

PASTOR'S NOTE

MARCH 29, FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

“Let’s Eliminate Negative Thinking”

During these times of uncertainty with the Coronavirus pandemic, I would like to remind you not to have fear, but to have faith! Here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, please know that I as your Pastor, along with Fr. David Taylor and our staff are here for you in any way possible.

The maintenance staff is hard at work sanitizing all of the church door handles, pews, hymnals, and floors, not to mention the restrooms, at all three of our campuses for you to feel at ease as you return to one of our worship sites once all restrictions have been lifted. Our Social Ministry Center continues to operate to serve those in need with food and/or clothing at a time when it is most in demand. Our pastoral staff is available to answer your phone calls and emails for any requests or inquiries that you may have. They are also working to keep you informed with up-to-date parish news and events taking place through our website, Facebook page, and electronic newsletter. We had 1,073 views on Facebook and YouTube for last weekend’s Mass. Please make sure to join Facebook and like our page *Saint Mary Magdalene Parish*.

Printed copies of the parish bulletin will be made available at the parish rectory to those who do not have a computer or Internet access while mailed copies are being sent to the homebound.

We do all of this for you, but unfortunately, we can’t do it without you! We need your continued financial support to help St. Mary Magdalene operate as normally as possible during these troubled times. Please consider mailing in your weekly offering to the parish office or participate in *Faith Direct*, our on-line giving program, as a way to assist the parish to pay for the operating expenses that we continue to incur in order to maintain our ministry to our Catholic community.

This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This can be seen as a turning point in the Lenten journey as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Triduum in two weeks. This weekend, March 28 marks the fifth anniversary of the death of my friend and mentor, Rev. Dennis J. Colamarino who was the long time pastor of Christ the Light of the World and St. Joseph Parishes in the City of Duquesne. He passed away struggling with ALS. I know that he is now at peace and at rest. Today’s readings reflect on looking at life after death. In the first reading from Ezekiel we read how a prophet brings good news to the people in exile, who for years worshipped false idols and were spiritually dead. In the second reading from Paul to the Romans, we read that because the spirit of God dwells within them, the people of faith can rise to new life. In the Gospel of John, we read the story of the rising of Lazarus which is only found in the Gospel of John. The splendor of the cross transforms sin, sorrow, and pain into signs of grace, joy, and eternal life. Jesus is the resurrection and our life. Because he has given us the spirit, we are no longer dead because of sin, but alive. As Catholics, we believe that death is not the end of life.

Let us pray for all of our family and friends who have gone home with the Lord and pray that we will see them again and wake up each day appreciating all the life that is around us.

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Parish Improvements

Interstate Building Maintenance Corporation sprayed and disinfected St. Bede School.

The piano was recently tuned at St. Bede Church.

Mariani & Richards Inc of Overbrook has begun to spot point and repair mortar outside of St. James Church. Special thanks for those who contributed to the roof fund last Fall to make this major project a possibility. Contributions are still being accepted to complete this project. Please make check payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it “roof fund.”

Even though we are not open for Masses, please remember to continue to support your parish by either mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes or participating in our online giving program, Faith Direct.

Something to Think About...

See God's will in everything,
and do His will with joy, out of love of Him.

Blessed Caritas Brader

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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