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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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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.



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.

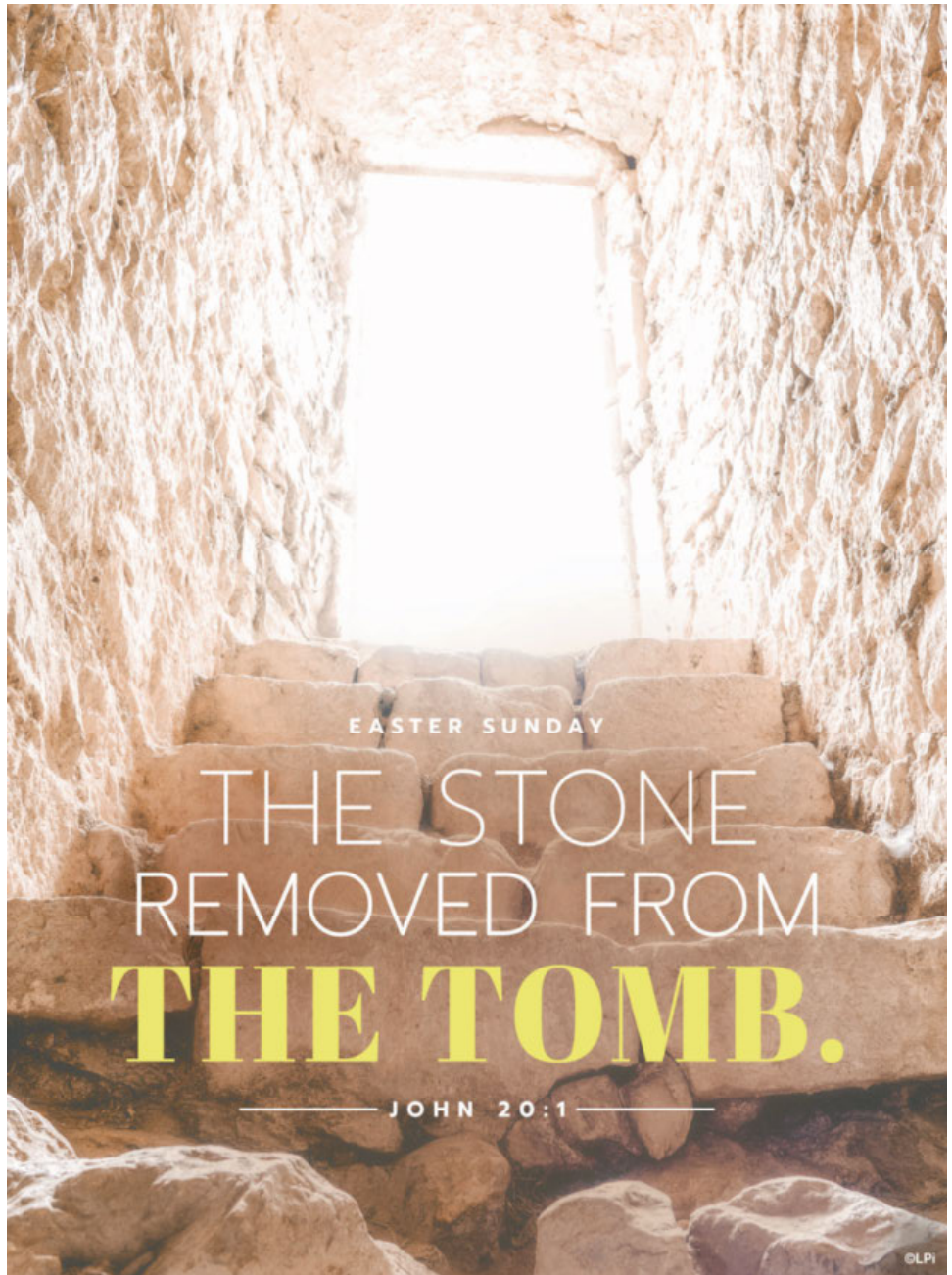
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

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

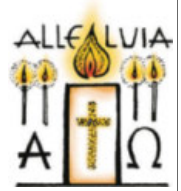
March 31, 2024



Thoughts from Father Anthony - Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

**THE EMPTY TOMB: The Lord is Risen alleluia, alleluia!**

We greet each other today, “**Happy Easter!**” We have celebrated the three most important days of our faith. It climaxed with the celebration of the Easter Vigil, an anticipation of the resurrection of the Lord from the dead. We imagine the joy of the risen Lord who, from becoming one like us, fulfilling His ministry, suffering at the hands of the Romans and His fellow Jews, and dying a most humiliating and extreme death, rose from the dead and put death to death! He gained eternal life for us out of His obedience to the Father’s will and trust in His Father’s love.



