



Saint Francis of Assisi

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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

September 26, 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.

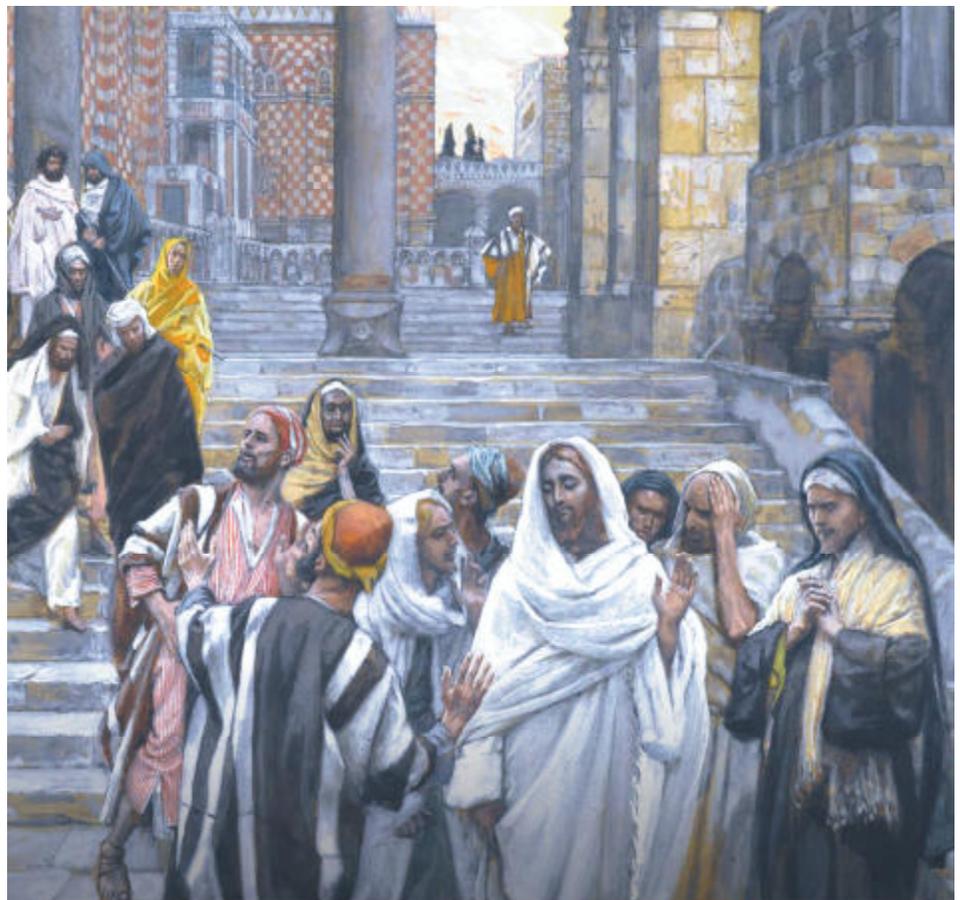
New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.

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



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me." - Mk 9:38-39

***Fr. Marlon's Reflections - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Numbers 11:25-29; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 47-48)***



In our gospel today, John and his companion-apostles met a man they did not know who expelled demons in Jesus' name. And he knew that Jesus exclusively commissioned them to expel demons. This right to expel demons belongs to them. How dare this outsider, not a member of their group and even not met Jesus or exchanged words with Him, make use of His name? Since he was not a member of their group, most probably he was an impostor or a false prophet. So what they did was they stopped him because he was not a member of their group and to end a flagrant malpractice.

Actually, this gospel passage is dealing about membership in the Church. In the early church, the question arose as to what to do about those good people who were not disciples of Jesus and were not members of the Christian community. This is still a question for us today. Can people who do not believe in God or who belong to a non-Christian religion or a Christian be saved? Can a Christian Catholic who does not participate in the sacramental life and religious activities of the Church be still called a Catholic?

Like for example, Mahatma Gandhi. He was already dead but where is he now? Is he in heaven or in hell or at least in purgatory? He was not a Christian, not even a Catholic. And Catholics until a few decades ago believed that outside the Catholic Church there is everything except salvation. He was planning to become a Christian but did not pursue it from the day he was refused admission to worship in a Christian church in South Africa because he was colored and so therefore turned his back on Christianity. Although he was a Hindu but he believed in the unique power of Christ's teachings and told Winston Churchill that the only way for world peace is that all nations abide by the beatitudes. He even practiced one of the hardest sayings of Jesus: "Love your enemies."

Going back to the questions above: Can people who do not believe in God or who belong to a non-Christian religion or a Christian be saved? Can a Christian Catholic who does not participate in the sacramental life and religious activities of the Church be still called a Catholic? St. Mark, in today's gospel, gives an answer to these questions and does a balancing act. For those people who are not members of this Christian community or who do not follow Jesus, he tells us, Jesus appreciates all the good that were done by these people. He is tolerant and refuses to show any sign of rejection. He is considerate to them. He even says, "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward."

