

Pastor's Note
May 3, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Christ the Good Shepherd!

For the past nineteen years, God has blessed me with great parish assignments in my priesthood ministry. I love being a priest and love my Catholic faith. Every day I try to do my best to be a good priest and shepherd to the people that I am entrusted with.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also called "Good Shepherd Sunday." In the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter proclaims to a very large crowd that Jesus has been raised as the Lord and Messiah. The crowds give an ideal response- rather than resisting as they did so often before, they ask the twelve for guidance. Peter challenges them to repent and be baptized. The community grew by 3,000!

In the Gospel of John we read how Jesus proclaims that he is the authentic gate for entering the sheepfold and that all who enter through him will be saved. Jesus begins with a parable about a gatekeeper who opens the gate for the sheep to enter the sheepfold.

As we continue going through the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray that our Good Shepherd may help us through this very difficult time and keep us safe. Let us continue to not have fear, but have faith.

Christ the Good Shepherd!

Mass Intentions

Since March 16 when our churches officially closed and stopped having public Masses, all of the Mass intention requests since then have been put on hold. When we get the green light to reopen and restart daily and Sunday Masses, we will be contacting all those who have requested Mass intentions to reschedule.

Parish Census

Since we officially merged on January 6, 2020 we have noticed that our Parish Data System has many incorrect mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

In the next few weeks all registered parishioners will be receiving an Easter Greeting letter along with a form asking to update their registration with the correct information. Please return your updated form to our parish office either by mailing or dropping it off in our secured mail box on the front porch. It is important that we have correct contact information.

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. We are half way to our goal!

Parish Improvements

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."

Parish Share 2020

Thank you to all who have pledged or are making contributions to our Parish Campaign. Every parish participates in this annual campaign which helps run the day to day operations at the downtown Pastoral Center, helps operate our Hospital Pastoral Care Chaplaincy programs, High School and College Campus Ministry Programs and educate our diocesan seminarians. We all benefit from Parish Share. This year our goal is **\$153,393**. Please be as generous as possible.

***Please note that Our Sunday Visitor Envelope Company keeps track of our Parish Share pledges and offerings. If you recently received a notice in the mail from them and have paid off your pledge please disregard the notice. Due to their offices being closed with the pandemic, the monthly reports that we sent to them crisscrossed in the mail so those who have paid in full, the pledge cards may show a balance still due. We appreciate your support and understanding. If you have any questions about your offertory or parish share donations, please contact our Business Manager, Frank Grande or Office Manager, Terri Price at the office at 412-661-7222.**

Happy Birthday

Happy **90th Birthday** to **Betty Silzle** who is celebrating her birthday this weekend.

Happy Anniversary

Happy **58th Anniversary** to my parents Bill and Marge Burke who are celebrating their anniversary this week.

Something to Think About...

*Fear and faith cannot keep a house together.
When one enters, the other departs.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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