

Pastor's Note: April 19, Second Sunday of Easter

Peace Be With You!

We have reached the one month mark of everything closed until further notice. Every one of us has been impacted with the Coronavirus pandemic that has hit our world. Life has completely changed for all of us with schools, businesses, sporting events closed. I miss working out at the JCC and going to Starbucks. I miss interacting with our parishioners and visiting my Communion calls. Last week, Governor Tom Wolf announced that all schools will now be closed for the rest of this school year. That means now we will not be having our weekly school Masses and eighth grade graduation is now on hold. Confirmation and First Holy Communion have been postponed until a new date will be selected.

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. As they say...this too shall pass!

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, which was established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. It leads us into the continuing celebration of God's mercy during the Easter Time. The readings this weekend call us to open our eyes and experience the many ways that God's mercy touches us.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Luke describes the early stage of the Church. First mentioned is the devotion to the teaching of the Apostles.. they have a leading role in the early church. The community of faith exhibits the ideals of a life of prayer and generosity. In the second reading from First Peter, we read how Peter speaks of the joy we have through our faith in the Risen Lord. We have hope of salvation and eternal life. In the Gospel of John, we read the first encounter after the Resurrection of Jesus and his disciples. Jesus appears to his frightened disciples and grants them peace and commissions them with the gift of the Holy Spirit to carry out his work. Thomas was not present and doubts Jesus' resurrection. He wants to see and experience the same thing those other disciples have seen and experienced.

Today we rejoice in the gift of God's mercy that Jesus offered to the whole world through his cross and resurrection. Whatever doubts, worries or fears we have today, let us open up our eyes and see that Christ is in our midst and he will calm us and bring us peace during this very troubled time.

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Parish Improvements

Our maintenance staff continues to clean and sanitize inside our three churches. Every pew and kneeler has been wiped down and floors mopped and cleaned.

Paul Denk and Michael Natalia from our maintenance department recently did the first grass cutting of the season at all five of our campuses; including Holy Rosary and Corpus Christi.

The large hallway between the St. Bede sacristy and school received a fresh coat of paint.

Mariani & Richards Incorporated continues 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 participate in our on-line giving program, Faith Direct.

Please remember to participate in the 2020 Parish Share Campaign and complete your pledge to the Our Campaign for the Church Alive so we can continue our campus upgrades.

Thank You!

Thank you to **Jennifer Gorske, Cathy Raffaele, Dante Romito, Melissa Viator** and all of our St. Mary Magdalene parish volunteers who helped with the videotaping and promoting our Holy Week Masses last week. Many people tuned in via Facebook Live and on You Tube. We will continue to broadcast our weekend Mass via the internet until the restrictions are lifted.

Something to Think About...

Faith believes the Word of God for what it cannot see, and is rewarded by seeing what it believes.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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