



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.



April 28, 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.

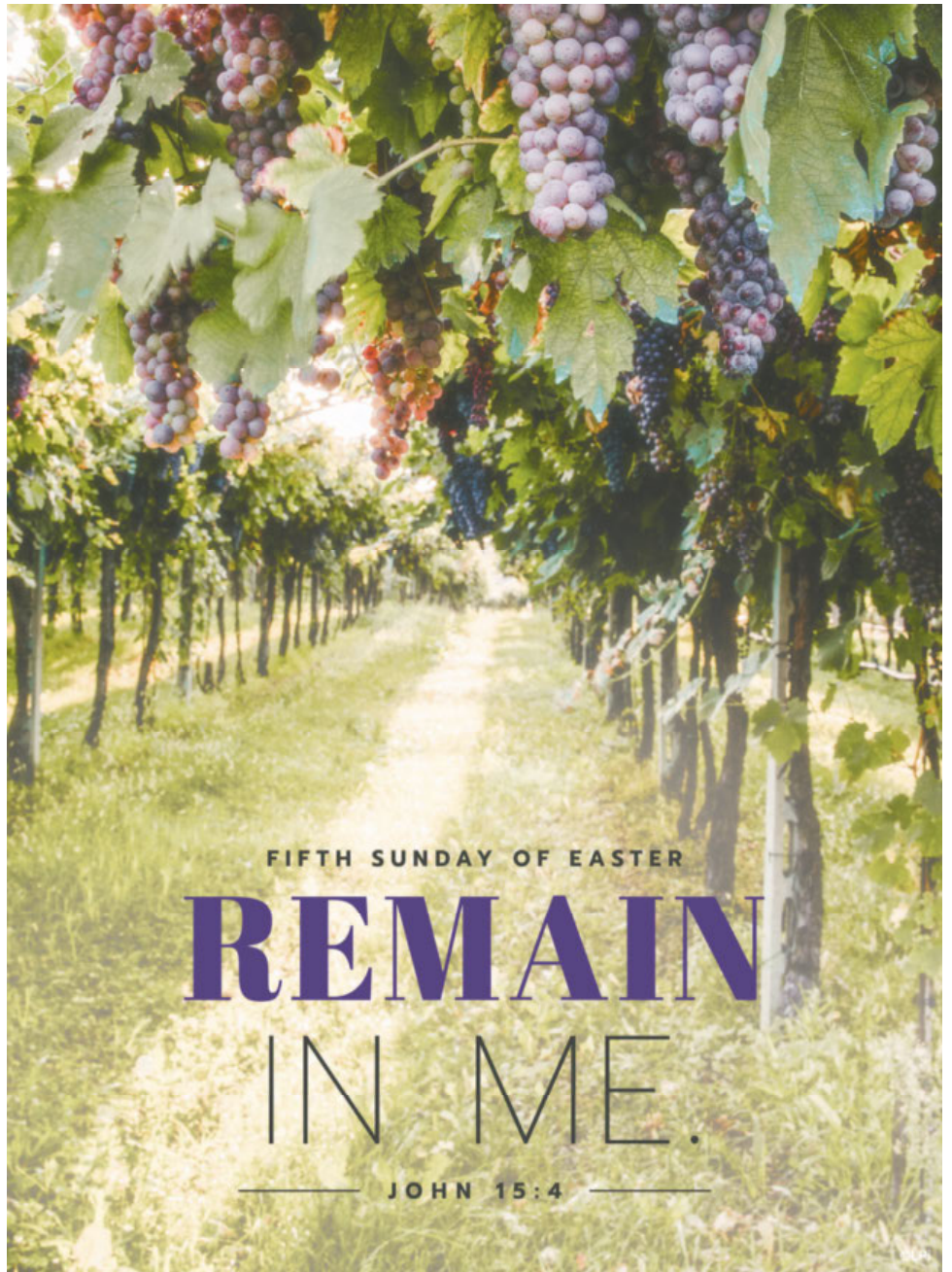
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

REMAIN IN ME.

JOHN 15:4

Thoughts from Father Anthony - **Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year B****The Vine and the Branches**

Somebody once compared a Christian to a basketball player. “To be a good player,” he said, “it is not enough that you know how to dribble or avoid getting fouls. What matters most is to be able to shoot, to make points and to be productive.” Today’s gospel brings us a narrative in which Jesus conveys His teaching symbolically. Jesus draws us the picture of the vine and the branches.

Jesus said: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.” What Jesus wants to teach us in today’s gospel is the extreme necessity for us to remain. Now what does “to remain in Christ,” mean? “To remain in Christ,” means:

First is to listen to Him and keep His words. Actually, we can refuse to listen to Him at all or we can listen to Him and then render Him lip service unsupported by any good deed. We can accept Him as Lord and then abandon Him in the midst of difficulties and temptations or attribute all of our difficulties and temptations to Him.

Second is to recognize that Christ alone is the real Vine and that without Him we can do nothing of value for God.

Third is to live in the Church which is the Mystical Body of Christ. In accordance with the statement of Saint Cyprian that “He cannot have God for his/her father who has not the Church for his/her mother.”

