

Pastor's Note

April 25, 2021

Jesus is the Good Shepherd!

For the past twenty years, God has blessed me with great parish assignments in my Priesthood ministry. From 2008 to 2012, I was Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Braddock which was one of the first merged parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh established in 1985. Rev. Robert Boyle, who just passed away last week, was the founding pastor. My four years at Good Shepherd Parish (which is now part of St. Joseph the Worker Parish serving the communities of Braddock, North Braddock, East Pittsburgh, Forest Hills, Swissvale, Turtle Creek and Wilmerding) was a wonderful experience seeing how seven former ethnic parishes could come together to be one family. I love being a priest and love my Catholic faith. Every day I try to do my best to be a good priest and shepherd to the people that I am entrusted with.

This weekend we celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter, also called "Good Shepherd Sunday." In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter proclaims to the elders that the cripple who has been healed and saved was done so in the name of Jesus. In the second reading of First John, we learn that, as children of heaven, we will see God in the world to come.

Traditionally the Fourth Sunday of Easter is called "Good Shepherd Sunday" because the gospel is always from John Chapter 10. Jesus says he will lay down his life for his sheep. He will give everything that he has to guarantee their safety and salvation.

All of us have circles of people in our lives we can be Good Shepherds to. Our baptismal promises call the youngest to the oldest among us to walk always as children of light, leading others to come to know Jesus and the Good News he shares. For many lay people, parenting is the main place. But any act of teaching or protection, forgiveness, or guidance is part of the shepherding mission of the church.

As we continue to move forward as more and more people get vaccinated and still taking safety precautions going through the Coronavirus pandemic, we pray that our Good Shepherd may help us through this time and keep us safe. Let us continue to not have fear, but have faith.

Looking Ahead

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our Eighth Graders will be on:

Friday - May 14 - 7pm at St. Bede

Saturday - May 15 at 4pm at St. James

Sunday - May 16 at 2pm at St. Bede

****Please note message from Bishop David Zubik:** "given the current state of precautions in light of COVID-19, please note that I am extending permission for pastors to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation up to Thursday, July 1, 2021. I have done so that there will not be any unnecessary delays to the celebration of this important sacrament."
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I am honored as the Pastor of St. Mary Magdalene to conduct the Sacrament of Confirmation to our Eighth Graders.

Parish Improvements

This past week **Toth Carpeting** of Munhall installed new carpeting in the St. James Chapel and kitchen area. Also, this coming week Toth will begin installing new carpeting and flooring on the first floor of the Holy Rosary rectory and Food Bank. Special thanks to a generous parishioner who contributed to make the Food Bank area improvements possible.

Metropolitan Window Company of Baldwin/Whitehall installed new windows on the second and third floor of the St. James Rectory. Funds from the Rectory Renovation Fund helped pay for this much needed project. We are still

seeking out donations to complete the first floor. If you would like to help contribute to this fund, please make check payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it: Rectory Window Fund.

Thank you to **Linda Atkins** and **Vicki Sheridan** for trimming the bushes at Mother of Good Counsel last Sunday. Also thank you to a parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous for spraying some weed control around the Mother of Good Counsel Church and parking lot.

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Fifty One Second Graders who received their First Holy Communion last and this weekend. Special thanks to **Melissa Viator, Sister Daniela Bronka, Teresa Maynor, Stephanie Michael, Bridget Kelly, and Jessica Pais** for their leadership!

Something to Think About...

*My Lord knows the way through
the wilderness. All I have to do is follow.*

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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