

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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A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

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



Rev. Dick Anthony Cortado Administrator

dcortado@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ...8:00 am Saturday6:00 pm Sunday8:00 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 Sunday9:30 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.

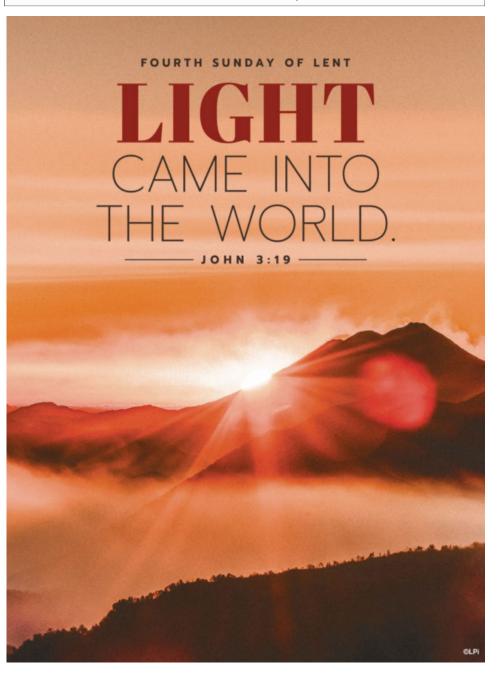
Sacrament of Baptism: By appointment. Prior to your baby's Baptism, you must be a registered, practicing member of this parish.

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

March 10, 2024



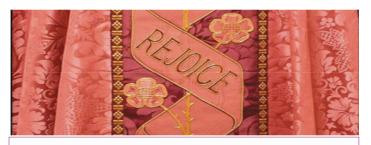
Thoughts from Father Anthony - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Lætare (Rejoice) Sunday, from the first words of today's liturgy. As on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, rose-colored vestments may replace violet, symbolizing the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of Our Lord. The central theme of today's readings is that our salvation is the free gift of a merciful God, given to us sinners through Jesus, His Son. The readings stress God's mercy and compassion and remind us of the great love, kindness and grace extended to us in Christ.

The Scripture lessons summarized: In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy to and salvation of His chosen people exiled in Babylon. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile that the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus.

- 1. We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: As a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation, the crucifix invites us to more than simple generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image and carry our own daily cross with joy while helping others to carry their heavier crosses.
- 2. We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving, and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others during Lent.
 - 3. Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion which will bring us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, to an ongoing renewal of life through prayer, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

Pope Francis continually insists that mercy is the very essence of God. In his *Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy) Francis expresses it this way: mercy is God's identity card. He says: "We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. Mercy is the bridge that connects God and man." (MV2) Pope Francis quotes Saint Thomas Aquinas, who asserts that "mercy is the greatest of all virtues; all the others revolve around it. It is proper to God to have mercy." (EG 37) "Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life. Let us remember the famous line, *to err is human to forgive is divine*. That is why the church celebrates the second Sunday of Easter as the "Divine Mercy Sunday" because God has the Ocean of Mercy. The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love." (MV 10)



The Fourth Sunday of Lent was previously called Laetare (rejoice) Sunday, from the first word of the entrance antiphon for the day, "Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast."

This is a festival of spring for it falls near the spring equinox. In the early Church, the first roses were brought to church for a blessing on this Sunday. The catechumens were decked with roses and roses were mutually exchanged - thus the custom of the **rose-colored vestments** used today.



2nd Scrutiny - John 9:1-41 JESUS CURES THE BLIND MAN

On this second scrutiny Sunday, when we are all invited to look deeply into our lives, we hear the story of Jesus giving sight

to the man who had been blind from birth. When He did so, some of the authorities willfully refused to see, refusing to recognize the miracle because it was performed on the Sabbath and attested to by a sinner. Let us look at our own lives and recall the times when we failed to recognize God's grace, refusing to see with eyes of faith.

Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for a

Lenten Evening of Reflection Monday, March 11 - 6:00 pm

at Saints Cyril & Methodius Parish in Fairchance The topic: Everyone Who Believes in Him May Have Eternal 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.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

RECONCILIATION is the act of re-establishing a damaged or destroyed relationship between two parties. Reconciling humankind to God was the primary work of Jesus and is an essential part of the Good News. According to Catholic teaching, reconciliation with God after one has gravely sinned against Him and reconciliation with the Church, which is wounded by sin, are basic results of the Sacrament of Penance. God is with us and forgives us through His Son in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He knows our weak human condition and wants us to know the joy which comes as we turn from sin, embrace His life, and experience victory over sin.

To receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter, all are encouraged to attend one of the Lenten Penance Services listed below.

No other confessions will be held prior to Easter.

