

Pastor's Note

June 28, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Take up your cross and follow me!

It is always comforting when we visit friends and neighbors how people offer hospitality and make us feel welcomed. When someone comes into our home we offer them a beverage, a snack, and see if they need anything. Those who have to travel for business know how comforting it is when they go into a new city and a stranger goes out of their way to make them feel welcomed.

I often hear from visitors who come to our parish for the first time how welcomed they feel when ushers greet them at the door, a parishioner slides over in the pew so the guest can sit, or simply offers a smile, waves, or says hello. When we greet others we show what it truly means to be a disciple. This weekend we celebrate the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on hospitality and being a disciple of Jesus.

In the first reading from the Book of Kings, we read how a woman has great respect for the word of God and offers hospitality to the prophet Elisha at her home in Shunem in Northern Israel. The prophet is welcomed anytime. Her desire for spiritual nourishment from Elisha has brought life into her home. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the conclusion of Matthew's "Missionary Discourse." Jesus stresses that requirements for being a disciple are not easy, that there will be sacrifices that need to be made above personal family desires. The Missionary Discourse is part of the instructions given by Jesus to the twelve as he sends them out to preach the good news.

Each of us has a cross to carry: illness, un-employment, doubts, and racism. Let us furnish a place in our heart for our Lord to stay so that we may gain strength and nourishment on our journey to the kingdom.

Take up your cross and follow me!

Summer Daily Mass

Join us for daily Mass Monday through Saturday at St. Bede at 9 am. We also have the Miraculous Medal Novena on Mondays and the Mother of Perpetual Help Novena on Wednesdays. Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions are held on Saturdays at St. Bede from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Independence Day is this Saturday - July 4 - we will have the regular daily 9 am Mass, confessions and adoration at St. Bede and 4pm Vigil Mass at St. James. Let us celebrate Independence Day thanking God for our Faith and Freedom and pray for healing and unity in our country.

Please note that our parish office will be closed this Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen Monday, July 6 at 9 am.

Parish Improvements

Buch Electric Company of Bethel Park updated two outdoor sensor LED lights on Mulberry Street at the St. James Chapel side door. They will now automatically operate "dawn to dusk." They are also updating the electrical system on the second floor of the St. James Rectory. New wiring and plugs are being installed to bring the main electric panel in the basement up to code.

Renovations to the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy cafeteria continue. An asbestos abatement project has been completed and French drains and new floor tile will be installed. Funds from The Extra Mile Foundation and a Diocesan Insurance Claim from past flooding damage are helping to make this project a possibility. The Diocesan Office of Property and Planning is assisting in overseeing this project.

Mariani & Richards has completed outside work on St. James Church with spot pointing and mortar repairs. Also three cracked windows were also repaired. Total cost of this project was \$80,000. Thank you to those who donated to the "Roof Fund" and those who contribute to our Maintenance Fund to make this project a possibility.

St. Mary Magdalene Parish received a **\$25,000 grant from the Pittsburgh Foundation** for social ministries and community outreach due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This grant will provide food and services to our local community in need.

New logo for our parish! On the front cover of our bulletin is our new parish logo. Special thanks to Miller Creative Group for creating our new logo.

Congratulations to Rev. Jeffrey M. Craig, Rev. Michael J. Faix, and Rev. C. Matthew Hawkins who are being ordained priests this weekend at St. Paul Cathedral.

Something to Think About...

A Christian home is earth's sweetest picture of heaven.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org