation - especially in the mission of the church - unity and praying for our enemies. What Jesus is expecting from us is our witnessing and our charitable deeds.

The Lord said in the first reading, "I will raise up for them a prophet like you among their kin and I will put my words into his mouth: he shall tell them all that I command him. Whoever will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it." and in doing so, the second reading reminds us to be free from anxieties and distractions by adherence to the Lord; therefore, let us reflect the responsorial psalm, ***"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."***

Meditation based on today's gospel, Mark (1:21-28)

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite Him into our hearts, asking Him to cleanse the darkness He finds there.

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 this weekend on behalf of their school.

On Friday, February 2, we celebrate the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and *Candlemas*.** This is a day - 40 days after Christmas - to light candles and give thanks to God for the gift of light shining in the dark.

Candles to be used in Church throughout the year and for home use are blessed this day. The blessed beeswax candles typify the humanity which God the Son assumed and signify that Jesus Christ is the True Light of the world by His doctrine, grace and example. They also represent the ardent faith, hope and charity with which the Christian should follow Christ by humble obedience to His Gospel and imitation of His virtues.

Blessed candles for home use will be available after all Masses next weekend and throughout the week. There are two candles per box; the offering is $4.00. Blessed candles should be used in the home at times of any special danger, blessing or family devotion.

Parish Sympathy ♥ is expressed to Kimberly Revak on the recent death of her mother, ***Jama Revak***. May God grant to her eternal life and comfort her family.

The Practice of Stewardship

Moses told the people, *"The Lord will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own kinsmen."* God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share? See Deuteronomy 18:15

Thank you for the following memorial donations given to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish:
In memory of *Elaine T. Kovak*
by Saint Francis of Assisi Music Ministry
In memory of *Teofilio Pates, Fr. Alvin Cabungcal, Sophia Berdar and Irene (Martin) Keener*
by Colette Freiberg

2023 Contribution Statements were mailed last week and should arrive in your homes shortly. Thank you to all who support our parish. ♥

Stewardship of Treasure

January 21: $5,802; loose $540; monthly $1,015; online $352; initial $110; totaling $7,819
Our parish is grateful for your support!

Next week we will take the annual **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.** This collection supports the Church in more than twenty five countries that struggle to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccee

SarrisFundraising.com

Support our Faith Formation Program with your online order now through March 22. Enter our code - **10-3965** and place your order which will be shipped directly to your home. A flat shipping fee of $5 per order applies.

February

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family is the model of faith, hope and love for the Catholic family to live in harmony, charity and generosity among themselves and toward others in order to obtain eternal happiness.

During the month of February, please pray with Pope Francis for the terminally ill. Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

February is national "Healthy Heart Month." Be kind to your heart! Eat more fresh vegetables and fruit; exercise. Heart health also involves our "spiritual sense." Listen daily to God's voice, do kind-hearted deeds. ♥

LENT begins on February 14 (Ash Wednesday) and continues until the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday which then begins the Sacred Paschal Triduum. Please pray about what you will do to make this Lent extraordinary in your life.

PARISH CASH BASH - Sunday, **March 17** - at the social hall in Footedale. Doors open at 2:00 pm; drawings begin at 2:30 and continue every ten minutes through 7:00 pm. Tickets are $20, include food and refreshments and are now available at the Parish Office.

Valentine's Day
Dinner & Dance
Saturday, February 10, 2024
American Legion Post 423
1977 McClellandtown Rd
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Music by DJ King Wolf
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6 pm—10 pm
Doors open at 5:00 pm
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Memorial Mass for Father Alvin Cabungcal

February 8, 2024 at 6pm

Light Refreshments will follow in the Parish Social Hall

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

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.

Pysanky Egg Decorating Classes

Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 E Main St., Uniontown, offers Pysanky (Slavic, Eastern European and Ukrainian style egg decorating) Classes on Monday evenings (6-8pm) **February 12 through March 18.** Questions? call 724-438-1382, leave your name and phone number. All are welcome!

