



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

101 West Church Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania 15461

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

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



April 14, 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.

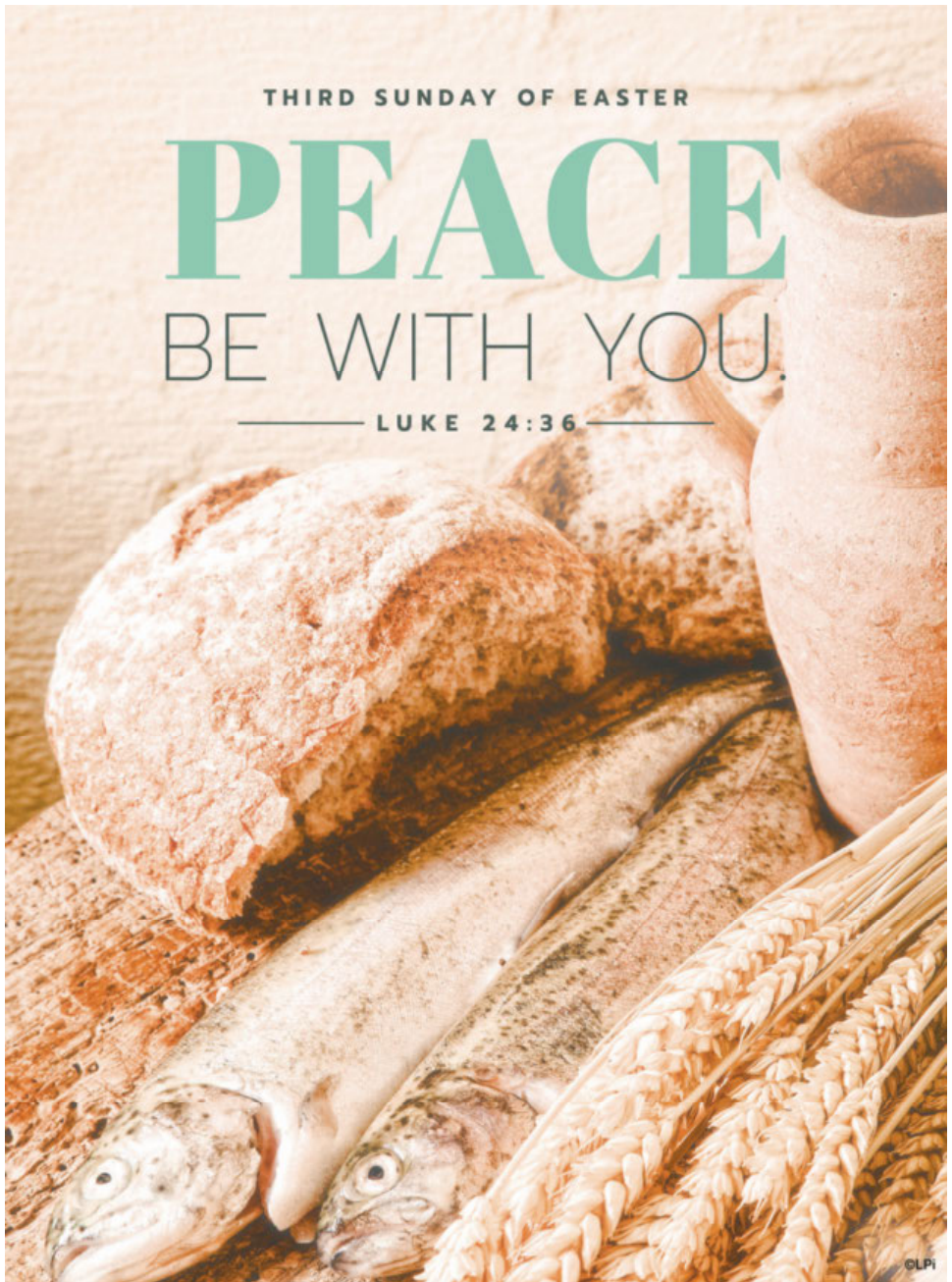
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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 - Third Sunday of Easter - Year B



Our readings today remind us that the purpose of the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus was to save us from our sins and we, the baptized, will be a living witnesses to this reality in our daily lives.

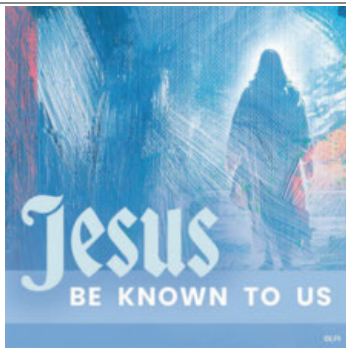
The first reading taken from the Acts of the Apostles, gives us Peter's second sermon addressing the Jewish assembly at the Portico of Solomon in Jerusalem. Peter forcefully shows how the messianic prophecies have been fulfilled in the crucified and risen Jesus and challenges the Jews to repent and turn toward God so that their sins may be wiped away. In the second reading, John answers doubts raised by the heretics of his time, asserting the fundamental Christian doctrine that Jesus' death was a sacrifice offered as expiation for our sins. Today's Gospel describes Jesus' appearance on the evening of His Resurrection to His apostles who were in the locked Upper Room, the Cenacle. We see Jesus remove the doubts of His apostles about His Resurrection by inviting them to touch Him and by eating a piece of cooked fish. Jesus explains how the prophecies have been fulfilled in Him. Then He commissions them to bear witness to Him and preach "repentance and forgiveness of sins in His Name" after receiving the Holy Spirit.

