



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

July 4, 2021

Rev. Marlon Pates, Pastor
mpates@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ..8:00 am
Saturday4:00 pm
Sunday.....8:00 am & 11:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday8:00 am
Saturday:4:00 pm
Sunday.....9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 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.

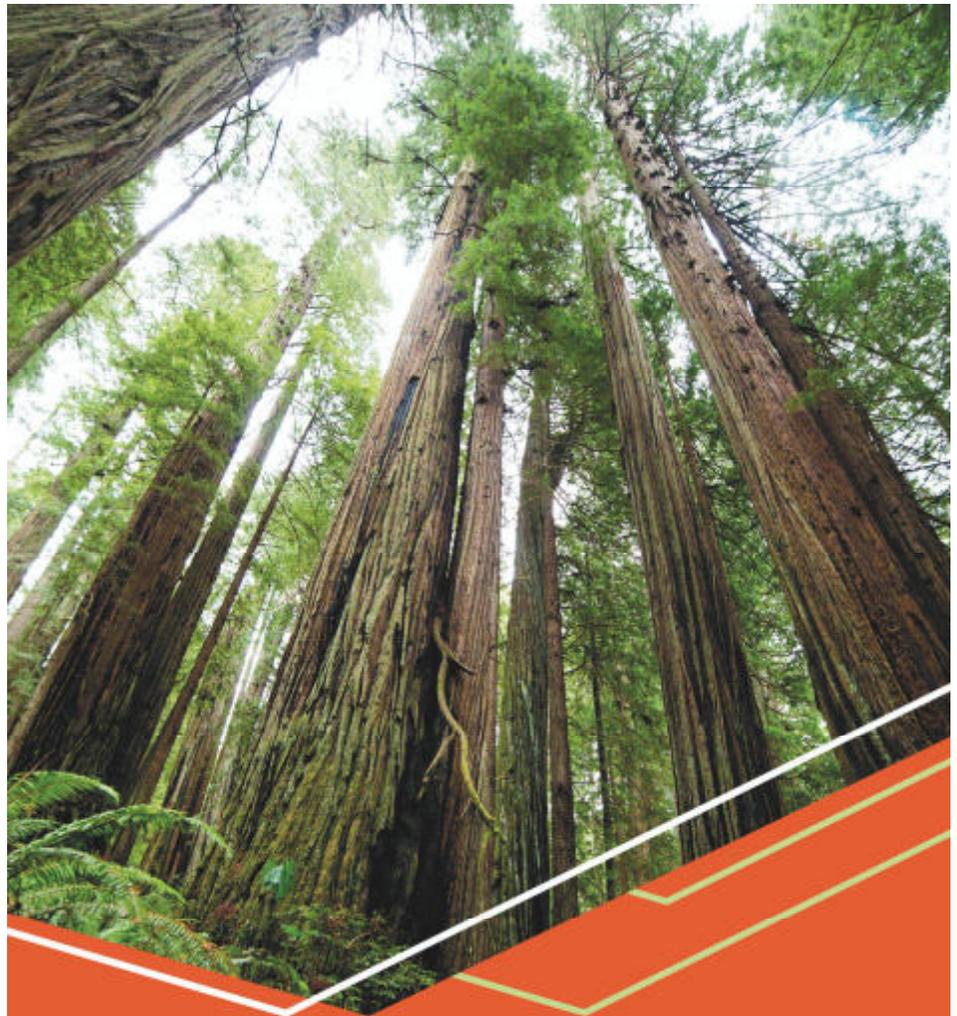
New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.

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



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!" - Mk 6:2

KNOW YOUR PASTOR

My name is Fr. Marlon Pates and I am the second of seven kids. I was born in New Corella, Davao del Norte, which is the southern part of the Philippines. I went to grade school in New Corella Elementary School and graduated from High School at Maryknoll High School of New Corella, a Catholic school run by the Maryknoll Missionaries from New York, USA. At the age of twelve, I started serving the Lord and His church as an altar server. Getting more familiar with the life and ministry of the priest my desire to be one grew bigger and bigger each day. Being at the sanctuary and helping the priest in the Mass was an experience of being in the celestial temple of God for me. Soon I discovered the Lord calling me to Priestly Vocation and discerned further that He was leading me to serve His people.



