



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

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.



**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.

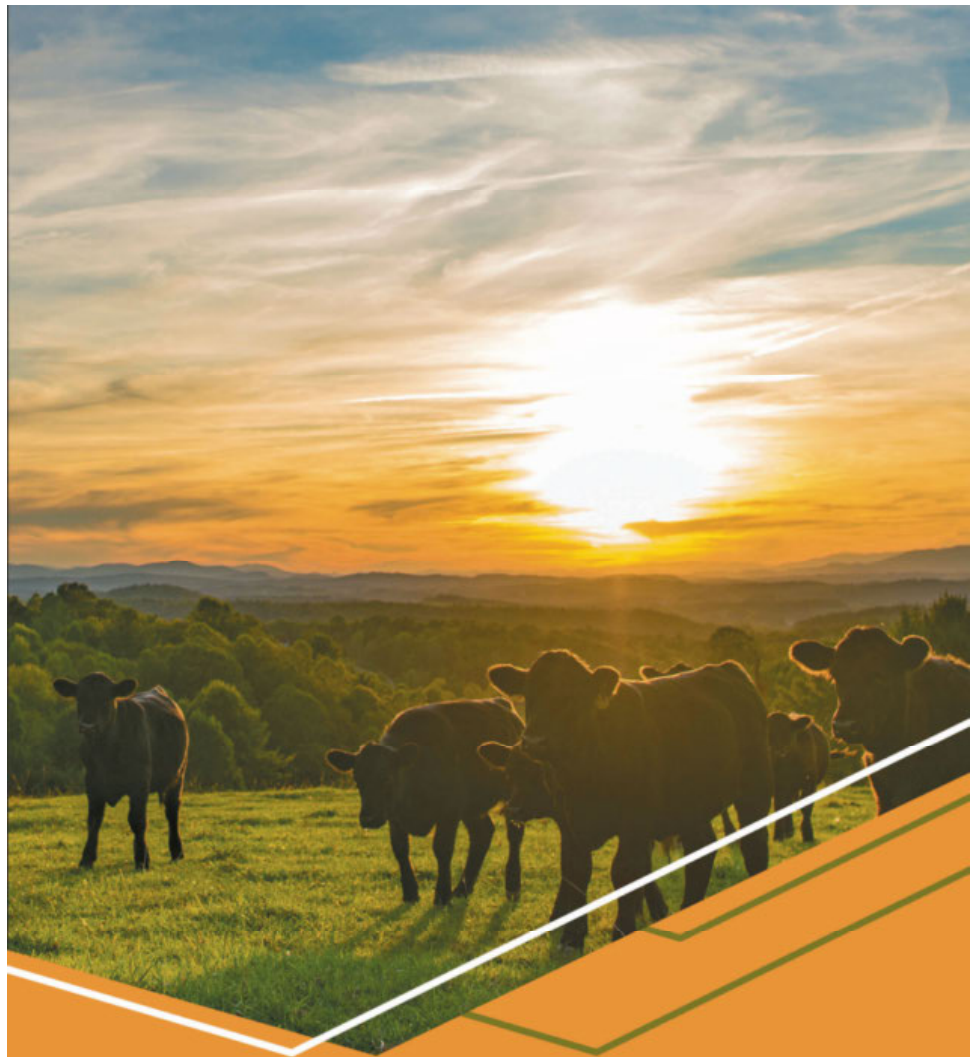
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

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

March 3, 2024



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

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



Today's readings from Holy Scripture teach us that Lent is the ideal time to clean out the Temple of our own hearts and to offer to God proper Divine worship by obeying the Ten Commandments. They also teach us that our New Covenant with God demands that we should keep our parish Church holy and our Divine worship vibrant by our active participation in the liturgy with hearts cleansed by repentance and holy by allowing the Holy Spirit to control our hearts and lives. In today's Gospel Jesus cleansed the temple of those who had turned His Father's house into a marketplace. Jesus, using a whip made out of cords, drove out the money changers and sellers of sheep, oxen, and doves. Jesus could not stomach the disrespect and sinful activities happening in the very place where people from all over around Israel should be praying and offering sacrifices.

Jesus was a good Jew. He knew His faith. At the same time, He knew His mission. He did not like what He saw in the temple. The temple is composed of the main sanctuary where only the priests can enter. It is the Holy of Holies. Next outside is a court where only male Israelite Jews could enter and pray. Then, another court is connected to it where Israelite men and women Jews can enter. The last court is the court of the Gentiles. There, foreigner Jews may enter and pray; however, maybe with the permission of the temple leaders, moneychangers and vendors were allowed in in order to facilitate the exchange of the Roman coin, which is the prevailing currency, to the local currency, and availability of animals for sacrificial offerings. It was impractical for travelers to carry their offerings. Thus, they buy their offerings in the temple.

But what specifically angered Jesus? It was not because of the business of money changing. It was a legitimate business. In fact, it helped facilitate buying and selling in the temple area. It would have been difficult for foreigners to fulfill their sacrificial offering if there were no moneychangers; however, the moneychangers were guilty of taking advantage of the foreigners. They gave a lower exchange than what was prevailing. Who knows, some foreigners may have even been victims of being short changed. Nor was vending considered a crime. They provided great convenience for travelers who preferred not to bring their own animals for the sacrifice but there were some who charged the travelers with extravagant prices. They knew the importance of those animals for the travelers. They simply took advantage of the situation.

Greed dominated the money changers and the animal sellers. Greed right in the temple area was unacceptable for Jesus. Sin has no place in His father's House but there was something more which Jesus was angry of. That court of the Gentiles should be a place of prayer for those who had come from far away places. Instead, it deprived them of an opportunity to adore God intimately and make an offering pleasing and acceptable to Him. Jesus could not stand what He saw and could not wait. He took the opportunity to reveal more of Himself and His mission of salvation.

