

Pastor's Note
May 31, Pentecost Sunday

Peace Be With You!

Happy Birthday Today we conclude the Easter Season by celebrating Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. Fifty days ago, we celebrated Easter. The Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles in the Upper Room to speak in various languages. They were changed forever. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we read how the Apostles are able to make bold proclamation of God's word. In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read that the Spirit gives many gifts to the church and it enriches people of faith. In the Gospel of John, the Risen Lord appears to the frightened disciples granting them peace. He breathes on them and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit. The commissioning involves sending his disciples out to continue his work preaching and teaching.

As we begin a new month and reach this mid-year of 2020 and slowly open up churches and businesses and try to do our best to retain somewhat of a routine with caution, let us be open and filled with the Holy Spirit to guide us, and give us strength and share that spirit with others. Let us be joyful with the birth of our Church to continue proclaiming the Gospel each day with joyful hope.

Peace Be With You!

After two months of having the church doors closed and unable to have daily or Sunday Masses, it gives me great pleasure to announce that effective Monday, June 1 we will officially "reopen", but with precautions. As we welcome people back to church, it is important to keep in mind the Covid-19 is still a great threat to public health. Social distancing, hand washing, and wearing masks continue to be a regular practice. Bishop Zubik and the Diocese of Pittsburgh have issued a reopening guide titled "Moving Forward Together" that supports Pastors and Parish Teams with the return to on-site ministry and worship. It is important to stress that Bishop Zubik has dispensed every one of the Sunday obligation indefinitely. People who are 65 or older or have existing health concerns are asked to stay home and not attend Mass until further notice. We will continue to live stream Mass on a weekly basis and parishioners will be able to continue to mail or drop off offertory envelopes at the parish office or participate in the online giving program, Faith Direct. We appreciate your continued financial support.

COVID-19 Task Force

Part of the reopening guide suggests each parish identify a safety team comprised of clergy, staff, and volunteers, for the purpose of implementing and monitoring the safety guidelines. I am pleased to appoint the following parishioners to our task force: **Linda Atkins R.N., Jeanne Clancey R.N., Buffy Halle R.N., Dr. Bernadette Harris, Dr. Deborah McMahon, and Toni Polite R.N.**

These six women all have tremendous medical backgrounds and wonderful insight on parishioners' safety. They will be assisted by Mr. Chris Luther from Interstate Maintenance Services of Greentree who will be advising us on cleaning, sanitation, and supplies. I am grateful for these volunteers and their expertise in these very difficult times as we try to move forward and reopen, but still being cautious.

Interim Mass Schedule

We will follow the interim Mass schedule until further notice:

Daily Mass - Monday through Saturday 9 am at St. Bede.

St. Bede Church will be open daily 8 am to Noon. The restroom will be open only during the schedule Mass time, then locked. The church will be cleaned and sanitized each day.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharistic Adoration will remain on Saturdays 9:30 am-

10:30am. (If there is a funeral, Reconciliation and Adoration will be cancelled). The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also available by appointment.

Weekend Mass times:

Saturday Vigil Mass - 4 pm St. James

Sunday 9 am - Mother of Good Counsel

Sunday 11 am - St. Bede

Mass occupancy will be limited and the churches will be cleaned and sanitized after each use.

The parish office on S. Dallas Avenue remains open 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Congratulations to all of our 2020 Grade School, High School and College Graduates. We are proud of you.

Best Wishes to Marie Jo Marks first grade teacher at St. Bede School for twenty- one years of service as she prepares for retirement! We welcome Ms. Jessica Pais to full time faculty status.

Happy Birthday to Fr. James celebrating his birthday on May 31.

Something to Think About...

The one thing worse than a quitter is one who is afraid to start.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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