After high school, at the age of sixteen, I started my journey in the priesthood. I entered at Queen of Apostles College Seminary in Tagum City in 1997 and four years after I graduated from the same college seminary with the degree Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy. I continued my journey in this road less traveled and entered theology at St. Francis Xavier Regional Major Seminary in Davao City. In 2004, I finished my Master's Degree in Pastoral Ministry. Right after finishing my formation in theology, I decided to take the leave of absence from the seminary for three years in order to widen my experience in life. I took a teaching job at a Catholic school. After three years of experiencing life outside seminary, I decided to continue my journey towards priesthood. I finished my last year of formation in theology in 2019 and was ordained to the Order of Diaconate on September 8, 2019. God willing, I was ordained a priest in His Holy Catholic Church on February 12, 2010 at Christ the King Cathedral in Tagum City. For the next three years I was assigned as a parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Asuncion and St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Maragusan while pursuing my post graduate studies. In October 2013, I finished my Doctoral Degree Major in Human Resource Management at the University of Visayas in Cebu City, Philippines. In the same year my bishop assigned me to be one of the "formators" at Queen of Apostles College Seminary teaching philosophy and Religious Education to the seminarians. He also appointed me as the Vocation Director of the Diocese of Tagum.

In September 2018, my journey as a missionary priest started. My bishop sent me here in the Diocese of Greensburg. Though a bit afraid, I was and am grateful to the Lord for calling me to this life of service to the Church in the foreign land. My first assignments here were the following: Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Grace and St. Benedict Parishes in Greensburg (2018-2020); Parochial Vicar at St. Peter Parish in Brownsville, St. Cecilia Parish in Grindstone, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Masontown and Footedale (2020-2021). On June 24, 2021, Bishop Kulick appointed me as the Pastor in our beautiful parish of St. Francis of Assisi. I will give my best to making Christ the Servant present among his people here at our beautiful parish. Please know that I am excited and interested to be your Pastor. I love being a priest. I love the ministry of the priest. I am happy being a priest. As we continue our journey being a Church, God's people, we know that the harvest is plenty but the laborers are few. I cannot do it alone. I badly need your help, participation and engagement which are essentials in fostering all aspects of our parish life. Please watch out soon for the "Ministry Guide" that we are going to publish and please consider involving yourself in the many ministries of our parish. I am looking forward to your help and please know that I am praying for you each day.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistically-centered faith community whose life is formed by our baptismal commitment to Christ; is nourished by Scripture, Church teachings and the Sacraments; and is supported by membership in the worldwide church around us. It is a community made up of the former faith communities of All Saints, Holy Rosary, Madonna, Saint Mary, Saint Procopius and Saint Thomas. There is a long and rich history here where all are welcome, trust is present, risks for the kingdom of God are taken and the gifts of everyone are called forth. Under the patronage of Saint Francis of Assisi, we strive to be an instrument of peace and all that God calls us to be.



Crab mentality, also known as crab theory, is a way of thinking best described by the phrase “If I can’t have it, neither can you.” Jesus was himself a victim of this mentality in our gospel today. This proves that crab mentality is not really new. The same attitude was already present in the people of Nazareth when they put Jesus in his “proper” place.

Certainly, such an attitude will not be of help to us as we make our house into a home, our communities into caring ones. Neither will it be of help in building our St. Francis of Assisi Parish, a community of believers. The sad fact though is it is prevailing in our churches. Thus when someone we do not like is appointed or elected as the leader in a particular ministry, we refuse to cooperate with him/her. Why? Because he/she is “only” this or that - and then we rattle off a long list of his faults and weaknesses. We do this consciously or unconsciously because we view his/her ascendance as an affront to our own person and abilities. We are in effect saying, “I am better than him, so why was I not appointed or elected?” At the root of all this is our wounded pride and self-esteem.

If this is true at the community level, it is also true at the personal level. We even see this manifested in our prayers. When a good fortune happens to someone whom we categorize as “bad,” we ask God in our prayer, “Why him and not me?” And then we rattle off to God his faults as we extol our virtues to show that we are really more deserving. Again, such a prayer proceeds from a deep hurt in one’s pride.

This attitude reminds me of the Pharisee who prayed in the temple thus, God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and I pay tithes on my whole income. On the other hand, the tax collector prayed thus, O God, be merciful to me a sinner. But who went home justified before God? Not the Pharisee but the tax collector. (Luke 18:10-14)

Pride was what led to the rejection of Jesus by the people of Nazareth. So that this will not befall us, let us learn not only to see but also to accept the good qualities of others instead of considering them as threats to our self-esteem. Then Jesus will not leave us as He did Nazareth. Instead, He will help us become better persons as well as build caring and united communities.

