



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

July 11, 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



15th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two
by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. - Mk 6:7

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B



Government to government transactions are ordinarily conducted through an ambassador. As such, an ambassador has only one mission – to promote his country’s interests, never his own.

Thus, when sensitive issues are being deliberated upon, he is mandated to consult with his government and act accordingly.

If he cannot agree with its stand, he is duty-bound to resign.

Viewed thus, it can be said that Jesus was the Father’s ambassador to fallen humankind when out of love for them he sent his only Son on a mission for their redemption. Jesus was fully aware of this. Thus he openly told those who listened to him that he had come only to do his Father’s will. To help him out in this mission, Jesus handpicked twelve apostles to be his collaborators.

In the gospel this Sunday, we see Jesus giving detailed instructions to the apostles before sending them out on their first mission: *“Take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in your belts . . . wear sandals but not a second tunic.”* So, the apostles were to go as poor and simple men. They have to be totally dependent on God’s providence and the people’s hospitality. To take only a walking stick and a pair of sandals implied that they were to expect a long journey and painful feet.

Before the apostles left, Jesus made one point clear: *“Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”* In effect, to reject the messenger was also to reject the Father’s offer of love and membership in his Kingdom.

From this we can see that the apostle has, to a large extent, the same function as a government’s ambassador. He is called and sent, not to proclaim his own person and message, but the person and message of Jesus. If he ceases to do this, he ceases to be an apostle, an ambassador.

More specifically, to be an apostle of Jesus means to be sent by him on a mission, to be his ambassador. Most of us are inclined to think that only bishops, priests and religious are called to mission. But by virtue of our baptism and strengthened by the power of the Holy Spirit through confirmation we are assigned to the apostolate by the Lord himself. We are called to be apostles, ambassadors of Christ, and as such we are to proclaim and bear witness to him and his message to the extent that we are able. In our day, we are to do this by word and example before the people we are directly in contact with – our families, our peers, our co-workers and those in our immediate community.

Jesus is no longer with us. He now sits at the right hand of the Father as we proclaim in our Creed. But his mission must go on till he returns in glory – through us and under the guidance of his Spirit. We are thus to be Jesus’ hands, ears, nose, eyes, tongue, feet, heart, mind, etc. In other words, our time, talent and treasure must be at the service of God’s Word and his Church.

Obviously, to be Christ’s apostle, to be his ambassador, much is required of us. We should not settle for the minimum, like being satisfied by just attending the weekend Mass. There are a lot of ministries where we can share our time and talents. To name a few, you can be a Lector, Faith Formation Teacher, Eucharistic Minister, Homebound Minister, Choir, Cantor, Sacristan, Altar Server, and so on. We are not to worry. For God who is never outdone in generosity will provide whatever we need so that we can live up to our noble calling.

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.

GOD CHOSE US

Who chose first, God or you? That is the question explored in today's three readings. The second reading from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, reads almost like a hymn. It praises God for choosing us, for calling us to serve and for blessing us in our service. Saint Paul makes it clear how honored we are and how special is the call to live as children of God. This is through no doing of our own.

The first reading and the Gospel use prose rather than poetry to describe the same truth: God did the choosing, not us. When the prophet Amos was berated for being a prophet, he retorted that the whole thing wasn't his idea in the first place. Neither did the twelve apostles in today's Gospel ask for their calling. Jesus sent them forth, two by two, to do the work of His kingdom.

Amos said, "The Lord took me from following the flock and said to me, Go, prophesy to my people."

Amos 7:12-15

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God calls us to bring His Word to all corners of the earth. What does that mean for you and me? We are just simple and humble folks trying to find our way through the Gospel and our world. After all, we are not professional preachers but gentle servants. Jesus summons us to take His message on the road and bring it from the pew to the pavement. We cannot keep the joy of the Gospel to ourselves but must bring it into every aspect of our lives: our families, our schools, our work, our corporations, our politics, our social circles, and our philosophies. We cannot just accept the wisdom of the world as true and conduct our lives as if the Good News is a separate matter. They are one. Jesus never asked his friends to go and construct buildings where people could come to hear the truth. He asked them to go to their homes and meet them one on one, face to face. When the rubber meets the road and the message is challenging, rejection is quite possible. That's the litmus test for whether we're really doing what we have been asked.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing.

