



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

August 22, 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

**21st SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You
have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Fr. Marlon's Reflections
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (John 6:60-69)

The story is told of an Indian Christian evangelist who was distributing the Gospels to passengers in a train speeding through Central India. One man in anger took the copy, tore it into small pieces and threw them out the open window. That seemed to be the end of the matter but actually it was only the beginning... for a man who was walking along the railroad track that day. He saw this little piece of paper. Picked it up and in his own language, he saw written on it the words: "Bread of Eternal Life." He did not know what that meant, so he asked around among his friends. One told him: "*That comes out of a Christian book. You must not read it or you will be defiled.*" He bought a New Testament and someone showed him the passage with Jesus' words: "*I am the bread of life.*" That started it! He studied the Gospels and light flooded into his heart. Later he became a preacher of the Gospel. And so it was that a little piece of paper, through the power of the Spirit, became the bread of life in this man's life. (Tony Castle)

You see, how powerful the word of God is, even written in a piece of torn paper; it changed a person into a follower of the Lord Jesus. Words are the easiest and most common form of communication. Great preachers have inspired saints. Great words when written, last and can be read and reread. Words are wonderful things that please the ear and the mind. More important, good and kind words, when spoken at the right time, can heal a wounded heart.

As somebody had said that, words are also the first and easiest means of communication with God. Children and many grown-ups find words indispensable for prayer. Such words well prayed are a means of sanctification. When holy men and women prayed and wrote down their words of prayer they helped to make others holy. But words can also be very destructive. It can destroy a character or reputation, can harm the peace of a family, can stir up all kinds of violent emotions – anger, passion, greed, and lust and can wound more than a physical blow. Words can hurt too. Psychologists tell us that the way we speak about an infant affects the child negatively or positively. Laughing at a baby may create an emotional scar and may result later in neuroses. A vast number of words are poured out every minute. Most of these are destructive and harmful. Let us not add to this stream. Let our words help and not hurt.

Just like the gospel of today, the response of St. Peter to the question of Jesus is a very good response in the sense that, like a sword, it penetrates into the deepest of our hearts. St. Peter answered: "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*" Of course, the 'word' St. Peter had spoken is the Word of God in the Bible that instructs us on what to do in order to attain eternal life. This Word of God is sweet and life giving. We cannot receive the Holy Mass without the priest but we can read the Bible in the privacy of our rooms or anywhere else.

A story of a former non-Catholic who later became a Catholic said that he was surprised to find out, when he began to know the Catholic faith, that Catholics actually respect the Bible so much as the Word of God. They draw their basic beliefs, including beliefs about Tradition and the Church's Magisterium from the Bible. But as somebody had said that it is ironic that while informed Catholics are ready to point out that the Bible is "our book," the "book of the Church" relatively few Catholics read and study the Bible regularly.

Relatively few know what "our book" teaches as well as many other Christians do. Hence, the challenge for us, Catholics, today in this area is two-fold. **First**, we must know the Word of God, so that we will "*always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls your account for the hope that is in you... with gentleness and reverence,*" (1Peter 3:15). **Second**, Catholics must live the word of God by putting it into practice. Our salvation depends on being "*doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving (ourselves),*" (Jas 1:22). These two challenges, of course, are related because we cannot live God's word unless we understand it and know what it really means.

Even the Vatican II Council of the Church invites us to put the Word of God into practice in our daily lives. That is why it is not surprising then that one of the four primary documents of Vatican II that we called constitutions is the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. The Latin title is simply *Dei Verbum* or The Word of God. Through this Word of God, we can have a personal relationship with God and fellowship with Him. We can come to know God's existence with ease, with certitude and with no trace of error. In God's word, we find truth, freedom and life.

I am hoping that each one of us will say: "*I am a good Catholic, not only because I am a daily communicant but also because I am a daily reader of the Word of God that gives life.*" So how important is God's Word in your life?

DECISIONS

There is an axiom that states, “Not to decide to decide.” This saying was popular in the turbulent times of the Vietnam War. It urged us not to allow others to answer the moral questions raised by our nation’s involvement in that terrible conflict but to decide for ourselves. Making such choices is never easy. Avoiding them is common. Jesus, for His part, was not only a gallant risk-taker but a clear decision-maker. As he pursued the mission to which the Father called Him, He continually decided for us and for the Father. He worked hard to lay out a scenario that would enable others to make similar choices. Never did He make decision for others or force others into decisions, even decisions that had eternal ramifications. Jesus is inviting us to make such decisions today. We won’t be absolutely sure. What is sure, however, is the command that issues from God’s word: Take the risk. Decide!

