



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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

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



February 18, 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.

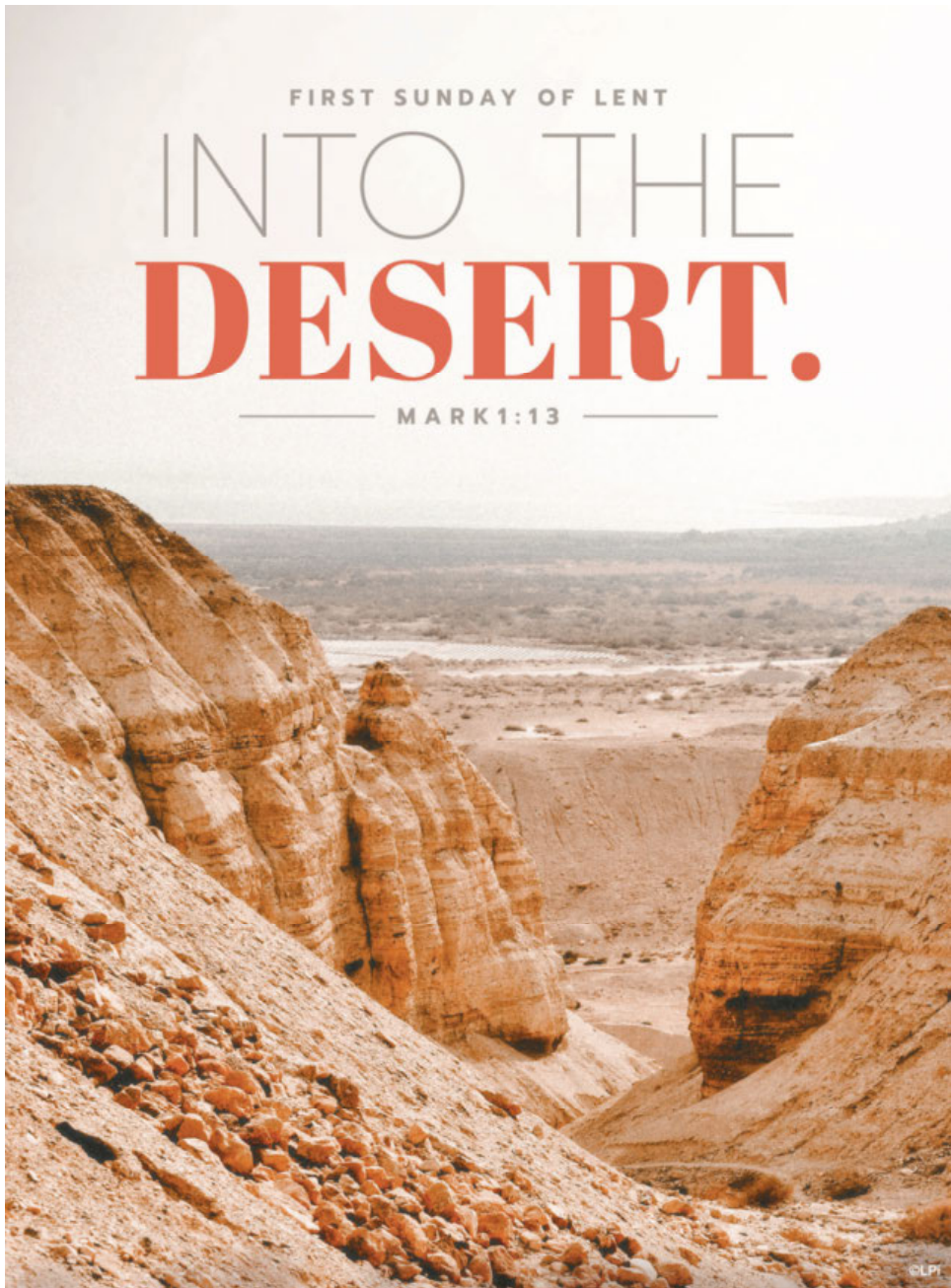
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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



Thoughts from Father Anthony - First Sunday of Lent - Year B



A lot of people are going through a financial “desert” these days due to the global recession. In today’s gospel (Mk. 1, 12-15), we hear of Jesus who literally had a desert experience for 40 days. Two things happened to Jesus in the desert: “He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him.” In the desert - and in whatever desert - there is desolation but, also, there is consolation. One thing for sure, the desert is not the place for desserts. The desert is about survival, endurance and stamina. The best and the worst in us come out in the desert and we also come out either better or worse from any desert experience.

