



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

September 19, 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



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name,
receives me.” - Mk 9:37a

Fr. Marlon's Reflections: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Wis 2:12, 17-20; Jas 3:16-4:3; Mark 9:30-37)

In the place where I came from, every now and then we hear stories about trucks or cars get stuck in muddy places. This is expected since there are still roads that are not cemented or not concrete. One day, there was a ten-wheeler truck that got stuck under a low overhead bridge. Nobody knew what to do until an outpatient from the mental hospital suggested letting the air out of the tires. This done, the truck, now inches lower grazed through.

When Jesus asked the apostles what they had been discussing, they had nothing to say. They were ashamed. They had no reason to argue. That is why Jesus deals with them very seriously. He sits down and calls them to Him and he speaks that if they seek for greatness in His kingdom they must find it, not being first but by being last.

When the apostles, giving to pride, begin to argue among themselves as to who among them is the greatest, the Lord calls a child into their midst and thus begins to teach them the contradiction of the Christian life:
 "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

Jealousy and envy are related to pride since envy is one of the seven capital sins like pride. There is an important distinction between jealousy and envy. Jealousy is acquisitive but envy is destructive. If I'm jealous of someone, I want something they have. But if I'm envious of someone, I resent the fact that they have something I don't and I set out to destroy it. If I'm jealous that you have a new car, I'll want a new car for myself. But if I'm envious that you have a new car, I'll slash your tires and pour sand into your gas tank!

I mentioned envy because our first reading from the Book of Wisdom is all about envy. It's not about jealousy. It says: "The wicked say, 'Let us beset the just one because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. He professes to have knowledge of God and styles himself a child of the Lord.'" These are not words of jealous people; these are the words of envious people.

These words from the Book of Wisdom are also a powerful warning to us today because we can all be tempted to envy others. No one is immune! And unfortunately, many men and women seem to give in to this very common temptation without much of a struggle. The words of St. James are telling us that that much of the conflict we experience in our lives is actually rooted in envy. Think for a moment of the conflicts in your family, think of the conflicts at school or at work, how many of them are rooted in one person's envy of another?

Envy is the pain that comes from perceiving another as possessing an object, a quality or a status that we don't possess but would like to. It is a pain too since we feel as we look at another's talents, possessions, honors or positions and conclude that we are somehow less because the other person has something we lack. This is something comparing oneself to another. Our self-esteem suffers because we feel dejected and resentful of the other's good fortune.

Comparing ourselves to others is good when it stimulates us to try harder, to do better and to reach the goal. Comparisons can, in fact, be a blessing if they motivate us to take stock of how well we are developing the gifts we do have. But comparing ourselves to others can, however, lead to envy and unethical behavior. The first sin described in the Scripture had its roots in the pride of Adam and Eve but the second one was born of envy of Cain to his brother, Abel.

Cain was envious because God accepted his brother's offering and refused his own. And so he killed his brother.

Envy can also be expressed in little ways like: being irritable with the person we envy, focusing on the other's faults and trying to bring him/her down to our level; clamming up in our rival's presence. Or we may cry.

Coming back now to ourselves: How can we avoid envy in our lives? How can we keep from falling into this sin which is one of the seven deadly sins? Well, I believed that there would be threefold to cure envy:

First of all, we need to know God's love. If we really know and understand the love that God has for us individually, we will never envy anyone else. We won't have to. We will realize that God loves us totally and completely as we are. This is something that some of us may need to pray for. We may know in our heads that God cares for us but we may not know it if we do not experience it in our lives.

Secondly, we need to seek God's perfect will. That needs to be our focus as we go through our day. It is because if we are constantly trying to discern and carry out God's will, then we won't have time to worry about what other people have and don't have. In other words, we won't have time to be envious! I really believe that this was one of the keys to Mother Teresa's holiness she always seemed to have her eyes on God and not on other people.

May all of us avoid the sin of envy, by becoming just what God wants us to be.

And lastly, the best cure is humility. This humility is a necessity of life in Christ because authentic charity will never fail to inspire it. One cannot love others in the proper way unless one is first prepared to disregard oneself enough to care for and love others by serving them before one serves oneself, by seeing to other's needs before one seeks to satisfy one's own needs,

When St. Bernard was asked what are the four cardinal virtues. He replied: "Humility, humility, humility, humility."



