

## PASTOR'S NOTE: MARCH 8, SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent. The readings focus on making changes in life. In the first reading from Genesis, we read how God challenges Abram to get out of his comfort zone and move beyond his homeland, and venture forth to a land to which God directs him. Abram's faith journey will serve as a model for all nations of the world. In the second reading in Second Timothy, we read how Paul encourages his readers to be faithful to the gospel at all times. The work of salvation was fulfilled by Jesus out of his great love for humanity. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Transfiguration. (Every year on the Second Sunday of Lent we read about the Transfiguration). Peter, James, and John travel up to Mount Tabor and Jesus is physically changed. They get to see a glimpse of the past: Moses and Elijah; and the future: that Jesus is truly the Messiah, the Son of God.

As we approach the second week of Lent, what are some "changes" do we need to make in our life: letting go of complaining, gossiping, or holding on to a grudge?

This weekend we celebrate **Scout Sunday** at the 11am Mass. Congratulations to all of our Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. A Scout is Reverent!

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### Parish Share 2020

The Annual Parish Share 2020 Campaign has begun. Our goal this year for **St. Mary Magdalene Parish is \$153,393**. Every registered parishioner should have received in the mail last week their pledge cards. 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.

### Parish and Ministry Van

I am pleased to announce that we obtained enough funds to purchase an eight passenger van!! Last Saturday afternoon Car Sense of Robinson Township delivered a 2011 Ford E150 XL Econoline with 16,000 miles and is in excellent condition. We would like to use this van on the weekends for parishioners who need a ride to church.

The Ministry Center is need of a cargo van to pick up their weekly food and items from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in the City of Duquesne. We would like to purchase this van for their use and also for our maintenance staff. If you are interested in helping to fund this project, please make check payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it "Cargo Van Fund" and mail it to my attention to the parish office.

### Parish Improvements

Cuccaro Plumbing of Homewood recently installed backflow preventers and repaired a curb valve in the Holy Rosary rectory basement. Several pipes had been leaking and are now repaired. Part of the front sidewalk in front of the rectory had to be cut and removed in order to repair the valve. A diocesan Insurance claim is helping to cover most of this project.

Buch Electric Company installed outdoor motion sensor lights at Mother of Good Counsel. They are also upgrading the electrical panel and light switches in the sacristy. Special thanks to a generous parishioner for making this project possible.

The St. James rectory basement has recently been cleaned out. A demolition company removed several old desks, tables and cabinets.

Bakers Waterproofing installed a Water Guard sub-floor drainage system, applied Mold X2 cleaner, and

installed two sump pumps into the sewage system in the St. James rectory basement. The basement has been flooding and filled with mold for several years.

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 Lenten Activities**

**Stations of the Cross every Thursday at 12 pm 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.**

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

**"Light is On for You" - Wednesday, April 1, 6 pm to 9 pm at St. Bede. Church will be open for private prayer, meditation and confession.**

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

### **Something to Think About...**

We are all made in the image and likeness of God,  
so there's more work to be done by every one of us.

*Sr. Antona Ebo*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
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