



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.



March 17, 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.

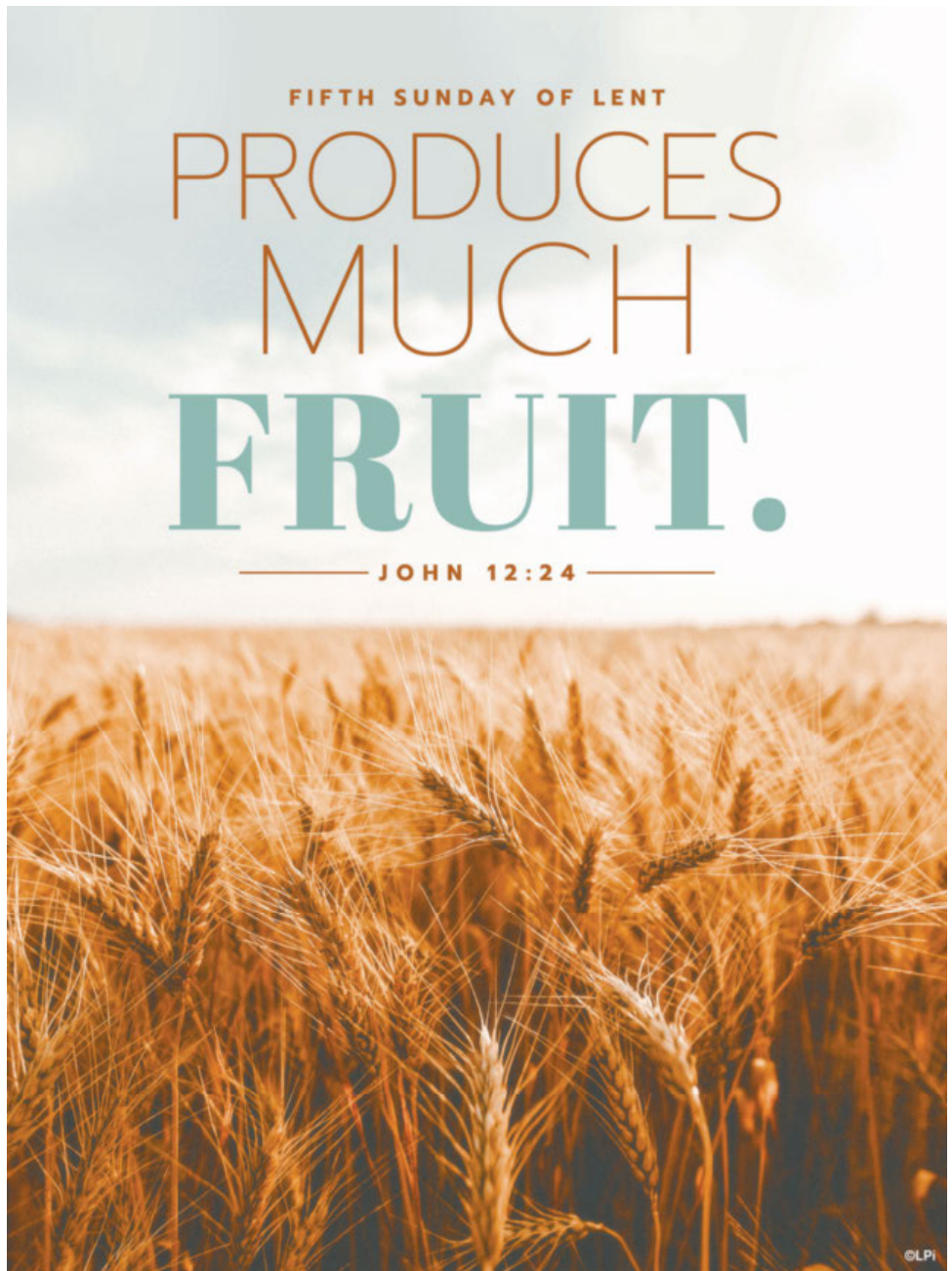
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

When I was in Grade Six, our class teacher-adviser gave us some advice that is still fresh in my mind. He said that *if we lose, we do not cry; if we win, we do not boast*. I do believe this is true because we should use our failures and defeats as vehicles to train more, to know more, to study more so that the next time we face such challenges, we may be able to handle them and win. Actually it was not my teacher-adviser who said this first but it was Jesus Christ Himself who taught us first this principle in life.

