

PASTOR'S NOTE

January 31, 2021

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

As a product of both a Catholic and Public Education, I am very grateful for the sacrifices my parents made for me and my two sisters so we could get a great Catholic elementary education. I graduated from St. Norbert Elementary School in Overbrook in 1984, Carrick High School in 1988 and Clarion University in 1992. I am very thankful for the foundation of the morals and values that Catholic Education has given me in my life.

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. There are many wonderful options for schools in our area. St. Bede and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy offer a quality Catholic education in a safe and loving environment with a 3 and 4 year-old pre-school program and Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. We have two great "neighborhood schools" in the Point Breeze and Wilkinsburg Communities. Please call 412.661.9425 at St. Bede or 412.242.3515 at Sister Thea Bowman for more information. With many public and other private schools closed due to the pandemic, we are blessed to have our Catholic schools open for in person instruction or the option for daily virtual learning.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, we read how Moses assures the people that God will never abandon them. He challenges them to show their gratitude by remaining loyal to the terms of the covenant with God. In the Second Reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul devotes himself to helping the people of faith remain loyal to God. In the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus teaches in the synagogue on the sabbath and all those who heard were astounded by his teachings and he then expels an unclean spirit from a man.

Jesus speaks to us each time we gather to hear the gospel proclaimed. Guiding us through our own personal exodus with every-day life challenges, Jesus leads us to eternal life if we only follow and trust him.

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week!

Blessing of Throats

In honor of the Feast of St. Blaise, which is this coming **Wednesday, February 3**, we will have a special "Blessing of Throats" prayer at the conclusion of Mass this weekend and at the end of the Mass on Wednesday. Because of the pandemic we are unable to have individual throat blessings.

Parish Improvements

The Holy Rosary Rectory is getting a fresh coat of paint on the first floor.

Richard A. Smith Painting has completed painting upgrades on the first floor of St. James Rectory and is currently working on the first floor of the St. Bede Rectory.

Toth Carpeting of Munhall has completed installing new carpeting on the first floor of St. James Rectory.

Are You Registered?

If you are attending Mass at St. Mary Magdalene on a regular basis and are not officially registered, please call Terri Price at the office at 412.661.7222. Every Catholic needs a place to call home and be officially registered at a parish.

2020 Tax Letters

If you would like to request a donation letter for your 2020 taxes, please contact Frank Grande at 412.661.7222 ext. 204 or email at businessmanager@stmarymagpgh.org. To help the parish save on postage (and ensure that you receive it in a timely manner) you may pick up your tax letters at the parish office during normal business hours after you call for your request.

2021 Mass Intentions

Mass Intention and Sanctuary Memorial Candle forms are available in the vestibule of our churches and at the parish office. Please complete the form and return with the \$10 stipend. No requests can be taken over the phone or via email, and each request needs the specific form with the \$10 stipend enclosed in order for it to be processed. Please contact Terri Price at the Parish Office, 412.661.7222 ext. 0 for more information.

Welcome

A special warm welcome to **Kaileen Daniber** and **Thomas Hon**, who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Emerild Elizabeth Green** and **Elijah Edward Nigborowicz** who are being Baptized this weekend!

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Cristina Habacon** and **Andrew Zaragoza** who are validating their marriage this weekend!

Something to Think About...

*The more we are transformed by the power of Christ,
the less we will be conformed to this world.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

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