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Many people give their allegiance to something until it asks them to do something challenging or radical. Then, they find themselves rethinking whether they want to be associated with it. The same holds for God. Either we serve God, or we don’t. There can be no lukewarm stance with regard to faith. If we are in, then faith in Jesus Christ asks us to do some difficult things: work in service of God’s kingdom, love our enemies, offer no resistance to injury and trust that the Eucharist is in fact Jesus’ very Body and Blood. For some, buying into these things may prove too difficult and a return to a life without them is preferred but truth is truth and it can only be found in God. If we find it hard to accept it from the mouth of Christ, where else can we go to find it? The task before us is to commit to the truth even when it may be easier to pursue something else. Truth is always worth obtaining even when it is difficult. Jesus offers us the truth of life, a life that is found in His own flesh and blood and a life of discipleship.

PRACTICE OF FAITH

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples, “What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.” Several of Jesus’ friends left Him at that point because they weren’t committed to this truth. God is faithful to us; we must live out our faith authentically and fully. Reflect on the level to which you are “all in” with your commitment to Christ. What steps can you take to increase your commitment to your faith?

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. - Joshua 24:15b



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, and take place in Footedale. Classes begin with pre-school and go through 7th grade (Confirmation Preparation Class). By enrolling each 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.”

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

Students entering Seventh Grade in the Fall of 2021 are required to attend the Confirmation Preparation Class prior to receiving Confirmation in the Fall of 2022. Register by using the Faith Formation Enrollment Form.

FAITH FORMATION OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, **August 29**, 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Footedale. This is an opportunity for children to enroll, meet their teachers, visit their classrooms and receive a treat bag.

YOUTH MINISTRY: We are in need of someone to lead our Youth Ministry (students in grades 8-12). This group meets once a month at the Saint Benedict Learning Center in Masontown and is involved in various activities based on the Corporal Works of Mercy.

For questions and information on all of the above, contact **Kim Stavish, Faith Formation Coordinator**, at kimm70ee@yahoo.com or 724-366-8901.

Thank you for the following donations to Saint Francis of Assisi Parish that were given in memory of:

Mary Catherine Matis by Cindy & Jim Nichols and Beth & Mark Smearcheck & Family
Marty Magerko by Dave & Tammy Todak

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Psalm 34)

Stewardship of Treasure

August 15: \$6,231; Assumption \$1,842; loose \$307; children \$8; Online \$582 totaling \$8,970

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



Bishop Larry J. Kulick and the Filipino priests serving the Diocese of Greensburg will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines with a “Gifted to Give” event Tuesday, **September 28**, at 2:00 pm at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. Mass will be followed by a light reception. The event is open to the public but reservations are requested. To register or view a schedule of novena Masses in spiritual preparation for “Gifted to Give,” visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/GiftedtoGive

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in New Salem will host its **109th Annual Otpust Festival** on Sunday, **August 29**. Divine Liturgy at 10am followed by the Festival Noon to 6pm. DJ Jack Beachley 1:30 to 5:30 pm; food, baskets, hourly prizes, bake sale, games of chance. Take out is encouraged; CDC guidelines must be followed.

The Accent On-Air: Grow in the Lord, a television show produced by the Diocese of Greensburg, will air on WTAE Channel 4 at 11:30 am on Sunday, **August 22** and Sunday, **August 29**. The episode features Bishop Kulick in his garden talking about planting the seeds of faith in our young people and what it means for all vocations, especially future priests; Father E. George Saltrik talking about *praying it forward* after he received special support as a seminarian; and a local dance teacher, shot by a mass shooter in Las Vegas, discussing how her faith helped her survive. You can also watch online at TheAccentOnline.org

Italian Day Sale at St. Rita Parish Connellsville
The Christian Mothers at St. Rita Parish, Connellsville, will host an Italian Day sale Friday, September 3, from 11am to 5:30 pm in Bucci Hall. Dinner options will include spaghetti with two meatballs for \$10 and manicotti with two meatballs or eggplant parmesan with spaghetti and one meatball for \$12, all with salad, roll and cake or pizza for \$10. Takeout will be available.

The Uniontown St. Vincent de Paul store is seeking a Director of Operations. Interested persons are asked to send a cover letter, resume and salary requirements to St. Vincent de Paul (Director Application), PO Box 195, Uniontown, PA 15401



Annually, a collection is taken to **Support Catholic Education** both locally and nationally. In the Diocese of Greensburg, this collection is combined with a collection for the **Catholic University of America**, the national university for the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the only higher education institution founded by the American bishops and chartered by the Vatican.

This year, fifty percent of this collection will go to support CUA and fifty percent will be used to aid the Catholic schools here in our own Diocese. Our Catholic schools are an asset of the community that prepare future leaders for the Church and the nation.
This annual collection will be taken next weekend.

Monday is the Feast of Saint Rose of Lima. She lived a life of penance and solitude; cared for the homeless, elderly and sick. She is patroness of the Philippines, South America and of florists and gardeners.

Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, one of the twelve apostles, known as Nathaniel in John’s gospel. He was one of the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday is the Feast of St. Louis & St. Joseph Calasanz. Louis IX of France was a model ruler and father of eleven children who cared especially for lepers. Joseph Calasanz set up free schools for the education of poor children and ministered to the sick. He is patron of all Christian schools dedicated to assisting the poor.

Friday is the Feast of St. Monica. She obtained the conversion of her pagan husband and eldest son, Saint Augustine after 30 years of prayer; patroness of mothers.

Saturday is the Feast of St. Augustine. He received Baptism at the age of 33 from St. Ambrose and was elected bishop of Hippo. Most noted for his *Confessions* and *City of God*, he is one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church; called the “Doctor of Grace.”

OCTOBER CALENDAR TICKET

Our parish is sponsoring a \$20 calendar ticket for the month of October. Winning numbers will be determined by the PA Daily Lottery evening number. Prize total for the month is \$7,000. To purchase a ticket, please return the form with payment to the Parish Office via the Sunday collection or by mail. If you request a certain number,

we’ll do our best to accommodate your request.

Thank you, in advance, for your support!

✂ -----

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number of Tickets requested _____

Requested ticket numbers _____

Please make checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi Parish

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, August 21 -- Vigil: 21st Ordinary Sunday
 4:00 pm-M Geno Coll (Wife & Family)
 4:00 pm-F *Larry & Patty Stavish 52nd anniversary*

Sunday, August 22 -- 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Pro Populo (For the People)
 9:30 am-F *Louise Drzazgowski (MaryLou & LuAnn)*
 11:30 am-M Joseph G. Sabatelli (Wife, Rosalie)

Monday, August 23 -- Saint Rose of Lima
 8:00 am-M Elaine Rosnack (Frank/Vincenza Congelio)

Tuesday, August 24 -- Saint Bartholomew
 8:00 am-F *Frank Barry Orbash (Kim Orbash)*

Wednesday, August 25 -- Saints Louis & Joseph Calasanz
 8:00 am-M SFOA Parish Family

Thursday, August 26 -- Weekday
 8:00 am-F *Mary Durigon (Joanne Bashour)*

Friday, August 27 -- Saint Monica
 8:00 am-M Clement Ryan (Family)

Saturday, August 28 -- Vigil: 22nd Ordinary Sunday
 1:00 pm-F - *Wedding: Janelle Umbel & George Meese III*
 3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Linda Young Rhodes (Sister, Mary Young)
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Sophia Thomas & Francis Tokish (Family)*

Sunday, August 29 -- 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Paul Krokus Jr. (David Groflo & Mary Jo)
 9:30 am-F *Robert Weido Sr. (Joe & Robin Nehela)*
 11:30 am-M George & Elizabeth Parish (DrMaryAnne)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

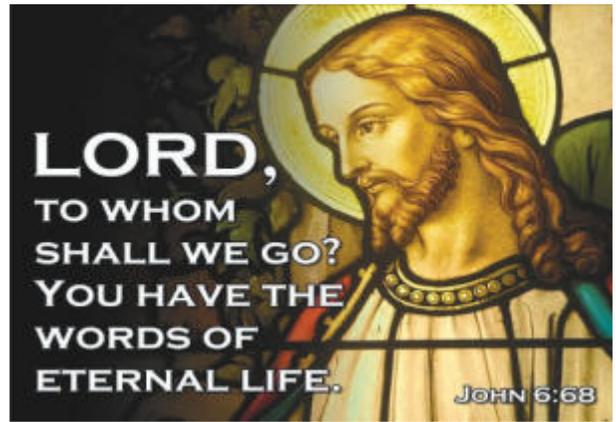
Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-10; Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30
 Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-8; Jas 1:17-27; Mk 7:1-23

Please note: The print edition of last week's bulletin (August 15) was not delivered until Monday, August 16, due to a delivery problem/conflict with UPS.

Copies of this bulletin are available this weekend.

If you have access to a computer, our bulletin can be viewed on our parish website www.sfoafayette.org

You can also have the bulletin delivered to your inbox by subscribing at ParishesOnline



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 Saturday, 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.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which one becomes a member of our Catholic faith. The process not only teaches the Doctrine of the Church, but also explores its practices. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please call or email the Parish Office - 724-583-7866; sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

† **Blessed Mother** - *Louise Drzazgowski* requested by daughters Mary Lou & Lu Ann

Sandra Lee Santella requested by Kimberly Revak

† **Saint Joseph** - *Sophia Thomas & Francis Tokish* requested by Eugene, Roseanne & Family

† **Saint Anthony** - *Mary Pasquale* requested by Donna & Frank Berdar & Children

† **Sacred Heart** - *Successful Surgery for Jimmie Lane* requested by Pappy



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