

PASTOR'S NOTE

Love God, Love Neighbor!

It is that time of year to make some Lenten goals and resolutions. Lent begins this coming Wednesday! What are you giving up for Lent? What do you want to do "extra" for the next Forty Days to become closer to Christ? What are the areas in your life that you want to do "differently?"

This weekend we celebrate the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on loving God and loving our neighbor. As Christians we need to try to imitate the generosity of God in our readiness to forgive, not to act out of vengeance or bear a grudge against another person.

In the first reading from Leviticus, we read how people are challenged to move beyond the ways of the world and imitate instead the ways of God. This long section of Leviticus is often called "the Holiness Code." It is a collection of numerous directives that explain how people are to live in holiness.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue reading from the "Sermon on the Mount" as Jesus rejects all forms of retaliation and proclaims that his followers must love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them.

Let us pray for peace, healing and reconciliation with one another and especially pray for our elected officials in Washington D.C. to let go of the anger, bitterness, and hatred and try to work together. Let us be united, not divided!

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Parish Improvements

This past week, **Bakers Waterproofing** installed a Water Guard sub-floor drainage system and applied Mold X2 cleaner, and installed two sump pumps into the sewage system in the Parish Office basement.

Bakers Waterproofing will begin work in the St. James Rectory upgrading the drainage system.

Cuccarro Plumbing of Homewood has begun repairs to several pipes in the Holy Rosary Rectory basement. An insurance claim will help cover most of the cost of this project.

Luffy Masonary installed a new hand rail to the back porch steps of the Parish Office.

**Thank you for your continued financial generosity
to St. Mary Magdalene Parish so that we can
"continue to share the Good News to All!"**

Upcoming Activities

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 during Lent are every Thursday at Noon at Mother of Good Counsel and every Friday 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 11 am at St. Bede.

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

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

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 later on this year. After talking to the Ministry Center Staff

and volunteers this past week discussing their needs for transportation and delivery of food and supplies, we are looking into possibly purchasing a cargo van (without seats) that the Ministry Center would use and also purchasing a passenger van to be used to transport parishioners to and from their homes to church who need transportation. We will keep you posted on the progress of this wonderful project.

If you are interested in helping to fund this Parish and memo it "parish van fund" and mail it to my attention to the Parish Office. We appreciate those who have given to our van fund so far!

Maintenance Position

St. Mary Magdalene Parish is looking to hire a full time maintenance person to help out with general maintenance at our five campuses. The position requires plumbing, heating, electrical and housekeeping experience along with the safety and child clearances required by the Diocese of Pittsburgh. If interested, please submit a resume to my attention at the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Offices.

Happy Birthday to **Carla LaRocca DiDonato** from our Music Ministry Team, and **Matthew Denk** from our Maintenance Staff who celebrated their birthdays this past week!

Something to Think About...

"Anger can be an expensive luxury."

Italian Proverb

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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