

PASTOR'S NOTE

FEBRUARY 16, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

To Fulfill the Law!

This weekend we celebrate the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on loving God, and keeping the commandments. Today's first reading from Sirach tells the people that they can choose to follow the commandments, or not. God's wisdom often seems to be the opposite of what we are conditioned to think. When we choose, to keep the commandments, we are admitting that God's wisdom is more trustworthy than our own. We have a choice - trust ourselves or trust God.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue reading the "Sermon on the Mount" as Jesus shows that he has come to fulfill the law and the prophets. Addressing law, anger, adultery, divorce and oaths, Jesus emphasizes that the teaching of the law and the prophets has an internal aspect that surpasses the simple literal interpretation. Jesus declares that his mission is not to do away with the law and the prophets but to fulfill them in a particular way. He eats with the sinners, and cures on the Sabbath, he is not in conflict with the law itself, but how it is being interpreted.

Each of us has decisions to make in our lives. God has given us the freedom to choose good or evil, to choose life or death. Let us reflect on our past faults and sins and that every wrong deed may be forgiven. Let us look forward with love and hope.

To Fulfill the Law!

Ongoing Improvements

Graphics 22 of Hazelwood installed new lettering on the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Gym and Activity Center. We will continue to install new parish signs and lettering at all three of our campuses. Special thanks to two anonymous donors for making this project a possibility.

Metropolitan Window Company of Baldwin installed two new windows and a new back door at the St. Mary Magdalene Administrative Center this past week. Funds from several parishioners made this project a possibility.

Looking Ahead

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Parents' Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 18, at 7 pm** in the St. Bede School Cafeteria.

Saturday, February 22 at 11 am at St. James Church, all **Eucharistic Ministers** of St. Mary Magdalene Parish are invited for a "refresher training session." Lunch will be provided in the Chapel.

Ash Wednesday, February 26, Masses will be at

9 am - St. Bede

9 am - St. James

Noon - Mother of Good Counsel

7 pm - St. Bede

Stations of the Cross every Thursday at Noon at Mother of Good Counsel and every Friday evening during Lent at 7 pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at St. Bede.

Scout Mass will be held **Sunday, March 8 at the 11 am Mass.**

First Reconciliation will be held on **Saturday, March 14 at 11am at St. Bede.**

Rite of Election for RCIA Candidates and Catechumen on **Sunday, March 15, at 2pm at St. Paul Cathedral.**

Taizé and Penance Service, Sunday, March 22, at 3 pm at Mother of Good Counsel.

Confirmation Retreat will be held on **Wednesday, March 25**, at the Martina Spiritual Center in West View.

"Light is On for You" on Wednesday, April 1, 6 pm to 9 pm at St. Bede.

Living Stations on Palm Sunday, April 5, 7:30 pm. St. Ferdinand Parish Youth Ministry Program performs "Living Stations" at St. Bede.

Parish and Ministry Van

The parish van that we currently use to pick up food and supplies from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in Duquesne most likely will not pass inspection this year. We are looking at purchasing a 2011 Ford E150 XL Econoline 8 passenger van that is in excellent condition. We could also use this van on the weekends for parishioners who need a ride to church. If you are interested in helping to fund this project please make check payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it "parish van fund" and mail it to my attention to the parish office.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ellis Bonifacio Fittz and Mattea Lee Esposito Gray who are being baptized this weekend.

Farewell Jim Speranza

Jim Speranza, from our Maintenance Department, will be concluding his employment with us this coming Friday, February 21. We thank Jim for his service and wish him well on his next journey.

Something to Think About...

It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get back up.

Vince Lombardi

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

tburke@diopitt.org