For us, Jesus lost because He died but His death is an occasion for victory in the sense that, through His death, we have been saved; through His death we have been born to eternal life. When He rose from the dead, He won against His enemies. *Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit*. In a true sense, this is what we call *dying to oneself*. Dying to oneself is something that we Christians may find hard to do. It is something that most, if not all of us, may be allergic to doing especially when we live in a world where there is pressure on all sides to replace the love of God for something lesser.

We live in a world of instant gratification and so dying to oneself is a concept that is anathema to most of us, yet this is one thing that Jesus has always been teaching us to do. This dying to oneself is what is essentially given focus and importance in today's Gospel. It does not mean that when we say, *dying to oneself*, we have to commit suicide but rather dying to oneself is like giving up oneself for the sake of others; serving others rather than being served.

Another message of today's gospel is also familiar to us. The message is: *Dying to oneself entails that we must give forgiveness*. For example, even when a vehicle driver cut us off and leaves us steaming in anger, choose to be merciful. Not just because it's the right thing to do, but also so that we won't keep ourselves stuck in a wormhole of anger and bitterness. Let us choose to forgive, choose to give mercy, as we are also pardoned on the Cross. To be good Christians, we must give. What are those things that we must give? If you can still remember the three T's, these are the things that we must give and share. That all of us are recipients of so many things. We have three T's we always receive everyday.

The first T is Time. We are given time. All of us are given twenty four hours a day whether we are poor or rich, aged or young. Some of our time is used for work, family and friends but do we have enough time for prayer and reflection, attending Mass and for God?

The second T is Talent. All of us have at least one talent. Yes it is true that some people are more blessed with many talents but all of us have talents. I'm sure all of us know how to listen; how to clap our hands. Every time we clap our hands we give encouragement and joy to those who have none.

The third T is Treasure. All of us have treasures. All of us have at least something. This something doesn't have to be money, it can be unused clothes, a dress that we don't wear anymore, a song that you can share with others to cheer them up. The bottom line is, we are recipients of something ... but, there are another two T's and the are:

The fourth T is Tears. Many of us are recipients of Tears. Sometimes, other people cause us to shed a tear because of a painful circumstance. For example, we are hurt; we are abused. Our tears can be a blessing to others, too.

The fifth T is Talk. The ability to communicate can be a very big blessing because, if we know how to talk, we may be able to share our life story. If we have a story to share, we have to tell it so that it will touch other people's hearts. We don't need audible words if we want to talk, we can communicate even through our facial expressions, the tone of our voice and our presence and so during this season of Lent, let us die to oneself - especially to our pride and selfishness - and be good Christians by becoming giving Christians.

The first reading, taken from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah, explains how God will replace the Old Covenant of Judgment with a New Covenant of Forgiveness of sins. This New or Renewed Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah was fulfilled, at least in part, through Jesus' life, death and Resurrection. In the second reading, St. Paul tells the Hebrews that it is by Jesus' suffering and death, in obedience to his Father's will, that Jesus established the New Covenant. Using metaphors of the "sown wheat grain" and the "spent life" in today's Gospel, and finally, the "lifting up" of Jesus on the cross and later into Heavenly glory by His Resurrection and Ascension is the assurance of our own exaltation and glorification, provided we accept our crosses. That is dying to oneself.

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 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

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



From the Diocese of Greensburg Saint Joseph Pilgrimage - March 19

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.

Saint Joseph: Protector of the Eucharistic Lord will be presented on Tuesday, **March 19**, 6:00 pm at **Saint Joseph Parish, Uniontown**. All are welcome!

The Catholic Accent TV Show, Receive and Share

Sundays, **March 17** and **March 25**, at 11:30 am on WPXI Channel 11. This edition, reminds us of Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes and how disciples of Christ throughout the Diocese are sharing what they have received. See how Ukrainian refugees are making new lives and careers because of the generosity of many through the Diocesan Ukrainian Relocation Project. Rather than accept declining participation in the Church, Bishop Kulick seeks support in finding new ways of engaging activities/experiences designed to form disciples who will respond to the needs of our people ... and two men being honored at the *Catholic Charities Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner* will be introduced.

Sacramental Celebrations at Saint Francis of Assisi



Congratulations to Kennedy Ann Magerko, daughter of Jacob & Courtney (Swenglish) Magerko who was baptized last Saturday, March 9, in the presence of her godparents Clay Swenglish & Katie Schuessler. Welcome to the newest member of our Parish Family ♥

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Anna Jean Stuchal on the death of her mother, *Agnes DiGregorio Sopko*. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

The Third Scrutiny

Jesus Raises Lazarus - John 11:1-45

As we celebrate the final scrutiny and approach the holiest week of the year, we face a fundamental choice. We can live as we are used to or we can choose to live in the spirit of Christ, with the Holy Spirit giving new life by dwelling in us and guiding us to the One who gives eternal life. Let us use this opportunity to look into our hearts to find the attitudes, habits, and drives that bind us to our mortal, sinful selves and resolve to break these "burial bands."