***Retrouvaille* is not just a Weekend** - it is a program of the Weekend plus six Post Weekend Sessions where subjects like forgiveness, trust and commitment are dealt with in more detail. The next Weekend begins **February 16.** Learn more about Retrouvaille by clicking on "Program Info" at **helpourmarriage.org**

Thursday Morning Bible Study, *Identifying Lesser Known Prophets of the Passion*, February 22, 29 and March 7 & 14, 10/11:30 am - in person and virtual - presented by Sister Melita Marie, OSBM. Registration ($20 per session) is due by February 19. Contact Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer by phone 724-438-7149 or by email at hpmsm@verizon.net.

Stepping Stones Bereavement Support begins a new session on **March 4** for the newly bereaved and those still struggling with their grief after an extended period of time. The program is held at Third Presbyterian Church, 425 Union St., Uniontown on Mondays 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The program uses articles, DVDs and conversation. For questions or to register, call Lillian at 724-439-1683.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 27 -- Vigil: 4th Ordinary Sunday
4:00 pm-F *Kathy Reposky (Cindy Nichols/Renee Bendo)*
6:00 pm-M Healing for Anna Salek (Sister, Rose Lacey)

Sunday, January 28 -- 4th 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)

Monday, January 29 -- Weekday
8:00 am-M Terry Hoist (Darlene Perry Jarrett)

Tuesday, January 30 -- Weekday
8:00 am-F *Joseph Novotny (John & JoAnn Pecsko)*

Wednesday, January 31 -- Saint John Bosco
8:00 am-M William J. Berish Sr. (Dave/Vicki Berish)

Thursday, February 1 -- Weekday
8:00 am-F *Helen Kovacic (Children)*

Friday, February 2 -- The Presentation of the Lord
8:00 am-M Robert M. Berish Sr. (Dave/Vicki Berish)
4:30-6:00 pm-M Adoration / Confessions

Saturday, February 3 -- Vigil: 5th Ordinary Sunday
3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
4:00 pm-F *George & Mary Matis (Children)*
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M Helen Ricco (Frank & Colleen Ricco)

Sunday, February 4 -- 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am-M Fr. Alvin Cabungcal (Joe/Judy Bogozi)
9:30 am-F *Dolores Sofranko (Betty Gorman)*
11:30 am-M Pro Populo

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-30; Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-30; 19:3; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sm 24:2-17; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	1 Kgs 2:1-12; Mk 6:7-13
Friday:	Mal 3:1-4; Heb 214-18; Lk 2:22-40
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Jb 7:1-7; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mk 1:29-39

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** on February 2 and is also known as **Candlemas Day**; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So, too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of **World Day for Consecrated Life** is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church.

Can you believe it's been over a month since we celebrated Christmas? By now our decorations are likely back in their boxes and the warm glow of the holidays has faded but let us not forget that our greatest Christmas gift ever - the Son of God - remains with us always. Even on an ordinary day in the middle of winter, He is with us here as we gather to celebrate the meal He left us before He died. Let us give thanks as we receive Him once again in the Eucharist.

The **World Day for Consecrated Life** will be celebrated in the Church on Friday, February 2, and in parishes over the weekend of February 3/4. Please pray for all who have made commitments in the consecrated life and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Thank you, Father Anthony, for the gift of your priesthood. May God bless you always!

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, February 2, in Masontown
4:30-5:30 pm: Adoration & Confessions
5:30-5:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction

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

† **Blessed Mother -** *Sophia Capriotti*
requested by Ken Rosnack

Kathy Reposky
requested by Cindy Nichols & Renee Bendo

† **Saint Joseph** - *Don Beck, Jr.*
requested by Pete Rohol

† **Saint Anthony -** *Birthday Remembrance for Charles J. Kois* requested by his family

Mary Homa
requested by Sharon & Mark

† **Sacred Heart** - *Elaine Kovak*
requested by Rosalie Sabatelli

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