



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

September 12, 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.

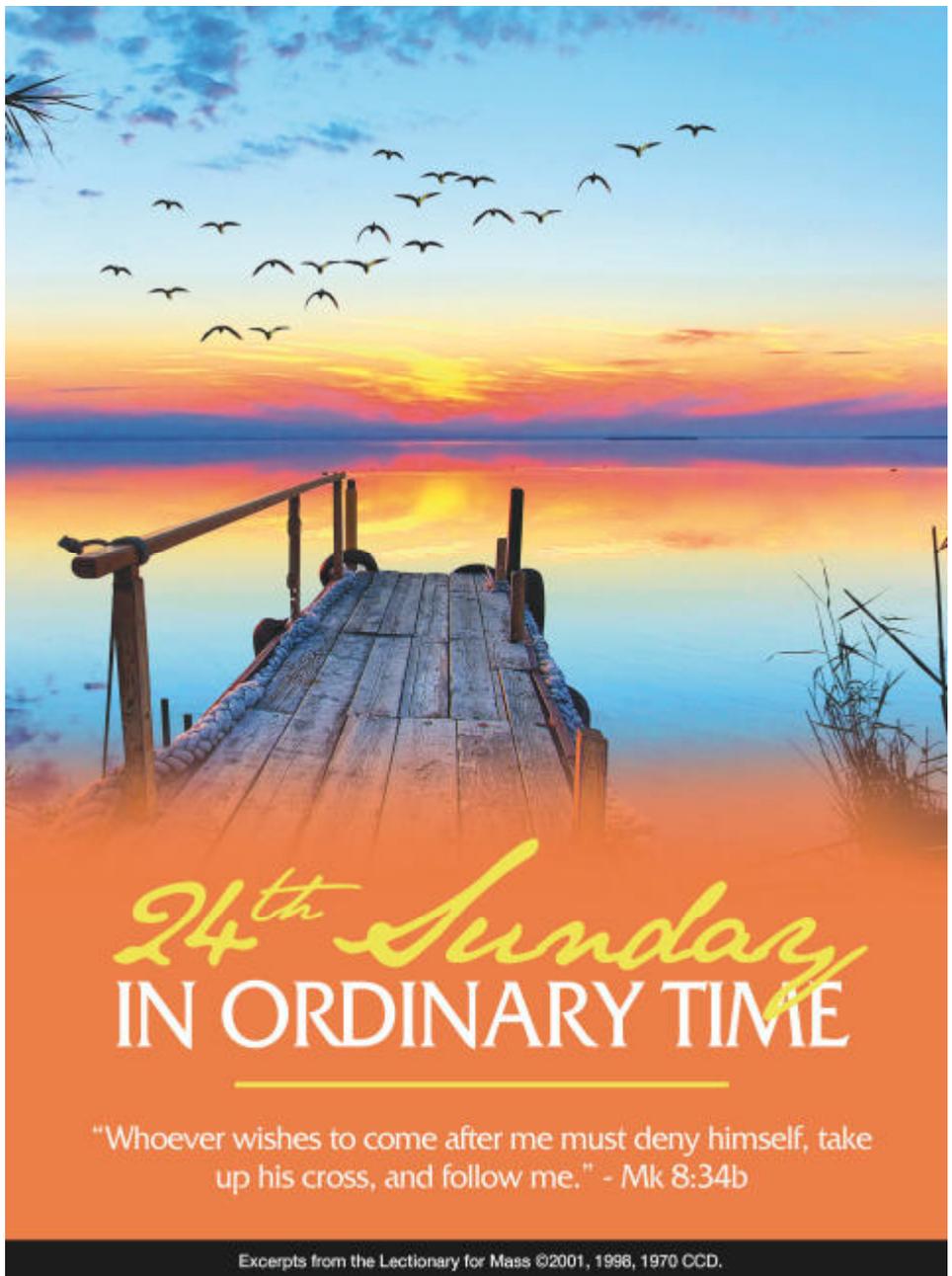
New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.

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



24th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." - Mk 8:34b

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



Fr. Marlon's Reflections - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we know, the twelve apostles were so privileged to be with Jesus in his public ministry for three years. Together with the crowd, they heard Jesus teach. They also witnessed him do miracles including the healing of the deaf-mute from the gospel last Sunday. The time had now come for Jesus to reveal to his apostles the mystery of his person.

