



Saint Francis of Assisi of Western Fayette County

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*

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



April 7, 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.

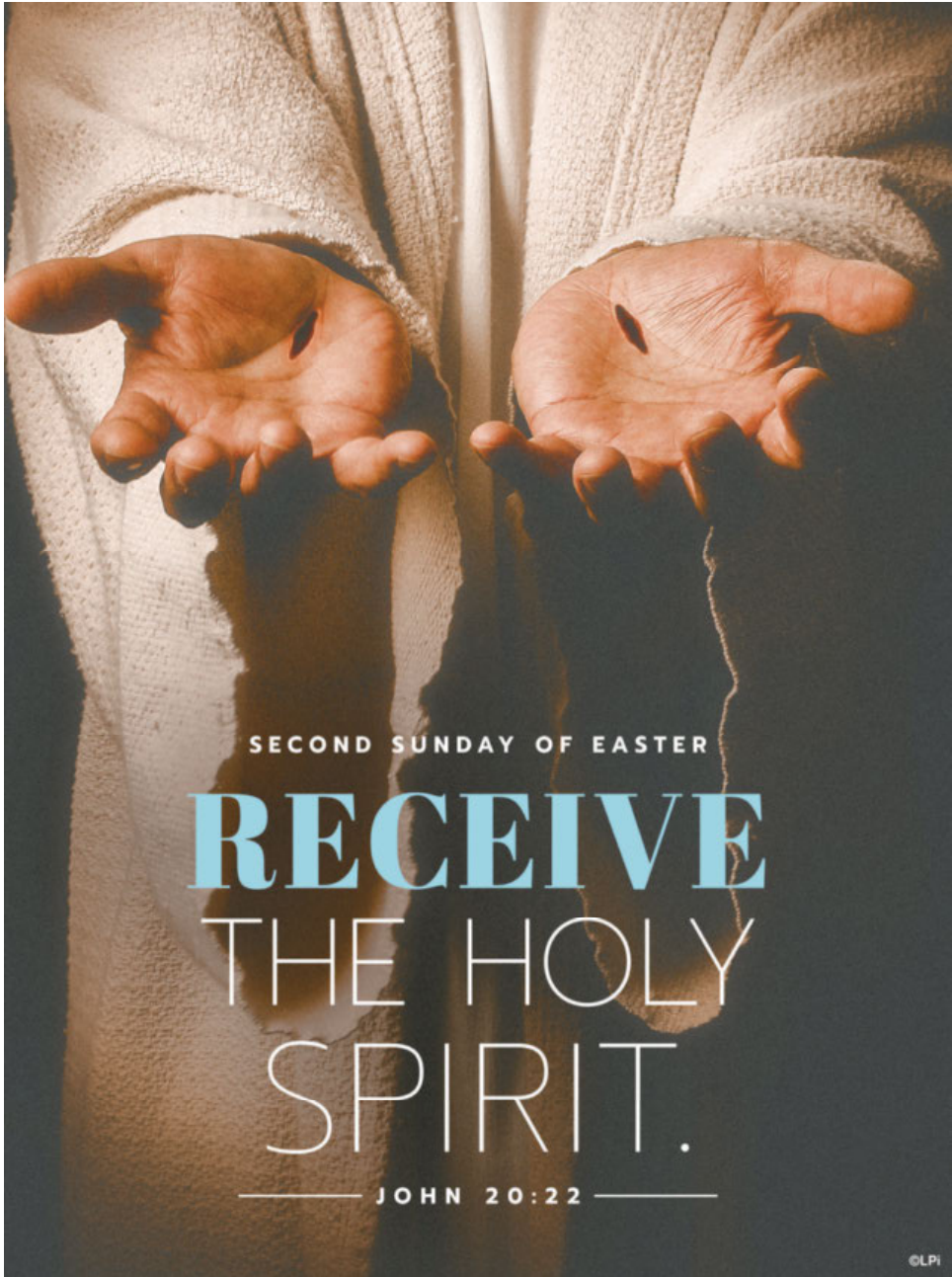
Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

RECEIVE

THE HOLY
SPIRIT.

JOHN 20:22



Thoughts from Father Anthony - Second Sunday of Easter - Year B

Divine Mercy Sunday

If you are called up to a place and blindfolded and a bucket full of water is placed in front of you, you are asked if it was empty or full. What are ways you can learn the answer to such an inquiry without removing the blindfold? Accordingly, there are three ways we can learn to answer such a question: One way is to reach into the bucket and feel if there is water in it. In other words, you can experience firsthand if the bucket is full or empty. This way of learning is called experiencing. It's knowledge that we acquire by firsthand experience. This way of acquiring knowledge is called experiencing. It's knowledge that our senses give us.

