

## Pastor's Note

### Presentation of the Lord

It is hard to believe, but it was forty days ago we celebrated Christmas. Now all of the Christmas trees, decorations and lights have been put away for another year and it's time to focus on St. Valentine's Day. Two Sunday's have already passed in "Ordinary Time" and the past two weekends, the gospel focused on Jesus' early ministry years. But today, we pause from "Ordinary Time" and celebrate the day when Mary and Joseph, in fulfillment of the Law of Moses, presented the infant Jesus to God in the temple. We call this Feast Day, the Presentation of the Lord.

In the First Reading from Malachi, we read how God sends a messenger to steer a wayward people back to the path of life. Judah and Jerusalem will once again enjoy the benefits that flow from a right relationship with God. In the Second Reading to the Hebrews, we read how Jesus is fully human and a high priest. We are reminded that Jesus shared our human nature and offered up the perfect sacrifice.

In today's Gospel of Luke, Jesus is consecrated to the Lord in fulfillment of the prophets, Simeon and Anna. His parents are giving back the very gift that God had given them. As Christians, we are presented at Baptism by name and as we grow in our faith, we try to live by our own loving, thankful service to him. Let us pray to live with dignity, humility, and courage.

### Blessing of Throats

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, we will have the "Blessing of Throats" after each Mass this weekend. All are invited to get their throats blessed.

### Corpus Christi Church Update

The former Corpus Christi Church, in Lincoln-Lemington, was closed in November, 2018 due to roof leaks and mold. The Diocese of Pittsburgh granted us permission to close the building and put it up for sale since we no longer can afford to maintain it. New Grace Missionary Baptist Church approached me last fall and asked if they could move in, clean it up, rent the building and possibly purchase it for their congregation. We are in waiting mode with their bank and hopefully will complete the sale of the building shortly. The Diocesan Legal Office and Property and Planning are assisting us with this project.

### Financial Giving

Thank you to all who are using their envelopes or participating in the Faith Direct Online Giving to financially support St. Mary Magdalene Parish. Your offertory giving helps with the day to day costs to operate our parish offices, maintain our churches with utilities, maintenance, and insurance, and keep our programs running smoothly.

Please use your weekly envelopes and if at all possible with the various envelopes: Regular Offertory, Parish Share, Social Ministry, School Support, St. Vincent de Paul and other special collections; please use separate checks or cash for each envelope. By doing this, it helps our money counters and our Office Manager count more easily and it ensures proper posting to each givers account more accurately. We appreciate your understanding.

If you are not receiving envelopes or the Pittsburgh Catholic Newspaper, please contact office manager, Terri Price at 412.661.7222. It is very important that we have your correct census information: name, address, telephone number and email address. Please let us know of any changes.

### Personal Note:

As your pastor, please know that I am here for you. If you have a concern about something in the parish or need clarification about something that you heard, please approach me in person after Mass, give me a call or email me. (I do not read anonymous letters). I am really excited about the possibilities of our new St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Thursday is my one and only day off during the week so please hold any calls or emails until I return to the office on Friday morning. Since I am off campus on Thursdays, I am unable to attend any school

events or parish meetings held on Thursdays. We all need a day off to recharge and be refreshed and renew. Thank you for your understanding. We are all in this together to spread the good news!

**Happy Birthday** to our Director of Maintenance **Paul Denk** celebrating his birthday this Sunday.

### Something to Think About...

Its faith in something, and enthusiasm for something, that makes life worth living.

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)