But this is not an excuse for us who belong to this Christian Catholic community. It is because Jesus says so, then we are excused not to do our part as Catholics. Let us always remember that Jesus during Sabbath day went to synagogue. And every day, during night, Jesus went to a deserted place in order to pray and to be in communion with God. Before he ascended into heaven, he instructed His disciples to go to the whole world and preach the good news.

On the other hand, St. Mark says that Jesus is demanding to people who claimed to be His followers, those people who are members of His community, including ourselves. Jesus says: "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna ..." And so for them, Jesus demands, there is no compromise, no easy-going attitude or laxity in judgment and practice.

Like St. Thomas More, he made a sacrifice for his faith in God. St. Thomas More entered public life after he graduated from Oxford University. He rose rapidly as a government official. In 1529, King Henry VIII honored him by appointing him Chancellor of England.

But King Henry VIII divorced his queen and remarried unlawfully. To combat opposition to his marriage, Henry ordered certain dignitaries of the state to sign a document, wearing under oath that his remarriage was lawful. Henry passed word along to the dignitaries that if they refused to sign the document, they would be arrested for treason.

A dramatic scene occurred when Lord Norfolk brought the document to Thomas More. Thomas refused to sign it; no amount of persuasion would change his mind. Finally Lord Norfolk lost his patience. He said to his friend: "Oh confound all this ... I don't know whether the marriage was lawful or not. But damn it, Thomas, look at this names ... You know this men! Can't you do what I did and come along with us, for fellowship?"

St. Thomas still refused. He would swear to something that he knew in his heart was wrong. He was arrested. On July 16, 1535, he was executed for treason.

Let us be very considerate of people outside the Church and be sure our own backyard is clean.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Who are the little ones? They are the many and varied faces of people who see hope in Jesus' message about the Kingdom of God. They have come to believe that there is a different world to be had: a place where everyone has a home, all have an equal opportunity to share in God's bountiful gifts and blessings, where justice reigns, truth presides and peace fills hearts. The little ones are those who may have left their former views behind, perhaps even their former lives to follow Jesus and believe in the Beatitudes as God's world vision. They are the poor, the marginalized, the women and men at the well, the Zacchaeus looking for Jesus from a tree, the blind who want to see and the lame who want to walk. They are the lepers who have been told that they are unclean and the ones who have learned that suffering and death are nothing to fear. These are all of the little ones. Jesus gathers and protects them as a shepherd guards his sheep. Whoever causes one of these little ones to sin deserves the greatest wrath. Be more concerned about what people are doing than where they came from.

AROUND THE DIOCESE**Classic Car Show Sunday, September 26**

St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, Uniontown, Noon/4pm. Registration (\$10/car) Noon/2pm.

Celebrate Christianity in Philippines, September 28

Bishop 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. Reservations requested. Please visit www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/GiftedtoGive

Coast to Coast Rosary Celebration, October 10

Parishioners of St. Joan of Arc Parish, Farmington will participate in the annual Coast to Coast Rosary Celebration on Sunday, October 10, at 4:00 pm. Eucharistic adoration will be 3 to 4pm and light refreshments will be served afterward. For information, call 724-329-4522.

Lantern-lit Walking Tour Friday, October 29

Greensburg-Catholic Schoolhouse and St. Emma Monastery will sponsor a lantern-lit walking tour on the monastery grounds Friday, October 29, from 4-8 pm. The tour will honor the feasts of All Saints and All Souls with live saint portrayals, plus special guest appearances, treats and more. Tours will leave every 15 minutes from the main parking lot. Guests can bring flashlights for additional lighting. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and free for children 12 and under.

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 have received \$1,009 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

Thank you for a donation to Saint Francis of Assisi given in memory of *Marcia Rendina* by Laura Gusba

The Practice of Stewardship

Saint James warns in today's second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned but, in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

Stewardship of Treasure

September 19: \$5,183; monthly \$629; children \$12; loose \$208; Accent \$290; online \$282 totaling \$6,322
280 envelopes were used of 816 issued

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

What's Happening Around the Parish



Our Christian Mothers Group had a meaningful and successful Communion Breakfast last Saturday. They started the day by praying the Holy Rosary followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The day ended with the Communion Breakfast at the Uniontown Country Club.

The feast of our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi, is Monday, October 4. In this year's feast, we will be having a **Novena Prayer for 9 days** which will start this Saturday, September 25. The Novena will be prayed before the Mass. Please consider coming to our daily Masses to be spiritually prepared for a worthy and meaningful celebration of the Feast Day of our beloved patron, Saint Francis of Assisi.