In today’s Gospel Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning and found the stone removed from the tomb. She went to Peter and John, the beloved disciple, who went with her and found the tomb to be empty. They were worried and sad. They did not only lose Jesus through death, but even His body was taken away from them. All that was left were His burial cloths and an empty tomb. No doubt, the empty tomb helped them understand what Jesus said before about His resurrection. At most, it was circumstantial evidence which was unreliable. In other words, our faith in the resurrection does not rest on an empty tomb. The resurrection is a matter of faith. Either you believe, or you don’t, empty tomb or no empty tomb but what about the EMPTY TOMB? Three things we can learn from it in relation to our faith.

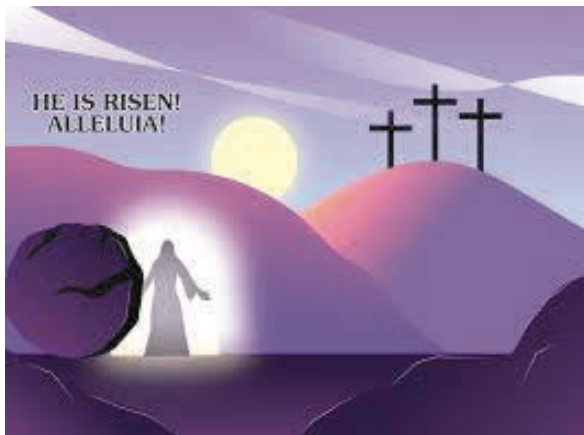
First, it tells us that the tomb is not our final destiny. Death is not the end of life. Jesus, the way, the truth, and the LIFE, does not belong to the tomb. He is way more than the tomb. The tomb is not for the living. Death is part of life. Thus, Jesus did not remain in the tomb. In the same way, we should see our lives journeying to life eternal through death. When we die, we will be placed in a tomb, a vault, or anywhere here on earth but we will not be there forever. Our remains or ashes will stay, but our soul will “empty the tomb” because we do not belong to the tomb.

Second, it tells us that the tomb is too limited for Jesus. Any tomb, for that matter, no matter how big, will be empty for the Lord. Jesus’ power cannot be contained by the tomb. It cannot hold Jesus’ capacity, potential, and Spirit. He is the Lord of all - all creation, the universe, and everything above and under. He is everywhere, omnipresent, and available always. He is here with us. He is there with them. He is with all of us everywhere, anywhere, anytime, and every time. An empty tomb will burst trying to hold the Lord.

Finally, Jesus is out of the empty tomb to be with our emptied hearts! While the empty tomb could not hold our Lord, He is willing to be in our hearts but we must empty our hearts of anything sinful. Jesus, Himself, emptied Himself of divinity to become one like us. In Greek it is called “kenosis.” A most humble act for the purpose of saving us from our sins. Peter, in the Gospel, asked, “. . . we don’t know where they put him.” We will never know the answer to that question but we can know where He can go. To any heart empty of unholiness, Jesus will surely enter and be found. He emptied a tomb so He can fill an empty heart. The next time we see an empty tomb, remember that the Lord did not stay there so that He can stay with us.

Today, the Lord is risen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia. It means death is not the end but a beginning. Life is changed. May this message of hope inspire us to be courageous enough to face our world because we believe. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, “Why can’t we build structures like this anymore?” Her friend answered, “The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions and you can’t build a cathedral with opinions.” Therefore we need faith to build a church. Easter is a message of faith and hope. Let us build a church by giving ourselves. **Happy Easter!!!**

Meditation based on today’s Gospel - (John 20:1-9)



THE SEASON OF EASTER

Our Easter celebration lasts *fifty days*, during which Resurrection joy should overflow the hearts of believers to refresh a parched and weary world with the revivifying waters of faith, hope and charity.

