

PASTOR'S NOTE

DECEMBER 13, THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rejoice!

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete Sunday" which means Rejoice! We are half way to Christmas! The pink candle in our Advent wreath signifies joy and hope and this weekend's readings focus on rejoicing.

In today's first reading from Isaiah, we read how Isaiah rejoices as he brings glad tidings of God's vindication for his people. In the second reading, from the Letter to the Thessalonians, we read how Paul encourages rejoicing as God prepares his people for the return of the Lord. In the gospel of St. John, we read how John the Baptist testifies to the light and cries out in the desert to make straight the way of the Lord. He spoke about Jesus and helped people be ready for his message and prepared the people to be ready for Jesus' ministry.

Advent is a season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. Gaudete Sunday affirms the value of rejoicing and gives reasons for rejoicing. With great rejoicing and longing for Christ's return, let us take John's words to heart and prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the cold winter season, let us light the pink candle this weekend and see the light of Christ shine on us and bring joy to someone who may be lonely or grieving the loss of a loved one this holiday season by making a phone call or writing a card to someone we have not talked to in a while. Let us rejoice this Gaudete Sunday!

We are looking for volunteers next weekend after the three Masses to decorate our churches. If you would like to stay and decorate after the 4 pm Saturday evening mass at St. James, 9 am Sunday at Mother of Good Counsel and 11 am at St. Bede your help is greatly appreciated!

Rejoice!

Looking Ahead

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

2 pm - Mother of Good Counsel (Fr. Taylor)

4 pm - St. Bede (Fr. Matthew)

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)

10:30am - St. James (Fr. Taylor)

Noon - St. Bede (Fr. Matthew)

New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31

4pm- 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

****Please note that you do not need to register or RSVP to attend Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. We have plenty of room at our three campuses and all are welcomed!****

Year End Donations

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 campuses updated, clean and comfortable. With the Covid-19 pandemic there are extra costs with cleaning and sanitizing, 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 also support our Parish Share Campaign.

St. James Rectory Window Project

St. James Rectory has thirty-three windows that are in desperate need of 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 three phases. If you would like to “adopt a window” and make a donation, please make your checks payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish, memo it “Rectory Window Fund” and mail it to my attention. We have already collected \$13,000 for the first phase which will replace twelve windows on the third floor. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss. We appreciate your support.

Parish Improvements

The first-floor lobby of the Holy Rosary Rectory received a fresh coat of paint last week. Special thanks to our Director of Maintenance, Paul Denk, for his painting expertise.

Welcome

A special welcome to **Eric, Holly, Juliana, Andrew, and Sage Mohr** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Mackenzie Maurer** and **Evan Ditty** who are celebrating their wedding this weekend!

Happy Birthday

Happy 80th Birthday to my dad, Bill Burke, who celebrated his birthday this past Thursday, December 10!

Something to Think About...

The world looks brighter from behind a smile.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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