This coming Monday, October 4, is the Feast of our patron, Saint Francis of Assisi. Mass will be celebrated at the Masontown worship site at 8:00 am. Since our beloved patron is the patron saint for ecologists - a title honoring his boundless love for animals and Nature - there will be a **Blessing for Animals** at both worship sites: 12:00 Noon at Footedale and 6:00 pm in Masontown.

Thursday, October 7, is the Feast of Mary in her title **Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary**. Fr. Marlon is inviting everyone to join him in praying the Holy Rosary for the Church at the Masontown worship site at 3:00 pm. Light refreshments will follow at the Saint Benedict Learning Center.

Please do not water the flowers inside the Church. There are people assigned to take care of them.

In all our thoughts and actions, we ought to remember the presence of God and account all lost in which we think not of God. - St. Bernard of Clairvaux

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!

UPCOMING AT SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

The Blessing of Pets - Monday, October 4

Noon in Footedale and at 6:00 pm in Masontown. Please bring your pet, properly caged or leashed, and seek God's blessing for them.

Parish Cash Bash - Sunday, November 7

Doors open at 2pm; cash drawings begin 2:30 pm and take place every ten minutes through 7:00 pm. 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.

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.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, September 25 -- Vigil: 26th Ordinary Sunday
 4:00 pm-M Deceased Maciasz/Gall Families (K/R Connors)
 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 Zatlakovicz/Fam)
 9:30 am-F *Regina Simon (K/S Stanish & D Demeter)*
 11:30 am-M Rudolph Clearage Jr. (Carol Clearage)

Monday, September 27 -- Saint Vincent
 8:00 am-M Greg Cox (Parents)

Tuesday, September 28 -- Sts Wenceslaus/Lawrence Ruiz
 8:00 am-F *John & Bridget M. Berisko (Sons)*

Wednesday, September 29 -- Archangels
 8:00 am-M Dee Dee Pavlovich (Rick/Nancy Zatlakovicz)

Thursday, September 30 -- Saint Jerome
 8:00 am-F *Frank & Mary Ann Kordella (Son, David)*

Friday, October 1 -- Saint Therese of the Child Jesus
 8:00 am-M Maryann Burke (Family)

Saturday, October 2 -- Vigil: 27th Ordinary Sunday
 3-3:30 pm-M Confessions
 4:00 pm-M Mary Homa (George Homa/Children)
 3-3:30 pm-F *Confessions*
 4:00 pm-F *Henry & Bridget Bozak (Sons/Daughters)*

Sunday, October 3 -- 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 am-M Michael Kudra (Rick/Denise Bobincheck)
 9:30 am-F *Catherine Shimshock (Helen Pollick)*
 11:30 am-M Pro Popo (For the People)

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Zec 8:1-8; Lk 9:46-50
 Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23; Lk 9:51-56
 Wednesday: Dn 7:9-14; Jn 1:47-51
 Thursday: Neh 8:1-12; Lk 10:1-12
 Friday: Bar 1:15-22; Lk 10:13-16
 Saturday: Bar 4:5-20; Mt 18:1-10
 Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:2-16



SEMINARIAN and CLERGY FORMATION COLLECTION TODAY

Today is the annual diocesan collection for our Seminarians, men preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, the ongoing formation of our clergy and our International Priests. Please be generous in supporting the needs of our Seminarians and Clergy through this collection.

In addition to your financial support, please pray for vocations to the priesthood, the diaconate and religious life, so they may continue to *Grow in the Lord*.



We gather together today to listen to God's word and to share in the Eucharist. In today's first reading we hear the story of two of Moses' friends, Eldad and Medad, who missed the gathering when the Lord bestowed the spirit of prophesy on all the elders, yet the spirit of the Lord came to rest on them as well. Let us keep in mind all those who are not with us today - for whatever reason - and pray that the Holy Spirit may bear fruit in them as well as in all of us.

Monday is the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul. He renewed the clergy, defended the poor & abandoned, founded the Vincentians; patron of charitable societies.

Wednesday is the Feast of the Archangels, biblical messengers who signify God's transcendence and loving care. **Michael** (Who is like God?) is patron of security forces and the sick; **Gabriel** (God's Strength) is patron of telecommunications and the postal service; **Raphael** (God's Remedy) is patron of travelers and the blind.

Thursday is the Feast of Saint Jerome, devoted monk who authored numerous commentaries and the Latin translation of the Bible. One of the four great doctors of the Latin Church, he is patron of scripture scholars.

Friday is the Feast of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, who in her autobiography *The Story of a Soul* urged all to follow *the little way*. Proclaimed a doctor of the church by Saint Pope John Paul II, she is patroness of missions, florists; secondary patroness of the Apostleship of Prayer.

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

- † **Blessed Mother** - *Bridget Bozak*
requested by daughters & sons
- † **Saint Joseph** - *John & Bridget M. Berisko*
requested by son, Philip
- † **Sacred Heart** - *Louis & Angela Pikulski*
requested by her daughters



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