

## Pastor's Note: January 5, Feast of the Epiphany

### Merry Little Christmas!

This week is the beginning of our new parish, St. Mary Magdalene. I am truly honored to be named the founding pastor and together with Fr. David Taylor we appreciate your love, support and prayers as we continue learning and growing with each other. This past year and half preparing for this big day has been a lot of work, but well worth it. What a great time for new beginnings: a new parish, a new year, new goals and objectives as we continue celebrating the birth of our Lord.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany also referred to as "Little Christmas." Epiphany is a Greek word which means showing forth or manifestation. The primary symbol of Epiphany is light.

The readings reflect joy of the birth of Christ. In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how the prophet invites people to look about and see all the nations giving praise to God. In the Second Reading to the Ephesians, Paul speaks of the great honor God gave him in proclaiming the Gospel to the gentiles. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how the Magi from the east come to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews, putting Herod and his officials in a panic.

As we begin a new year, 2020 and celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, we pray that God's light may shine in our hearts and on our world. With all that has gone on this past year with the continued political fighting in Washington D.C. and Harrisburg, shootings, terrorism, natural disasters, and the opioid crisis, let us not focus on the darkness of things but on the light of Christ coming into this world.

Thank you to all who sent me Christmas Cards, gifts and goodies. I am honored to be your pastor.

Next Saturday, January 11, we welcome Bishop David Zubik at the 4 pm mass to install me as pastor. Please join us in celebrating this new journey. Please note because of the Installation Mass, there will be no 5:30pm Mass next Saturday, January 11, at St. Bede. The Sunday morning Masses will be as usual.

### Merry Little Christmas!

**Parish Improvements** A new motion sensor light was recently installed in the St. Bede bathroom off the sacristy. We will continue installing these sensor lights in various bath rooms around our three campuses to save electricity and prevent lights being left on overnight or when the buildings are not in use.

S & N Roofing of Slippery Rock made various roof repairs and cleaned out the gutters above the main entrance of St. James Church. This was one of the main causes of rain water coming into the church near the front vestibule.

S & N is also going to begin work in the next few weeks on repairs to the Holy Rosary Rectory roof.

We are still in the process of looking at getting caulking and masonry work repaired around the side windows of St. James Church and eventually we will need to replace the main roof of St. James Church.

We are looking to repair several broken sidewalks around the St. Bede Campus.

We are in the process of updating the electrical panel in the Mother of Good Counsel sacristy and eventually install several outdoor motion sensor lights at the main and side entrance of Mother of Good Counsel Church.

If you are interested in financially helping us complete some of these wish list items, please make your contributions payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish. All of the bank accounts from the three former parishes are now merged into one. Please also note that we now have one Administrative Center. Please use the mailing address and phone number for all parish business:

St. Mary Magdalene Parish  
509 S. Dallas Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
412.661.7222

**Looking Ahead:**

**Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on Friday, January 17, from 5:30 pm to 8 pm in the St. Bede Gym.**

**Pastoral Council Meeting: Monday, January 20, 6:30 pm at St. James Chapel.**

**Joint Pastoral/ Finance Council Retreat: Saturday, February 15, 6:30 at St. John Fisher, Churchill.**

**Welcome** A special warm welcome to **Cosmas, Mary, Paul** and **Maria Asiimwe** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish!

**Congratulations** to **Elena Loffreda- Mancinelli** who was baptized last weekend.

**Something to Think About...**

One resolution I have made, and try always to keep  
is this: To rise above all the little things.

*John Burroughs*

**With God, All Things Are Possible!**

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