

PASTOR'S NOTE
DECEMBER 6, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Prepare the Way!

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent. All the readings encourage hope. This Advent, we too hear the words of comfort as we must wait patiently for an end to our own afflictions, and hope for a new heaven and a new earth.

In today's first reading from Second Isaiah, we read what scripture scholars often refer to as "The Book of Consolation" as we read how God entrusts a prophet with the task of bringing comfort to a weary people. They have endured long enough harsh words of judgement as well as the oppressive demands of foreigners. God will lead the people back from Babylon to their homeland. The prophet assures his people a new exodus as the people travel from Egypt to the Promise Land.

In the second reading, from Second Peter, we read how Peter encourages us to make ready for the coming of the Lord. Christ's final coming speaks of new heavens and a new earth. In the gospel this weekend, we read the beginning of the Gospel of St. Mark and are introduced to Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, who always points to Christ. The beginning of the public ministry of Jesus coincides with the activity of John the Baptist. We must strive to walk in his light. The only way to find peace and happiness is to forget ourselves and love others.

The Coronavirus has brought us isolation and taken many lives and altered our way of life. Division in our families, neighborhoods, church, and nation can cause us to look at all the doom and gloom in our world. Let us not fall into the negativity of the world problems but look at the Advent Wreath with the two candles lit as a sign of light, hope and peace. Advent provides us the opportunity to hear the Good News and we are encouraged to recognize the "desert experiences" in our lives as a sign of growth and strength. There is still a voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting us to prepare our hearts for the one who is to come.

Prepare the Way!

Looking Ahead

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Tuesday, December 8

9 am - St. Bede, Livestream
9 am - St. James
Noon - Mother of Good Counsel
7 pm - St. Bede

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

2 pm - Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. Matthew)
4 pm - St. Bede (Fr. Taylor)
5:30 pm - St. James (Fr. Tom) Livestream
Midnight- St. Bede (Fr. Tom) Broadcasting Live on KDKA Radio 100.1 FM and 1020 AM

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

9 am- Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. Tom)
10:30 am- St. James (Fr. Taylor)
Noon - St. Bede (Fr. Matthew)

New Year's Eve - Thursday, December 31

4 pm - St. James (Fr. Tom)

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1

9 am- Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. Matthew)

11 am- St. Bede (Fr. Taylor) Livestream

Year End Donations

As we come close to the end of another year, I want to thank those who have worshiped, prayed and celebrated with us. As you make decisions on your year-end contributions, please consider your St. Mary Magdalene Parish Community. Your financial contributions in the weekly offertory collection help us continue to keep the parish campuses updated, clean and comfortable. With the Covid-19 pandemic there are extra costs with cleaning and sanitizing our three churches weekly, keeping up to date with technology to have Livestreaming available and the extra costs this time of year with snow removal and salt. Please remember to support our Parish, Schools, Social Ministry Center, and the Parish Share Campaign. Together we can keep the Catholic Community of the East End, Alive and Well and Growing.

Welcome

A special welcome to **Aaron, Jenna, and Colten Kinkela, Chris and Debra Luther, and Peter and Marilyn Messina** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Congratulations

to Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory who was appointed by Pope Francis during a consistory ceremony last Saturday, November 28 in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Cardinal Gregory becomes the first black American cardinal.

Thank you to **Melissa Viator** for decorating St. James Church, **Mary Grace** and **Judy Prata** for decorating Mother of Good Counsel Church, and **Angie** and **Tim McVeagh** and **Nancy O'Brien** for decorating St. Bede Church for the Season of Advent.

Something to Think About...

*The really happy person is the one
who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.*

Anonymous

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

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