

Pastor's Note

September 13, Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Forgiven!

Growing up with two older sisters, being the youngest and the only boy in my family, my sisters Lisa and Linda and I would often get into sib-ling arguments. It was natural to fight when we were all squeezed in the back seat of my parents Oldsmobile Cutlass Supreme; we would argue who would be the lucky one to have to sit in the middle (usually it was me) or we would argue over food at the dinner table. This time of year we would be in Ocean City, Maryland for our annual family summer vacation arguing over seashells, a miniature golf game, or who gets the last piece of pizza or cheese fries as we walked along the boardwalk.

Anytime we would get into arguments, my parents would sit us down, tell us to take a deep breath, and remind us to say we were sorry! I can remember my parents saying to me, "Tom, what do you say?" I would respond... "I'm sorry"! This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. All of the readings focus on forgiveness.

In the first reading from Sirach, we read how a wise teacher urges us to extend to others the forgiveness we seek from God. In the second reading from Paul to the Romans, we are reminded that we belong to Christ the Lord in life and death. We die as servants of the Risen Lord. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus proclaims the parable of the unforgiving servant. The king forgives the servants debt showing mercy and forgiveness. When the servant encounters a fellow servant who owes him a modest amount, he demands full payment immediately. Mercy and forgiveness cannot be earned, they come from the heart with no limitations.

We are called to live the commandments as the way we honor our covenant with God. Revenge and hate have no place in our relationship with God and others and treating others with mercy gives us peace. Like God, may we be kind and merciful to others, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Forgiven!

Confirmation Retreat

Our Confirmation candidates attended a day of retreat on Saturday, August 29, at St. Bede Church. The students participated in Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, had a great lunch followed by an after-noon reflection with Fr. Matt Hawkins. Special thanks to

Teresa Maynor, Dante Romito, Mara Sullivan, Melissa Viator and several parent volunteers for making the day special.

Confirmation will be held on two Sundays: **September 27 and October 11 at 2pm**. Just as we did with First Holy Communion, we are limiting the number of students, families and guests at each of the Masses, following all safety and social distancing guidelines. Parents also have the option to wait till next year to have their child confirmed.

Century Club

The Century Club Banquet that was originally supposed to be held next **Sunday, September 20** at the Edgewood Country Club has been cancelled due to Covid-19. All members will be credited for next year. New members are welcomed for 2020-2021. The dues are \$100.00 a year and you will be eligible for one of four \$25.00 cash prizes each month. To join contact Judy Prata at 412.731.1439.

Parish Improvements

We recently purchased six new blue chairs from Tri-State Office Furniture in McKees Rocks for St. Bede Church.

John Buch Electric updated two electrical outlets at Mother of Good Counsel Church.

Please note the Fall hours for St. Bede Church are 7 am to 3 pm - Monday through Friday and 8 am to Noon on Saturday. Mother of Good Counsel and St. James are open one hour before the weekend Mass.

Blessing of Pets

In honor of the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we will have a **Blessing of Pets, Sun-day, October 4, at 3:00 pm on the green lawn** in front of St. Bede Rectory at the corner of South Dallas Avenue and Edgerton Avenue.

Vacation 2020

Please note that I am currently finishing up my annual vacation this weekend. I will return to the office Monday morning, September 21.

Welcome

A special welcome to **Kristen Smith, Shawn, Anisah, Landon, Lennox and Leland Wherry** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Something to Think About...

A true friend is one who knows all about you and loves you just the same.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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