At first Jesus did this in an indirect way. As they were on their way to the villages of Caesaria Philippi, Jesus asked them, Who do people say that I am? "People" here obviously referred to those outside the circle of his disciples. To this easy question they responded, John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets. For the "outsiders," Jesus was merely a forerunner of the Messiah as John the Baptist was. Well and good. The people did not have the same intimate knowledge of Jesus as his disciples.

Then Jesus asked his disciples directly, But who do you say that I am? After a deafening silence, Peter answered for the group, You are the Messiah. Though they answered correctly – they did not number Jesus merely among those pointing to the Messiah but was the Messiah himself, - Jesus in the words of Mark, warned them not to tell anyone about him. Why? Because he knew that the Twelve still held on to the traditional understanding of Messiah as portraying a military figure who would triumph over Israel's oppressors by the use of military might, a conqueror who would never be touched by suffering or defeat. In short, their answer was correct but their understanding of the title was wrong.

Thus Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. On hearing this, Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. He just could not accept a suffering and dying – a defeat – Messiah. He wanted his Messiah to be strong, invulnerable and victorious.

In response, Jesus rebuked Peter in front of his disciples, saying, Get behind me Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do. Jesus rejected Peter's idea and dream of a Messiah. For he came not only to suffer and die but also to be rejected – thus, totally defeated. But this defeat would be changed to victory at his resurrection on the third day. So before Peter could see Jesus as Son of God, he must first see him as a Son of Man – vulnerable to suffering and death as any man was. This was revealed in Jesus' passion.

Was Jesus able to change Peter's and the rest of his disciples' understanding of the Messiah? No. For when Jesus was about to be arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, all of his disciples abandoned him. Peter himself denied him thrice, I do not know the man (Mt. 26:72-74). It was only after the Resurrection and the sending down of the Holy Spirit that Peter and the rest fully understood the depth of meaning of Jesus' revelation of his person.

After Peter's rebuke, Jesus summoned the crowd and in the presence of his disciples said to them, Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. Jesus now laid down the condition of discipleship: self-denial, the taking up of the cross. If they were to become followers of Jesus, the first requisite was self-denial.

As he did then, Jesus now invites us to be his followers. He does not compel us to follow him on the road to suffering, to take up his cross – that alone was his. But he invites us to take up our own crosses, - everything that goes with following Jesus which in itself is not easy as it requires a lot of discipline and faith on our part. And we do not even have to look far. They are just there – the sickness we and our loved ones have and are experiencing, the hurts and pains others inflict on us, the atmosphere of fear we live in due to the pandemic and natural calamities, the uncertain future we are all facing due to the prevailing economic condition, and many more. They become crosses when we unite them to the Passion and Death of Jesus.

Jesus was first Son of Man – suffered as a man, in fact, more than any man – before he became Son of God – raised from the dead and now living in glory. That is the path he had taken. That is the path he wants us to take – first, the cross, then the glory.

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.

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTROL

From toddlerhood to old age, we grow in mastery of our own lives, our bodies and our destiny. This mastery is hard won and we don't let go of autonomy easily. Much of this self-mastery involves the avoidance of pain or discomfort, so when we hear things like "take up your cross" and "lose your life," we tend to resist the message.

James says that faith without works is dead. Ouch! That is really a direct message! One way to look at this, as well as the part about losing our life to find it, is that faith is a process of more and more openness to God's direction of our lives. It is very hard for us to give up control but perhaps what we are being asked to do is not to become passive and babyish but to allow God to direct where our self-mastery will lead and what it will accomplish. We are asked to relinquish the need to control the results of our efforts, to risk, as Jesus did, the loss of everything we are working to achieve. We are asked to let God take the lead and to control the results, even though we may never see those results.

The Lord God is my help; who will prove me wrong? - Isaiah 50:5-9a

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Rest in the presence of God simply because God is God and you are you. This is all that is necessary. Out of this relationship will come inspiration, understanding, courage, constancy, truth and virtues of all kind. We will find ourselves knowing the true meaning of things and developing a depth of insight that is not found following purely human venues. It is God who inspires and opens human hearts to see truth and beauty. In God, we understand all of our relationships with a richer appreciation and come to know who Jesus, who speaks of God's kingdom, really is. The truth that is fostered from *resting with the Divine One* allows us to see something mystical and magical that seeks to surprise us at every turn. It is not for us to cling to this world and its limitations.

Our adventure is to dream bigger and brighter, realizing that it is even in suffering that the radiant light of the dawn will come. God's ways allow for our paths to be rocky, challenging, difficult and even crippling at times. Purely human eyes cannot understand the "why" of such experiences. The eyes and mind of God, however, reveal and detail a journey that ends in glorious resurrection joy. When we lose our axis and become too human in our thinking, Jesus rebukes us and gently reminds us how to see.