We cannot help conforming ourselves to what we love. - St. Francis de Sales



Monday is the Feast of Saint Anthony Zaccaria.

He founded three religious orders and a lay community and popularized the forty hour devotion of exposition of the Eucharist. He is represented in art wearing a cassock and a lily, cross, or a symbol of the Eucharist.

Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Maria Goretti.

She died of stab wounds after resisting her would-be rapist. She is held up as a model of charity but her resistance was also an act of charity and a desire to spare her attacker, Allesandro, from the stain of greater sin. She is the patron saint of rape victims and teenage girls.

Friday is the Feast of the Chinese Martyrs.

Between 1648 & 1930, 87 Chinese Catholics and 33 Western missionaries were martyred for their ministry or for refusing to renounce their Christian faith. They show us how to have great faith under persecution.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Chantal Smith on the recent death of her sister, *Martine Scharff*. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

The **Christian Mothers** will meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, **July 14**, at the social hall in Footedale. After a brief meeting, we will enjoy a social and a few games of bingo. All ladies are welcome.

MASS OF INSTALLATION - Monday, July 26

Bishop Kulick will formally install Father Marlon as Pastor of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 26, at the Footedale worship site.

Pasta Dinner & Basket Raffle - Sunday, August 8

11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the social hall in Footedale.

The Practice of Stewardship

During this time, we celebrate the independence of our country. We would do well to echo the psalmist saying *Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for His mercy.* May we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance He has showered upon us.

Stewardship of Treasure

June 27: \$4,922; monthly \$885; loose \$180; children \$11; Online \$372 totaling \$6,370
Peter’s Pence / Support the Holy See \$495
278 envelopes were used of 861 issued

Our Parish is very grateful for your continued support - especially during this critical time!

NO BAD NEWS

There are many times when we say, "Tell me what I want to hear and don't confuse me with facts," and we don't take kindly to someone who might be bold enough to snuff out our expectations.

The biggest problem with such an attitude is not that we miss out on the truth or the facts but that we miss out on the new and surprising gifts others can give us. Like the townspeople in today's Gospel story, we too often refuse to allow others to display the talents that can be good news for us.

Today's readings call for hospitality and faith and discernment. Hospitality opens the doors of our hearts and minds to the "stranger" among us, no matter how familiar he or she may seem to be. Faith enables us to accept the gifts of others, no matter how alarming or "strange" they may seem to be. Discernment helps us discover the prophets in our midst, no matter how amazing they may seem to be. Hospitality, faith and discernment - cultivate these. Then nobody can bring bad news.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God never ceases to proclaim His Word. His life-giving presence continues to sustain all things and keep them in being regardless of whether there is the faith to receive or perceive Him. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions and expectations can often cause us to be so hard of heart and obstinate that we fail to see what God is trying to do. While God remains ever present, faith is necessary for God's power to bear fruit. As we celebrate our country's independence, let us not forget the difference between liberties and freedom. While the liberties we have are most welcome treasures, only freedom from what blinds, deceives and weighs us down can bring happiness. God is all about healing, transformation and hope. In order for God to do what God does best, we have to invite Him in and see Him for who he is. Otherwise, God's will for humanity will be something at which we simply take offense, a common reaction when something challenges or unsettles us.

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. - 2 Corinthians 12:9

PRACTICE OF CHARITY

Perhaps you have heard of parents feeling dumbfounded after hearing glowing reports about their children from teachers and coaches. "Is this really my son/daughter or an imposter?" they ask. The children's behavior at home might be different most of the time. In Mark's Gospel, those in the Nazarene synagogue were astonished and angry upon hearing Jesus preach. They could not fathom that Jesus - someone from their village and raised by neighbors Mary and Joseph - had healed people and taught with such authority. Consider the blind spots that might be lurking in your personal life.



News From the Diocese of Greensburg

The **2021 Missions of Faith Appeal** offers parishioners throughout the Diocese the opportunity to support the Mission Office and its ministries. Help support the tidal wave of need approaching after the pandemic by donating to the 2021 Missions of Faith Appeal.

