

PASTOR'S NOTE

MARCH 22, FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“Let’s Eliminate Negative Thinking”

Every one of us has been impacted with the Coronavirus pandemic that has hit our world. Schools, parades, concerts, and sporting events have been cancelled and many businesses and gyms have closed. (I miss working out at the JCC). Last Sunday evening, Bishop Zubik announced that all daily and Sunday Masses are cancelled until further notice. Please note our church and campuses will remain closed until the restriction is lifted and our parish office will be open on a limited basis.

Let us remain calm, take preventive measures to stay healthy and keep moving forward. Let us pray for peace and calm in our city, state, nation and world. We will get through this difficult time in our society.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday, or Rejoice Sunday. We are half way through the Lenten Season. All the readings this weekend focus on seeing and believing.

In the first reading from the Book of Samuel we read how a prophet sets out to anoint a new king. God speaks to Samuel and David is anointed king. In the second reading to the Ephesians, Paul reflects on how the people were once in darkness have received the light of the Lord.

In the Gospel of John, we read the healing of the man born blind. This is the sixth “sign” (miracle) in the Gospel of John. The man does not ask to be healed and there is no conversation between him and Jesus, but the healing demonstrates that Jesus is the light of the world. The Pharisees want to accuse Jesus of violating the Sabbath by healing the blind man, but it is the Pharisees that are blind because they cannot see the good that Jesus is doing. The blind man “sees” Jesus as the Son of God!

As we approach this “half way” mark of the Lenten season, let us open up our eyes and see the good that is around us even during this difficult time.

“Let’s Eliminate Negative Thinking”

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 operate the day to day operations at the Pastoral Center downtown, and supports our Seminary, Hospital Chaplaincy and College Campus programs. Every registered parishioner should have received a pledge card and letter in the mail recently. Please be as generous as possible.

Parish Improvements

Graphics 22 of Hazelwood recently installed new parish signs at all of our campuses. Special thanks to a generous benefactor for making this project a possibility.

Main Street Music & Sound of Irwin installed four new wall speakers this past week at Mother of Good Counsel. Special thanks to Gerard Rohlf for overseeing this project.

Ministry Van

The Ministry Center is in need of a cargo van to pick up their weekly food and items from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank in the City of Duquesne. 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.

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 in our new eight passenger van. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Raffaele at 412-241 1392 or e-mail at crffaele@stmarymagpgh.org. (All volunteers will need to complete the Diocesan Safe Environment program in order to participate).

Welcome Michael Natalia

It gives me great pleasure to welcome **Michael Natalia** to our St. Mary Magdalene Parish Maintenance Staff. Mike has been working for the Diocese for the past nineteen years working at St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland, Good Shepherd in Braddock, and most recently at St. Sebastian in Ross Township. Mike has experience in various maintenance areas and loves doing landscaping work. A native of Penn Hills, Mike currently resides in Plum Borough with his wife Caterina and three sons, Tommy, Michael, and Joey. Welcome aboard Mike!

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Pat Morgan** from our Music Ministry Department who is celebrating her birthday this coming Wednesday, March 25.

Something to Think About...

The value of experience is not in seeing much, but in seeing wisely.

Sir William Osler

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

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