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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

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



February 25, 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.

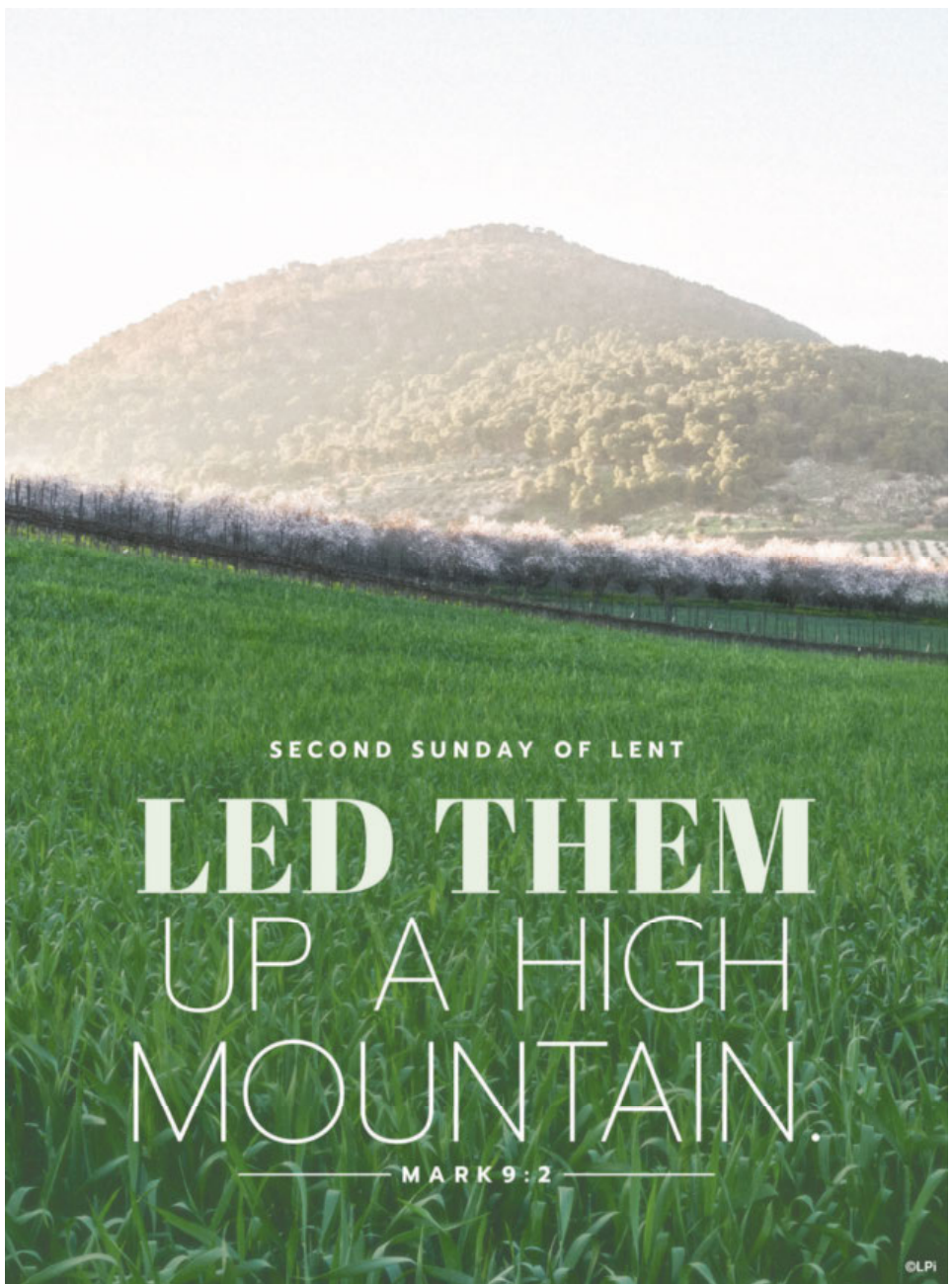
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

LED THEM UP A HIGH MOUNTAIN.

MARK 9:2

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



Today is the second Sunday of Lent. All the three readings center on Jesus, the Son of God who was transfigured on His way to suffering. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac in the (First Reading), so God gave His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for our sake (in the Second Reading). That same Son who had foretold His suffering was transfigured to offset the scandal of the cross (in the Gospel). What would happen to their faith if they were not given a glimpse of optimism prior to His tragic death? Such love of Christ made Him decide to bring the disciples to a high mountain. This was to allow them to witness His transfiguration where “his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.”