How can I help loosen the bonds that keep someone else prevented from pursuing new life?

Can I see myself taking the initiative to do this?

LENTEN FISH DINNERS



The **Christian Mothers** will host the **final Lenten Fish Dinner** - which includes a **BAKE SALE** - this Friday, **March 22**, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at the social hall in Footedale. Eat in or take out. **This week's homemade side dish is haluski.** To place an order, please call 724-245-2932.

Baked Goods are needed for the final fish dinner. Please consider helping the Christian Mothers by donating a favorite baked item.

The **Knights of Columbus** will host their **final Lenten Fish Fry** at the cafeteria in Masontown Friday, **March 22**, 10am to 5pm. Dine in or take out. To place an order, call 724-583-8210 or 724-970-4624.



With Mass next Sunday evening, we enter **Holy Week**. **Next Sunday is Palm Sunday**, a day to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Are we moved to enter into the holiest of all weeks, the most sacred of days, the time of reconciliation? So that we might be forgiven, we must first look at those who have sinned against us and embrace them with tears of forgiveness.

† Holy Week and Easter Schedule †

Holy Thursday - 10:00 am the *Chrism Mass* is celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
Mass of the Lord's Supper
6:00 pm at both worship sites

Good Friday - *Good Friday Liturgy*
3:00 pm at both worship sites

Holy Saturday - *Blessing of Easter Food Baskets*
11:00 am in Masontown; 12:00 pm in Footedale

Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 pm in Footedale

Easter Sunday Masses - 8:00 am in Masontown;
9:30 am in Footedale; 11:30 am in Masontown

Easter Flower Memorials: Please use the Easter Flower Offering envelope from your packets to list the names of those you wish to remember in prayer throughout the fifty days of Easter. Funds collected are used to purchase the Easter flowers and decorations as well as the plants used to decorate the parish grounds.

Easter Offering: We rely upon your generous support every Sunday. Your love of the parish and response to its needs is evident and deeply appreciated. Please prayerfully consider your Easter gift to the parish.

Easter Publications: Copies of *The Word Among Us* (Easter edition) and the *Little White Book for Easter* will be available next weekend at both worship sites.

Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by Youth Ministry, takes place at 12:30 pm on Saturday, **March 30**, in Footedale. The group is in need of filled eggs and ask your help. If you have these items to donate, please drop them off at the church no later than March 24. Thank you!

Sarris Fundraising.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.



Our goal is to work together as a Diocese to engage entire families in a relationship with Jesus. Rather than accepting the declining participation in the Church, we need your support as we seek new ways of forming disciples that will respond to the needs of our people.



Diocese of Greensburg
Donate today at DioceseofGreensburg.org/DLA2024

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Each year we are asked to reflect upon our lives and blessings and are called to share our gifts to help the church carry out its mission by responding to the annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal. If you haven't responded, we respectfully ask you to please prayerfully consider your support of this important appeal.

To date we have received \$28,192 from 131 gifts. We have reached 57.7% of our Diocesan Target of \$48,893 and our participation is 26.7%

Thank you to all who have responded!

The Practice of Stewardship

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." In what way is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

Thank You for a donation to Saint Francis of Assisi given in memory of *Martha Jean Baron* by John Scerba & Alice Matis

Stewardship of Treasure

March 10: \$5,829; loose \$565; monthly \$2,183; children \$16; totaling \$8,593

Our parish is grateful for your support!



- Room for 600 guests allows for social distancing
- Situated on 60 picturesque acres
- Perfect for your event, big or small

400 Old Rt. 21 Rd • McClellandtown, PA 15458
Call for updates. 724-439-3111 www.lakesidevenues.com





MASS SCHEDULE

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 Zatlakovicz)

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)

**Regional Lenten Penance Service 3:00 pm
 at Saint Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington**

Monday, March 18 -- Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

8:00 am-M George Rantovich (Darlene/Walt Vicinelly)

**Regional Lenten Penance Service 6:00 pm
 at Saint Joseph Parish, Uniontown**

Tuesday, March 19 -- Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary

8:00 am-F Joseph Matyus (Michael A Lutrario Family)

Wednesday, March 20 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Clarinda Tokish (Gary & Patty Ball)
 5:00 pm-M Adoration
 6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 21 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F Richard Moncheck (Family)

