

PASTOR'S NOTE

SEPTEMBER 27, TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

Actions Speak Louder Than Words!

This weekend we celebrate the Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on personal integrity.

In the first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, we read how the prophet wants the people to understand that they are not trapped by the past. God offers an invitation to repent, turn away from the sins of the past and start fresh and new. The door for repentance and life is always open. In the second reading from Paul to the Philippians, we are reminded that Jesus accepted suffering and death for the sake of salvation. In the Gospel of St. Matthew, we read the parable of the two sons which teaches us that fulfilling the will of God demands action over words. God invites us to accept responsibility for what we can change and to work with others for the changes that require their help. The first son refuses to work in the vineyard but later changes his mind, the second son says yes, but does not go. Anyone who hears the Word of God must act on it. Both the first reading and gospel emphasize personal integrity. Saying the right words is never enough. One has to take those words and put them into practice. The Father calls each of us, sons and daughters, to participate in his work. The Father waits patiently and is always welcoming. Let us do what we say and say what we do and answer the Lords call.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Blessing of Pets Next Weekend!

In honor of the Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we will have the **Blessing of Pets, next Sunday, October 4, at 3:00 pm** on the green lawn in front of the parish office at 509 S. Dallas Avenue in Point Breeze. Please bring your dog, cat, bird, or any other furry creature to get blessed. Also, remember to wear your mask and practice social distancing.

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.

Thank you for your continued financial support to 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. If you have any questions about parish finances please contact me personally via phone 412.661.7222 or email tburke@diopitt.org.

Parish Improvements

New lighting has been installed on the first floor of St. James Rectory.

Landscaping upgrades are currently being done in front of St. Bede School along Edgerton Avenue and around the parish office.

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 not officially registered, we have registration forms in the back of all three of our churches, on the Welcome page of our website, saintmarymagdaleneppgh.org or you can call Terri Price at the parish office at 412.661.7222.

Welcome

Welcome to **Craig, Erin, and Colin Bilecki**, and **Arlene Fleck** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Something to Think About...

Behavior is a mirror in which we show our image.

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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