

## Pastor's Note

**April 11, Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday**

### ***Peace Be With You!***

This weekend we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday, which was established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. It leads us into the continuing celebration of God's mercy during the Easter Time. The readings this weekend call us to open our eyes and experience the many ways that God's mercy touches us.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how the Holy Spirit's power is displayed through the church's unity and generosity.

In the second reading from First John, we read how an Apostle writes that we show our love for the Lord by keeping his commandments. God's children win the victory over the world through faith in Jesus who is fully human and divine.

In the Gospel of John, we read how the Risen Lord appears first to some frightened disciples then to Thomas granting them peace and commissioning them with the Holy Spirit to carry on his sacred work. No sooner has he offered the disciples his peace than he immediately commissions them to take up and carry on the work he has been doing. After Jesus' resurrection his followers quickly put aside their fears and doubts for their faith was incredibly strengthened.

During Easter time the Lord gives us what we need so that we may believe in him.

I am pleased to report that the clergy and staff of St. Mary Magdalene Parish and the St. Bede School and Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy Faculty and Staff are all fully vaccinated!

### ***Parish Improvements/Thank You***

Special thanks to our St. Bede School Eighth Graders who helped clean and sanitize St. Bede Church during Holy Week: **Michael Caruso, Molly Henninger, David and Guy Klecha, Andrew Koes, Gabriella Palmieri, and Daniel Patton**. Thank you also to our adults: **Kathy Patton, Judy Scarlarsky, and Melissa Viator** for helping with the cleaning project.

Thanks to our Maintenance Staff: **Paul and Matthew Denk, Michael Natalia, and Annette Shunk** for cleaning and sanitizing our three churches during the Holy Week and the extra masses.

Thank you to our Liturgical and Decorating Committee for helping with the extra Easter Decorations: **Kathy Savarino, Mary Grace and Judy Prata, Nancy O'Brien** and their teams did a magnificent job.

Thank you to **Jennifer, Anna, and Julia Gorske, Gerard Rolf, Linda Atkins, and Vicki Fisher** for providing the beautiful music for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations. Bravo!

**Michael Natalia** from our maintenance department recently did the first grass cutting of the season at all four of our campuses; including Holy Rosary Church and Rectory.

**Schultheis Roofing Inc.** recently made drainage improvements to the St. Bede School Roof.

### ***Remaining Church Alive Funds***

With the approval of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, we will be using the remaining funds (\$11,914.49) from the Church Alive! Campaign to help offset some of the cost of new carpeting we will be installing in St. James chapel and kitchen, Holy Rosary Rectory first floor and Food Bank area, St. Bede Rectory stairwell and third floor. Updating the carpeting was on the original case statement for the former St. Charles Lwanga Parish, but with the evolution of time, other needs surfaced, and the funds needed to be redirected. Special thanks to a generous parishioner who helped cover the remaining cost of the new carpeting for Holy Rosary Food Bank.

### ***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, training our religious educators and evangelization, 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 will be mailing out a Parish Share Letter in the next few weeks to all registered parishioners to consider participating. We appreciate your support.

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

Faith sees the invisible, believes  
the incredible, and receives  
the impossible.

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor  
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