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. - Psalm 116

A grandparent is a little bit parent, a little bit teacher, and a little bit best friend! Happy Grandparents Day!

**Faith Formation Begins Today**

In-person Faith Formation Classes for students in pre-school through 7th grade begin today, September 12, and take place on Sundays from 10:30 to 11:45 am in Footedale.

Golden Group meets September 15

Saint Francis of Assisi Golden Group will meet at 11:30 am on Wednesday, **September 15**, at the social hall. Lunch menu is Pasta & meatballs, salad, bread and desserts. This organization is open to seniors and new members are always welcomed. Annual dues are \$3.00.

Christian Mothers Communion Breakfast

The Saint Francis of Assisi Christian Mothers Communion Breakfast takes place on Saturday, **September 18**. Mass in Footedale is at 9:00 am; a buffet follows at the Uniontown Country Club. The cost is \$12 for members; \$16.95 for guests.

NOVENA MASSES

Our Diocese will hold Novena Masses in celebration of 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. Please join Fr. Marlon and other Filipino Priests in celebrating the 4th day of the Novena Masses here in our Saint Francis of Assisi Church, Masontown worship site on Wednesday, **September 22**, at 6pm. All are welcome.

Faith Formation Support

Please use the special envelope provided in your packets to support our Faith Formation Program. Your gift helps to provide the books and materials needed for this program which teaches our faith to the young people of our parish at no cost to them.

The Practice of Stewardship

In the second reading today, Saint James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God's gifts to us that we can never be accused of having "faith that does nothing in practice." See James 2:17

Stewardship of Treasure

September 5: \$5,213; loose \$397; monthly \$1,798; children \$7; Online \$357; Accent \$108; totaling \$7,880
We also collected \$990 for Haiti Relief, \$600 for Faith Formation and \$316 for Social Ministry

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



The month of September is dedicated to the Sorrowful Mother. Sin brings sorrow to Mary's heart who grieves for those who have wandered from the paths of God. Her motherly heart desires the salvation of the sinner through her prayers of intercession.

During the month of September, please pray with Pope Francis for an **Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle**. We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

Today is Grandparents Day!

This day began in 1978 with President Jimmy Carter. If you have grandparents, give them some love today. If your grandparents are with God, ask them to pray for you!

Today is National Day of Encouragement

“In the same way, let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

Monday is the Feast of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. “Find out how much God has given you and take from it what you need. The remainder, which you so not require, is needed by others.”

Tuesday is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Today's feast originated to commemorate the finding of the true cross by Saint Helena but it also serves a deeper purpose - to honor the sign of our salvation in Christ. As we trace the cross on ourselves, let us do so with reverence and gratitude.

Wednesday is the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Mary is certainly a model of suffering. As she stood lovingly and courageously at the foot of the cross, accompanying her son in his agony and death, she offered her anguish in union with His for the salvation of humankind. Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us! Let us say a prayer today for all parents who have lost a child.

Thursday is the Feast of Saints Cornelius & Cyprian Although they disagreed on how to treat Christians who had apostatized under persecution, they are remembered together as martyrs who themselves accepted death rather than renounce their shared faith.

Friday is the Feast of Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church and devotee of Saint Francis of Assisi who demonstrated heroic virtue by praying for his opponents, living simply and embracing spiritual discipline.

Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations at Saint Francis of Assisi Parish



Parish Sympathy is expressed to the family of † **Marcia Savina Rendina** who was buried Saturday, September 4. May God grant her eternal life and comfort her family.

CALENDAR TICKET: Typically for the Labor Day Festival, each parishioner receives a book of raffle tickets to buy or sell at a cost of \$20. Since we are unable to have the traditional raffle, we are selling 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 call Carletta (724-570-4133); Karen (724-557-3421) or Rose (724-886-8731). Tickets are also available at the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!

Parish Cash Bash - Sunday, November 7

Doors open at 2pm; cash drawings begin 2:30 pm and take place every ten minutes through 7pm. Cost of \$20 includes food and refreshments. Tickets available at the Parish Office

Vendor/Craft Show - Sunday, November 21

10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the social hall. Anyone interested in renting tables for the show should contact Carletta (724-570-4133) for more details.

32nd Annual Rosary Walk - Sunday, September 19 begins at 2pm, St. George Maronite Catholic Church.