The second way of learning if the bucket has water or has none is to drop an object like a coin, into it. If the object hits the bottom of the bucket with a loud or ringing sound, you know the bucket is empty. On the other hand, if the object hits with a slurp or a splash, you know the bucket contains water. This way of acquiring knowledge is called reasoning. A third way to learn if the bucket contains water is to ask someone you trust. The person could look into the bucket and tell you if it has water in it. This way of learning is called believing. It's knowledge that we acquire by faith. But of the three ways of acquiring knowledge, that is, by experiencing, reasoning and believing, by which way do we learn most of our knowledge? Is it by experiencing, by reasoning or by believing? If we said believing, then you and I are correct. It is because some experts estimate that we learn as much as 80 percent of our knowledge in this way. Few of us travelled around the world. The only way we know about most countries is by what others tell us. In other words, we trust the people who have been there.

Today is Second Sunday of Easter. The Second Sunday of Easter is called the Day of the Doubting Thomas. It is because every year during this Sunday, the gospel being used is about Thomas who doubts that the Lord is raised from the dead. He doubts this fact. It is because when the other apostles report to him that the Lord is risen and they have seen him, he said that unless he sees the mark of the nails in His hands and puts his finger into the nail marks and put his hands into His side, he will not believe (v. 25). His way of acquiring knowledge is that of experiencing. Ours is different in acquiring religious knowledge. It is by way of believing. It is because most of our religious knowledge about Jesus comes from what the Scriptures and early Christians had said and we believe in them. ***"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."***

The first reading, taken from Acts, stresses the corporal acts of mercy practiced by the early Christian community before the Jews and the Romans started persecuting them. The second reading, taken from John's first Letter, deals with practicing both corporal and spiritual works of mercy by obeying God's Old Testament commandments and focusing on Jesus' commandment of loving others as He loves us, with selfless, sacrificial, agape love. Loving others as Jesus loves us also demands that we treat others with God's mercy and compassion.

Today's Gospel vividly reminds us of how Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament of Divine Mercy. The Risen Lord gave his apostles the power to forgive sins with the words, ***"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."*** (Jn 20:19-23) Presenting the doubting Thomas' famous profession of Faith, ***"My Lord and my God,"*** (Jn 20:28) the Gospel illustrates how Jesus showed Divine Mercy to the doubting apostle and emphasizes the importance of Faith.

We need to accept God's invitation to celebrate and practice mercy in our Christian lives. One way the Church celebrates God's mercy throughout the year is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Finding time for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is another good way to receive and give thanks for Divine Mercy but it is mainly through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that we practice mercy in our daily lives and become eligible for God's merciful judgment. Let us ask God for the Faith that culminates in self-surrender to God and that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. Living Faith enables us to see the risen Lord in everyone and gives us the willingness to render to each one our loving service.

The spiritual Fathers prescribe the following traditional means to grow in the living and dynamic faith of St. Thomas the Apostle: **First**, we must come to know Jesus personally and intimately by our daily and meditative reading of the Bible. **Next**, we must strengthen our Faith through our personal and community prayer. **Third**, we must share in the Divine Life of Jesus by frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa) presents it this way: ***"If we pray, we will believe; if we believe, we will love; if we love, we will serve. Only then we put our love of God into action."*** **Believing is doing.**

DIVINE MERCY

Saint John Paul II named the Second Sunday of Easter *Sunday of Divine Mercy* in response to Saint Faustina Kowalska’s Divine Mercy devotion, which offered spiritual comfort to hearts worldwide. Pope Francis challenges us to make the comfort that we receive a gift we gladly share, saying that because mercy was first shown to us, we are therefore called to show mercy ourselves. The clearest expression of merciful love, says Francis, is pardoning others. He acknowledges how difficult it can be to forgive sometimes but, if we are to achieve peace in our hearts, pardon is the tool that has been put into our very fallible hands.

The necessary condition for living joyfully? We must let go of anger, hatred, revenge and violence. A tall order in a world seemingly bent on the destruction of every peaceful impulse. May Divine Mercy Sunday remind us that Jesus made mercy our life’s ideal and a criterion for our faith’s credibility: “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” - Matthew 5:7

Question of the Week:

In what way do I notice the gift of God’s mercy today? To whom do I need to extend mercy?