We need to share the apostles' *Upper Room Experience* in the Holy Mass: The same Jesus who, in the Upper Room - the Cenacle, prepared the disciples for their preaching and witnessing mission, is present with us in the Eucharistic celebration. In the "Liturgy of the Word" of God, Jesus speaks to us. In the "Liturgy of the Eucharist," Jesus becomes our spiritual food and drink. Thus, today's Gospel scene is repeated every Sunday on our parish altars. Like the early disciples, we come together to repent of our sins, express our gratitude for blessings received, listen to God's word, and offer our lives to God along with our petitions and His gifts of consecrated Bread and Wine. We also consume the spiritual food Jesus supplies, thus gaining the strength necessary for sharing Christ's message with the entire world, mainly by living transparent Christian lives. Jesus needs us as witnesses to continue His mission. Jesus needs Spirit-filled followers to be His eyes, ears, hands, and feet, to bear witness to His love, mercy and forgiveness by our interactions with our brothers and sisters. Our daily lives are meant to serve as a means for us to experience and share the risen Lord with others. Just as the disciples experienced the risen Lord in their community, let us learn to recognize the presence of Jesus in our own homes, social service centers, nursing facilities, hospitals, workplaces, and schools. Jesus wants us to be a community which shares and cares, a community which knows how to recognize Jesus in the poor, the marginalized, the sick that is, in everyone – and does so.

Today, we have an abundance of preachers, teachers, speakers, and opinion makers but we lack witnesses! We lack people who will show others, especially the young, that the Word of God is true, effective, and relevant. The Good News is never outdated, old or obsolete. Modernism, consumerism, atheism, or even pluralism may have become popular, but their effectivity has always been found absent. For these ideologies to be discomfit, we only need witnesses to the Gospel. The Word of God and His Deeds lasts and are always relevant. For Saint Augustine, "It is a beauty ever ancient yet ever new."

In the concrete, do not just tell your children not to tell a lie. Show them your honesty. Do not just tell them not to steal. Show them control and sacrifice. Do not just tell them to be respectful. Show them respect by how you treat them and others. Do not just tell them to pray and fear God, show them true piety and authentic religiosity. In other words, live by example and show to others our experience of the risen Lord.

Remember . . . "Action speaks louder than words."



The risen Christ appeared to the disciples and said, "Peace be with you." (Luke 24:35-48)

In today's Gospel, Jesus appears to the disciples after His resurrection. Once He made it clear to them that He really had returned, He expressed a

bit of disappointment in the fact that after all of His preaching, miracles, explanations of the prophets, the Law of Moses, and the Psalms, His own disciples still didn't seem to believe it was really Him. Finally, in verse 45, Saint Luke writes: "Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures."

Sometimes when God appears in our path, we do not recognize Him. In these moments, Jesus invites us to reach out and touch Him. Remember that Christ is real, Christ is alive, and Christ stands before each one of us - so reach out. Touch Him.

Saint Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, was the most prolific Christian missionary of all time. Due to a miraculous experience that he had on the road to Damascus, he went from persecuting early Christians to traveling all over the region preaching the Gospel of Jesus.

Remember Military Children

Every April, the American Legion Auxiliary joins the nation in recognizing the unique challenges and sacrifices of military children. These resilient individuals face frequent moves, deployments and the constant possibility of separation from a parent.

Purple Up! Day, typically held on April 15, serves as a dedicated moment to express our gratitude and raise awareness of their experience. This Monday, you are asked to wear PURPLE and say a prayer for the safety of our military families, especially their children. Thank you!



Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of † **John F. Marmol, Sr.** who was buried Wednesday, April 10, † **Elaine Theresa (Bartoni) Rockwell** who was buried Friday, April 12.

May God grant to them eternal life and comfort their families. May they rest in peace.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Gloria Magerko on the recent death of her sister, *Lillian (Hager) Marks*. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

FIRST EUCHARIST

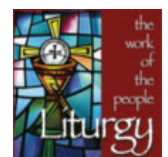
The season of First Eucharist is here. Invitations pour in as the new communicants, mostly seven years old, gather extended families for their first reception of the Eucharist. Recently the celebrations are often on Sunday in the regular gatherings of the faith community where it becomes clear that First Eucharist is meant to initiate a regular pattern of reception and that there is to be a second, third, hundredth, and thousandth celebration.

Eastern Catholics and Orthodox children follow a different plan since they are given a taste of the consecrated wine at their baptism as infants. We Western Christians delay until "the age of reason," but many years ago, Communion was not for children at all. Twelve to fourteen was the typical age for Roman Catholics to receive for the first time and, in those days, this was a transition into the adult world of work and marriage. The custom did not begin to shift to childhood until reforms set in place by Pope Saint Pius X began to take hold in the 1920s. If you are going to a First Eucharist, you can give thanks that the table of the Lord is today open so much more lavishly than before.