Masontown Senior Center is celebrating its 45th anniversary with **Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push** on Sunday, **September 19**, at the American Legion Post 423 in Masontown. Doors open at 1pm; band performs 2/6pm. Tickets \$18; \$20 at the door - call 724-583-7822.

The Diocese of Greensburg's 2021 Men's Conference, **THE WELL**, will be held **September 25** at Christ Our Shepherd Center. This in-person event features speakers, prayer, worship and personal testimonies. Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate Mass at 9:15 am. The event will be held outdoors under a large tent and is open to men 18 years of age and older. The registration fee is \$50 and includes lunch. To register and get more information, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/THEWELL. Email any questions to THEWELL@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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MASS SCHEDULE ©LPI

Saturday, September 11 -- Vigil: 24th Ordinary Sunday

4:00 pm-M Thomas Pevarnik (George/Donna Parish)
 4:00 pm-F Henry & Bridget Bozek (Sons/Daughters)

Sunday, September 12 -- 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M David Solomon (Darek/Dawn Eberhart)
 9:30 am-F Richard Hanula (Kim & Faith Formation)
 11:30 am-M Elsie & Dino Elentri (Denette DeMasi)

Monday, September 13 -- Saint John Chrysostom

8:00 am-M Mazurik/Radzilowski Families (Zatlokovicz)

Tuesday, September 14 -- Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:00 am-F Walter Kitta Sr. (Frank Palo)

Wednesday, September 15 -- Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00 am-M Betty Berish (Dennis/Pamela Vicinelly)

Thursday, September 16 -- Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

8:00 am-F Michael Kudra (Joe/Charlene Patsko)

Friday, September 17 -- Saint Robert Bellarmine

8:00 am-M Mildred Demniak (Mahoney Family)

Saturday, September 18 -- Vigil: 25th Ordinary Sunday

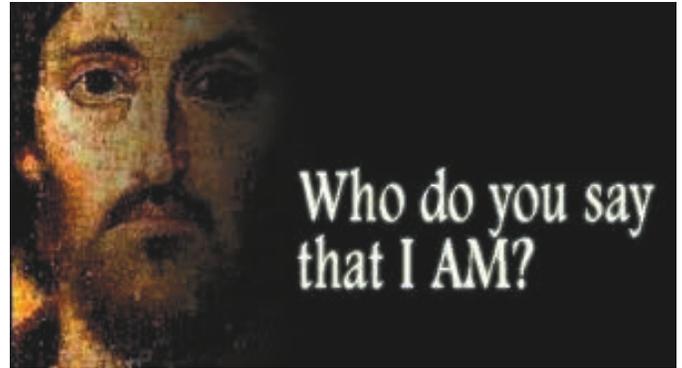
3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Karen Roderick (Son Jacob & Family)
 3-3:30 pm-F Confessions
 4:00 pm-F Martha & Steven Tretinik (Elaine Boyd)

Sunday, September 19 -- 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Maxine Allison (Retha Benedict/Family)
 9:30 am-F Irma, Alex, Lenny Tolnai (L/R Zinn)
 11:30 am-M Janet Rosinsky (A Ronco Friend)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Jn 19:25-27
 Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16; Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15
 Next Sunday: Wis 2:12-20; Jas 3:16-4:3; Mk 9:30-37



After Peter professes Jesus to be the Christ, he is rebuked because his thinking is “not God’s way.” Faith in God needs actions to express it, strengthen it and make it grow; otherwise, faith is dead. Discipleship entails denying our very selves and following the way of the Lord, a way of suffering and service. In professing our faith in Him, we can rely on the Lord for strength and salvation.

Often we hear what we want to hear, not what we need to hear. It’s only human - even Saint Peter showed this tendency. When Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer and be killed, Peter immediately drew Him aside and criticized Him. Not only did Jesus rebuke him, He told the crowd that everyone who follows Him must suffer as well, must willingly take up their cross. Let us pray for the courage to take up our crosses, comforted with the knowledge that God always accompanies us in our struggles.

Question of the Week: How do I put my faith into action? When do I resist putting my faith into action?

The Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils will meet at 6:00 pm on Monday, September 13, in Footedale.

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

- † **Sanctuary** - Steve & Martha Tretinik requested by Elaine Boyd
- † **Blessed Mother** - Monica Markusic requested by mother, Dolores Solomon
Richard Hanula requested by Kim Stavish & Faith Formation
- † **Saint Joseph** - Ronald McCann requested by Mary Anne Hritz
- † **Saint Anthony** - David Solomon requested by wife, Dolores





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