

PASTOR'S NOTE

SEPTEMBER 20, TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God is Generous!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on God's generosity.

In the first reading from the Book of Isaiah, we read part of the last chapter of what scripture scholars refer to as the "Book of Consolation." The prophet reminds us that the ways of God are very different from the ways of the world by inviting people to seek and turn to God. No matter who they are or what they have done, if they allow themselves to be converted, God will embrace them with mercy and love.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we read the parable of the "landowner and the workers in the vineyard." Those who were exhausted from working a full day out in the field resented the landowner for paying the latecomers the same amount in wage. Jesus challenges his followers to be merciful and just in ways that flow from the kingdom of heaven. God is generous beyond expectation.

Jesus told this parable in order to defend himself and his activity. The religious leaders (the Scribes and the Pharisees) attacked him for eating with tax collectors and sinners, dining with prostitutes and touching and healing lepers, all considered "outcasts" from society. Jesus' answer to his critics is that he was doing God's work. This parable invites us to recognize God's mercy and rejoice in and accept it into our own lives.

This weekend is also "Catechetical Sunday." We thank all those who teach the faith in our parish: School Teachers, CCD Catechists, and RCIA. We also thank Teresa Maynor our Director of Religious Education, Sister Daniela Bronka, St. Bede Principal, Stephanie Michael, Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy Principal, and Audrey Bowser, St. Benedict the Moor Principal.

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Parish Finances

Like St. Mary Magdalene "*spreading the good news to all!*" I am happy to announce that the 1.5 million school and insurance debt from the former St. James Parish has been written off (wiped clean) from a grant from the Diocese of Pittsburgh's On Campaign for the Church Alive Fund! We still have an outstanding insurance balance of \$177,000 from the former St. Charles Lwanga and St. James parishes that we still owe. Proceeds from selling the former Corpus Christi Church will help pay towards the balance. We are still in the working stages of selling the building. We also eventually will have to look at the future use of Holy Rosary Church and Rectory.

Recently a parishioner e-mailed me and asked where does their offertory collection go? Does it go to the Diocese or for another use?

Please note that the offertory envelopes for the weekly collection stay here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. The weekly offertory collection helps run the day to day operations of the office, staff, helps pay for the electricity, water, gas, air conditioning, cleaning, insurance and taxes, and helps pay the Liturgical bills. Withholding offertory donations only adds a financial burden to our parish. Second collections go specifically towards that specialized collection: Social Ministries, St. Vincent de Paul, Music Ministry, School Fund, and Maintenance projects. Because these are different accounts, if at all possible please make separate payments for the special collections. This helps with our accounting and bookkeeping.

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.

Blessing of Pets

In honor of the memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we will have a **Blessing of**

Pets, Sunday, October 4 at 3:00pm on the green lawn in front of the Parish Office at the corner of South Dallas Avenue and Edgerton Avenue.

Congratulations to **Kevin McCann Havern** and **Mila Marie Gouch** who are being Baptized this weekend.

Happy 50th Birthday to **Michael Natalia** from our Maintenance Department who celebrated his birthday on September 11!

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.

Something to Think About...

A smile is an asset, a frown is a liability.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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