

## Pastor's Note

February 21, First Sunday of Lent

### ***"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"***

The Season of Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Thursday before the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. We walk this journey together for the next six weeks focusing on prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

I love sweets, especially chocolate and Boston Cream Pie! I know eating too much of these are not healthy for me. The next seven weeks I will be "giving up" these comfort foods as a sacrifice. This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Lent. All the readings this weekend focus on temptation. As human beings, we all struggle with various temptations, eating or drinking something unhealthy, driving through a red light or stop sign, viewing inappropriate things on the internet, breaking our marriage vows, or taking money or items we find at work or school.

In the first reading from the Book of Genesis, we read about Noah and his family after the great flood. God establishes a covenant with Noah and his sons, promising never to flood the earth again. In the second reading to Peter, we read how Jesus died for the sake of unjust humanity. He has won victory over death.

In the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus enters the desert (wilderness) for forty days and is tempted by the devil. The desert is symbolically the place of purification. Israel spent forty years in the desert and Jesus was in the desert for forty days.

Lent is a time for us to re-examine and call into question the very values and attitudes on which we base our everyday lives and behavior.

Each of us is involved in a constant struggle against temptation. Jesus can identify with us. He was tempted as we are. He was not immune to suffering, to hurt, or disappointment. We can approach him with confidence, knowing that we will have mercy from him and find grace in our time of need.

If we wish to change, we must first change the inner attitudes of our minds. Change requires the substituting of new habits for old ones. The change of heart to which Lent calls us can be accomplished through the power of prayer.

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

**Join us Saturday mornings at St. Bede Church for 9 am daily Mass, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation available from 9:30-10:30 am.**

**"The Little Black Book" Lenten Reflection Booklets are available in church or at the parish office courtesy of St. Mary Magdalene Parish.**

### ***Parish Share 2020***

The Parish Share 2020 Campaign will conclude at the end of the month. Our goal for **St. Mary Magdalene Parish is \$153,393**. Parish Share helps operate the day- to- day operations at the Pastoral Center and Seminary in Green Tree, and the Hospital Chaplaincy and College Campus programs. Please complete your pledges by the end of February through the offertory envelope or the online giving program Faith Direct. We thank you for your generosity.

### ***2020 Tax Letters***

If you would like to request a donation letter for your 2020 taxes, please contact Frank Grande:  
412-661-7222 ext. 203 or

[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 Parish Calendars** are available in our three churches and at the Parish Office. Special thanks to **John A. Freyvogel Funeral Home in Shadyside, Thomas L. Nied Funeral Home in Swissvale, and Patrick T. Lanigan Funeral Home in East Pittsburgh/Turtle Creek** for sponsoring the calendars again this year.

***Welcome***

A special warm welcome to **Lisa Malchi-Baldis** and **Greg and Ellen Quinn** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish!

***Happy Birthday***

Happy Birthday to **Matthew Denk** who is a teacher's assistant at St. Bede School and part time Maintenance in the parish, celebrating his birthday this weekend!

We hope you enjoy the new bulletin. 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...***

**Bad habits are like a comfortable bed, easy to get into, but hard to get out of.**

With God All Things Are Possible!

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