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.

Very Rev. Anthony J. Klimko, VF
Administrator Pro-Tem
aklimko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Rev. Teo Cortezano
Parochial Vicar
tcortezano@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown
Monday, Wednesday, Friday ..8:00 am
Saturday .....6:00 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 & Thursday .....8:00 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.

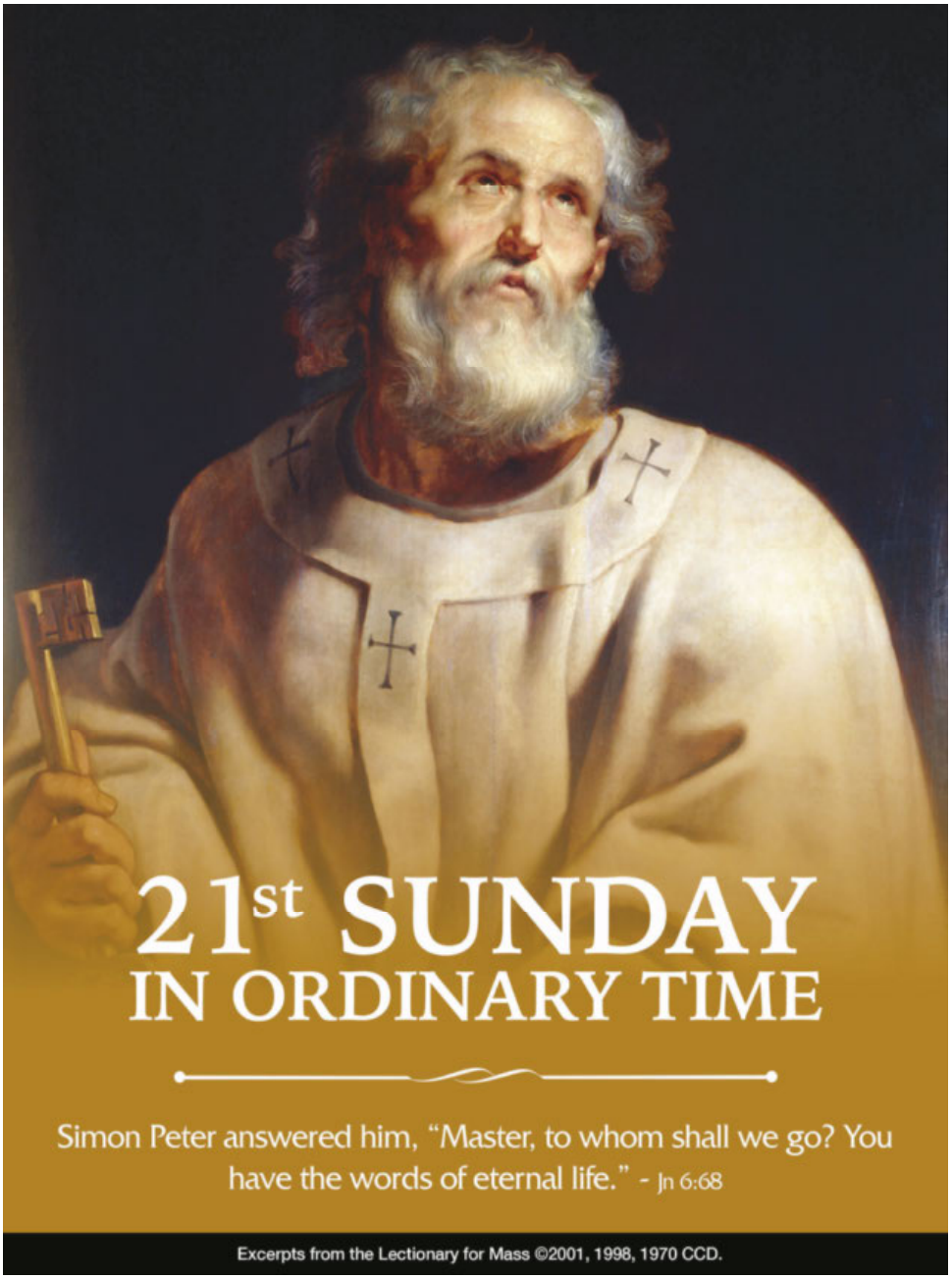
Communion to the Homebound is provided on a regular basis. Call the Parish Office to be added to our list.