Today's first reading teaches us that the Ten Commandments are the basis of our religious and spiritual life. Instead of restricting our freedom, the Commandments really help us to love and respect our God and our neighbors. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 19) depicts the Mosaic Law's life-enhancing attributes: it refreshes the soul and rejoices the heart; it is pure and true, more precious than gold. The second reading reminds us that we must appreciate the Divine "foolishness" of the crucified Christ and obey His commandment of love as our expression of Divine worship.

Later, Jesus will continue His mission of cleaning temples. His death and resurrection gained salvation once and for all. Let us remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, body and soul, because the Spirit of God dwells in us; hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, or jealousy. Let us be cleansed by asking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us love our parish Church as our "Father's house" and use it: Let us make our Church, our "Heavenly Father's house" a holier place by our active participation in the liturgy, by offering our time and talents in the various ministries and by our financial support for its maintenance and development. Only in a heart filled with love and a life of obedience to God can we offer a worship acceptable to the Father. In short, a gift of ourselves to Him.

(Meditation based on today's Gospel, John 2:13-25)



First Reconciliation - Congratulations to the children of our parish who received the sacrament of God's love and mercy for the first time last Saturday. Please keep them in prayer as they journey toward their first reception of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday, April 27. God bless them!

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

The annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal takes place during Lent and provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our blessings and our need to help the church carry out its mission. As a parish, we could not survive without the presence of the Diocese. We all need to be aware of our responsibility to support the Church of Greensburg. Please prayerfully consider a gift to this year's appeal.

Thank you to those who made early returns!



Lenten Meditation - *The Path to Freedom*

God is the one who brings us out of slavery. Following God's law or commands is our path to freedom. The moneychangers whom Jesus drove from the temple were not explicitly breaking any of the commandments but neither were they helping people to find God's path to freedom as they came to worship at the temple.

This is an important Lenten lesson for us. We need to stop asking ourselves whether or not we are breaking specific rules or regulations and instead examine our lives to see if we are truly following a path to God's freedom through Christ.

Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick for Lenten Evenings of Reflection

Monday, March 11 - 6:00 pm

SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Fairchance

Topic: *"Everyone Who Believes in Him May Have Eternal Life"*

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.

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



Girl Scout Cookie Sale
after all Masses **this weekend**
Hosted by the Masontown Girl Scouts
the cookies are \$6 per box.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



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The Practice of Stewardship

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Thank you to Dave & Cindy Madison for a donation to Saint Francis Parish given in memory of Fr. Peretti.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 25: \$5,630; loose \$519; monthly \$339; children \$5; online \$520; totaling \$7,013
Our parish is grateful for your support!

Paper Products to share with our local food banks are being collected this weekend. Thank you for your support of those who will benefit from your gift.

Faith Formation and Youth Ministry are sponsoring **Basket Raffles** during the Lenten Fish Dinners at **both sites**. If you wish to help them by donating a basket, it can be delivered to the Parish Office in Masontown or to the Social Hall in Footedale.

Baked Goods will be needed for the final fish dinner (March 22) in Footedale. Please consider helping the Christian Mothers by donating a favorite baked item.



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.

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, Unlontown
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 \$25 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, 2800 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

MASS SCHEDULE

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

4:00 pm-F *Pro Populo*
6:00 pm-M Ann Valusek (Rick/Nancy Zatlakovicz)

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)

Monday, March 4 -- Saint Casimir

8:00 am-M Bonnie Groves (Vicki/Gene Zvolenski)

Tuesday, March 5 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-F *Vernie Borytsky (Michael/Constance Bernot)*

Wednesday, March 6 -- Lenten Weekday

8:00 am-M Frank Blasinsky (Wife, Mary Ann)
5:00 pm-M Adoration
6:00 pm-M Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 7 -- Saints Perpetua & Felicity

8:00 am-F *Donald A. Handley (Henry J Bozak Family)*

Friday, March 8 -- Saint John of God

8:00 am-M Dolores McKenna (Rick/Nancy Zatlakovicz)
11:00 am-F Adoration
12:00 pm-F Stations of the Cross

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

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F *Robert Liptock Sr. (Geri & Ed Buchheit)*
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
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)

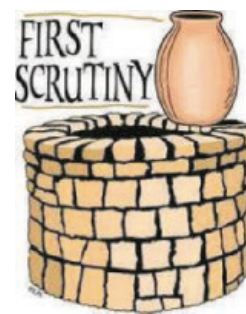
Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn 3:25-43; Mt 18:21-25
Wednesday: Dt 4:1-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33



Coffee and Donuts
will be available after all Masses
this Sunday. Please join us!

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



Today we celebrate the first scrutiny with those who are preparing to be baptized at Easter. It is an opportunity for all of us to scrutinize our lives, to identify our weaknesses and failings and to look to the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength. In baptism we received the holy Spirit but we also received the living water that we hear Jesus offer to the woman at the well in today's Gospel. Let us give thanks to the Lord for this living water, which promises to satisfy our every thirst.

Question of the Week: How can I share the water that brings me life with someone else? With whom can I break a barrier to satisfy their thirst?

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 6, in Masontown

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

Friday, March 8, in Footedale

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



Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 10. Remember to turn your clocks AHEAD one hour before retiring next Saturday!

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

- † **Blessed Mother** - *Vernie Borytsky* requested by Michael & Constance Bernot
- † **Saint Joseph** - *Donald A. Handley* requested by Henry J. Bozak Family
- † **Saint Anthony** - *Josephine Yash* requested by her family
- † **Sacred Heart** - *Bonnie Groves* requested by Vicki & Gene Zvolenski



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