**Regional Lenten Penance Service 6:00 pm
 at Saint Therese Parish, Uniontown**

Friday, March 22 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Felix Rosky (Family)
 11:00 am-F Adoration
 12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23 -- Vigil: Palm Sunday

4:00 pm-F Jama Revak (Social/Hospitality Com)
 6:00 pm-M Pro Populo

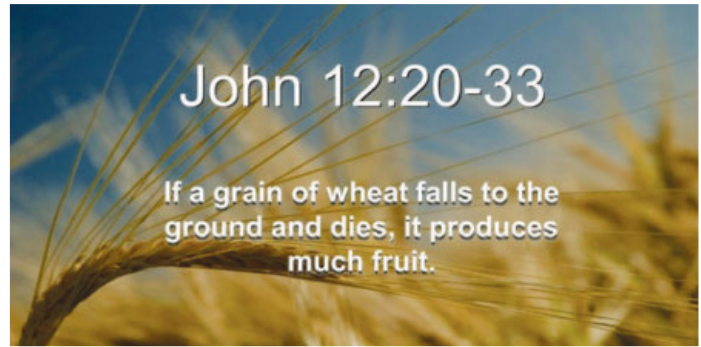
Sunday, March 24 -- Palm Sunday

8:00 am-M Irene O'Brien (Anna Horne)
 9:45 am-F Deceased Members Suba/Shuba Family
 11:30 am-M Aura Lozar (Gary & Patty Ball)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Dn 13:41-62; Jn 8:1-11
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-16; Rom 4:13-22; Mt 1:16-24
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-95; Jn 8:31-42
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
 Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 15:1-39

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



John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls to the
 ground and dies, it produces
 much fruit.

As we draw close to Holy Week, we hear Jesus talk about His approaching death yet His message to His disciples is not so much about His death as it is about eternal life. As Christians, we know that as difficult as death is, our true focus, our true hope is in eternal life, trusting that our Lord is our source of eternal salvation. During this final week before Holy Week, let us keep in mind that just as our Lenten journey will not end with Good Friday, but with Easter, so too does our own life's journey end not in death but in new life.

Jesus reminds us that the grain of wheat can never realize its potential without sacrifice. God has a plan for each one of us. May He give you strength to become who you were born to be.

**Wednesday, March 20
 in Masontown**

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

**Friday, March 22
 in Footedale**

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



**Stations
 OF THE CROSS**

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

- † **Sanctuary** - All Parishioners
- † **Blessed Mother** - Living & Deceased Members of the Masontown Senior Center requested by Caroline Marella
- † **Saint Joseph** - Joseph Matyus Jr. requested by his grandchildren
- † **Saint Anthony** - Special Intention
- † **Sacred Heart** - Wally Suba requested by daughter, Nadia



"Your Family Owned Funeral Home"
JOHN S. MAYKUTH JR.
FUNERAL HOME
 LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
724-583-8811

Marshall's
Monuments
 THE AREA'S OLDEST MONUMENT COMPANY
 50 E. FAYETTE ST., UNIONTOWN, PA 15401
438-5200

J & J MECHANICAL
 Residential Heating & Cooling
 Your Local, Authorized Lennox Dealer
 ~ 724-583-2687 ~
 201 North Main Mason Town

NICKMAN'S DRUG
 1878 McClellandtown Rd
 Masontown • 724-952-1040
FREE DELIVERY
 Store Hours:
 M-F 9-9 Sat-Sun 9-5

CROSSKEYS
 Human Services, Inc.
Serving the Elderly & Chronically Mentally Ill
785-6180

Compliments of
Kathleen Packroni
 TAX COLLECTOR
 407 N. Main St. • Masontown

BRODAK BEER
724-583-2222
CARMICHAELS BEER
724-966-1777
 Please Drink Responsibly.

DEARTH FUNERAL HOME
 New Salem, PA
 Clark B. Dearth Since 1900

STRICTLY DUCTLESS
FAYETTE FURNACE
 4 Monroe Street Uniontown, PA 15401
 Carrier turn to the experts
724-438-5400
 fayettefurnace.com

Jerry's Catering Service
"Where Our Noodle is Always A'Dente"
 Kathleen Ward Hughes, Owner
 16 Legion Street, Republic, PA 15475
724-246-8889 or 724-785-3036
 Like us on Facebook

Ralph's Garage Doors
 Sales • Service • Installation
 Doors & Parts • Electric Openers
 (724) 966-2879 **Carmichaels**

