

PASTOR'S NOTE

January 10, The Baptism of the Lord

A New Beginning!

This weekend we conclude the Christmas Season by celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Baptism is our gateway into the sacramental life of the church. This coming week we return to Ordinary Time before we start the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

In the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, we read how God introduces a special servant who will bring light to the nations. The servant does not act on his own initiative but is chosen by God. The servant is a beacon of light for the nations. In the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter preaches for the first time inside a Gentile household.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read that Jesus is baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. The heavens open, the Holy Spirit descends like a dove, while God the Father calls Jesus his beloved Son. After the baptism Jesus begins his public ministry of teaching and healing.

We have all been called through Baptism to the common vocations of holiness and service. As we begin a new year, 2021, we hopefully have turned the page from this past year and are moving forward with new goals and resolutions and trying to commit ourselves to growing deeper and stronger in our own discipleship.

Let us continue to be a Beacon of Hope here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

A New Beginning!

Catholic Education Plus

Tune into KDKA Radio, 1020 am every other Sunday morning at 6:30am for Catholic Education Plus. This program, which I host, highlights elementary and secondary schools, colleges, youth ministry programs, and more. The next program will air next Sunday, January 17. This radio program is sponsored by Sam and Judy Spanos and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Offertory Envelopes

Every registered parishioner should be receiving weekly offertory envelopes via mail or using the online giving program "Faith Direct." Using your weekly offertory envelopes, helps run the day-to-day operations of our office and staff, liturgical services, pays the insurance, taxes, and utilities at our Ministry Center, Food Banks, Rectories, Churches and Schools, and keeps our doors open to help continue to proclaim the Good News!

Other "Special" Envelopes are earmarked for specific purposes not attached to the regular Parish operating account including: Social Ministries, Maintenance Fund, School Support, Parish Share Program, and Utility Assistance Program Envelope. If possible, please write a separate check for the weekly offertory but you can combine your "specials" into one payment. We appreciate your support to our parish and our various ministries. Thank you for your generosity and understanding.

Parish Census

I continue to call the parishioners who have not yet completed their updated parish census card which was mailed to every registered parishioner a few months ago. If you have not yet completed the parish census, please call

Terri Price at the Parish Office, 412.661.7222 ext. 0.

Parish Improvement "Wish List" Items

We have several "wish list" items for updates and repairs to all three of our campuses including replacing the St. James Rectory windows, updating the parish office first floor restroom and kitchen, and upgrading the accessible side doors and sacristy door at Mother of Good Counsel. Please consider helping St. Mary Magdalene Parish with your financial support.

We also are looking to purchase two kings for our Crèche at St. Bede. (We only have one King). Each King costs \$1,900. If you would like to help us complete the set, please send in your donation to my attention at the parish office and memo the check "Three Kings Fund." We thank you for your generosity.

Parish Improvements

Trpcic Landscaping removed and disposed leaves from the St. Bede School playground and front entrance and rectory.

Ruthrauff Services, LLC recently completed its annual routine maintenance on the St. Bede School/Church Boiler and air conditioning system.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Frank Grande** our Business Manager who celebrated his birthday this past Friday, January 8; **Anne Scheuermann**, Director of Social Ministries and Community Outreach who is celebrating her birthday this Tuesday, January 12; and our Parochial Vicar, **Fr. Matthew Hawkins**, who is celebrating his birthday this coming Thursday, January 14!

Something to Think About...

*When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced;
live your life so that when you die,
the world cries and you rejoice.*

White Elk

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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