

PASTOR'S NOTE

December 20, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Merry Christmas!

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the fourth and final candle in our Advent Wreath. For the past four weeks we have been watching, waiting, and preparing the way for the Lord. All the readings this weekend focus on being created by God individually and uniquely to do the Lord's will.

In the first reading from Samuel, we read how the Lord reminds David, that the Lord chose him personally to be king and that the kingdom would be established in his name forever. In the Gospel of Luke, we read the "Annunciation." The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will conceive and bear a son. Mary says yes to God "may it be done to me according to your word." Luke portrays Mary as pondering, but she is not afraid.

God calls each of us to a mission, from King David to Mary, we are free to say yes or no to God. Advent signifies hope. Only in deep prayer, can we become aware what God wants from us. We have been created by God individually and uniquely to do the Lord's will.

God always keeps his promises, and he promised David a favor, a kingdom, and the future son. God kept his promise and Mary agreed to become the Mother of God, and Jesus was made incarnate in her words.

As we continue to take precautions with the Covid-19 pandemic and limiting our family celebrations, let us make some Christmas and New Year's resolutions to pray more, attend Mass on a regular basis, either in person or via online, and become more fully involved in the various parish activities, small groups, and events that are available.

Merry Christmas!

Our office will close at Noon on Wednesday, December 23 and reopen on Monday, January 4.

Please hold all phone calls and office business until after the Christmas and New Year's holidays. If you need assistance (for an emergency matter), please call my office at 412.661.7222 ext. 202.

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

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

****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 and 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.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Christina Merritt** and **Matthew Burkell** who are celebrating their wedding this weekend!

Christmas Reflection

As I spend my third Christmas with you as your Pastor, I am honored to be a priest and serve you.

On behalf of the entire St. Mary Magdalene staff,
we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!

Something to Think About...

*Not everything that is faced can be changed,
but nothing can be changed until it is faced.*

James Baldwin

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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