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

August 25, 2024



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

Culture most of the time dictates or influences what kind of life one must lead. American culture is pretty much different from Filipino culture. To illustrate, in American society, most of the time when a person reaches the age of eighteen, that person was given the freedom to choose to stay with their parents at home or go on living their own lives and be separated from their parent's home. But for Philippine society, we don't have a limit of age. One can stay at their parent's home up until that person can basically support himself/herself. Parents' role is to support their children even to the point of draining their financial resources. It is always being inculcated in the mind of every member of the family that for better or for worse "Family is Family".

In Jesus' time, the Jewish culture was already entrenched in the heart of every Jewish community. Believing in the Torah (the first five books of the Bible) and the Prophets is at the very center of their lives. The festivals, rituals, political ideals (like searching for a king to govern them or holding on to the truth that God had given them the promised land) and their faith in God were very much the result of that belief and this shapes the very culture and identity of the Jewish people. We heard many times about the Sadducees (elders, lawyers, rulers), the Pharisees (pious, separatist, zealous and interpreters of the laws) and the Scribes, these are the authorities that dictate much of their belief system and their way of life. Any diversion or disruption from the declared customs and laws taken or interpreted from the Torah by these authorities were considered blasphemous or sinful. Thus, when our Lord Jesus' push to correct much of the existing customs and laws and introducing radical new ideas were seen as a challenge to the established status quo and therefore, considered blasphemous or sinful punishable according to the gravity of the offense and sometimes end in death as in the case of our Lord Jesus.

This Sunday's gospel is the last part of the series of "Bread of Life discourse" by our Lord Jesus found in Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. In this gospel, we now find the challenge of our Lord to those who hear him speaking that he is the bread of life that came down from heaven. He declared, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." He challenges them to believe in Him. It is a leap of faith challenge that shakes the core of their whole being. Not just as a person, but precisely being a Jew whose culture and belief system is embedded in their whole being. Many of those who are listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it." Their predicament is real. Many turned their backs and returned to their former way of life but those who remain that took up the challenge, they found their jewel, the pearl of great price, Jesus the Holy One of God. As Simon Peter testified when he was asked, "Do you also want to leave? He answered, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

The challenge of our Lord remains for all of us in this modern time. We must not be complacent because we are already members of His church. Jesus demands true faith not membership. Our baptism is the initial grace given us by God to start our journey towards a holy life. The institution of the Holy Eucharist by our Lord Jesus is to sustain the dispensation of grace needed by us so that we can continue through life with the assurance of Divine assistance that we can gain holiness and therefore, living a holy life settles the possibility of gaining the promised eternal life a reality.

Let us all go on with our lives then with much faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever culture we live in must not be a hindrance to express our true faith in Jesus. Let us all follow the lead of Simon Peter and also express our desires to be with Jesus. LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE; WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD.

Fr. Teo's reflection based on today's Gospel, John 6:60-69

Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. - John 6:60-69

The Eucharist was never meant to be only "comfort food," something that makes us feel warm and satisfied. It is to be bread for the journey, nourishment for the task that God has set for our community and for each one of us.

In today's Gospel, it is not surprising to see some walk away, for they understood that recognizing Jesus as the Bread of Life is a commitment to change one's life.

St. Augustine, whose feast we celebrate this Wednesday, once observed that in celebrating the Eucharist, we become what we receive, the Body of Christ.

As we conclude the series of reflections in John's Gospel on Jesus as the Bread of Life, it is appropriate to think about the role that the Eucharist plays in our lives and in our parish. It is in the Eucharist that we are nourished and renew our commitment in faith to serve the Lord.

Prayerfully we wish all teachers and students, at all levels of education, our prayers and best wishes for a successful, productive, safe and happy school year!

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

The Inquiry Stage of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a time for searching, questioning, discussing and reflecting. No decision is required during this Period of Inquiry. The Rite is designed for:

† those who have never been baptized;

† those who have no Church to call their own;

† Catholics who have been baptized but have not received Confirmation or Eucharist;

† those who would like to come into full communion with the Catholic Church;

† Catholics who have strayed from their faith but would now like to be reconnected.

If you or someone you know is interested, please contact the Parish Office 724-583-7866 sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg,org

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of † **Michael A. "Mickey" Fugozzotto, Jr.** who was buried Saturday, August 17. May God grant to him eternal life and comfort his family.