The desert makes us realize what is really important and what is really basic in life. Anyone who has not gone through any desert does not know life at all, for life is definitely not about being comfortable, predictable, frivolous, fainthearted and superficial. We are very vulnerable in the desert where we are exposed to the external elements, but surprisingly, we also discover out there that we have a lot of reserved strength within. Most importantly, we discover in our littleness and vulnerability the presence and the power of something or someone greater than ourselves. Yes, a stay in the desert has a value. One cannot rush through, and need not flee from, the desert; for in the desert, one learns to let go and to let God. In the desert, once again, we know who we are, and we know who God is.

The 40 days of Lent should remind us of one basic rule when we go through the desert, and that is, to travel light. We are told to carry only what is essential for the journey, and to rid ourselves of extra luggage, which are not necessary but will, in fact, only make the journey difficult and cumbersome. The discipline of Lent, which necessitates penance, prayer, fasting and good deeds, will lead us to dispose of our unnecessary physical, emotional and spiritual baggage.

A few days ago, we began the Season of Lent. As the Spirit “drove Jesus out into the desert,” we are also invited during this season to go to the desert. It is an invitation for us to spend some time in solitude and silence in order to feel and experience the presence of God. This is what Jesus is talking about when He said something about prayer: “But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret” (Mt 6:6). Even in the midst of all the hassle and bustle of city life, we can go to our desert, the inner room of our hearts, by closing our senses to the distractions of this world. This can be done by mortifying our senses. This is what Jesus did in the desert. He prayed and fasted for forty days so that there are no distractions in his intimate communication with the Father but the desert is not only that of solitude, but also of temptations.

The world we live in is already a desert. It is full of wild beasts waiting to devour us at any moment of our weakness and slackness but then the response is not by ignoring them or running away from them. Temptations are part of our everyday life in this world and they also are an essential element in our journey of faith. Like Jesus, we have to face these temptations relying solely on God and His protection against all enemies. Temptations are tests. When we overcome these tests with God’s help, we emerge stronger, wiser and better followers of Jesus. They remind us of how weak we are, and how strong our enemy is. This realization makes us humbler and moves us to rely on God’s power all the more.

Hence, the readings today also invite us to go to the desert of temptations – not to expose ourselves to temptations, but to face the hard realities of life in this world, with all the problems, confusion and enticements. This is an opportunity for us to realize that we need God at every moment of our lives.

The Season of Lent is, therefore, our desert experience. Let us be aware of God present in our life. Let us also be aware of the lurking enemy around and inside us and if we just strive to stay close to God, through our prayers and acts of charity and penance, He will surely give us all the graces we need to overcome all these dangers to our soul and to grow in holiness and Christian perfection.

Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for
Lenten Evenings of Reflection

Tuesday, February 20 - 6:00 PM
Saint Bartholomew Parish, Crabtree
Topic: "Believe in the Gospel"

Tuesday, February 27 - 6:00 PM
Holy Family Parish, West Newton
Topic: "This is My Beloved Son"

Monday, March 4 - 6:00 PM
Church of the Good Shepherd Parish, Kent
Topic: "Stop Making My Father's House a Marketplace"

Monday, March 11 - 6:00 PM
SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance
Topic: "Everyone Who Believes in Him May Have Eternal Life"

Wednesday, March 20 - 6:00 PM
Christ, Prince of Peace Parish, Ford City
Topic: "We Would Like To See Jesus"

Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 16 - 6:30 PM
Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Connellsville
Intention: For the Homebound and Infirm



Wednesday, February 21 - 5:15 PM
Saint Cecilia Parish, Whitney
Intention: For Peace in the World

Friday, March 1 - 5:30 PM
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, Greensburg
Intention: For Vocations

Friday, March 8 - 7:00 PM
Church of the Resurrection Parish, Hellwood Site
Intention: For the Deceased

Friday, March 15 - 2:00 PM
Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School, Belle Vernon
Intention: For the Youth

Friday, March 22 - 8:00 PM
Saint Lawrence Parish, Cadogan
Intention: For the Intentions of the Faithful

In the desert, Jesus endured forty days of hardship and temptation but He did not endure it alone: "the angels ministered to him" the Gospel tells us. Remember that you do not face Lent alone. God is beside you in your journey to the desert.