Today we celebrate **Catechetical Sunday**, a time for us to pray for all who teach our Faith to children and adults. While we pray for our teachers, let us remember that all of us play an important role of catechizing in our community. Faith Formation happens in many ways: living a sacramental life; celebrating the Eucharistic liturgy every Sunday; living as disciples of Christ with a mission toward evangelization; addressing justice issues; and participating in Faith Formation Classes.



We had a successful start of our Faith Formation Classes last Sunday, September 12. The kids and Faith Formation Teachers received blessings during the 9:30 am Mass. Please pray for them and for a faith-filled year.

FAITH FORMATION

In-person Faith Formation Classes for students in **pre-school through 7th grade** take place Sunday mornings 10:30 to 11:45 am in Footedale

Confirmation Preparation: All 7th grade students preparing to be confirmed next Fall must regularly attend the Confirmation Preparation Classes which began last Sunday. If you have not yet registered, **the deadline is Sunday, September 26.**

Contact Kim Stavish, Faith Formation Coordinator, with any questions: kimm70ee@yahoo.com or 724-366-8901

Dear Beloved Parishioners of Saint Francis of Assisi,

Faith Formation is the ministry that teaches our Catholic Faith to your children and grandchildren and is free to the children of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish. This is our concrete way of passing on the Catholic Faith to your children and grandchildren. The funds to cover the cost of this program come from the general fund of our parish. I want you to know that we are bleeding financially. We rely on you, our parishioners, to help support our Faith Formation program through donations. There are envelopes throughout the school year available to use or a donation can be made at anytime. So far, we received \$884 in donations from some generous parishioners. For this upcoming year, it costs close to \$2,000 just to order the basic learning materials to teach the children of our Parish. Any extra learning materials are bought and paid for by the teachers. And, from the bottom of my heart, I want to express my sincere gratitude to our Faith Formation teachers who give not only their time and talent, but also their treasure. I am asking for your support of our Faith Formation Program and appreciate any financial assistance you can provide. If you have concerns or questions, feel free to call me or Linda at 724-583-7866. Thank you for your understanding and generosity!

Fr. Marlon

Next weekend is the Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift in support of our Seminarrians, the men preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, the ongoing formation of our clergy and our International Priests. Please respond by using the tear-off portion of the letter that was mailed to you; an envelope that was in the *Accent* magazine, a special envelope that is included in your envelope set from the parish or online at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

Also, please support the seminarrians and clergy of our diocese by your prayers as they *Grow in the Lord*.

Thank you for donations to Saint Francis Parish that were given in memory of *Marcia Rendina* by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rush and Colette Freiberg

The Practice of Stewardship: Today's second reading warns that a heart consumed with avarice and envy leads to jealousy, strife, conflicts and disputes. A giving heart, in contrast, can sing instead with the psalmist, "*Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.*" See Psalm 54

Stewardship of Treasure

September 12: \$5,662; loose \$351; monthly \$1,300; children \$14; online \$657; Accent \$50 totaling \$8,034
325 envelopes were used of 816 issued
We also collected \$283 for Faith Formation
Thank you for your continued support!



What's Happening Around the Parish

Last Saturday, September 11, six kids underwent the Altar Servers Training. They are ready to serve the Lord in the many celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. They are the following: Jocelyn Pindrock, Anna Jeffries, Madelyn Grim, Julie Powell, Taesok Stoffa and Natalie Ursiny. Heartfelt gratitude to Emily Smearcheck for training our new Altar Servers.

Interested in Becoming Catholic? If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact the Parish Office - 724-583-7866 or sfoafayette@dioceseofgreensburg.org

PARISH CALENDAR TICKET - We are 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 call Carletta (724-570-4133) Karen (724-557-3421) or Rose (724-886-8731). Tickets are also available at the Parish Office. Since we were not able to have a festival this year, we need your support.

CLEARANCE UPDATE

The following clearances are required for ALL members of clergy, staff, councils and volunteers:

VIRTUS - Must be recertified every five years
MANDATED REPORTER

online course (one time only)

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

must be updated every five years

PA CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCE

must be updated every five years

FBI FINGERPRINT CHECK (employees) OR

VOLUNTEER AFFIDAVIT (volunteers)

must be updated every five years

PASTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT

read document and sign (one time only)

If you are a volunteer or member of council and we do not have each of these documents on file, please contact us immediately. These are required before you are permitted to act as volunteer in ministry or on council.