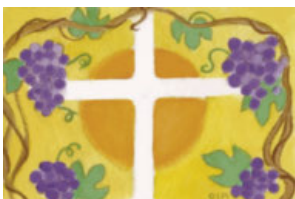
Fourth is to see God in all persons and things - even in our enemies and those things that we don’t like. Just like the woman who paid the toll fees of the five cars behind her, maybe because the saying “Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty” influenced her.

Fifth is to have an active sacramental and prayer life. Do we pray always? Do we regularly go to Mass on Sunday? Do we avail ourselves of the sacrament of Confession? Maybe let us make a list of how many hours we pray; how many hours we spend for work, friends and family and by doing that, we may be able to rate something of ourselves. How about if we spend just a few minutes talking about the word of God instead of talking less about nothing?

Lastly is to be convinced that there is a need to prune the structures, methods, approaches, and others that have become old and obsolete in order to give way to new ones which in turn will themselves grow old, and to remain always with the everlasting - Christ who Himself is the vine.

Let us reflect upon all of these things, my dear friends, to see if our lives remain always in Jesus Christ who is the vine.

Meditation based on today’s Gospel, John 15:1-8



Every Christian is a vine awaiting the loving attention of our gardener to prune and perfect us, to remove the parts of ourselves that are dead so that the fruitful parts burst forth with life. Trust the wisdom of the gardener. He alone can make us bloom.



Baptism Congratulations to **Olivia Marie Cifarelli**, daughter of Christopher and Elise (Mudery) Cifarelli, who was Baptized on Sunday, April 14, in the presence of her godparents, Daniel Cifarelli and Kerstin Mudery. Welcome to the newest member of our Parish Family!

Faith Formation

End of Year Bowling Party

Friday, **May 3**, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Fairbank Bowling Center

Thank you to our Youth Ministry for hosting this annual event.



Rosary Walk and May Crowning
Sunday, **May 5**, 2:00 pm in Footedale

Please join us as we celebrate this special occasion in honor of our Blessed Mother Mary!

Refreshments will follow in the social hall.

HONORING OUR 2024 GRADUATES

We wish to honor the high school, college/schools of higher education graduates of our parish at the 9:30 am Mass on **Sunday, May 19**. Brunch for the graduates and their immediate families will follow. Along with a special blessing, we wish to honor our graduates by displaying their photo and a short bio in the sanctuary.

High School Graduates: please submit your photo, school of graduation and future plans/further education.

Higher Education Graduates: please submit your photo, school of graduation, degree.

To help us prepare, we ask that you please submit this information to the Parish Office **no later than May 5**.

We are really looking forward to celebrating this important milestone with you!

The Practice of Stewardship

The good steward lives the advice of Saint John - loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.



Thank you for the following donations

to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish:
in memory of **Elaine Rockwell**
by Cindy Nichols and Renee & Jerry Bendo
in memory of **Lillian (Hager) Marks**
by Colette Freiberg

Stewardship of Treasure

April 21: \$5,619; loose \$636; monthly \$391; children \$10; online \$885; totaling \$7,541

We also collected \$1,739 for the **Care of our Cemeteries:**
OLPH \$499; Saint Thomas \$412; Saint Agnes \$333
Holy Rosary \$205; Madonna \$155; Saint Procopius \$135

Our parish is very grateful for your support!



To date we have received \$41,807 in pledges from 221 gifts. We have reached 85.5% of our Diocesan target and our parish participation is 45.1%.

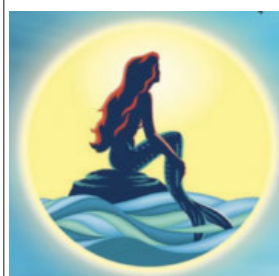
Many grateful thanks to all who have participated!

To those who have not yet made a gift, we respectfully ask that you help us to reach our target by prayerfully considering a gift to this important annual appeal.

Our parish will sponsor a trip to see a performance of **DANIEL** at the Sight and Sound Theatre in Lancaster Tuesday, **July 9**.

Cost of \$195 per person includes bus transportation, show ticket and dinner at Miller's Smorgasbord.

Reservations with payment due by June 1; checks are payable to Budget Charter, Inc. Contact Rosemary 724-245-8333.



Geibel Catholic

Junior-Senior High School proudly presents **The Little Mermaid**

Saturday, April 27 at 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 28 at 2:00 pm
Connellsville Area High School
201 Falcon Drive, Connellsville

Reserved Seating - Ticket Information - 724-628-5600

May is a month devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary



Mary is the spiritual mother of the human race to whom all men are called to venerate and to be consecrated.

As the Mother of God and the refuge of sinners, she can obtain for all the grace of salvation.

Honoring Mary - Create a May altar in your home. A beautiful statue or art work of Mary should be the centerpiece. Placing fresh flowers and herbs, as well as candles and a Rosary, help express devotion and give honor to Mama Mary. **Most importantly, please make the Rosary part of your daily devotions.**

During the month of May, please pray with Pope Francis **for the formation of men and women religious, and seminarians.** Let us pray that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, that leads them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance, designated by the United States Congress and held on the first Thursday of May, that invites people of all faiths to pray for our nation. This special observance stands as a day that continues the decision-making process of our country's founding fathers which used the morals learned from biblical lessons in difficult situations. The theme is: **Lift up the Word - Light up the World** Please pray for our nation in a special way this day.