RECONCILIATION

During the penitential season of Lent, we are encouraged to turn from sin and darkness and have a change of heart as we embrace and are embraced by Christ's love. We are encouraged to be reconciled to the Lord early and often in this season.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered each Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 pm in Footedale and 5:00 to 5:30 pm in Masontown. Additionally, Regional Lenten Penance Services will be conducted as follows:

- Tuesday, March 12 - 6:00 pm**
Saint Cecilia, Grindstone
- † **Thursday, March 14 - 6:00 pm**
Saint Francis of Assisi, Footedale Site
- Saturday, March 16 - 1:00 pm**
SS Cyril & Methodius, Fairchance
- Sunday, March 17 - 3:00 pm**
Saint Joan of Arc, Farmington
- Monday, March 18 - 6:00 pm**
Saint Joseph, Uniontown
- Thursday, March 21 - 6:00 pm**
Saint Therese, Uniontown

The **Rite of Election of Catechumens** and of the **Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates who are preparing for Confirmation and/or Eucharist or Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church** is celebrated today. At Mass today, our Candidate, **Thomas Robbins**, will sign the *Book of the Elect* then be sent forth to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral where he will meet the bishop, be welcomed into the larger church and make public his decision to become Catholic. Please keep him in prayer.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of † **Anna Elizabeth (Rusnak) Bertovich** who was buried Saturday, February 10. May God grant to her eternal life and comfort her family. May she rest in peace.

Parish Sympathy is extended to David Mudery on the recent death of his mother, **Helen Huston Mudery**. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.



DIocese OF GREENSBURG
SAINT JOSEPH PILGRIMAGE
MARCH 18 & 19, 2024

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will lead a pilgrimage to the four Saint Joseph parishes and Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, to dedicate the Diocese of Greensburg to the guardianship and protection of Saint Joseph. Each site along the pilgrimage will focus on a different aspect of Joseph as a faithful disciple, helping us to strengthen and rededicate our own relationship with Jesus Christ.

Visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/StJoseph to reserve a seat on the pilgrimage bus for \$25, sponsor the pilgrimage or donate items to the Saint Joseph Altar.

SAINT JOSEPH: PATRON OF WORKERS
Monday, March 18, 6 PM
Saint Joseph Parish, New Kensington
Evening Prayer with special presentation on Saint Joseph the Worker by author Mike Aquilina from the Saint Paul Center for Biblical Theology.

SAINT JOSEPH: PATRON OF A HAPPY DEATH
Tuesday, March 19, 9 AM
Saint Joseph Parish, Derry
Morning Prayer for Saint Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death, with presentation on estate and funeral planning.

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
Tuesday, March 19, 11:45 AM
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg
Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph with Promulgation of Bishop Kulick's Pastoral Letter dedicating the Diocese to the guardianship and protection of Saint Joseph.

SAINT JOSEPH: PATRON OF IMMIGRANTS
Tuesday, March 19, 2:30 PM
Saint Joseph Parish, Everson
Afternoon Prayer with Building a Saint Joseph Altar. All are invited to bring non-perishable food and supplies to offer in thanksgiving for Saint Joseph's intercession. Items donated will be distributed to families in need throughout the Diocese.

SAINT JOSEPH: PROTECTOR OF THE EUCHARISTIC LORD
Tuesday, March 19, 6 PM
Saint Joseph Parish, Uniontown
Holy Hour with presentation on Saint Joseph, Protector of the Eucharistic Lord, Patron of Families, and Fosterer of Vocations.





The Practice of Stewardship

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ but the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the Sacrament of Baptism . . . that people place their gifts, their resources - their selves - at God's service in and through the Church."

Thank you for the following donations to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish that were given in memory of **Fr. Peter L. Peretti** by Carol Brady & Family and Colette Freiberg

Stewardship of Treasure

February 11: \$5,914; loose \$507; monthly \$2,000; children \$5; online \$437; total \$8,863
Our parish is grateful for your support!

