

## Pastor's Note

May 17, Sixth Sunday of Easter

### **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit!**

Back in August of 1988, I remember when my parents Bill and Marge dropped me off at Clarion University at my dorm room in Campbell Hall to start my college journey, majoring in Communications and Broadcasting. It was the first time I was living two hours away from my family. I remember feeling anxious to start a new journey of being on my own as a young eighteen-year-old. After my parents helped me unpack my belongings and set up my room, they hugged me and told me that I would never be alone; they would be with me in spirit each day. That gave me great comfort!

This weekend we celebrate the Sixth Sunday of Easter. The readings this weekend focus on having the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us strength and peace in our daily life.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how the word of God brings joy to the entire community. They receive baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit by attentively listening to Philip's proclamation and marvel at the wonderful deeds he performs in God's service.

In the second reading from First Peter, we are encouraged to remain strong in our faith convictions no matter what the challenge is in life.

In the Gospel of John, we continue reading the "farewell discourse" at the Last Supper. Jesus promises his disciples that if they love him and keep his commandments, he will send them another Advocate to serve as their mediator, intercessor, comforter, and consoler. Through the Advocate, the presence of Jesus will always be available to the disciples. As we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord this coming Thursday and prepare to celebrate Pentecost in two weeks, these final weeks of Easter prepare us to accept the challenge to go forth, love, and serve the Lord.

As we continue to go through the Coronavirus pandemic, let us always remember the Holy Spirit guides and comforts us, and that we are not alone.

### **Be Filled with the Holy Spirit!**

This past week Governor Tom Wolf moved Allegheny County from the Red to the Yellow Phase making some minor progress of opening businesses in our area. The "Yellow Phase" means caution as we continue to go day by day living out our lives and staying safe. We are still unable to have mass at our churches but we are able to have funerals, baptisms and weddings with a limited number of people. Confessions are available by appointment only, and all St. Mary Magdalene Church buildings will continue to remain closed until further notice. Our Parish Office remains open.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Daniel Alexander Tapia Jimenez** who has completed the RCIA program and received the Sacrament of Confirmation last week. His fiancé, Marisella Rodriguez was his sponsor. They will be getting married on June 20 in San Luis Obispo, California.

## **Parish Improvements**

**Mariani & Richards Incorporated of Overbrook** continues to spot point and repair mortar outside of St. James Church.

**Toth Carpeting and Flooring of Munhall** has completed installing new flooring in the St. Bede School Cafeteria. The walls will be receiving a fresh coat of paint and new window blinds will be installed in the next few weeks.

A new dumpster has been installed at the St. Bede Campus located behind the school. Due to unauthorized dumping, the dumpster now has a secured lock top.

**Graphics 22 of Hazelwood** installed a new sign in front of the St. James Rectory and a new accessible sign on the side door of the St. James Chapel, Mulberry Street entrance.

## **Updated Security System**

In the next few weeks, we will be updating our security system at our campuses with new alarm codes. Currently, we have three different security companies: Intertech, Guardian and Vector and we are trying to combine into one system to make it more efficient for billing purposes. All parishioners who currently have keys and security code access to any of our parish buildings are asked to contact Cathy Raffaele by Monday, May 25 for access information. The new system will go into effect June 1.

**Happy Birthday to Cathy Raffaele** who is celebrating her birthday this Friday, May 22.

## **Something to Think About...**

Do not be satisfied with little things, because God wants great things! *St. Catherine of Siena*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)