

Pastor's Note

May 23, Pentecost

Peace Be With You!

This past week the CDC announced lifting the mask mandate to those who are fully vaccinated, and Bishop Zubik has issued a statement that the churches can now open to full seating capacity (with also having a special area set aside for those who still prefer to be socially distant). We welcome back to Mass in person those who feel comfortable enough to attend. We will continue to livestream the weekend Mass and our current weekday and weekend Mass schedule will continue until further notice. We will keep you posted as changes occur.

Today we conclude the Easter Season by celebrating Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church. Fifty days ago, we celebrated Easter. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles we read how the Apostles receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Room and can speak in various languages and boldly proclaim the Good News. In the second reading from Paul to the Galatians, Paul encourages the Galatian community to live by the spirit and lists the fruits of the Spirit that will arise from doing so.

In the Gospel of John, we read the Last Supper Discourse that Jesus promises his disciples he will send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. In the Acts of the Apostles and Gospel of St. John, the disciples of Jesus are commissioned to bear witness to the Good News, in their preaching, healing, and teaching. Pentecost teaches that the fruit of the Spirit is finally the result of the Spirit's cultivation of the soil of our hearts. The Christian's job is to bear fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We may come from different families, different neighborhoods, different cultures, but the Holy Spirit draws us together. As the spirit sanctifies the church, may he sanctify each one of us, and guide us in our lives of discipleship.

COVID-19 Task Force

Over the past year the Diocese of Pittsburgh suggested each parish identify a safety team comprised of clergy, staff, and volunteers, for the purpose of implementing and monitoring the safety guidelines. Thank to our St. Mary Magdalene Parish Task Force for their advice and suggestions these past several months: **Linda Atkins RN, Jeanne Clancey RN, Buffy Halle RN, Dr. Bernadette Harris, Dr. Deborah McMahon, and Toni Polite, RN**. These six women all have tremendous medical backgrounds and wonderful insight on parishioner's safety and I am grateful for their expertise. Special thanks to our Maintenance Staff: **Paul and Matthew Denk, and Michael Natalia** for cleaning and sanitizing daily to ensure the parishioners safety.

Pastoral Council

I am pleased to name the 2021 Pastoral Council for St. Mary Magdalene Parish: **Linda Atkins, Lois Campbell, Sharon Taybron-Currie, Laura Kisailus, Anne Kovalan-Santoni, Teresa Maynor, Brandon Mahler, Dante Romito, and Eric Setzler**.

Thank you to the Pastoral Council members who have completed their time on council: **Patricia Albacete, Denise Charron-Prochownik, Peter Lahoda, Joan Price, Janice Reed, and Geloria White**.

20th Anniversary of Priesthood

This coming Wednesday I will celebrate my 20th Anniversary of Priesthood. On May 26, 2001, I made a commitment to God, my family, and my church. I was ordained to the Priesthood with five of my classmates: Fr. Tony Gargotta, Fr. Terry O' Connor, Fr. Michael Stumpf, Fr. Bob Vular, and Fr. Clint Zadroga. I love being a priest and I love being your Pastor here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish. A lot has changed in the past twenty years, but I continue and learn and grow in priesthood every day. Let us pray that more men and woman may answer the Lords call to serve the church and live out their vocation.

Congratulations

Congratulations to all the students at St. Bede School, Carlow Campus School and St. Mary Magdalene Parish Religious Education Program who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last weekend. Special thanks to **Sister**

Daniela Bronka, Fr. Matthew Hawkins, Teresa Maynor, Todd Cain, Anna Regoli, Mara Sullivan, and Melissa Viator for helping with the student's preparation.

Congratulations to **Lorelai Elizabeth Csech** who is being Baptized this weekend.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to **Lauren Antosik** and **Peter Maurizio Jr.** who celebrated their wedding last Saturday!

Welcome

Welcome to **Mary, Lee,** and **Melanie Hammond** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

Something to Think About...

*Be who God meant you to be
and you will set the world on fire.*

St. Catherine of Siena

With God All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org