



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

August 1, 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



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." - Jn 6:32-33



Fr. Marlon's Reflections - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (John 6:24-35)

A story is told of two long friends who bumped into each other in a restaurant. Excitedly they got a table and ordered some food and drinks. They reminisced on their daring exploits in their youth and the secrets and one said to the other, "You know, for many years now, I have been doing scholarly research, specifically on religion. In the end, I came to the conclusion that God does not exist, and, consequently, there is no life hereafter. Thus my rule of life now is: "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow I die."

Many would wish that this were true. For if there is no God, then everything goes, that we can do what we want without being accountable to anyone, without being saddled by moral do's and don'ts in the end. However, our better self tells us something else. Deep within us, something tells us that our quest is for true and lasting happiness. This is especially true since our experiences of happiness are far apart and short lived. Furthermore, deep within us we know that only God can make us truly and fully happy.

We remember in the gospel last Sunday that when the people wanted to make Jesus king after the miracle of the multiplication of loaves, He fled from them. But they followed him to the other side of the lake. Jesus saw through their enthusiasm for him, *You are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled.* Nonetheless, he took the opportunity to teach them to seek for what is truly significant, *Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life which the Son of Man will give you.*

Reacting to this statement, some in the crowd recalled to Jesus the manna God gave as food to their ancestors in the desert and which they expected God to give them again. Jesus did not disappoint them though he told them to seek a new manna, *the true bread from heaven which gives life to the world.* This bread was not a something but a Someone since it gives life. And when they said, *Sir, give us this bread always,* Jesus declared, *I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

Jesus knows that we are looking for lasting, in fact everlasting, happiness. But we do not know where to find it. Not finding it within us, we seek it outside of ourselves – in vain. Now Jesus is telling us that it is not money or pleasure or fame or all of them put together – things outside of us – that can make us happy. Rather, it is *to believe in the one he (the Father) has sent.*

The first prerequisite in receiving the true bread which gives life is to believe in Jesus who has offered us a share of his body, broken on the cross, and of his blood, poured out in death – the Bread of Life. And for us to share in his divine life, we are to partake of him and then offer ourselves in the service of others. This is Jesus' prescription for our true happiness. Obviously, this entails pain and sufferings as it is a call for the gift of self. But what self-giving does not? The dictum "No pain, no gain" applies more so in the service of others.

One way of testing this is by recalling some moments when we felt really happy. Is it when we have received much or when we have given something of ourselves? When is a mother happiest? Is it when she receives much or when she gives not only of what she has but of herself to her family and loved ones?

It is people who share what they have and of themselves who are happy. Even in this life, those who do so are blest with gratitude, love and true friends. On the other hand, those who seek only their own satisfaction, those who believe that money can buy everything including happiness, are not only unhappy but are also often lonely. For they are perceived as hard, demanding and self-centered. Thus they are avoided rather than sought, feared rather than loved. Indeed, they are without true friends.

Jesus gave his life that we may have life, eternal life. He became bread for us and later told us, *Do this in memory of me (Lk 22:19)* so that after we partake of him, we too may become bread for others by sharing what we have and of ourselves, by being "bread of life," broken and shared to and for others. In short, we are to become Eucharist so that through us others may have life, too.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE! I would like to thank all those who gave their time and talents in making my Installation Mass a successful and meaningful event in our parish. I would like to recognize in special way these people who worked hard for the success of the said event, namely, Linda Rohol, Carletta Fronczek, Eric Blanda, Kim Stavish, the choir, lectors, altar servers, sacristan, and of course all of you, the good parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi. May the good Lord bless all of you!

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.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Today's Gospel has the crowd asking Jesus three questions. First, *When did you get here*, to which Jesus responds by rebuking them for their failure to grasp His miracle as a *sign*, an occasion to put faith in Him. Their second question about accomplishing the *works of God* has Jesus respond that faith is the *work* that God wishes.

Many scholars believe this is John's answer to the faith works dichotomy emerging in the early Christian community. Faith is the work of God in the believer, John would have us understand. The third question asked by the crowd is a request for a *sign* that would allow them to put faith in Jesus, as the manna in the desert allowed the Israelites to put faith in the Lord God. Jesus answers by revealing Himself as the *bread of life* that *comes down from heaven and gives life to the world*.

