

Pastor's Note

July 19, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weeds and Wheat!

Growing up on Sinton Avenue in Carrick, my dad always had a beautiful garden in our back yard. There were various tomatoes, peppers, and lettuce, that lined the garden next to our side patio. Weekly, my dad and I would weed the garden. Life is like that, there is good and bad in any family, business, and organization... and even in gardens. It is a part of life that we must endure.

This weekend we celebrate the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on good and evil. In the first reading from the Book of Wisdom, we read how a wise teacher explains the way of God with the world. God patiently steers people along the path of life by instructing them and giving them plenty of opportunities to change their ways and grow stronger in faith. In the second reading to the Romans, Paul assures us that we have the Holy Spirit to intercede for us when we pray. The Holy Spirit helps us in our human imperfection. In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue to read Jesus teaching in parables. This week we read the Parable of the Sower and the Seed and the Mustard Seed. Using weeds and wheat growing together until harvest time, Jesus affirms that the Kingdom of Heaven contains both saints and sinners and challenges us to live together and influence others for the better. The mustard seed and yeast imagery focuses on how something small (such as our faith) can grow into bigger and better things.

We can continue the work of Jesus by spreading the seeds of the Kingdom. When we love our neighbor, feed the hungry, or share our faith, we plant seeds. Every act of love we perform for Christ even if it seems little, is transformed through the Spirit into something greater. We sometimes can lose patience with the slow process of the Kingdom. God is always working among us with mercy and kindness and we are encouraged to trust in God's purpose and plan.

Weeds and Wheat!

St. Mary Magdalene Statue

Just in time for our patron saint's Feast Day, this coming Wednesday, July 22, I am pleased to announce that we now have a beautiful St. Mary Magdalene Statue at each of our three campuses. Special thanks to a parishioner for purchasing these statues. They will be blessed this weekend at all of the weekend masses.

Schultheis Roofing Inc repaired several missing shingles on top of St. James Church roof. They also inspected the entire main roof area and will be giving a full analysis of any future repairs or suggested life of the roof which we know will eventually need repaired.

We have upgraded the altar and pulpit candles to oil filled. This will help burn cleaner eliminate the dripping and wax build up. Special thanks to Bob Seeger for adjusting the candle stands and for Melissa Viator for making this project a possibility.

Caruso Heating and Plumbing completed the installation of new air conditioning wall units on the first and second floor offices of the Parish Administrative Center.

Ed Lynch Contracting has begun work on updating the second floor of St. James Rectory. Upon completion, our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Matt Hawkins will move in and live at the rectory with me. Currently Fr. Matt is staying at Holy Rosary Rectory with Fr. Taylor.

Looking Ahead

Confirmation retreat will be held Saturday, August 29 at St. Bede Church.

Confirmation will be held with two sessions: Sunday, September 27, at 2pm at St. Bede Church and Sunday, October 11, at 2pm at St. Bede Church.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Colton Michael Kinkela** who is being baptized this weekend.

Congratulations to our **Second Graders** who received their **First Holy Communion** last Sunday. It was a beautiful celebration. The second session for First Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, August 16 at 2pm at St. Bede Church.

Happy Anniversary!

Happy 29th Anniversary to my sister and brother in law Eric and Linda Burke Schueler celebrating their anniversary this Monday, July 20.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday to my mom, Marge Burke, celebrating her birthday this Tuesday, July 21.

Happy St. Mary Magdalene Feast Day this Wednesday, July 22, and St. James Feast Day is Saturday, July 25!

Something to Think About...

All it takes is one good person to restore hope!

Pope Francis, Laudato Si

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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