BINGO - Sunday, April 14 - 1:00 to 5:00 pm at the cafeteria in Masontown. Admission of \$7.00 includes lunch. To help us plan, please use the sign-up sheets at the church entrances to indicate you will attend. During the Bingo, we will collect items for “Fixin Pets” a local animal shelter. If you bring an item to donate, you will receive five extra tickets for the basket raffle. Items needed include: dry & canned food, litter, dog beds or blankets, food bowls, toys, used towels/sheets. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

With great joy we welcome Tom Robbins who was fully initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil through the reception of the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Congratulations and may God bless him! Many grateful thanks to our RCIA team for helping him to prepare to receive these sacraments.



Thank you to our Youth Ministry for hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt for our young parishioners. Thank you to all who donated the eggs that the bunny distributed.



Holy Week and Easter 2024





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.

Mount Saint Macrina House of Prayer Programs

Tuesday Morning Reading Series

"Living in An Icon" **April 9, 16, 23 & 30** - 10/11:30 am
Presented by Sr. Barbara Jean, OSBM
Offering \$20 per session; Registration due April 2

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 online at MagnificatGreensburg.com

The Practice of Stewardship

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. Saint Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

Thank you to the Youth Ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish for hosting the Easter Egg Hunt and to all who donated the filled eggs.

Thank you to all who participated in the Prayer Partner Exchange. Let us always pray for each other!

Thank you to all who remembered their loved ones with a memorial donation toward the Easter flowers and decorations. The envelopes, listing your intentions, will remain on the altar throughout the Easter Season.

Thank you to the Decorating Committees (indoors and outdoors) who made our worship sites beautiful for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Thank you to those who served - choir, lectors, altar servers, special ministers of the Eucharist, greeters, ushers, sacristans, parishioners - all who helped Father Anthony to celebrate beautiful Masses.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for their Easter gift of \$100.00 to the Church.

Thank you for your participation at the Masses and for your generous support of our Parish. God bless you!

Stewardship of Treasure

Holy Thursday \$1,395; Good Friday \$1,614; Easter \$15,620; children \$40; weekly \$3,590; monthly \$450; loose \$1,479; online \$370; total \$24,558 / Easter Flowers \$3,012

Our parish is very grateful for your generous support! May the Risen Lord bless you!!

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.

Never Miss a Bulletin! Sign up to have our weekly bulletin emailed to you at www.parishesonline.com

MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

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 -- 2nd 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
3:00 pm-M Chaplet of the Divine Mercy 

Monday, April 8 -- Annunciation of the Lord
 8:00 am-M No Mass

Tuesday, April 9 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-F No Mass

Wednesday, April 10 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-M No Mass

Thursday, April 11 -- Saint Stanislaus
 8:00 am-F No Mass

Friday, April 12 -- Easter Weekday
 8:00 am-M No Mass

Saturday, April 13 -- Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Easter
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Sylvia Marie (Carrick) Fedor-Volek*
 5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions
 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)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
 Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-19; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48



On Divine Mercy Sunday (April 7) **the Sacrament of Reconciliation** will be offered in Masontown from 1:00 to 3:00 pm and the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** will be prayed at 3:00 pm. Please join us!

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



Still basking in the glory of Easter, today we celebrate God's unparalleled mercy. Out of mercy for all of us, Jesus died on the cross, atoning for our sins, past, present, and future. Out of those whose faith is weak or doubt is strong, Jesus comes to reassure us of His eternal presence. Out of mercy for those who cannot see Him, Jesus blesses them in their faith. This Easter season, let us rejoice, for the risen Lord is in our midst, forever bestowing God's divine mercy upon us.

We find unfathomable mercy and everlasting love in the wounds of Christ - even when we are skeptical, even when we carry doubt. God meets us there in the confusion. He reaches for our hand and places them at His side. We just have to call His name.

“Blessed are those who have not yet seen and have believed.” Do you believe easily or do you sometimes doubt that God is with you? Ask for Saint Thomas' intercession as you bring your concerns to God. Imagine yourself in the upper room, seeing the risen Jesus and receiving the peace He offers you.

The Fifty Days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one “great Sunday.” - *St. Athanasius, Epistula festalis*

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

† **Sanctuary** - All Parishioners

† **Blessed Mother** - *Thomas Pevarnik* requested by daughter Priscilla Michalik

Mike & Betty Olesh requested by their family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Rev. Andrew J. Charnoki* Birthday Remembrance



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