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. - Psalm 78

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

When we lose our ability to trust, we become afraid. When we are afraid, we may begin to grumble and question whether where we are is where we need to be. For us who have faith, we even question whether God is who God says He is. Trust is so important to our success on our journey. Often, the road of our lives can become a bit treacherous. We may find ourselves feeling more unsettled than comfortable and less fulfilled than we would like to be. As much as we try, the pieces of our puzzle don't quite fit together as they ought. We wonder if we will ever experience happiness again. Then, something reminds us that God is very much present in this mess we call life. God is still bringing hope out of despair and life out of death. After all, God is the true bread that comes down from heaven to give life. All that is necessary is for us to trust in this truth, even when we may be lacking in some of life's essentials. The God who gives life is the same God who sustains it. He is also the same God who assures us that we will not perish.

The people of Israel receive bread from heaven in response to their grumbling. - Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

PRACTICE OF FAITH

In this Gospel, Jesus reminds us that His bread is what truly sustains us for eternal life. How often do you make yourself available to God during the day? Consider whether you can participate at a Mass by your home early in the day or near your workplace at noon. If that is not an option, try to find time to pause during the day to give thanks for the gift of our faith. Consider looking into retreat options to devote time to what feeds you. Even if your time apart from regular duties might be a few hours or one day, you will be able to allow our Creator's love for you to permeate your conscience even more.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Welcome back to in-person Faith Formation! Enrollment is currently available for the 2021-2022 Faith Formation Classes which begin Sunday, September 12, 10:30 to 11:45 am, in Footedale.

Classes begin with pre-school and go through 7th grade (Confirmation Preparation Class). By enrolling each one of your children early, we will have a better idea of how many textbooks and supplies will be needed.

Enrollment packets are available at the entrances of both sites. You can mail or drop off the enrollment forms at the Parish Office or place them in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Enrollment."

The more children pre-enrolled will save us time on the first day of class. Please contact Kim Stavish, Faith Formation Coordinator, with questions or concerns: kimm70ee@yahoo.com or 724-366-8901.

Wednesday is the Feast of Saint John Vianney, the *Cure of Ars* (parish priest of the village of Ars). The suppression of the Church during the French Revolution resulted in an unchurched and ignorant generation. He desired to draw these lost souls back to the Church and re-educate them in their faith. He is the patron saint of priests, especially those who work in parishes.

Thursday is the Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, *Santa Maria Maggiore*, in Rome. At the Council of Ephesus in 431, Mary was acclaimed not only as the mother of Jesus but as the Mother of God. Following the Council, Pope Sixtus III dedicated this basilica to the honor of Mary, Mother of God.

Friday is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. Jesus led Peter, James & John up a high mountain; suddenly His face shone as bright as the sun. Moses the Lawgiver and the great prophet Elijah appeared. They talked about Jesus' coming death and resurrection. Suddenly a cloud surrounded them and the voice of God proclaimed that Jesus is God's Son, the Beloved.

The Practice of Stewardship

The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign from Jesus. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquired a fresh, spiritual way of thinking in Christ.

Stewardship of Treasure

July 25: \$5,314; loose \$222; monthly \$75; children \$11; online \$287 totaling \$5,909
280 envelopes were used of 816 issued

AUGUST

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is entrusting oneself to the love of our heavenly mother that she may hasten the triumph of the Kingdom of God and the peace of Christ among nations.

United in Prayer: Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and join many people world-wide in praying for this intention.

The August intention is The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.



PASTA DINNER & BASKET RAFFLE

Sunday, August 8, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
at the social hall in Footedale

The menu: Pasta (spaghetti, penne or linguine)
Choice of Sauce (traditional red with meatballs,
Alfredo sauce with chicken or Aioli)
Tossed Salad, Italian bread & butter and beverage

The cost: \$8.00 for adults;
\$4.00 for children age 12 and under

Eat in or take out. To order, call 724-245-2932

EVERYONE is invited to join us!!!



BASKET RAFFLE - While you are waiting for your pasta dinner, check out the beautiful baskets that will be on display and take a chance to win. Winners will be drawn at the close of the dinner (4:00 pm).

If you are able to **DONATE A BASKET**, it would be greatly appreciated! It can be dropped off at the Parish Office no later than August 4. Thank you!

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Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations
at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish



Parish Sympathy is expressed to the families of
† **Diana Marie (Alexander) Alcorn**
who was buried Saturday, July 24
† **Betty (Mesich) Traficante**
who was buried Thursday, July 29
May God grant them eternal life and comfort
their families. May they rest in peace.

Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of
Dolores Puscian, mother of Elaine Edenfield, Gloria
Shuman & Janet Lemansky who passed away recently.
May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

Thank you for the following donations to
Saint Francis of Assisi Parish given in memory of:
Martin Magerko by Carol Brady, Mary & JoAnn
Coppolino, Colette Freiberg, Patty & Larry Stavish
Dolores Louise Puscian by Colette Freiberg
Diana Alexander Alcorn by Linda Rohol

*The secret of happiness is to count your blessings
while others are adding up their troubles.*
- Anonymous

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 with a professional Cantor/Psalmist **for training of all current and new cantors for both locations on Wednesday, August 18, 6:30 to 8:30 pm 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.

