

PASTOR'S NOTE

MARCH 15, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

“Let's **E**liminate **N**egative **T**hinking”

Often times during the day or at various meetings you will see me carrying around a blue water bottle. I love staying hydrated and water is very healthy. We all need water in our daily lives to wash, clean, cook and consume. It is a necessity in life. Not only do we thirst for water each day, but we all “thirst” for love, compassion, and forgiveness.

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. The readings focus on thirst, forgiveness, and patience. In the first reading, from the book of Exodus, we read how the people thirsted for water and grumbled against Moses. God gives them assurance of life in their forty-year journey in the desert. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read how Jesus meets the Samaritan woman at the well and reveals to her that he is life giving water. God's love and mercy flow like living water pouring into our hearts and reconciling us to him.

Let us ask our Father to quench us with the living water of truth and love. As we continue this Lenten journey, we are challenged to overcome distractions and find the Lord in our midst.

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Rite of Sending

This weekend at the 11am Mass, we welcome our **RCIA Catechumens and Candidates** now called “**the Elect**”, as we send them to St. Paul Cathedral this afternoon for the Rite of Election to be introduced to Bishop Zubik as they become closer to joining us in the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil.

The Class of 2020 includes:

Sylvia Sze Ya Sng-Catechumen for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
Daniel Michael Bonano-Catechumen for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
Kenneth Edward Tullar-Candidate for Eucharist and Confirmation
Daniel Alexander Tapia Jimenez-Candidate for Confirmation.
Vienza Barboza-Candidate for Confirmation.

Parish and Ministry Van

I am pleased to announce that we obtained enough funds to purchase a 2011 Ford E150 XL Econoline eight passenger van!! We hope to use this van on the weekends for parishioners who need a ride to church.

Van Drivers and Riders

We are developing a list of parishioners interested in volunteering as van drivers on the weekends to take people to church. If you are interested please contact Cathy Raffaele at craffaele@stmarymagpgh.org or 412.241.1392.

All volunteers will need to complete the Diocesan Safe Environment program in order to participate.

Parishioners who are interested in riding on the van for weekend Masses, please contact Cathy so we can put you on the list. We will be developing a “shuttle route” and Mass schedule the next few weeks.

Upcoming Lenten Activities

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

Lector's Meet and Greet and Training Session-Saturday, March 28, Noon-2pm St. James Church. Lunch will be provided.

Parish Improvements

Graphics 22 of Hazelwood recently installed several outdoor “directional signs” around the St. Bede and

St. James Campuses and a new Office Sign installed on the front porch of the Parish Office. More signs will be installed at all three campuses in the coming weeks.

Please Note

Last week Bishop Zubik issued a letter to all parishioners regarding the coronavirus COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control, as well as local healthcare agencies, are encouraging precaution as the situation continues to be monitored. The Bishop has issued the following precautions to take place in every parish until further notice:

- The distribution of the Precious Blood during the Eucharist is temporarily suspended.
- Holy Water fonts will remain empty.
- The exchange of the Sign of Peace through physical contact (handshake or holding hands) is temporarily suspended.
- Those who feel ill are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass.

Congratulations to our second grade students who are receiving their First Reconciliation this weekend!

Something to Think About...

Call on God, but row away from the rocks.

Indian Proverb

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor