

PASTOR'S NOTE

December 27, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

We Are Family!

We all are part of a family, whether it is blood related, school, work or parish we have each other to lean on. During the Covid-19 pandemic many parents have “reconnected” with their children by having to stay home. With businesses and schools closed, more families are having dinner together and spending more time watching movies, playing outside, or cooking and baking in the kitchen. Out of a negative situation (pandemic) there is a positive (reconnecting).

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. This Feast was added to the calendar by Pope Leo XIII in 1893 to highlight the importance of the Christian family and to point to the Holy Family as a model for all families to follow. In the first reading from the Book of Sirach, we read how a wise teacher offers a valuable lesson about strengthening the bonds that keep a family together. In the Second Reading to the Colossians, Paul reminds us that as members of Christ's body we are one with the Lord.

In the Gospel of Luke, we read the “Presentation in the Temple” as Mary is purified, and her son Jesus is presented to the Lord. The Holy Family had their challenges like us, but they are a great model to follow. We all face challenges every day. Let us pray for those families that are divided or experiencing divorce, separation, drug addiction, abuse, or infidelity. Let us pray that we all may become one.

We Are Family!

Looking Ahead

New Year's Eve - Thursday, December 31

9 am - St. Bede (Fr. Taylor)

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 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 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 \$23,000 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.

Pastoral and Finance Council

As we conclude this year of 2020, 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. Since we are reaching the one-year mark of St. Mary Magdalene Parish, we will be having several seats opening for a new Council member. If you feel called to serve in a leadership position of the parish, please call or email me to discuss.

Rectory Hours

The Rectory offices are currently closed for the Holiday Season until Monday, January 4. Please hold all rectory phone calls and office business. If you need assistance (**for an emergency matter only**) please call my office at 412.661.7222 ext. 202.

Parish Improvements

The circulating pump attached to the boiler at Mother of Good Counsel has been serviced by Ruthrauff. The pump malfunctioned a few weeks ago but is now working properly.

Special thanks to the St. Mary Magdalene Boy Scouts for cleaning up the shrubs and parking lot at Mother of Good Counsel and the Cub Scouts for raking leaves at St. Bede.

Thank You

Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped decorate our three churches for Christmas.

Something to Think About...

A family that prays together, stays together!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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