The Practice of Stewardship

In today's first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God's faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." May we, too, be mindful of God's gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.
See Joshua 24:18

Stewardship of Treasure

August 18: $6,852; loose $745; monthly $382; online $455; Assumption $1,843; totaling $10,277
Our parish is grateful for your support!

The annual collection for the **Catholic University of America** and the **Catholic Schools in our Diocese** takes place today. Your gift today supports Catholic education on a national and local level.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS

Mass & Breakfast - Saturday, September 7

Mass at 9:00 am in Footedale followed by breakfast at the Hartley Inn in Carmichaels at 10:30 am. The cost is $10. If you wish to attend, please call Patty at 724-245-9746 no later than August 26.

BINGO & CASH BASH - Sunday, September 15, at the social hall in Footedale. Doors open at Noon; regular games 2pm; 20 games at $100; letter T at $250; outside edge at $750; 12 Cash Bash drawings at $200 each; grand prize $1200 plus $300 if present. Only 333 tickets sold. Donation of $40 includes 2 packages (extra packages $5 each); free food and refreshments. No admittance without a ticket. Tickets will be available at the Parish Office Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Proceeds benefit Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine

Registration is now open for the Diocesan pilgrimage to the magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on Saturday, **September 21**, led by Bishop Kulick. Parish groups and individual parishioners are encouraged to participate in what promises to be a very special experience. For information and registration, please visit www.DioceseofGreensburg.org and click on *Events*.

LABOR DAY FESTIVAL on the parish grounds in Masontown **next weekend!** Food available each day includes homemade holupki, haluski, pierogi; hot sausage and pulled pork sandwiches; expanded menu of traditional food, and baked goods.

There will be a variety of GAMES and raffles for all ages and FUN for the entire family. The popular FESTIVAL BASKETS will be available for you to take chances to win.

The Festival begins on **Saturday, August 31,** with an **outdoor POLKA MASS at 4:00 pm;** music by The Vibrations Band. Festival activities begin at 5:00 pm; Saturday's live entertainment features the **Shelley McCombie Duo** from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

The Festival will be CLOSED during Mass. No food, tickets, etc. will be available during this time. The Festival opens at 5pm (at the conclusion of Mass) until 10pm.

On **Sunday, September 1,** the Festival begins at 5:00 pm
Live entertainment on Sunday features **The Vibrations Band** from 5:30 to 9:30 pm

EVERYONE'S help is needed to make the Summer Celebration a success! There is something that everyone can do to help. If you are not physically able, then please pray for us!

Items Still Needed Include:

✔ **Cases of water** (16 oz) and **Coke & Pepsi products** (12 oz cans - regular and diet)

✔ **Theme Baskets - All Types**
Sports, movies, lottery tickets, gift cards, etc.

✔ **Baked Goods** - We need your help in supplying home baked goods for this popular stand. Pull out your favorite recipe and bring it to the Bake Sale!

If you have these items to donate, please bring them to Church (both sites) this weekend or drop them off at the Parish Office in Masontown Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Thank you!!!

VOLUNTEERS are still needed and welcomed! If you can't help out during the events, please consider helping us to prepare beforehand and/or to help us clean up afterwards. Call the Parish Office with questions and for more information. Any help you can give will be very much appreciated! Young people seeking service hours are welcome! For information, please call Karen - 724-557-3421

October Calendar Ticket

Cost of $20 per ticket gives you a chance to win $400 each day of October. Winning numbers will be determined by the PA Daily Lottery Evening Number. Tickets are available at the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

We need *everyone* to join us and to pray for good weather and for a safe and successful event!

Faith Formation begins Sunday, September 22.

Enrollment for the 2024/2025 Faith Formation year **is now open.**

Faith Formation begins with four-year olds (Pre-K) and continues through the eighth grade Confirmation Class.

The Sacrament of First Eucharist is received in the second grade; however, students must have completed one year of preparation (Faith Formation or Catholic School) prior to being admitted to the First Eucharist Class.

The Sacrament of Confirmation is received in the eighth grade; however, students must have completed the Seventh Grade Confirmation Preparation Class (Faith Formation or Catholic School) prior to being admitted to the Confirmation Class.
If this requirement is not met, the student will be placed in the first grade or seventh grade preparatory class before being admitted to the corresponding Sacramental Class.