First Eucharist at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish takes place at 10 am on Saturday, April 27, at the Footedale worship site. Please keep these children in your prayers.



Liturgy Commission meeting 6:00 pm Monday, April 15, at the social hall in Footedale.





Taken from his people, Daniel is exiled far from home in the powerful kingdom of Babylon. Now this faithful servant must navigate his new life inside a palace filled with golden statues and shifting empires. As royal pressures mount, Daniel is faced with a dangerous choice. Will his trust in the one true God remain steadfast through every test of faith? From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, DANIEL is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres.

Our parish will sponsor a trip to see a performance of DANIEL at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster on Tuesday, **July 9**. Cost of \$195 per person includes bus transportation, show ticket and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord. **Reservations with payment are due by June 1**; checks are payable to Budget Charter, Inc. Questions? Contact Rosemary at 724-245-8333.

Icon Workshop - "Our Lady of Tenderness"

April 26-28 - 3pm Friday until 4:00 pm Sunday presented by Marylyn Barone. Offering \$350; commuters \$325 (materials included). Registration is limited to 15; reservations are due by April 19. Call 724-438-7149 or email: hpmsm@verizon.net

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.

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.

The Practice of Stewardship

The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we, too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

Thank you for a memorial donation given to Saint Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery in memory of *Frank Palo* by Raymond P. Berisko

Stewardship of Treasure

April 7: \$6,677; loose \$723; monthly \$1,025; Easter (additional) \$940; online \$525; totaling \$9,879

Our parish is grateful for your support!



To date we have received **\$41,032 in pledges from 214 gifts**; we have reached **83.9% of our diocesan target** and our participation is **43.7%**.

Thank you to all who have responded! If you haven't made a gift, we respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider your support of this important campaign.

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.

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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, April 13 -- Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm-F *Sylvia Marie (Carrick) Fedor-Volek*
 6:00 pm-M *Michael A. Zumerling (Wife, Irene/Family)*

Sunday, April 14 -- 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M *Pro Populo*
 9:30 am-F *Marge Czuchan (Jim/Marie Komara)*
 11:30 am-M *Owen & Ethel McGinity (Oppman Family)*

Monday, April 15 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-M *Tom Bilconish (Paul Sirilla)*

Tuesday, April 16 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-F *Veronica & Peter Mullen (Grandson, Kevin)*

Wednesday, April 17 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-M *William J. Berish Sr. (Dave/Vicki Berish)*

Thursday, April 18 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-F *Frank Smith (Brothers & Sisters)*

Friday, April 19 -- Easter Weekday

8:00 am-M *M/M Nicholas Holowich/Family (Janis)*
 4:30-5:30 pm-M *Adoration & Confessions*

Saturday, April 20 -- Vigil: 4th Sunday of Easter

3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Dominick & Valeria Galluzzo - 50th Anniv*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M *Confessions*
 6:00 pm-M *Agnes DiGregorio Sopko (Dtr Anna Stuchal)*

Sunday, April 21 -- 4th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M *John & Donna Chatlak (Lisa Chatlak)*
 9:30 am-F *Ann (Radovich)Palaisa (Vincent Palaisa)*
 11:30 am-M *Pro Populo*

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Jn 6:30-35
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69
 Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18



Question of the Week:

How do I sense Jesus' presence in my life?
 When do I feel a sense of peace in my heart?



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 19, in Masontown

4:30-5:30 pm: Adoration & Confessions
 5:30-5:45 pm: Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 5:45-6:00 pm: Benediction



During the Easter season, we hear how the disciples encounter the Risen Christ at different times and in different ways, all the while trying to understand the meaning of the Resurrection. We, too, contemplate the implications of the Resurrection and consider how we see the Risen Lord in our lives. It helps us to gather as Church, where we can seek the presence of Christ as we worship: in the assembly, in its ministers, in the word of God, in the Holy Sacrifice, and in the Eucharist. Let us pray that we may better discern the Lord in our midst.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that we are taught that our faculties make us capable of "coming to a knowledge of the existence of a personal God." If we are ever to be able to form a personal relationship with God, it was necessary to give us both the revelation (in His Son Jesus Christ) and the capacity to welcome this revelation in faith. (CCC 35) If even Jesus' disciples had trouble understanding their faith, we know how much better we must work to preserve it.

The resurrected Jesus taught the disciples how they were witnesses to the Scriptures being fulfilled in His suffering, death, and resurrection and that forgiveness of sins was to be preached in His Name. How might you share your faith this week at home or at work?

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

† **Sanctuary** - *Elaine (Bartoni) Rockwell* requested by the All Saints School Family

† **Blessed Mother** - *Mary Ann Suba* requested by A.J., Craig, Denise, Caden & Cole

† **Saint Joseph** - *Scott John* requested by the SFOA Parish Family

† **Sacred Heart** - *Deceased Members of the Parish & Richnafsky Families* requested by Mary Anne Hritz



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