We are required to submit a report to the Bishop by the end of this month. Thank you for your help!

The annual **Knights of Columbus PIE SALE** has begun.

Order forms are available at the church entrances.

All paid orders are due by October 29. To place an order, please see any Knight or call 724-583-7719.

Thank you for your support.

Neighboring Events

The **34th Annual Rosary Walk** takes place **this afternoon** beginning at 2:00 in the Garden of Prayer at Saint George Maronite Catholic Church.

The Masontown Senior Center is celebrating its 45th anniversary today, **September 19**, with **Lenny Gomulka and Chicago Push** at the American Legion Post 423 in Masontown. Doors open at 1pm; band performs from 2 to 6 pm. Tickets at the door are \$20.

Ethnic Food Festival - Sunday, September 19

Noon to 5pm at Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 108 Main St., McClellandtown (Edenborn) featuring Cabbage rolls, Pyrohy, Haluski, Kielbasa, homemade Baked Goods & more. Eat in or Take Out; outdoor dining will be available. Questions? 724-880-2206

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MASS SCHEDULE

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

4:00 pm-M Karen Roderick (Son, Jacob & Family)
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 (Lisa/Ronnie Zimm)*
11:30 am-M Janet Rosinsky (A Ronco Friend)

Monday, September 20 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Joseph P. Tassone (SFOA Parish Family)

Tuesday, September 21 -- Saint Matthew

8:00 am-F *Donald Bello (Mary/JoAnn/Joe Coppolino)*

Wednesday, September 22 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Stephanie Balik (Caroline Marella)

Thursday, September 23 -- Saint Pius of Pietrelcina

8:00 am-F *Hannah Michele Matthews (D. Saksa)*

Friday, September 24 -- Weekday

8:00 am-M Joseph G. Sabatelli (Wife, Rosalie)

Saturday, September 25 -- Vigil: 26th Ordinary Sunday

1:00 pm-F *Wedding: Matt Jordan & Emily Thomas*
3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
4:00 pm-M Deceased Maciasz/Gall Families (K/R Connors)
3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
4:00 pm-F *Wallace Frost (Dtr Roseanne, Eugene, Fam)*

Sunday, September 26 -- 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am-M Fred Mazurik (Sister, Nancy Zatokovicz/Fam)
9:30 am-F *Regina Simon (K/S Stanish & D Demeter)*
11:30 am-M Rudolph Clearage Jr. (Carol Clearage)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Eph 4:1-13; Mt 9:9-13
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Zec 2:5-15; Lk 9:43-45
Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-20; Jas 5:1-6; Mk 9:38-48



International Day of Peace - September 21

In today's world, peace needs to become more than just a word. In Masontown, the Girl Scouts plan to take part in an international art and literacy project, *Pinwheels for Peace*, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace at the Masontown worship site. We thank the Girl Scouts for creating this beautiful display. Please pray for peace.

**The more the world is at its worst,
the more we need the Church at its best.**



Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me. - Mark 9:30-37

After speaking of His impending death, Jesus teaches His disciples that they are to be servants of all, welcoming even the children. True discipleship, He says, is concerned not with status but with service to the poor, with justice and peace. Jesus counsels us as well to welcome children in His name - in doing so, we welcome God into our lives.

This time of year is one of transition. The casual rhythms of the summer, often marked by leisure and vacation activities, give way to a new school year and a more rigorous schedule. The Gospel passages from last week and this week hint at a transition for Jesus and His disciples as well. Jesus tells them that soon He will be handed over to authorities who will kill Him but that after three days He would rise. The days of traveling around Galilee - far from Jerusalem - are ending. As we anticipate the coming of fall, let us each resolve to carry our own cross through all life's rhythms, reassured by the promise of resurrection.

Tuesday is the Feast of Saint Matthew.

Referred to as the "tax collector" he was one of the twelve Apostles and the Evangelist who authored the first of the four Gospel accounts. His account announces that Jesus is the eternal king of all creation and encourages faith in the face of doubt, especially regarding persecution.



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** - *Patti (Suba) Keeney*
requested by Don Hogan Family

Margaret Rosneck
requested by daughter, Kathleen

† **Saint Joseph** - *Wallace Frost*
requested by daughter, Roseanne, Eugene & Family

Robert Liptock Jr.
requested by sister, Stephanie



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