

Pastor's Note

March 7, Third Sunday of Lent

"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"

I love to clean! You may see me with a broom sweeping the front steps at the St. James Rectory, emptying the outdoor garbage can at Mother of Good Counsel, or sweeping the front porch of the St. Bede Rectory. The Boy Scouts have a saying; "always leave a campsite better than the way you found it." I try to follow that motto daily.

This weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday of Lent. The readings focus on looking at what is important in life. In the first reading from the book of Exodus, God reveals to the tribes of Israel what is expected of them as people of the covenant: no worshipping false gods or taking the Lord's name in vain. People obey out of love, faithfulness, and gratitude. All of God's people are called to a life that is moral, upright, holy, and caring for others. In the second reading from Paul to the Corinthians, in writing to the Church of Corinth where Paul was dealing with a divided church filled with conflicts, he gives them guidance on how to heal and instructs them to look at all things from Christ's point of view.

In the Gospel of John, we read of the "cleansing of the temple," as we encounter Jesus angry at those who conduct business in the temple court during the time of Passover. The temple, which was the focal point of Jewish worship, had turned into a center for commerce. Jesus set out to cleanse everything that did not contribute directly to the worship of the Father.

What distracts us from God? Let us do some "spiritual cleansing" of our own minds, hearts and actions and ask the Lord to help us be free of clutter, noise, and distractions.

Parish Share 2021

The Annual Parish Share Campaign has begun for 2021 and our goal is **\$178,677**. No funds collected via the program go towards lawsuits or legal affairs, rather they support the day- to- day operations at the Pastoral Center and Seminary in Green Tree, the Hospital Chaplaincy programs in our area hospitals and nursing homes, tuition scholarships and grants for our Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, and the Campus Ministry programs at our local colleges and universities. Parish Share also helps the individual parishes with assistance from the Diocesan Insurance and Benefits Office for our parish and school employees, Property and Planning Office to assist with buildings and grounds issues and the Parish Services Office assists Pastors and Business Managers with the day-to-day operations of the parish. We all benefit from Parish Share! Anything we collect over our goal stays in the parish. We appreciate your support.

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 e-mail 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.

Parish Improvements

Bakers Waterproofing completed the annual pump maintenance for the St. Bede and St. James Rectory basements. A new pump and waterproofing liners were installed last March in both rectory basements, and this is the annual inspection. Holy Rosary Rectory basement, which also received a new system last May, will be receiving the same service in the next few weeks. All three rectory basements have seen a much-needed improvement in the past year with this new waterproofing system installed.

The St. James Rectory water heater was repaired this past week with a new valve.

Thank you for your continued financial generosity to St. Mary Magdalene Parish so that we can continue making improvements.

New Bulletin

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!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Cooper Stephen Nowak**, son of Christian and Julie Aubrecht Nowak who is being Baptized this weekend and **Maxwell David Bolton**, son of John and Jessica Skoner Bolton who was baptized a few weeks ago.

Something to Think About...

We are not loved because we obey, but rather we obey because we are loved.

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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