All season, at every Sunday Mass, we read Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*, charting the young church's Spirit-led journey, sometimes peaceful, sometimes persecuted, beset by enemies without and turmoil within, but this young church is always moving onward, from Jerusalem's familiarity to the strangeness of every place between there and Rome; and outward, from an inherited Judaism's comfortable uniformity to the Gentile world's challenging diversity.

A week after Easter, **Divine Mercy Sunday** invites us to renew our personal relationship with Jesus. On the **Third Sunday of Easter**, the disciples at Emmaus recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread and return to share the Good News even as modern-day disciples should. On **Good Shepherd Sunday**, the church prays for priestly and religious vocations. All the while, *Acts* shows people drawn to the early Church because they had seen the Risen Jesus not in person, but in persons, in disciples who still form Christ's living Body, the Church.

Each of us is likewise called to be the kind of disciple, personally and in communion with our brothers and sisters, in whom those who seek Jesus may at least glimpse His presence.

The month of APRIL is the month of the Blessed Sacrament. The faithful acknowledge and adore Jesus, true God and true Man, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament under the appearances of bread and wine. In this Sacrament, He perpetuates His sacrifice on Calvary.

During the month of April, please pray with Pope Francis **for the role of women.** We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



From the Diocese of Greensburg

“With joy and thanksgiving to God, the Diocese of Greensburg announces that Bishop Larry J. Kulick, JCL, has called **Deacons Craig Alexander, David Slusarick, and John Torres** to the responsibility of the Presbyterate. The priesthood ordination will be celebrated on **June 1, 2024**, at 10:00 am in **Blessed Sacrament Cathedral** in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.”

Please continue to pray for these future priests as they journey toward ordination and please pray *daily* for an increase in religious vocations.

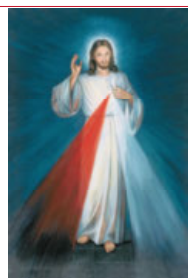


MUSIC NOTES 🎵

Cantors Needed! Our parish is in need of additional Cantors at both worship sites. The primary role of the Cantor is to proclaim the Responsorial Psalm from the Ambo. Secondly, the cantor may facilitate the singing of the congregation in the various responses any hymns at Mass, especially when no choir is present. The main requirements are a pleasant singing voice and a reverent comfort level in the Sanctuary. It is not required to be a member of the choir to be a cantor. The ability to read music is helpful but not required. Training will be provided and rehearsals are available. Cantors are encouraged to serve at both worship sites.

Choir Members Needed! We are also in need of additional choir members at both worship sites. The main requirement is a pleasant singing voice to blend with the group and the desire to praise God in song. Even if you've never participated in a singing group, whether in church, school or the community, please prayerfully consider whether the Holy Spirit may be calling you to join this Ministry. Rehearsals alternate on Wednesday or Thursday evenings between worship sites.

For more information on either of these opportunities, please contact Eric after Mass or by email at eblanda@dioceseofgreensburg.org



On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7
The Sacrament of Reconciliation
will be offered in Masontown
from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
All are welcome!
Jesus I trust in You!



New Edition of The Catholic Accent TV Show

The Catholic Accent TV Show, Receive and Share, is always on at TheAccentOnline.org. On this edition of *The Catholic Accent*, we are reminded of Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes and how disciples of Christ, throughout the Diocese of Greensburg, are sharing what they have received.

See how Ukrainian refugees are making new lives and careers because of the generosity of many through the Diocese of Greensburg Ukrainian Relocation Project.

Rather than accepting the declining participation in the Church, Bishop Larry J. Kulick is seeking support to find new ways of engaging activities and experiences designed to form disciples who will respond to the needs of our people.

And ... we introduce you to the two men who are being honored at the Catholic Charities Communities of Salt and Light Award Dinner next month.



Aid Catholic Charities
Ukrainian Refugee Relocation Efforts

Catholic Charities continues to serve the most needy among us with direct assistance, counseling and outreach programs, including Ukrainian refugees displaced by war. Your contribution to the Diocesan Lenten Appeal funds these important missions.