Classes take place each Sunday from 10:30 to 11:45 am at the Footedale Worship Site

New this year is the ability to attend any Faith Formation program within our region if this time does not work. Grades K-5: Tuesdays 6:15/7:30 pm at St. Mary Nativity Parish Center; Grades K-8: Sunday mornings 10/11:30 am at SS Cyril & Methodius Annunciation Center
Indicate on the registration form the site that your child will be attending. Return the form to the Parish Office. More information will be available next week.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 24 - Vigil: 21st Sunday Ordinary Time
4:00 pm-F *Edward & Martha Baron (Sons)*
6:00 pm-M Hilda Seiaman (Louise/Joe Seiaman)

Sunday, August 25 -- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am-M Esther Pleban (Sons John, Ed & Families)
9:30 am-F *Larry & Patty Stavish 55th Anniversary*
11:30 am-M Clement Ryan (Family)

Monday, August 26 -- Weekday
8:00 am-M Richard Lemansky (Joseph/Patricia Fedor)

Tuesday, August 27 -- Saint Monica
8:00 am-F *Patti Bello 80th birthday (Michael/Donnie/Mimi)*

Wednesday, August 28 -- Saint Augustine
8:00 am-M Deceased Parish/Richnafsky Families
12:30-2:00 pm-F Adoration / Confessions

Thursday, August 29 -- Passion of St John the Baptist
8:00 am-F *John Marmol (Joe & Lisa Yezioro)*

Friday, August 30 -- Weekday
8:00 am-M Toby Maykuth (Family & Friends)

Saturday, August 31 -- Vigil: 27th Sunday Ordinary Time
No Confessions in Masontown
* **4:00 pm-M** **Outdoor Polka Mass** - Pro Populo
5-5:30 pm-F *Confessions*
* ***6:00 pm-F*** *Bill Rostich (Nadia & Joe Novotny)*

Sunday, September 1 -- 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00 am-M Joseph P. Matyus Jr. (D/M Santella)
9:30 am-F *Louise Drzazgowski (Daughters)*
11:30 am-M Amelia Frantz (Grandparents)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday:	2 Thes 1:1-12; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	2 Thes 2:1-17; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:	2 Thes 3:6-18; Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Cor 1:1-9; Mk 6:17-29
Friday:	1 Cor 1:17-25; Mk 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday:	Dt 4:1-8; Jas 1:17-27; Mk 7:1-23

*** Please Note: Change of Mass Time for Saturday August 31 only**

4:00 pm - POLKA MASS in Masontown
to begin the Festival - Music by the Vibrations

6:00 pm - Mass in Footedale

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells guests at a feast to accept their invitations with humility, to be satisfied with the lowest place at the table. We are guests at a feast today, invited by our Lord to this wonderful Eucharistic meal. We come with humility, acknowledging our imperfections and sinfulness. Jesus also tells the host to invite those who are not well-off, who cannot repay Him in kind. Our host today at this feast is Jesus, who offers His very Body and Blood for our redemption. There is no way we can truly repay Him for His generosity and mercy. Let us give thanks for His constant invitation.

Question of the Week:
Whom can I welcome into my life who is unlikely to be able to repay me and how can I do so?

Eucharistic Adoration

Wednesday, August 28, in Footedale
12:30-1:30 pm: Adoration & Confessions
1:30-1:45 pm: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
1:45-2:00 pm: Benediction

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

† **Sanctuary** - *40th Wedding Anniversary of Bob & Monica Solarchick* requested by their family

† **Blessed Mother** - *Louise Drzazgowski* requested by daughters, LuAnn & Mary Lou

80th birthday blessings for Patti Bello requested by Michael, Donnie & Mimi

† **Saint Joseph** - *Birthday Remembrance for Joe Matyus Jr.* requested by wife JoAnn

Birthday Remembrance for Louis Kopec requested by his family

† **Saint Anthony** - *70th birthday blessings for Rose Gabeletto* requested by her family

† **Sacred Heart** - *Birthday Remembrance for Charles Rohol* requested by his family

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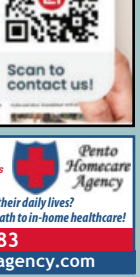

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