

## Pastor's Note

### February 14, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### ***Be Made Clean!***

Almost a year ago, we were not used to hearing the words “socially distant” or “stay six feet away” or “wear your mask.” Now, after a year and still going through the Covid-19 Pandemic, these are just everyday realities. To protect ourselves and others we all have had to restructure our family gatherings, how our kids go to school and even how we work. Many grandparents miss seeing their grandchildren, those who have a loved one in a nursing home or assisted living facility miss going inside the facility for a visit. We all yearn for the day when we can gather once again to hold a hand or hug a loved one.

This weekend we celebrate the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings focus on touching and healing, especially those who are considered outcasts.

Today's first reading, from the Book of Leviticus, reminds us that God protects the chosen people as they make their way to the Promised Land. The Book of Leviticus makes clear that a leper is set apart from others. No hug, no tap on the shoulder, no touching. Most in ancient Israel recognized lepers were not to blame for their condition, but the fact that their presence was a threat because contact with them would render one ritually unclean as well. In the second reading from Paul to the Corinthians, we read how Paul reminds the community to do everything for the Glory of God. In the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus heals the leper by touching him and saying, “be made clean.” Not even leprosy is a barrier to Jesus' healing touch.

One of the worst things that can happen to a human being is to be rejected. When we reject people, we are in effect treating them as “lepers.” Jesus accepted the leper just as he was. Acceptance is the answer to rejection.

Like the leper in the gospel, we call out to the Lord to forgive us. We ask our Lord to touch our hearts and send the spirit of love to those who feel alone, socially distant, disconnected, and abandoned. Listening to the word of God, let us take Paul's words as a challenge; “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”

#### ***Looking Ahead***

**Pastoral Council Meeting** - via Zoom, this **Monday, February 15, at 6:30pm.**

**First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Parent Meeting** - via Zoom on this **Tuesday, February 16, at 7pm.**

**Ash Wednesday - February 17**

**Masses will be held**

**9 am - St. Bede**

**9 am - St. James**

**Noon - Mother of Good Counsel**

**7 pm - St. Bede**

**Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be no Friday evening Stations of the Cross this year.**

**First Reconciliation will be held:**

**Friday, March 12, after the 9 am school Mass for St. Bede School Second Graders.**

**Saturday, March 14, at 11 am at St. Bede for all CCD Second Graders.**

**Friday, March 26, after the 9 am school Mass at St. James for Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy Second Graders.**

#### ***Parish Improvements***

Painting continues on the first floor of Holy Rosary Rectory.

Matt Mertz Plumbing completed repairs on the third floor of the St. Bede Rectory.

### **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. 203 or email at [businessmanager@stmarymagpgh.org](mailto: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 \$10.00 stipend.

### **Welcome**

A special warm welcome to **Michael** and **Andrea Collins** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish!

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Maxwell David Bolten** who was Baptized last weekend!

### **New Bulletin**

We hope you enjoy the new bulletin. We now have Diocesan Publications as our bulletin provider. If you have a business and would like to place an advertisement in our bulletin, please contact **Rick Cortez at 412.292.0132**. Shop local and help support our parish by supporting our bulletin advertisers!

### **Something to Think About...**

Winter is the time for comfort,  
for good food and warmth, for the touch  
of a friendly hand and for a talk  
beside the fire: It is the time for home.

*Dame Edith Sitwell*

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)