Mark the evangelist narrates, “*This is my beloved Son. Listen to him*” - the Father’s thundering voice came echoing to disciples Peter, James, and John, who were with the Lord at that time. Such loving devotion of the Father to the Son, a protective and eternal love, an adoring affection made Jesus blush, shine with joy, foretaste His spirit up, and made him so happy that He became very radiant, beaming, and glowing. Of course, the term used in the Gospel for this is “transfiguration.” Love is transformative. It heals our wounds, changes our minds, and opens our hearts. It comforts and strengthens us as it also inspires us to do the same to others. We can go for days without food, but an empty heart deprived of love makes our suffering meaningless and our sacrifices pointless. In the words of St. John Paul II in *Redemptoris Hominis*, “*Man cannot live without love.*”

The first reading explains how his trusting faith in his God’s mercy and power and his blind obedience to his God’s order to sacrifice the only son of his old age, transformed the life of Abraham, making him the supreme model of Faith. In the Second reading: God showed His love for us by allowing the transformation of the glorious preaching and healing ministry of His Son to a tragic end, proving that God’s love has no limits. Today’s Responsorial Psalm (Ps 116) speaks of God’s distress at the death of anyone. “*Too costly in the eyes of the LORD is the death of His faithful.*” In the Transfiguration story in today’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed in His Heavenly glory, superior to Moses and Elijah.

The primary purpose of Jesus’ Transfiguration was to allow Him to consult His heavenly Father and ascertain His plan for His Son’s suffering, death and Resurrection. God’s secondary aim was to make Jesus’ chosen disciples aware of Jesus’ Divine glory, so that they might discard their worldly ambitions and dreams of a conquering political Messiah and might be strengthened in their time of trial. A third aim was to give Jesus the conviction that He will be the Son of God of His loving Father even during His suffering and death. Finally, by describing the theophany of Jesus’ Transfiguration, the Gospel gives us a glimpse of the Heavenly glory awaiting those who do God’s will by putting their trusting Faith in Him.

Every sacrament we receive transforms our lives: for example, **Baptism** transforms us into children of God and heirs of heaven. **Confirmation** transforms us to brave witnesses of and warriors for Christ. **Reconciliation** transforms sinners to saints. The “transfiguration” in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength: In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus by transubstantiation. Just as Jesus’ transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily “transfiguration,” transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good, by humble and selfless service to others.

Christ’s transfiguration gives us a message of encouragement and hope especially during this time. In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, pain and suffering, the thought of our future transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: “This is my beloved son.” Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to Him in His suffering, may share in the carrying of His cross and finally may share the glory of His second “transfiguration,” namely, His Resurrection. We know that problems are just temporary, that there will be light at the end of the tunnel. St. Paul reminds us, “*for those who love God everything works out to their advantage.*”

(Meditation based on today’s Gospel - Mark 9:2-10)



Congratulations to Thomas Robbins who celebrated the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral last Sunday. Please keep him in prayer as he continues his journey to Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

LENT is a time for new life in Christ - a time when Christians pause to listen to the voice of God calling us back to Him. In these days of Lent, the Church sets aside time for us to evaluate and reform our lives in light of Jesus' word to us: *"The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."* This Lent, let us turn to Jesus and ask Him to show us His love and give us the ability to follow Him.



Lenten Meditation - *Preparing the Heart*

Confession does for the soul what preparing the land does for the field. Before the farmer sows the seed, he works the acreage, removing the rocks and pulling the stumps. He knows that seed grows better if the land is prepared. Confession is the act of inviting God to walk the acreage of our hearts. *"There is a rock of greed over here, Father, I can't budge it ... that tree of guilt near the fence? Its roots are long and deep, and may I show you some dry soil, too crusty for seed?"*

God's seed grows better if the soil of the heart is cleared and so the Father and the Son walk the field together; digging and pulling, preparing the heart for fruit. Confession invites the Father to work the soil of the soul.
- In the Grip of Grace



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 our parish will host the Regional Lenten Penance Service at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 14, at the Footedale Worship Site.



Help Form Future Priests
 Seminarian Tyler Randolph

Priests bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people. Donating to the Diocesan Lenten Appeal assures an investment in the formation of our seminarians so they can grow in their relationship with Christ, and knowledge of the Catholic Church and her teachings.

Diocese of Greensburg

Donate today at DioceseofGreensburg.org/DLA2024

Regional Lenten Penance Services

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



Saint Joseph, the foster father of Jesus and the spouse of Mary, the Mother of God, is the head of the Holy Family. By his prayers, family life is blessed and protected in the home and in the Church.

