

Pastor's Note: August 9, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Keep the Faith!

Last Saturday afternoon as I was heading to the North Hills for dinner, I was driving on 279 North in my Jeep and could barely see the cars in front of me because of the amount of rain coming down. Several cars turned on their flashers which helped. I took my time, said a prayer and after several detours and road closures I arrived at my destination. It was scary not being able to see in front of me but with faith I made it through the storm.

This weekend, we celebrate the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary time. All three readings focus on keeping the faith in difficult times. In the first reading, from the Book of Kings, we read how God comes in a quiet whisper and invites Elijah to set aside his jealousy and assume a calmer attitude that will dispose him to listen and understand God's purpose. In the Gospel of Matthew, we continue the reading from last week's passage after the multiplication of loaves and fish, the calming of the storm. Matthew emphasizes the power that Jesus exercises over wind and waves and focuses on Peter's lack of faith. Jesus says "take courage, it is I. Do not be afraid."

Faith and doubt can weigh us down in life. God meets us in the most unexpected places, sometimes in a tiny whisper or in the midst of a storm. When we find ourselves in deserted places, we seek to have courage to meet the Lord in whatever way he appears and allow ourselves to be transformed.

As we continue to deal with the social pandemic, and the civil and social unrest in our city, state and region, let us not be fearful but faithful.

Keep the Faith!

Feast of the Assumption-Not a Holy Day of Obligation Saturday, August 15, is the Feast of the Assumption. Because it falls on a weekend this year, it is not a Holy Day. Masse will still be held at **9 am at St. Bede**.

Parish Improvements!

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy school cafeteria project is now complete in time for the new school year. New flooring and a drainage system were installed.

Eagle Scout Candidate **Ryan Davis** and his fellow Boy Scouts along with **Mary, John III, Christianna, Elana,** and **John IV Elash** attended a special blessing service to dedicate the three monument signs at the St. Bede Campus. New signs were installed along with new plants, flowers and shrubs.

Welcome Ray Krivanek

I am pleased to welcome **Ray Krivanek** to the St. Mary Magdalene and St. Benedict the Moor Maintenance Departments. Ray has been an employee for the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the former St. Mary of Mercy Parish (now Divine Mercy Parish) for the past eight years. He will be doing maintenance at all three of our campuses at St. Mary Magdalene plus help maintain Holy Rosary and Corpus Christi churches and work at St. Benedict the Moor Church and the former St. Benedict the Moor School center on Bedford Avenue. Ray and his wife Terri live on the North Side, have two sons and are members of Blessed Trinity Parish in Carrick/Baldwin/Brentwood/Hays/Overbrook.

Looking Ahead

First Holy Communion will take place next **Sunday, August 16, at 2pm at St. Bede Church.**

The 2020 RCIA Class will receive their Sacraments of Initiation (First Holy Communion and Confirmation) on **Sunday, August 23, at 11 am Mass at St. Bede Church.** We pray for **Vienza Barboza** and **Ken Tullar** as they prepare to become full members of our church family in a few weeks.

Confirmation Retreat will take place on **Saturday, August 29, at St. Bede Church from 11 am to 2 pm.**

Offertory Envelopes To ensure proper credit of donations, please use your church envelopes. If you put a “loose check” into the collection basket or mail it in or drop it off a please put your “envelope number” on the check. This helps credit your donation accurately.

Also, if at all possible, please make separate payments to the second collections. These are separate accounts and if you combine all of your donations into one check it causes extra work for our money counters and Office Manager who then have to separate it from the regular offertory account. If you have any questions please call Terri Price or Frank Grande at the Parish Office.

Something to Think About...

Worry is like a rocking chair; it will give you something to do but it won't get you anywhere.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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