Strengthening the Church at Home

The annual **Catholic Home Missions Appeal** is taken this weekend. We are asked to provide material support and spiritual aid to Dioceses in the United States and its territories that are unable to provide pastoral services without assistance from sources other than their own. Our support of this appeal will assist the Home Mission Dioceses in meeting basic pastoral needs for their parishioners. For more information, visit www.usccb.org/home-missions



LENTEN FISH DINNERS

The **Christian Mothers** will host **Lenten Fish Dinners** the Fridays of Lent. The meals take place at the social hall in Footedale - 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; eat in or take out. To place an order, please call 724-245-2932.
This week's homemade side dish is Haluski.

The **Knights of Columbus** will host a **Lenten Fish Fry** each Friday during Lent at the cafeteria in Masontown 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Dine in or take out. To place an order, call 724-583-8210 or 724-970-4624.

Again this year, **Faith Formation** and **Youth Ministry** will sponsor **Basket Raffles** during the Lenten Fish Dinners at **both sites**. Proceeds will benefit activities that support both programs. If you wish to help them by donating a basket, it can be delivered to the Parish Office in Masontown or the Social Hall in Footedale.
 Thank you for supporting our young people.

The Saint Francis of Assisi Golden Group will meet at 11:30 am on Wednesday, **February 21**, at the social hall in Footedale. Annual dues of \$5.00 are payable at this meeting.

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.

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.

Mindful of His covenant, the Lord promises never to destroy creation again by floodwaters. By the waters of the flood the world was transformed. By the waters of baptism we are transformed. The waters of baptism bring salvation and forgiveness through the death of Christ.

After fasting forty days and being put to the test, Jesus begins His public ministry.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 17 -- Vigil: 1st Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm-F Mike & Ann Bernot (Family)
6:00 pm-M Elaine Kovak (SFOA Music Ministry)

Sunday, February 18 -- 1st Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M Victor Salek Jr. (Anna Salek/Rose Lacey)
9:30 am-F Pro Populo
11:30 am-M Donald & Ellen Duffy (Oppman Family)

Monday, February 19 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Sam Bartoni (Mary Anne Hritz)

Tuesday, February 20 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Cecelia Kaparic (Carl & Andrea Kois)

Wednesday, February 21 -- Saint Peter Damian

8:00 am-M Joe Matyus Jr. (Bob Toth)
5:00 pm-M Adoration
6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Thursday, February 22 -- Chair of Saint Peter

8:00 am-F John V. Shinsky Jr. (Brother, Joey Carpeal)

Friday, February 23 -- Saint Polycarp

8:00 am-M Margaret Slovensky (John Pleban/Fam)
11:00 am-F Adoration
12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Saturday, February 24 -- Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Lent

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F Helen Pollick (Bobby, Cindy & Sharon)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M Irene O'Brien (Diane Keener)

Sunday, February 25 -- 2nd Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M Michael Shine (John & Kathy Pleban)
9:30 am-F Pro Populo
11:30 am-M Frances Oravets (Paul & Irene Krokus)



Ashes and rainbows make a strange combination. Ashes are dirty, messy and ugly. Rainbows, on the other hand, are beautiful and inspiring but we encounter both at the beginning of Lent this year.

On Wednesday, ashes were smudged on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and sinfulness. Today we hear that God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant with us. As we begin this season of Lent, let us recognize both truths: we are always in need of repentance but God stands ever waiting to forgive us. As ashes remind us to repent of our sins, may rainbows remind us of God's eternal forgiveness.

Question of the Week:

How will I minister to others during these forty days of Lent? Who is in need of my help?

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, February 21, in Masontown

5:00 pm: Adoration
6:00 pm: Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Friday, February 23, in Footedale

11:00 am: Adoration
12:00 pm: Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Lv 19:1-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10



The Parish and Diocesan Offices will be closed on Monday in observance of the Presidents Day holiday.

All of the Fridays of Lent are to be "meatless" for all Catholics.



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

- † Sanctuary - All Parishioners
- † Blessed Mother - Mary Rohol requested by her family
- † Saint Joseph - Mike & Ann Bernot requested by their family
Victor Salek, Jr.
requested by Anna Salek & Rose Lacey
- † Saint Anthony - John V. Shinsky, Jr. requested by his parents
Judy & Robert Carpeal & Family
- † Sacred Heart - Jerry Solomon requested by Sandy



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