

## Pastor's Note: March 1, First Sunday of Lent

### Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking

The Season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday before the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. We walk this journey together for the next six weeks focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. All the readings focus on temptation. As human beings we all struggle with various temptations; eating or drinking something unhealthy, driving through a red light or stop sign, viewing inappropriate things on the internet, breaking our marriage vows, or taking money or items we find at work or school.

In the first reading from the Book of Genesis we read about the fall of Adam and Eve. They had everything in life and lived in paradise until they were tempted by the devil. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how Jesus enters the desert (wilderness) for forty days, and is tempted three times by the devil. The desert is symbolically the place of purification. Israel spent forty years in the desert and Jesus was in the desert for forty days.

Let us be refreshed and renewed to make these forty days a time of cleansing and renewal. Let us develop a habit of daily prayer so that we can combat the daily temptations and struggles that life throws at us.

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#### Update on Corpus Christi and Holy Rosary Churches

Plans to have New Grace Baptist Church purchase the former Corpus Christi Church on Lincoln Avenue in Lincoln-Lemington have fallen through. New Grace was unable to come up with financing to purchase the building, so we are seeking out assistance to market the building. We continue to heat and maintain the building and grounds.

We also continue to heat and maintain Holy Rosary Church on Kelly Street in Homewood. We are seeking out parishioners who would like to be on a *"Buildings and Grounds Committee"* to determine the future of both properties. If you are interested, please contact me via phone or email or see me in person.

**Eucharistic Ministers** Last weekend our Eucharistic Ministers met for a "meet and greet" at St. James. We had a chance to go over the procedures for Eucharistic Ministering at all three of our campuses. Effective this weekend we are going to follow the diocesan procedure of not having Eucharistic Ministers wear robes at St. James or Mother of Good Counsel for Masses. Those who are Eucharistic Ministering at Masses will simply

dress appropriately. Adult servers will continue wearing the robes as usual. Also, at the St. Bede Campus, the sacristan (“captain”) will now sit with the congregation instead of on the altar. Plans are being made to have a “meet and greet” for all Lectors in our parish in the coming weeks. Stay posted.

**Are you registered?** All registered parishioners should have received a copy of the Pittsburgh Catholic newspaper last weekend that went out as “Universal Distribution.” If you are not officially registered in the parish, not receiving mailings or envelopes, or have a change in an address, phone number or change in household occupants, then please call Terri Price at the office to update your information. The parish pays for the printing and postage of the envelopes, so please use your envelopes on a regular basis.

We are unable to issue “Sponsor Letters” (Letters of Recommendation) for Baptisms and Confirmations for those who are not registered.

**Day of Reflection** Please join us next **Sunday, March 8, 1 to 3:00 pm - in the St. James Chapel. Guest Speaker - Dr. Linda Ritzer**, from the Diocese of Pittsburgh Office of Parish Services, will speak on our patron saint, . Mary Magdalene.

**Parish Share 2020** The Annual Parish Share 2020 Campaign has begun. Our goal this year for **St. Mary Magdalene Parish is \$153,393**. Parish Share helps with the day to day operations at the Pastoral Center downtown, and supports our Seminary, Hospital Chaplaincy and College Campus programs. Please be as generous as possible.

**Funeral Help Needed** We are seeking out people to help with set up and clean up for funerals at our three campuses. If you would like to help out, please contact Cathy Raffaele at 412.241.1392 or e-mail at [crffaele@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto:crffaele@stmarymagpgh.org).

Something to Think About...

People grow through experience  
if they meet life honestly and courageously.

*Eleanor Roosevelt.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)