

## Pastor's Note

### April 18, Third Sunday of Easter

#### *Peace Be With You!*

Today is the Third Sunday of Easter. All the readings this weekend focus on forgiveness and healing.

In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter boldly preaches in the name of Jesus which brings healing to those who truly listen.

In the second reading from First John, we have assurance that Jesus pleads for us before his heavenly Father. In the Gospel of Luke, we read the passage as two disciples recount to the others their experience with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus, the risen Christ appears to all of them, with a greeting of peace and shows them his wounded hands and feet then eating a piece of baked fish in their presence confirming that it was really him and not a ghost. St. Luke uses the sharing of a meal to reassure, unite, and empower the disciples. Not long after the road to Emmaus, Jesus once again opens the eyes of his disciples to his identity and calms their fears by sharing food with them.

The Eucharist that we share is indeed the ultimate comfort food. It unites us, ties us to our faith roots, and strengthens us for the future task of witnessing to Jesus' message.

Christ always finds a way to reassure us of the truth and reality of the Resurrection. As believers, we find that reassurance in the sacramental and liturgical life of the church where the scriptures are proclaimed, and the spirit is at work. When the Lord rose from the dead, he physically returned to life in his glorified body. Jesus accompanied his Apostles, spoke with them, and ate with them. Jesus preached forgiveness in his life, crucifixion, and resurrection.

As we continue celebrating this Easter season, let us acknowledge our failings and ask for mercy and forgiveness and continue to proclaim the Good News to all.

#### *Parish Share 2021*

Our **2021 Campaign Goal is \$178,677**. Anything we collect over our goal stays in the parish. 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 all benefit from Parish Share!

*Something to consider...* if you received your Covid Relief Stimulus Check and are financially comfortable without it, consider contributing all or part of it to St. Mary Magdalene Parish to help recover the recent high costs of snow removal, salting and utilities the past several months. We appreciate your generosity.

#### *Parish Improvements*

This past week Toth Carpeting of Munhall installed new carpeting on the first-floor stairwell steps and on the third floor where Fr. James and Fr. Augustine live at the St. Bede Rectory. In the next few weeks, Toth Carpeting will be installing new carpeting in the St. James Chapel and kitchen area, and at the Holy Rosary rectory, a new kitchen floor will be installed, and new carpeting will be installed in the Holy Rosary Food Bank office and storage areas. Funds from Our Campaign for the Church Alive will be used to fund this much needed project along with a generous contribution from a parishioner to upgrade the Holy Rosary Food Bank area.

#### *Congratulations*

Congratulations to **Brooks Thomas Deger** who is being Baptized this weekend.

Congratulations to our Second Graders who are receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend at the 4 pm Saturday evening Mass at St. James and 2 pm Sunday afternoon Mass at St. Bede. Special thanks to **Melissa Viator, Sister Daniela Bronka, Teresa Maynor, Stephanie Michael, Bridget Kelly, and Jessica Pais** for their leadership!

***Wedding Bells***

Congratulations to **Tara Pensiero** and **John Offman** who celebrated their marriage last Saturday, April 10, 2021.

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

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go” do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

*Howard Thurman*

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor

**[tburke@diopitt.org](mailto:tburke@diopitt.org)**