Ephesians 1:3-14

PRACTICE OF FAITH

Most people seem to need so many things. They are sure to carry cellphones to connect with the world and one another as well as purses and wallets filled with a number of items. Jesus asked his closest friends to travel lightly as they evangelize: *no food, no sack, no money in their belts*. How many items do you need when you leave the house for the day? Jesus asks us to live simply and not be dependent on useless things.

Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Henry (972-1024).

He was a German king and Holy Roman Emperor, the only German king to be canonized. He had a reputation for being learned and pious and was a positive influence in Church-state relations. He is patron saint of Benedictine oblates and is invoked against infertility.

Wednesday is the Feast of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

the first Native American to become a saint. Hearing about Christ from Jesuit missionaries, she chose to be a Christian at seventeen. She gave birth to the Gospel by being faithful to prayer and caring for children and the sick. She is venerated as Patroness of Ecology.

Thursday is the Feast of St. Bonaventure (1221-1274)

He was a scholastic theologian and philosopher declared a Doctor of the Church in 1588 by Pope Sixtus V and is called the "Seraphic Doctor" because his love of God is evident even in his philosophical writings.

Friday is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

a title given to Mary as patroness of the Carmelite Order. The Carmelites devote themselves to relationship with Jesus, prayer, contemplation and virtues - attributes they associate closely to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Traditional Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine and splendor of heaven, O holy and singular one who brought forth the only Son of God while remaining still a pure virgin, watch over us this night. O Star of the Sea, O Mother of Christ, show us you are our mother, too.

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.

The Practice of Stewardship

Today's readings are about being chosen and sent. The prophet Amos was chosen by the Lord and sent to use his talents for the people of God. The Gospel recounts the story of the sending of the twelve. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us that we, too, are chosen. For what have I been chosen? To whom have I been sent?

Stewardship of Treasure

July 4: \$5,474; monthly \$1,637; loose \$365; children \$10; online \$367 totaling \$7,853
314 envelopes were used of 816 issued

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

FEAST OF FAITH
Invitation to the Eucharistic Prayer

After the presider washes his hands, he turns to the people and says, *Pray that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.* We have brought forward bread and wine and now we are asked to see in these simple gifts upon the altar a sacrifice offered to God. Our response is rich in theological meaning. *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands.* The words point to the unique role of the priest, whose hands at his ordination, were anointed for just this purpose: that he might *sanctify the Christian people and offer sacrifice to God.* - Rite of Ordination

We ask God to accept our sacrifice not because it is worthy of God but simply *for the praise and glory of his name.* God does not need our offering but allows us to give it so that we might grow in holiness; and God, never to be outdone in generosity, gives all that we have given back to us, *for our good and the good of all his Church.* This Mass benefits not just those who have gathered but, in the mysterious economy of grace, the whole Church. In the words of Saint Paul, when one part rejoices, the whole body shares its joy. - 1 Corinthians 12:26

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



🎵 **COMBINED CHOIR PRACTICE** 🎵

Both choirs (Masontown and Footedale Worship Sites) will have a combined rehearsal for Fr. Marlon's Installation Mass at **6:00 pm on Monday, July 19.** All members are urged to attend.

MINISTRY OF CANTOR 🎵🎵

We will be expanding our parish Cantor program to all five Masses at both worship sites. The role of Cantor is to lead and facilitate the sung prayer of the assembly.

In addition, the Cantor acts as the Psalmist in proclaiming God's Word in the Responsorial Psalm.

We have arranged for professional Cantor/Psalmist training to be conducted for all current and new cantors for both locations in late August at the Footedale Worship Site. Our clinician will be Mr. Daniel F. Kovacic, MM Director of Music Ministry, Resurrection Parish, Bethel Park. Daniel holds a Bachelor Degree in Vocal Performance from Seton Hill University as well as a Masters Degree in Choral Conducting from West Virginia University. He will guide us through important training in technique and procedures.

