

PASTOR'S NOTE

AUGUST 30, TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Let Go, Let God!

Today we celebrate the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time. All three readings focus on being transformed.

In the first reading from the Book of Jeremiah, we read the last part of what scripture scholars often refer to as “the confessions of Jeremiah.” This is the core of understanding the prophet as he felt overwhelmed by the burdens of being a prophet and laments feeling duped by God. In the second reading from Paul to the Romans, Paul encourages us to be transformed. He says we must put aside the old ways and renew our minds to discern and follow Christ. In the Gospel we read Matthew’s version of Jesus’ first passion prediction as he announces that he will suffer and die on the cross. Peter at first does not want to believe what Jesus tells him, the notion of a suffering Messiah was entirely foreign and completely unacceptable to Peter. Jesus famously says to Peter “get behind me Satan!” The cost of discipleship involves denying oneself and putting our total trust in the Lord.

Pope Francis calls us to go out to the margins of society to minister to and empower the poor. Let us offer Christ whatever sufferings we experience and pick up our cross and follow him.

Let Go, Let God!

School Bells

The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year for Elementary School Students on **Tuesday, September 8**. (The Catholic High Schools reopened this past weekend). St. Bede, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy and St. Benedict the Moor Schools will all follow the Covid-19 health and safety reopening protocols. All three of our schools will offer in person or distance learning, and hybrid plans will be put in place to offer a quality Catholic Education for our children.

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 by Schultheis Roofing and many improvements were made over the summer including several classrooms and restrooms that were painted and upgraded, new flooring was installed in the school cafeteria and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit/Nurses Room was upgraded with fresh paint and the walls from the leaking roof repaired and new flooring.

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.

Religious Education

We welcome back our Director, **Teresa Maynor**, and her volunteers and students for our 2020-2021 Religious Education Program which will begin Sunday, September 13 at 9:45am on line.

After looking at the amount of work it would take to clean and sanitize the classrooms and restrooms after each session, it was determined to move our instruction of our Religious Education Classes on line for the first nine weeks via Zoom. An Orientation Session will be held for the parents this Sunday, August 30 from 9 am to 10:45 am in the school cafeteria.

Looking Ahead:

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, 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.

Parish Improvements

John Buch Electric is making some lighting upgrades to Fr. Matt's office at the Parish Office.

Fr. Matt has officially moved into the second floor of the St. James Rectory in Wilkinsburg. After two years of construction, the second and third floor living areas are now complete!

Vacation 2020

Please note that I will be heading on my annual family vacation **September 7-20**. Fr. Matt, Fr. Taylor, Fr. James and Fr. Augustine will be doing the daily and Sunday Masses. Please hold any phone calls, messages, and emails while I am away. I will return to the office, Monday, September 21.

Congratulations to **Vienza Barboza** and **Ken Tullar** who completed the RCIA program. Ken received his First Holy Communion and Confirmation and Vienza received Confirmation last **Sunday at the 11 am Mass. Special thanks to Teresa Maynor, Melissa Viator and Tim McCarthy for their Leadership.**

Something to Think About...

*Lincoln was great, not because he lived in a log cabin,
but because he was able to get out of it.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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