During March, please pray with Pope Francis for **new martyrs**. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

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.


The Practice of Stewardship

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Saint Paul reminds us that God Himself “did not spare His own Son.” Are *my* gifts to the Lord - of my resources, of my time, of myself - also sacrificial?

Stewardship of Treasure

February 18: \$5,439; loose \$765; monthly \$476; children \$8; online \$470; Ash Wednesday \$2,007; total \$9,165

Our parish is grateful for your support!



Paper Products to share with our local food banks will be collected next weekend. Thank you in advance for your generous support of those who are in need.

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.



**Diocese of Greensburg
Saint Joseph Pilgrimage
March 18 & 19, 2024**

Bishop Larry I. 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.

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. Join us for this livestreamed event!

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.



Reserve a seat on the bus!



A \$20 ticket reserves you a seat on the Saint Joseph Pilgrimage Bus. Bus pick up is 8:00 AM Tuesday, March 19, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, 2000 Seminary Drive, Greensburg. Continental breakfast will be served at Saint Joseph Parish, Derry. Lunch will be served after Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Greensburg. Refreshments will be served at Saint Joseph Parish, Everson. Return time to Christ Our Shepherd Center is 9:30 PM.

DioceseofGreensburg.org/StJoseph



LENTE 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 Pierogi.**

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.

Girl Scout Cookie Sale - after all Masses **March 2 & 3**. Hosted by the Masontown Girl Scouts, the cookies are \$6 per box. Questions? Contact bethanyio@yahoo.com

The **Saint Vincent Concert Series** presents *Melodies of the Sheng and Guanzi: a concert of music from China* an evening of classical, folk and original music from China on Friday, **March 15**, at 7pm in the Saint Vincent College Performing Arts Center. Admission is free.

Lenten Day of Recollection for All Women - March 17 at St. Rita Parish, Connellsville beginning at 1:30 pm. Retreat Master is Fr. John Bednarik, OFM Cap. The day includes reflection, Stations of the Cross, Rosary and Benediction. Cost of \$20 includes a catered dinner. Make reservations by March 11 by calling 724-628-6832.

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MASS SCHEDULE

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

4:00 pm-F Helen Pollick (*Jimmy, Bobby, Cindy, Sharon*)
 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)

Monday, February 26 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M George & Elizabeth Parish (Dr Mary Anne)

Tuesday, February 27 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F James Olesko (*Lenny & Dianne Ferek*)

Wednesday, February 28 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M George Rantovich (Tom/Denise Robbins)
 5:00 pm-M Adoration
 6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Thursday, February 29 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Robert C. Cole (*Barry/Monica Jordan*)

Friday, March 1 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Betty Berish (Mary Anne Hritz)
 11:00 am-F Adoration
 12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross & Benediction

Saturday, March 2 -- Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Lent

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F *Pro Populo*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 6:00 pm-M Ann Valusek (Rick/Nancy Zatlkovicz)

Sunday, March 3 -- 3rd Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M Richard Zaiglin (George Parish)
 9:30 am-F James W. Nagg (*Janelle Mrazek*)
 11:30 am-M Josephine Yash (SFOA Christian Mothers)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Dn 9:4-10; Lk 6:36-38
 Tuesday: Is 1:10-20; Mt 23:1-12
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
 Friday: Gn 37:3-28; Mt 21:33-46
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-20; Lk 15:1-3,11-32; Lk 15:1-32
 Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25



Coffee and Donuts will be available after all Masses next Sunday, March 3. Please plan to join us!

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



As we continue our Lenten journey today, we hear stories of two significant journeys in the history of our faith. Abraham travels to a distant land with his precious son, Isaac, where his devotion and obedience to God will be put to their greatest test.

Jesus leads His closest disciples up a high mountain where He will be transfigured in glory.

May our practice of the Lenten disciplines of **fasting, prayer** and **almsgiving** transform us into more loving and devoted disciples.

The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus.

Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent. How do I think God would want my life to be transfigured this Lent? Am I willing to say "hineni" to accept that change to my life?



Wednesday, February 28, in Masontown

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

Friday, March 1, in Footedale

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

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

† **Sanctuary** - The Four Chaplains of the USAT *Dorchester*

† **Blessed Mother** - *Helen Ozanick* requested by daughter, Judy & Robert Carpeal & Family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Mike "Sonny" Magazine* requested by Rose Magazine & Family

† **Sacred Heart** - *Denny Capriotti* requested by Ken Rosnack



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