

PASTOR'S NOTE

OCTOBER 4, TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Bear Fruit for the Kingdom of God!

This weekend, we celebrate the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on labor and harvests, pointing out that each of us is a laborer in God's vineyard and is expected to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

In the first reading from Isaiah, we reflect on the vineyard of the Lord. God has put a great amount of work and care into the vineyard giving it everything it needs to produce a crop. In the second reading to the Philippians, Paul writes to a community that is struggling with conflict and division, and reminds them not to have anxiety. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the parable of the landowner who planted in the vineyard. The tenants rebel and take over the vineyard, as if it belonged, and refuse to recognize the rights of both the vineyard owner (God) and his son (Jesus). The vineyard represents Israel, the wicked tenants are the religious leaders of Israel and the servants represent the prophets. The Jewish leader's opposition to Jesus steadily increased and culminated in Jesus' death. The chief priests and the scribes pronounce judgment on themselves. The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

All three readings challenge and encourage us to lead a life worthy of the gospel. Through prayer, the Eucharist, and committed service to those in need, we bring forth the fruits of the Kingdom. The gospel reminds us that we have an obligation to bear fruit of forgiveness and mercy. May we bear fruit in plenty and be pleasing in his sight by living a life that is marked by love and respect.

Bear Fruit for the Kingdom of God!

Blessing of This Weekend!

In honor of the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we will have the **Blessing of Pets, today, October 4 at 3:00 pm** on the green lawn in front of the parish office at 509 S. Dallas Avenue in Point Breeze. Please bring your dog, cat, bird, or any other furry creature to get blessed, also remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing.

Parish Census

All Registered Parishioners should have received a "Census Letter" in the mail a few weeks ago. Please look over the card with your information, make any necessary changes, and mail back in the enclosed envelope. We appreciate your full participation as we update our files.

Every Catholic needs a place to call home. If you are not officially registered, we have registration forms in the back of all three of our churches, on the Welcome page of our website, saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org or you can call Terri Price at the parish office at 412.661.7222.

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) has started. Classes are Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm via Zoom.

Those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith or need the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation are welcomed. Please call Teresa Maynor, our Director of Religious Education at 412.661.7222 or email tmaynor@stmarymagphg.org for more information.

Parish Improvements

Arrow Electric recently upgraded several lights inside St. Bede Church near the Choir area and in our two confessionals. We now have new LED lights inside the confessionals for safety and security.

Ruthrauff Mechanical is currently building a new boiler system in the basement of St. Bede School.

Schultheis Roofing continues to upgrade the St. Bede School Roof.

Congratulations to **Grayson Lee Young** who was Baptized last weekend.

Welcome

I am pleased to welcome to our parish staff: **Pat Hoffman** and **Marcus Smith**. They will be working part time in our Ministry Center. Pat is a licensed Social Worker and will be assisting with clients and helping Anne Scheuermann with paper work. Marcus will be working maintenance and coordinating food pick-up and deliveries and also assisting Veronica Snyder at our Holy Rosary Food Bank in Homewood. Thank you to all who financially support our parish and Ministry Center so that we can help our neighbors in need.

A special welcome to **Tadeusz, Jessica, Zofia**, and **Jacob Witek** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Something to Think About...

Envy - the seed sown. Strife - the plant grown

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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