

Pastor's Note: January 12, Baptism of the Lord

A New Beginning!

This weekend we conclude the Christmas Season by celebrating the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and also celebrate a beginning as a new parish family of St. Mary Magdalene. At the 4pm mass this weekend we welcome Bishop David A. Zubik to install me as the founding Pastor. I am deeply humbled and honored to be installed as Pastor of our new parish to continue walking the journey with you proclaiming the Gospel as our Patron Saint, Mary Magdalene, did when she encountered the Risen Lord at the tomb after the Resurrection. We, like Mary Magdalene, are blessed by our Baptism calling to spread the good news each and every day.

Baptism is our gateway into the sacramental life of the church. This coming week we return to Ordinary Time before we start the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah we read how God introduces a special servant who will bring light to the nations. The servant does not act on his own initiative, but is chosen by God. The servant is a beacon of light for the nations. In the Second Reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we read how Peter preaches for the first time inside a Gentile household.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we read that Jesus is baptized by his cousin, John the Baptist. Matthew's account of the baptism of Jesus is different from the other Synoptic Gospels as Matthew emphasizes on the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, not so much on the baptism. The highpoint of the event is the proclamation by the voice from heaven: "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." After the baptism Jesus begins his public ministry of teaching and healing.

We have all been called through Baptism to the common vocations of holiness and service. As we begin a new year, 2020, and our new parish, we are called to commit ourselves to growing deeper and stronger in our own discipleship. I invite you to visit all three of our campuses, St. Bede, St. James, and Mother of Good Counsel and get involved in our various ministries.

Let us continue to be a Beacon of Hope here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish.

A New Beginning!

Are you registered? If you attend mass here on a regular basis and are not officially registered in the parish you are welcomed here! Every Catholic needs a place to call home. Please contact Terri Price at 412.661.7222 to register.

PERCES I am pleased to report the Pittsburgh-East Regional Catholic Elementary Schools' offices will be located on the second floor of the St. Mary Magdalene Administration Building. They will be renting two rooms for their regional office. Joe Rosi the Regional Director and Lisa Durbin the Business Manager will have offices in the building. Welcome PERCES!

Catholic Education Plus Tune into KDKA Radio, 1020 am every other Sunday morning at 6:30am for Catholic Education Plus. This program, which I host, highlights Elementary and Secondary schools, colleges, youth ministry programs, and more. The next program will air next Sunday, January 19 and my guests will be Principal Lynda McFarland and teacher Mary Beth Crossen from Mary of Nazareth Catholic School in White Oak.

This radio program is sponsored by Sam and Judy Spanos and the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Parish Improvements

A leak in the boiler system in St. Bede School/Church was repaired last week.

S & N Roofing of Slippery Rock did some minor repair work to the St. Bede School roof to hold us over the winter months. A more detailed roof repair will be needed when the weather permits.

Jake Luffy Masonry has begun sidewalk repairs around St. Bede Church and School.

The carpeting in St. James Chapel was recently cleaned.

We have several "wish list" items for updates and repairs to all three of our campuses including repairing and replacing the St. James Roof, updating the confessionals at St. Bede, upgrading the electrical system at Mother of Good Counsel Church, and doing some roof repairs to the Holy Rosary Rectory. Please consider helping St. Mary Magdalene Parish with your financial support.

Happy Birthday to Anne Scheuermann, Director of Social Ministry and Community Outreach.

Something to Think About...

Start by doing what's necessary, then what's possible,
and suddenly you are doing the impossible.

St. Francis of Assisi

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
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