Cantors must be parishioners age 16 and above with a pleasant singing voice and the ability to engage and lead the congregation in sung prayer.

Interested persons are kindly asked to contact Carletta Fronczek (cfronczek@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or Eric Blanda (eblanda@dioceseofgreensburg.org) so that sufficient handouts can be prepared.

Only those attending the training will be eligible to serve in the Ministry of Cantor.

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 to 3:00 pm Mondays to Saturdays.

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop Kulick desires to recognize couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during 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.

Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations
at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish



Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of

† **Clara B. (Targos) Spoljarick**
who was buried Tuesday, July 6

† **Thomas A. Zemo**
who was buried Wednesday, July 7

† **Mary Margaret (Arendash) Zaiglin**
who was buried Saturday, July 10

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

Parish Sympathy is expressed to Donna Parish on the recent death of her mother, *Phyllis Brubaker.* May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

Here's a simple test to find out whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're alive, it isn't ☺

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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPS

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

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

Monday, July 12 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-M Josephine Ryan (Family)

Tuesday, July 13 -- Saint Henry
 8:00 am-F Sandra Marshall (Carol Brady/Family)

Wednesday, July 14 -- Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
 8:00 am-M SFOA Parish Family

Thursday, July 15 -- Saint Bonaventure
 8:00 am-F Richard Hanula (Jim Olesko)

Friday, July 16 -- Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 8:00 am-M Frank & Sofie Belczyk (M/M B Magerko)

Saturday, July 17 -- Vigil: 16th Ordinary Sunday
 3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Shirley Beck (Don & Family)
 3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F 50th Anniversary, Barbara/Gerald Grimes

Sunday, July 18 -- 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Susan Kenney (Dusty & Ronnie)
 9:30 am-F Bernard Sandrosky (Wife, Patricia/Family)
 11:30 am-M Eun Young Cho, Thanksgiving



Commissioned by God

All three of today's readings resonate with the idea that we are not only called by God but we are also commissioned to go forth and be witnesses to our faith.

In this grace-filled challenge offered to us by God, it is sometimes easy to be overwhelmed by the task at hand. In many ways, witnessing to our faith is not an easy task, nor is it always readily accepted by others.

The prophet Amos realized this when he was thrown out of the land of Bethel. The Gospel also warns us of the reception that witnesses to the faith may encounter. Jesus is quite direct with His apostles in telling them how to react to those who reject them: "Shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them."

Saint Paul certainly encountered rejection as he witnessed to the faith. In fact, in some of his letters he brags of the hardships he endured; yet he always understands that it is to God's call that we respond. That knowledge is enough to help us overcome any difficulties that we encounter along the way.

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Ex 1:8-22; Mt 10:34-11:1
 Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Mt 11:20-24
 Wednesday: Ex 3:1-12; Mt 11:25-27
 Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30
 Friday: Ex 11:10-12:14; Mt 12:1-8
 Saturday: Ex 12:37-42; Mt 12:14-21
 Next Sunday: Jer 23:1-6; Eph 2:13-18; Mk 6:30-34



The Pastoral and Finance Councils will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, July 12, at the Saint Benedict Learning Center in Masontown. All members are urged to attend.

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!

Question of the Week:

Can I recall a time when I was provided what I needed to bring God's blessings to others? Can I trust in God whenever I feel inadequate to the task?

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

† **Sanctuary** - Barbara & Gerald Grimes requested by Colette Freiberg

† **Blessed Mother** - John Franczyk requested by Rodney, Carol, Kayla & Cole
 Irma Yandura

requested by Jim, Marcia & Sadie Huhn

† **Saint Joseph** - Bernard P. Bellish III requested by sister, Bonnie Klink and niece, Robin Klink

† **Saint Anthony** - Charles & Eleanor Fronczek requested by Carletta



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