MASS SCHEDULE GLD

Saturday, July 31 -- Vigil: 18th Ordinary Sunday
 4:00 pm-M Birthday of George Homa (Children)
 4:00 pm-F *Irma Yandura (SFOA Christian Mothers)*

Sunday, August 1 -- 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Mary Margaret Burns (Linda Rohol)
 9:30 am-F *Eleanor Sigwalt (M/M A. Piccolomini)*
 11:30 am-M Freda Hospodavis (Niece, Dolores Dunn)

Monday, August 2 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-M SFOA Parish Family

Tuesday, August 3 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-F *Patricia Keeney (Philip Berisko)*

Wednesday, August 4 -- Saint John Vianney
 8:00 am-M Amy Diehl (Joseph & Patricia Fedor)

Thursday, August 5 -- Dedication St Mary Major Basilica
 8:00 am-F *John Berisko (Sons, Philip & Raymond)*

Friday, August 6 -- The Transfiguration of the Lord
 8:00 am-M Jane Pramuk (M/M Bill Hruska)

Saturday, August 7 -- Vigil: 19th Ordinary Sunday
 3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Teddi Cerullo (Family)
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Elaine Rosnack (Loretta Leoni)*

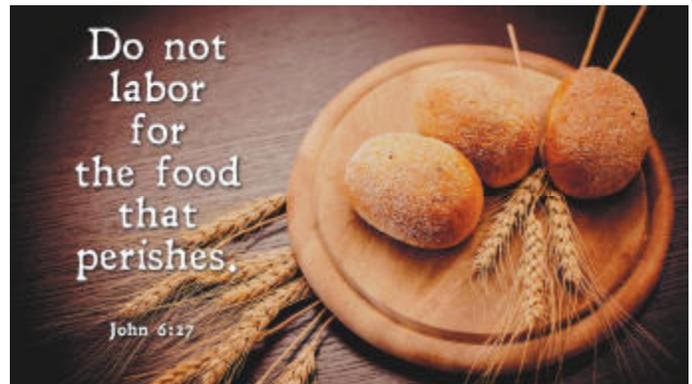
Sunday, August 8 -- 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Marie Ferranti (James/Renee Young)
8:00 am-F *William Sr & Helen Holloman (Family)*
 11:30 am-M Michael Zumerling (Wife, Irene)

PLEASE NOTE: Mass next **Sunday, August 8**, at the **Footedale worship site** will be at **8:00 am** due to the **Pasta Dinner** which we invite everyone to attend 😊

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Mt 14:13-21
 Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Mt 14:22-36
 Wednesday: Nm 13:1-25, 14:1-35; Mt 15:21-28
 Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Mt 16:13-23
 Friday: Dn 7:9-14; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10
 Saturday: Dt 6:4-13; Mt 17:14-20
 Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Eph 4:30-5:2; Jn 6:41-51

Pray for World Peace: August 6 and 9 are the anniversaries of the atomic explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. As these events are recalled, all are urged to continue to pray for world peace.



John's Gospel expands like a well-leavened loaf. He asks us to consider what truly fills and satisfies human hunger. We are always searching for something that will fill us and when we have it, we are momentarily glad but then we are hungry again. Jesus knew this; the history of Israel attested to it. Once, their ancestors gambled everything and followed Moses into the desert, a hard and empty place. They dreamed of the old familiar foods of the Nile Valley and they were abundantly fed manna and quail - this abundance reminded them that God is always there. The Gospel goes one better: Jesus Himself is the bread of life. He is the fullness we seek, the fullness that satiates all hunger.

Question of the Week: How can I be a sign to others of the nourishment I've found in the bread of life?

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days begins on Sunday, August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This obligation, as is always the case, does not apply to those who are seriously ill, have a serious health risk, as well as those who have serious anxiety of being a part of large groups at this time. Likewise, the obligation does not apply to those who care for those who cannot attend Mass in person.

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

† **Sanctuary** - *Eleanor Sigwalt*
 requested by her children & grandchildren

† **Blessed Mother** - *Betty Stoffa*
 requested by her family

† **Saint Joseph** - *Thomas Pevarnik, Sr.*
 Requested by Kimberly Revak

† **Saint Anthony** - *Tony & Kathryn Kauckeck*
 requested by daughter, Mary Ann

† **Sacred Heart** - *Irma Yandura*
 requested by Delores & Joe Yoders



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