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





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

The **Christian Mothers** will host **Lenten Fish Dinners** the Fridays of Lent. The meals will 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.



The Practice of Stewardship

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says Saint Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance." See Ephesians 2:10

Thank you to Chester Poskan who repaired the flag pole at Saint Agnes Cemetery and installed a new American flag. Our very grateful thanks!

Stewardship of Treasure

March 3: \$6,611; loose \$438; monthly \$985; online \$310; Accent \$33; totaling \$8,377 Our parish is grateful for your support!

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.



CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

The Spring Clean-Up at our six parish cemeteries will take place the week of March 18/22.

At this time, we need to remove old flowers and debris prior to the first cutting. Volunteers are needed!

Please remove from the graves anything that you wish to keep by March 17. Everything remaining on the graves after this date will be removed and discarded. New flowers may be placed on graves after March 22. Thank you for your help and cooperation.

Eucharistic Miracles of the World

March 15-18 at St Hugh Social Hall in Carmichaels. Come learn about the hundreds of miracles that prove the bread and wine become the actual flesh and blood of Jesus! The exhibit is free and all are welcome.

Exhibit Hours:

Friday, March 15: 9:30 am to 8:00 pm **Saturday, March 16:** 9:00 am to 9:00 pm closed for 6:00 pm Mass with Bishop Waltershied followed by talk and Blessed Carlo first-class relic

Sunday, March 17: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm closed during Mass 9:30/10:30am **Monday, March 18:** 9:30 am to 8:00 pm



Saint Joseph Parish, New Kensington ng Prayer with special presentation on Saint Joseph the r by author Mike Aquilina from the Saint Paul Center fo liblical 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

Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph with Promulgation of Bisho Kulick's Pastoral Letter dedicating the Diocese to the guardianship and protection of Saint Joseph. Join us for this livestre

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.



DioceseofGreensburg.org/StJoseph

Reserve a seat on the bus!

Welcome Spring! Tuesday, March 19.



Saturday, March 9 -- Vigil: 4th Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm-F Robert Liptock Sr. (Geri & Ed Buchheit) 6:00 pm-M Elaine Kovak (SFOA Christian Mothers)

Sunday, March 10 -- 4th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M Pro Populo

9:30 am-F Cindy Mihalko (Fabrycki Family) 11:30 am-M Tony Fugozzotto (Lisa Chatlak)

Monday, March 11 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Linda Marano (Goddtr Nadia/Joe Novotny)

Lenten Evening of Reflection with Bishop Kulick 6:00 pm at Saints Cyril & Methodius Church in Fairchance

Tuesday, March 12 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Parents (Mehalek Family)

Wednesday, March 13 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Sam Bartoni (Joe, Judy, Lori Bogozi)

5:00 pm-M Adoration

6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 14 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Louis A. Otto (Wife Patty & Otto Family)

Regional LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

6:00 pm at the FOOTEDALE Worship Site

Friday, March 15 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Frances Oravets (Caroline Marella)

11:00 am-F Adoration

12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16 -- Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm-F Joanne Kozel (Bob/Marta Nicol/Family)
6:00 pm-M Linda Lutian (Rick/Nancy Zatlokovicz)

Sunday, March 17 -- 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am-M Pro Populo

9:30 am-F William, Louise & Bill Drzazgowski (Dtrs)

11:30 am-M Clement Ryan (Family)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Question of the Week:

During Lent we call to mind our own blindness. How am I blind to God's grace in my life? How am I blind to God's work in the world and in the people in it?



The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through

Him. - John 3:14-21

In today's readings, Jesse's son David is called from his flock to serve the Lord and shepherd his people and Jesus opens the eyes of a man to the

wonders of belief in God's son. God also calls us from our ordinary work and opens our eyes through baptism to insight into His mighty works. He calls on us to believe, worship and follow the Lord Jesus, His Son. We are made new, enlightened children of the light of God and must discover what the Lord wants of us. Do we dare follow where He leads us?



Wednesday, March 13 in Masontown

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

Friday, March 15 in Footedale

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

The Diocese of Greensburg was canonically erected by Pope Pius XII on March 10, 1951.

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

+ **Sanctuary** - Diocese of Greensburg 73rd anniversary of establishment

† Blessed Mother - William, Louise & Bill Drzazgowski

requested by LuAnn & Mary Lou

Birthday Remembrance Edward & Esther Pleban requested by John & Kathy Pleban & Family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Frank Palo* requested by Ken Rosnack

† Saint Anthony - Birthday Remembrance for Elaine Kovak

requested by the surviving Volchko Sisters Marlene Salowitz, Kathy Gallis, Barbara Connor

† Sacred Heart - Rose Fidek
requested by Michael & Constance Bernot
Frank Palo
requested by Philip Berisko



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