R&D
WATERS
 SEPTIC SERVICE
724-966-2477

STRICTLY DUCTLESS
FAYETTE FURNACE
 4 Monroe Street Uniontown, PA 15401
 Carrier turn to the experts
724-438-5400
 fayettefurnace.com

Uniontown Dental Associates
 7829 NATIONAL PIKE
 UNIONTOWN, PA 15401
 Telephone (724) 438-0241
 Office Hours By Appointment

compliments of
TYGART
 INDUSTRIES

BERISH
AGENCY, INC.
 Insurance - Real Estate
"Celebrating 87 Years of Service"
 1937 to 2024
 12 South Main St.
 Masontown, PA 15461
724-583-7767
 berishagency@atlanticbb.net

LaFayette Manor, Inc.
 & Beechwood Courts
 147 LaFayette Manor Road
 Uniontown, PA 15401
 — 724.430.4848 —

Ben's Auto Parts SINCE 1976
 For all your body shop supplies and mechanical needs!
 107 River Avenue • Masontown, PA 15461
 Phone: 724-583-8335 Fax: 724-583-9556 Email: bensautopa@gmail.com
 1-800-446-8335 724-583-7766

Lifetime PA150270
Awnings
 John P. Banasick - Owner
 724-554-6067
 www.lifetimeawnings.com
 Veteran Owned And Operated

WE APPRECIATE OUR ADVERTISERS!
 They allow us to print this bulletin. Thank you!

Fayette Heating & Air Conditioning
 2100 University Dr. • Uniontown
 724-439-2323 • fayetheatingac.com

SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Terravecchia-Haky
 HOME FOR FUNERALS, INC.
Family Owned & Operated
 Michael K. Sauritch SUPERVISOR John S. Terravecchia OWNER/FUNERAL DIRECTOR
724-583-7777
 www.terravecchiahakyfh.com • 515 N. Main Street • Masontown, PA 15461

EQ MUFFLER & AUTO CENTER
 COMPLETE CARBURETOR & FUEL INJECTION SERVICE
 COMPLETE BRAKE, EXHAUST & SUSPENSION SERVICE
724-439-3669
 Route 40 East • Uniontown, PA 15401

NEW SALEM MINI MART
 Fresh made Subs and Sandwiches
 724-245-7335 • 88 West Main St., New Salem
 www.newsalemminimart.com

LAKESIDE VENUES
 Your Event Specialist
 • Room for 600 guests allows for social distancing
 • Situated on 60 picturesque acres
 • Perfect for your event, big or small
 400 Old Rt. 21 Rd • McClellandtown, PA 15458
 Call for updates. 724-439-3111 www.lakesidevenues.com

PENN PLUS, LLC
Ready Mix Concrete & Supplies
 313 State Route 166 - Masontown, PA 15461
 724-583-8844 | www.PennPlusServices.com

John M. Fabry
 CFSP, CPC,
 Funeral Director

Kish-Fabry
 Funeral Home, Inc.
 ...the compassionate professionals.

Robert T. Kish - Supervisor **John P. Duke - Supervisor**
 1 Legion Street Republic, PA 15475 O: 724.246.9466 F: 724.246.9467
 20 N. Mill St. New Salem, PA 15468 O: 724.245.9261 F: 724.245.2909
 john.fabry@verizon.net

Custom Monuments & More

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
 Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Sue Novosel
 snovosel@4LPi.com
 (800) 477-4574 x6318

SWEET PEAS
 TEXT "JOB" TO 888-62-SWEET (888-62-7338)
 Or you can visit our store at 301 North Main Street Masontown, PA 15461

NOW HIRING
 Cashier
 Maintenance
 Management
 Seasonal

Compliments Of
Dan Shimshock

KOPEC INSURANCE AGENCY
 Lud Kopec • Cristy Kopec-Frantz
 An Independent Agency Representing the Erie Insurance Group
 Erie Insurance
 211 S. Main St. • Masontown • (724) 583-2634

FAY-WEST GLASS
 VETERAN OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1992
 Installing, Repairing & Replacing Glass in Homes, Business & Industry
 724-439-8600 • www.FayWestGlass.com

Watters pools Quality Inground & Above Ground Pools
 1564 E. Roy Furman Hwy. • Carmichaels
724-966-2040

PATTERSON'S AUTOMOTIVE
 354 Ronco Rd. • Masontown
724-322-2403
 Complete automotive repair services.

Knights of Columbus #4261
 Masontown, PA
 Charity, Unity, Fraternity, Patriotism
 New Members Welcome! 724-583-8210

TRI-COUNTY HVAC

TRANE Sales • Service Installations
 -FREE ESTIMATES-

Call Terry or Tyler 724-785-7171