Quo Vadis Days Vocation Camp - July 18-21

Attention all Catholic young men entering grade 9-12:

Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! You are invited to attend the *Quo Vadis Days Vocation Camp* to spend time with other young men your age looking at the Lord's call in your life while having fun. QVD is led by priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Greensburg and is supported by the Diocesan Office for Priestly Vocations. Quo Vadis Days will be held July 18-21 at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Please visit greensburg-priest.org for more information and registration.

The icon exhibit, "A Brush with God," featuring nationally known iconographer Peter Pearson, is on display at Saint Vincent Gristmill, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, **through July 25**. The hours are 11:00 am / 3:00 pm Mondays to Saturdays.

The Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat: A Ministry to Catholic Women will host a **Magnificat Gathering** at 9am on **Saturday, July 31**, at St. Paul Parish, Greensburg. Email Brenda at mandbc14@gmail.com if you are not already on the mailing list.

Bishop Kulick desires to recognize all couples celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** during the calendar year 2021. The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends should contact their local parish office to register couples for this recognition. Ideally, the Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special **Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass** to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Sunday, **September 19**. Even though personal circumstances may not permit individuals to participate in this Mass, all registered couples will receive a scroll signed by the bishop commemorating their anniversary.

The **Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Greensburg** are currently accepting applications for the position of **substitute teacher**. Qualified candidates will possess a bachelor's degree and obtain all necessary clearances.

Submit a current resume to the Office of Catholic Schools - CatholicSchools@dioceseofgreensburg.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 3 -- Vigil: 14th Ordinary Sunday
 4:00 pm-M Mildred Demniak (M/M David Mudery)
 4:00 pm-F Bart Verbanic (*Wife, Joyce*)

Sunday, July 4 -- 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Special Intention of Paul Krokus (Taeseek)
 9:30 am-F Dolores Kovach (*Family*)
 11:30 am-M Helen Miller (*Aura Lozar*)

Monday, July 5 -- Saint Anthony Zaccaria
 8:00 am-M SFOA Parish Family

Tuesday, July 6 -- Saint Maria Goretti
 8:00 am-F Donna & William Holloman Jr. (*Family*)

Wednesday, July 7 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-M Greg Cox (*Parents, John & Mary Anne*)

Thursday, July 8 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-F Viola Dutkewyck Thomas (*Fabrycki Family*)

Friday, July 9 -- Saint Augustine Zhao & Companions
 8:00 am-M Helen Rosky (*Family*)

Saturday, July 10 -- Vigil: 15th Ordinary Sunday
 3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Thomas & Mary Smearcheck (*Becky*)
 3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F Steve & Erma Olesko (*Son, Frank*)

Sunday, July 11 -- 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Anna Marella (*Dtr., Caroline*)
 9:30 am-F Andy & Marie Kopacko (*Cindy/Mark Kutek*)
 11:30 am-M Joe & Emma Karpency (*Tom & Christy*)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a; Mt 9:18-26
 Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33; Mt 9:32-38
 Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57, 42:5-24; Mt 10:1-7
 Thursday: Gn 44:18-29; 45:1-5; Mt 10:7-15
 Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30; Mt 10:16-23
 Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26; Mt 10:24-33
 Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15; Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:7-13

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, July 5,
 in observance of the July 4th holiday.



My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor 12:9)

One of God's greatest gifts to us is free will. Today's readings speak of both the advantages and disadvantages of this gift. It is desirable that we choose to love God but we will not be forced to do so. The prophet Ezekiel says that God will send us prophets but the choice to listen to them is up to us. For those who listen to them, their lives will be greatly enriched. The Gospel reveals that there are those who hear the good news of Jesus Christ but choose not to accept it. Jesus knew what it meant to encounter rejection in His ministry. This is a great consolation to us as we live out our faith, knowing that we, too, will encounter rejection and acceptance.

Question of the Week: How is Christ made manifest in me through my own weaknesses?

A Reminder that **Daily Masses** take place at 8:00 am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Masontown and on Tuesday and Thursday in Footedale.

Confessions take place on Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30 pm at both worship sites.

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

- † **Sanctuary** - *Special Request* requested by Marlene Guappone
- † **Blessed Mother** - *Thomas & Mary Smearcheck* requested by Becky & Family
Andrew & Carol Mihallik requested by the Mihallik Family
- † **Saint Joseph** - *Cody Tomotchko* requested by Gram Tomotchko
- † **Sacred Heart** - *Patti Keeney* requested by Kathy Berder, Angie Titcombe & Families
Wayne Edenfield requested by wife, Elaine





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