

## **Pastor's Note**

### **June 14, The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

#### **Stronger than Hate**

Over the past two weeks we have seen turmoil in our nation. Not only are we still dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic which has caused much fear and anxiety, we watched in horror the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis causing protests, a cry out for change in police procedures and an end to racism in our society. As a multi-cultural parish in the East End of Pittsburgh, St. Mary Magdalene Parish is truly a very special parish serving three very different neighborhoods and blessed to support two wonderful Catholic Schools. As Catholics we must look at all human life as sacred. There is no room for hate in our society.

As a son of a retired City of Pittsburgh Police Officer and having a brother-in-law currently serving on the Pittsburgh Police Force, I grew up in a "Police Family" and it breaks my heart seeing bad police officers tarnish reputations of good police officers who care for their community.

My dad served protecting the streets of the Hill District, Squirrel Hill, and the South Side, was an instructor at the Police Academy for thirty years and founded the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on the North Shore honoring the men and women in law enforcement killed in the line of duty.

Let us pray for an end of violence and racism and pray for updated police training and safety measures. As we witnessed the violence of the Tree of Life two years ago, let us remember the famous Pittsburgh slogan...*Stronger than Hate!*

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as "Corpus Christi." In the first reading from Deuteronomy, we read how the author addresses the people to remind them that they are God's people who need to nourish themselves on his word. When the Israelites experienced hunger and thirst during their journey through the wilderness, it was God's daily giving of Manna that sustained them. In today's Gospel from John, we read the "Bread of Life Discourse" as Jesus reminds us that as food and drink nourish our bodies, so Christ nourishes us for this life and eternal life. Let us appreciate the Eucharist and let it nourish our soul.

#### **Stronger than Hate**

#### **Parish Improvements**

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy will be undergoing a maintenance project in the school cafeteria to mitigate the water infiltration. An asbestos abatement project has begun and will continue the next several weeks.

Metropolitan Window Company installed four new windows in the Parish Office.

Mariani & Richards continues to spot point and repair mortar outside of St. James Church. While working on the side of the church they found three broken cracked windows. We are working on getting the windows repaired.

**Bulletin Holders** are now in place all three of our campuses. The holders are outside of the Parish Office and in front of St. Bede Church, Mother of Good Counsel and St. James Rectory. If you are unable to make it to Mass, feel free to stop by one of the locations to pick up a bulletin.

**We are open** Last week we reopened for daily and weekend Masses and it was a true success. Special thanks to our parish staff and volunteers for all of their hard work preparing for the reopening. The Tribune-Review ran a front page article last Sunday on our reopening and WPXI- TV Channel 11 filmed at the 11am mass.

**Bishop Zubik** has dispensed every one of the Sunday obligation indefinitely so those who are at risk or with health issues should refrain from coming to Mass. Those who are unable to attend Mass physically are welcome to view the Mass on Facebook and YouTube. Parishioners can drop off their weekly envelopes at the parish office or mail them in or participate in our online giving program.

### **Summer Church Hours**

St. Bede Church is open daily for private prayer and meditation Monday through Saturday from 8 am to Noon. Mother of Good Counsel, St. James and St. Bede Churches are open one hour before and locked after Mass on the weekend. Our interim weekend Masses: Saturday 4 pm at St. James, Sunday 9 am at Mother of Good Counsel and 11 am at St. Bede.

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

“I’ve seen hatred and I have seen love. And love is more powerful.”

*Immaculee Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan Genocide*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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