

## PASTOR'S NOTE

AUGUST 23, TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Peter's Profession of Faith

It is normal to ask someone their opinion about something. Whether it is about a certain food, beverage, music, television show, or even talking politics, people all have different answers and opinions.

This weekend, we celebrate the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time and the readings focus on faith. In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how a faithful servant of God is entrusted with the power to steer the kingdom toward peace. In the Gospel from St. Matthew, Jesus heads to Caesarea Philippi and asks his disciples "Who do people say that I am?" Some say Elijah, some say John the Baptist. It is Peter who gives the correct answer; Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus deeply trusts Peter to hold not only the key to God's house, but the key to God's heart and proclaims him as the rock upon whom he will build his church. Jesus made the promise to Peter and the other disciples giving him authority. We can trust them and their successors to help us understand who Jesus is, and how to live as his disciples.

How prepared are we to be disciples upon whom Christ builds his church? The Church's true foundation is Christ himself.

As we prepare to go back to school, work or maybe even continue to stay at home as we still go through the Covid-19 pandemic and adjusting our routine and new measures, let us see how we can dig deep into getting to know Jesus, even amongst the daily stress and fears that we may encounter.

### Peter's Profession of Faith

## School Bells

The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year for Elementary School Students on **Tuesday, September 8**. St. Bede, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy and St. Benedict the Moor Schools will all follow Covid-19 health and safety reopening protocols. All three of our schools will offer in person, distance learning, and hybrid plans in place to offer a quality Catholic Education for our children. Best wishes everyone for a wonderful safe school year!

At St. Bede, we welcome back our Principal **Sister Daniella Bronka**, and **Liz Brown** as the Office Manager, and several new teachers and students. A new school roof is currently being installed, and many improvements were made over the summer including several classrooms and restrooms painted and upgraded, and new flooring was installed in the school cafeteria.

At Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy we welcome back our Principal **Stephanie Michael**, and **Mary Ann Jaskulski** as the Office Manager. Several improvements were made to our school cafeteria over the summer with new French drains and new flooring!

We also welcome back our students for our Religious Education Program will begin on Sunday, September 13, at 9:45 am. We welcome back our Religious Education Director, **Teresa Maynor**, and **her volunteers**. Best wishes on a great year! Registration will be held next Sunday August 30, from 9 -10:45 am in the St. Bede School Cafeteria.

**RCIA** Do you want to learn more about the Catholic faith? Are you baptized in another faith and would like to be Catholic? Are you baptized Catholic but need communion and or confirmed? The Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) will be starting soon. Please give me a call at (412) 661-7222 ext. 202 or e-mail me at [tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org) to discuss.

## Parish Improvements

Schultheis Roofing continues to do repair work on the St. Bede School Roof.

Toth Carpeting of Munhall installed new carpeting on the second floor of St. James Rectory. Funds from the Rectory Renovation Fund that I collected the past two years from private donors is covering this project.

Vigliotti Landscaping removed a dead tree in front of the St. Mary Magdalene Parish Office last week. The trunk was literally crumbling and the tree was diseased. A new tree will be planted in the same area in the near future.

## Looking Ahead

**Confirmation will be held on Sundays, September 27 and October 11, at 2 pm at St. Bede Church.**

**Century Club Dinner** Please note that that Century Club Dinner that was scheduled for **September 20** has been cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members will be contacted regarding a credit towards next year's dues.

**Congratulations** to **Benjamin** and **Thea Dolan** who are being baptized this weekend.

## Something to Think About...

Speak kind words and you will hear kind echoes.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

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