

Pastor's Note

August 16, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

All Are Welcome!

This weekend we celebrate the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend call our attention to the workings of the human family. God wants all people to know his love and mercy.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how the prophet challenges the people to serve the Lord with sincere hearts. Isaiah announces that not only will the chosen people worship at God's holy mountain, but foreigners can also join themselves to the Lord. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus heals a Canaanite woman's daughter. It is her determination and faith that makes this miracle a possibility.

A major part of Jesus' ministry was to break down cultural barriers that divided people and encourage a new way of looking at people, especially those who were considered outcasts in society. Jesus talked to foreigners, ate with tax collectors, forgave sinners, and touched and healed lepers. As Christians, we are brothers and sisters to one another. We each have a role in welcoming those who seek God's healing and mercy. When we gather as a community of faith, how do we acknowledge those who are "strangers"?

Let us pray confidently and humbly to resist temptation to look at anyone as an outsider. The Lord makes no distinction among races, gender or sexual orientation. Everyone needs God's mercy and love. Let us pray and welcome people back into our lives that we maybe have shunned.

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Parish Census 2020

Last week, all registered parishioners received a "census letter" in the mail with their current information that is on file at the parish office. We mailed out 1,268 letters to all registered parishioners.

Please look over the card and make any necessary changes to the spelling, number in the household, address, telephone number and email address. It is important that everyone completes the card and return it to the parish office in the stamped envelope provided. If you are not officially registered, not currently receiving envelopes and mailings, or not participating in the online giving program "Faith Direct," please call Terri Price at the office to get officially registered. Every Catholic needs a place to call "home." Also, as a courtesy please notify the office if there is a change in the household. It is important that we have the correct information in our database.

Parish Improvements

All of our parish maintenance vehicles were recently inspected and received their annual oil changes and tire rotations. Our maintenance staff use these vehicles on a daily basis to run back and forth to and from our various campuses.

We recently purchased a Kawasaki Mule SX, which is a multipurpose on road or off road vehicle to snow plow the sidewalks in the winter time and for everyday hauling and loading items in the spring, summer and fall season.

Schultheis Roofing Inc. has begun the roof replacement for St. Bede School.

Please use caution if you are using the sidewalks around St. Bede School during the construction. St. Bede School Playground continues to be closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Plus it is now being used as a construction site with a large dumpster and various equipment.

Toth Carpeting of Munhall installed new carpeting on the second floor of the St. James Rectory.

Tarax Cleaning Services recently performed the annual summer cleaning at Holy Rosary Rectory sanitizing the carpet on the first floor.

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

Congratulations!

To our 2nd graders who are receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend! Special thanks to **Melissa Viator, Teresa Maynor, Sister Daniela Bronka, Bridget Kelly, Kathryn McGonigle, Isabella Viator** and **Terri Price** for making this day very special for our students.

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

Something to Think About...

*There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged
to find the ways in which you yourself have altered.*

Nelson Mandela

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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