

Pastor's Note: September 6, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgive!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. All of the readings this weekend call us to self-examination for we are sinners in need of our own conversion and are called to be prophets.

In the first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, God reminds Ezekiel that he has the great responsibility of serving as a watchman over the people. It seems unlikely that the people will turn away from idolatry, but Ezekiel still continues sounding the alarm of conversion.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs his disciples on how to deal with a serious sinner within the community. During Jesus' time, community discipline was an important issue for the early Christians. Disputes and conflicts should be handled within the Christian community. Conflict should not be ignored. We should take steps to address conflict and seek a path to reconciliation. The love of God, self and neighbor forms the core of who we are and what we do as Christians.

Let us seek reconciliation with anyone who sins against us. Each day offers an opportunity to realize more deeply God's love for us, giving us another chance to turn away from sin and embrace the light of God.

As we begin a new school year and return back to our busy fall schedules (even with new routines due to the Covid-19 pandemic), let us reconcile ourselves with God and with others to get a fresh clean start.

This coming Friday, September 11, marks the 19th Anniversary of the terroristic attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington D.C., and in Shanksville, Somerset County. We pray for all those who perished on this horrific day and seek unity and peace in our country and our world. God Bless America!

Forgive!

School Bells The Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will reopen schools for the 2020-2021 school year for Elementary School Students on this coming **Tuesday, September 8**. (The Catholic High Schools reopened last week.) 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. Best wishes for a great, safe school year!

Religious Education We welcome back our Director, **Teresa Maynor**, and her volunteers and students for our 2020-2021 Religious Education Program which will begin next Sunday, September 13 online.

After looking at the amount of work it would take to clean and sanitize the classrooms and restrooms after each session, it was decided to move our instruction of our Religious Education Classes on line for the first nine weeks via Zoom.

Looking Ahead

Confirmation will be held on Sunday September 27 and October 11 at 2pm 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 Census All registered parishioners should have received a "Census Letter" in the mail a few weeks ago. Please look over the card with your information, make any necessary changes, and mail back in the enclosed envelope . We appreciate your full participation as we update our files.

Every Catholic needs a place to call home. If you are attending Mass at St. Mary Magdalene Parish on a regular basis and not officially registered, please pick up a registration form in the back of our three churches, contact Terri Price at the parish office at 412.661.7222 ext. 0, or download the form from our website, saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org/welcome

Vacation 2020 Please note that I am currently on my annual vacation this week through next Sunday, **September 20**. Please hold emails and phone calls until I return to the office, Monday, September 21.

Congratulations to **Carmelo Eloy Connors** who is being baptized this weekend.

Welcome A special welcome to **Edward, Sandra, Matthew** and **Marin Best** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Something to Think About...

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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