

Pastor's Note January 3, The Epiphany of the Lord

Merry Little Christmas!

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany also referred to as "Little Christmas." Epiphany is a Greek word which means showing forth or manifestation. The primary symbol of Epiphany is light. The love of God's glory shines forth in Christ our light, through whom we are renewed and remade in God's image and likeness.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how the prophet cheers as the exiles who returned from Babylon with a vision of a restored city. The prophecy is fulfilled in Christ and in the new Israel, the Church. In the second reading to the Ephesians, God invites Jews and Gentiles to share on equal footing the salvation brought by Christ. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how the three Magi, who were Gentiles came from a far country to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews, while the Jewish leaders rejected him.

As we begin a new year, 2021, and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we pray that God's light may shine in our hearts and on our world. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, social justice issues, the political divisions in Washington D.C., and the opioid crisis, let us not focus on the darkness of things but on the light of Christ coming into this world.

This coming Wednesday, January 6, we celebrate our First Anniversary as St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Parish. What a wonderful first year (despite the Covid-19 pandemic), we have had working as one parish family. I am truly honored to be the founding Pastor and together with Fr. David Taylor and Fr. Matthew Hawkins, we appreciate your love, support, and prayers as we continue growing with each other. In looking at what we have accomplished as one parish with three churches, we are doing so much for our community with the food banks that we operate in Homewood and Wilksburg, the various Social Justice issues we take part in on a monthly basis, the Cultural Action Team (CAT) working to bring racial harmony and equality to those around us, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Christian Mothers, our two wonderful Catholic Schools; St. Bede and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy, the various Zoom small groups, bible studies; St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Parish is alive proclaiming the gospel message here in the East End.

Merry Little Christmas!

Pastoral and Finance Councils

I would like to thank our Pastoral Council and Finance Council members for their leadership. Pastoral Council meets the third Monday of the month and Finance Council meets on the fourth Monday. During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have been meeting via Zoom. We will be having several seats open for new Council members and will be working to establish new goals, objectives, a Mission Statement, and set the course planning our future.

If you feel called to serve in a leadership position of the parish, please call or e-mail me to discuss.

St. James Rectory Window Project

St. James Rectory has thirty-three windows that need replacing. They are old, leaking, and most do not even open. We have an estimate from Metropolitan Window Company and would like to replace the windows in two phases. If you would like to "adopt a window" and make a donation, please make your checks payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it "Rectory Window Fund" and mail it to my attention. We have already collected \$30,000 for the first phase which will replace twelve windows on the third floor and ten windows on the second floor. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss. We appreciate your support.

2021 Mass Intentions

The 2021 Mass Intention book is open. Forms are available in the vestibule at all three of our campuses and should be returned to the parish office with the \$10.00 stipend. Sanctuary Candles are also available. Please contact Terri Price at the Parish Office to schedule.

Welcome

A special warm welcome to **Doug, Ashton, Grace,** and **Isabella Anderson** and **Carolyn Reed** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish!

Congratulations to **Theodore Charles Erlandson**, who is being baptized this weekend and **Caroline Havern Meehan**, and **Sienna Jane Ricci** who were baptized last weekend.

Happy Birthday to our Office Manager, **Terri Price**, who celebrated her birthday last Sunday, December 27!

Something to Think About...

*Life is not a having and a getting,
but a being and a becoming.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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