

Pastor's note

July 12, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome Fr. Matt Hawkins!

It gives me great pleasure to welcome to St. Mary Magdalene Parish ,Fr. Matthew Hawkins who was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Pittsburgh on June 27, 2020 at St. Paul Cathedral by Bishop David Zubik. Fr. Matt grew up in the East End, went to Lincoln-Lemington and St. Paul Cathedral Elementary Schools, is a graduate of Churchill Area High School, University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. Before entering the seminary, Fr. Matt was Director of the Literacy Center and a teacher at Imani Christian Academy in the East End.. It is a true honor that Bishop Zubik assigned a newly ordained priest to us.

Bishop Zubik has appointed me Pastor of St. Benedict the Moor Parish in the Hill District effective Monday, July 13, 2020. I will continue my duties as Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene. They will be two separate parishes but sharing the clergy team. Fr. Matt and Fr. Taylor will serve both parishes also. I am deeply honored the Bishop has asked me to take this additional responsibility and will do my best to work with the people that I am asked to serve.

This weekend we celebrate the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on growing in our faith. In the first reading from Isaiah, we read how a prophet compares the word of God to rain bringing new life. This passage serves as a fitting summary of the prophet's message to a people who suffered greatly during the years of exile from their homeland.

We are introduced to Parables, a teaching model that Jesus used often to teach about the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. In the Gospel of Matthew, we read the Parable of the Sower and the Seed. Jesus emphasizes the necessity of sowing the seed in all kinds of soil. The Sower represents Jesus who spreads the message of the Kingdom of God like seeds. Each of us has an important role in building the Kingdom of Heaven by producing good fruit throughout one's life. As we go through the stages of life, we need to learn to separate the good from the bad in our own lives. Let us pray that we may be rich soil for the word of God to take root, bloom, and thrive across the earth.

Welcome Fr. Matt Hawkins!

Cargo Van Purchased

Last week **Anne Scheuermann** our Coordinator of Social Services and Community Action and I went out to Carsense in Robinson Twp. to pick up the 2019 Ford Transit 250 cargo van. Special thanks to parishioner **Tony Delazio** for his assistance in finding this van to find this van and to all who donated to the Cargo Van Fund to make this project a possibility.

Parish Improvements

Our maintenance department continues to do summer projects including painting several class rooms and hallways inside St. Bede School. The 5th, 6th and 8th grade classrooms were recently repainted. Several walls had some minor water damage from the flat roof which is leaking. We will be getting the school roof fixed in the next few months.

Trees, shrubs and bushes were recently trimmed and pruned at St. Bede, Mother of Good Counsel and St. James.

Mother of Good Counsel Church received a "Back Flow" test last week and the test found that some pipes need to be repaired. Also, a ceiling tile that had fallen has been replaced near the tabernacle area.

We recently purchased electronic sprayers and various cleaning and sanitizing products from Interstate Cleaning Services to help with our cleaning and sanitation at all three campuses.

****We appreciate your Offertory and Maintenance Fund envelope donations and giving on-line with Faith Direct. It is very important to continue to financially support St. Mary Magdalene Parish so that we can continue to make renovations that are needed at our campuses.****

Congratulations! to **Michael John Pasterak**, son of Kenneth and Jennifer Whiteside Pasterak who was baptized last Saturday!

Congratulations to our 2nd graders who are receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend!

Happy Anniversary

Fr. Augustine celebrated his **13th Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination** this past Tuesday, July 7.

Happy Birthday to our Director of Religious Education, **Teresa Maynor**, who is celebrating her birthday this Monday, July 13.

Something to Think About...

"The branch that bears the most fruit hangs the lowest."

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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