Community Poppy Days

Members of the New Salem American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 753, will be distributing poppies to the community on May 1-3 at the New Salem Mini Mart. The poppy is the official flower of the ALA and are made by hospitalized and disabled veterans. All donations received are used for veterans, military personnel and their families. ALA members are asking local residents to stop by and support and honor our veterans by "Wearing a Poppy." Thank you!

Congratulations to **Harper Schuessler**, our young parishioner, who has been selected as the 2024 "Miss Poppy." Harper is the daughter of Mark & Katie Schuessler.



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Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

It is our task as Christians in the workplace to do what we can to create and preserve jobs. Let us rejoice and give thanks for our jobs and pray that all the unemployed may be blessed with favorable employment.



On Wednesday, May 1, the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate Mass at 11:45am at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral as part of the dedication of the Diocese of Greensburg to the protection and guardianship of Saint Joseph.

The Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocese You Tube Channel and Facebook Page.

In his Pastoral Letter, *"Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth,"* Bishop Kulick dedicated the Diocese of Greensburg to the patronage of Saint Joseph for the Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission in 2024, the Jubilee Year of 2025, and the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Greensburg in 2026. The faithful from around the Diocese are invited to participate in the May 1st Mass.



ASCENSION THURSDAY, MAY 9

Masses for this Holy Day of Obligation will be celebrated at **Noon** in Footedale and at **6:00 pm** in Masontown

CONFIRMATION - Thursday, May 23

Please pray for the five candidates of our parish who will be confirmed by Bishop Kulick at Saint Joseph Church in Uniontown this day.



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SUNDAY, APRIL 28 * 3pm
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MONDAY, APRIL 29 * 7pm
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SUNDAY, MAY 5 * 3pm
TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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MONDAY, MAY 6 * 7pm
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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, April 27 -- Vigil: 5th Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm-F Betty Weido (Ed & Dorothy Mohar)
6:00 pm-M Pro Populo

Sunday, April 28 -- 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M John & Anne H. Kundrick (Janis)
9:30 am-F Walter Suba Jr. (Nadia & Joe)
11:30 am-M Jerry Solomon (Caroline Marella)

Monday, April 29 -- Saint Catherine of Siena

8:00 am-M George Rantovich (John & Karen Vittone)

Tuesday, April 30 -- Saint Pius V

8:00 am-F James Sullivan (Wife, Louise Sullivan)

Wednesday, May 1 -- Saint Joseph the Worker

8:00 am-M Debbie Pepe (Pam Vicinelly & Family)

Thursday, May 2 -- St Athanasius / National Day of Prayer

8:00 am-F Fr. Peter Peretti (MaryLou/Charles Taylor)

Friday, May 3 -- Saints Philip & James

8:00 am-M William & Stella Raho (Bill Raho)
4:30-6:00 pm-M Adoration & Confessions

Saturday, May 4 -- Vigil: 6th Sunday of Easter

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
4:00 pm-F Adam & Elizabeth Freiberg (Daughters)
5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
6:00 pm-M Spec/Int of Gina Encompela (K Rendina)

Sunday, May 5 -- 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M Pro Populo
9:30 am-F Joanne Kozel (Edward Warnick Family)
11:30 am-M Donna Parish (Paul & Bonnie Cassidy)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:9-11; Jn 15:9-11
Friday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Jn 14:6-14
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-48; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17



Question of the Week:

How will I bear fruit this week ... at home,
at work or school, and in my community.

Congratulations to Dominick & Valeria Galluzzo

who celebrated their 50th Wedding
Anniversary with Mass last Saturday.
May God bless them with many more
happy and healthy years!



"I am the vine, you are the branches," we hear Jesus tell His disciples in today's Gospel. We are those branches now. Connected to the vine that is the Lord, we are expected to bear fruit. What fruit do we bear? Let us contemplate that question as we prepare to celebrate Mass today. May listening to God's word and sharing in the Eucharist nourish us as we strive to bear good fruit for the Lord.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that God speaks to us through symbols and signs. The world around us shows that everything is connected, nothing is separate - light and darkness, wind and fire, water and earth, even the very vines that Jesus spoke of. (CCC 1147)

The Church encourages devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Such devotion through visits, adoration, signs of respect through kneeling, genuflection and making the Sign of the Cross as one passes a Catholic Church all acknowledge the sublime presence of the Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament.



Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, May 3, in Masontown

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

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

† **Sanctuary - Special Intention**

† **Blessed Mother - Debbie Pepe**
requested by Pam Vicinelly & Family

† **Saint Joseph - Barry F. Novasky**
requested by wife, Sheila

Steve Wallace

requested by daughter, Maureen & Family

† **Saint Anthony - Birthday Remembrance**
for Anthony Mackowiak
requested by his niece, Carletta



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