Diocese of Greensburg

Donate today at DioceseofGreensburg.org/DLA2024

Save the Date - 2024 Diocesan Pilgrimage

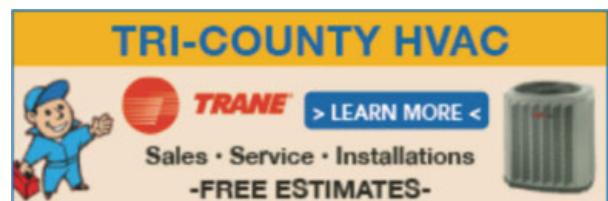
Mark your calendar and plan to join in a Diocese of Greensburg pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Saturday, **September 21**, led by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. This will be the first Diocesan pilgrimage to our magnificent National Shrine since 2006 and is sure to be a very holy and special experience. Information on the itinerary, transportation options and cost will be announced soon.

Saint Vincent Concert Series

The Saint Vincent Concert Series presents the *IonSound Project* - a concert of innovative contemporary chamber music for clarinet, piano and cello. The concert is on Sunday, **April 28**, 7pm in the Saint Vincent College Performing Arts Center which is located in the Robert S. Carey Student Center. Admission is free.

Magnificat Breakfast April 27

The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat - A Ministry to Catholic Women - will hold a breakfast on Saturday, **April 27**, 9am/Noon at Rizzo's Banquet Hall, Crabtree. Guest speaker, Evelina Sluga, will discuss her spiritual journey back to God and the Catholic Church after losing her faith in middle school and beginning a self-destructive spiral. Cost is \$25; registration deadline is April 18. Register by calling Brenda at 724-836-2094 online at MagnificatGreensburg.com



MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, March 30 -- The Vigil of Easter

8:00 pm-F All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, March 31 -- The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 am-M All Living & Deceased Parishioners

9:45 am-F All Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:30 am-M All Living & Deceased Parishioners

Monday, April 1 -- Monday in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M George Rantovich (Terravecchia Family)

Tuesday, April 2 -- Tuesday in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am-F Francis & Sandra Marshall (Joe/Ann Marshall)

Wednesday, April 3 -- Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M Mary Fotta (Joe & Karen Onesi)

Thursday, April 4 -- Thursday in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am-F Helen Bobak (Melvin/Debbie Apicella)

Friday, April 5 -- Friday in the Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M Mary & George Homa (Mark/Sharon Lovett)

Saturday, April 6 -- Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm-F Ann Valusek (Helen Suba)

6:00 pm-M Harry Adams (Colleen & Frank Ricco)

Sunday, April 7 -- Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

8:00 am-M Pro Populo

9:30 am-F Michael Kudra (Wife, Barbara)

11:30 am-M Robert Betchy (Caroline Marella)

1:00 to 3:00 pm Confessions in Masontown



Today we gather in joy to celebrate the holiest and most wonderful of days: Easter Sunday! Jesus, who sacrificed His life on behalf of us all, has been raised from the dead. **Alleluia!**

This is the day that gives meaning to Jesus' suffering and death and in turn, to our own. Suffering and death are not the end. Jesus has led the way to His Father for all eternity. How appropriate that we gather today for the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, we give thanks to the Lord for the ultimate sacrifice He made for our sins. In the Eucharist, we receive His Body and Blood, more closely uniting us with Him, now and eternally. Let us celebrate the Eucharist on this blessed day as we are reborn in the Lord.

Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving

Good and gracious heavenly Father, we come before You on this Easter Sunday with full and grateful hearts for the gift of the Paschal Mystery that You showed us in the life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, our brother by adoption, Jesus Christ. Bless us and all those who profess belief in Your saving love. Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in You. You are God for all. We ask all this in Christ's name. Amen.

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Acts 2:14-33; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31



ALLELUIA! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like Saint Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.



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

† **Sanctuary** - My Family: Mom, Dad, Andy & Mare - love you, miss you so much requested by Marge Jacobs

† **Blessed Mother** - Augustine Aello Sr. requested by wife Edith, children, grandchildren

Frank Palo requested by brother, Vince & niece, Danielle

† **Saint Joseph** - Special Intention

† **Saint Anthony** - In honor of grandson, Michael requested by Kay Rendina

† **Sacred Heart** - Special Intention for Lisa



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