

"With God All Things Are Possible!"

St. Mary Magdalene Parish

The Catholic Community of the East End of Pittsburgh

THE TOMB OF
LAZARUS
AL-EIZARIYA (BETHANY)

Jesus cried out in a loud voice,
"Lazarus, come out!"
JOHN 11:43

MARCH 29
2020

fifth Sunday
OF LENT

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc. - Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Illustration: *Living Water*, Tony Ward for J. S. Paluch, 2019. Photo: kathryn/Adobe Stock

ST. BEDE CHURCH
509 South Dallas Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15208
ST. JAMES CHURCH
718 Franklin Avenue, Wilkinsburg PA 15221
MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH
7705 Bennett Street, Pittsburgh PA 15208

PARISH OFFICE
509 South Dallas Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org
Phone: 412.661.7222
Fax: 412.661.9337

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Thomas J. Burke, Pastor tburke@diopitt.org
Rev. David Taylor, Senior Parochial Vicar dtaylor@diopitt.org

In Residence

Rev. James Adeoye jamesadeoye@yahoo.com
Rev. Augustine Temu temuago@yahoo.com

Office Staff

Frank Grande businessmanager@stmarymagpgh.org
Terri Price parishoffice@stmarymagpgh.org

Religious Education

Teresa Maynor tmaynor@stmarymagpgh.org

Music Ministries

Jennifer Gorske, Director of Music Ministries
412.370.2638; jgorske@stmarymagpgh.org
Carla LaRocca DiDonato 412.422.2460;
clarocca@stmarymagpgh.org

Pat Morgan 412.425.3834; pmorgan@stmarymagpgh.org
Gerard Rohlf 412.657.7570; grohlf@stmarymagpgh.org

Safe Environment

Melissa Viator mviator@stmarymagpgh.org

Social Ministry & Community Outreach

Anne Scheuermann 412.241.1309;
ascheuermann@stmarymagpgh.org

Media & Communications

Cathy Raffaele 412.241.1392; crffaele@stmarymagpgh.org
Glennen Lloyd cceepnewsletter@gmail.com
Bulletin bulletin@stmarymagpgh.org

Housekeeping/Maintenance

Paul Denk, Michael Natalia, Annette Shunk

Principals

Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic Academy: Ms. Stephanie Michael
412.242.3515; info@stbca.net; sistertheabowman.org
St. Bede School: Sr. Daniela Bronka 412.661.9425;
info@saintbedeschool.com; saintbedeschool.com

PROTECTION OF GOD'S CHILDREN

Report suspected child abuse
24-Hour Child Abuse Hotline: 800.932.0313
If a child is in imminent danger, call 911

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE Anyone who volunteers in the parish or school is required by the diocese to be compliant with all Safe Environment clearances.

Please contact Melissa Viator at 412.661.7222
or mviator@stmarymagpgh.org with questions or for assistance.

Information during the Pandemic

Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent will be broadcast on Facebook at 4 pm on March 28. and available on YouTube at 5:30 pm.

Facebook: Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, [@smmppgh](https://www.facebook.com/smmppgh)
YouTube: St. Mary Magdalene Parish PGH

The parish website will be updated as information is available, saintmarymagdalenepgh.org.

Daily Mass is available on Comcast Cable Channel 95 in the City of Pittsburgh, and through XFINITY ON DEMAND and online at christianassociatestv.org

St. Paul Cathedral:

Monday to Saturday at 8:15 am; Sunday at 10 am

St. Mary of Mercy:

Monday to Sunday at 12 pm

To receive updates from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, you may sign up on the following link:

www.diopitt.org/receive-updates-on-the-coronavirus

AS A FAITH COMMUNITY, we remember parishioners, who cannot be with us, and those who care for them.

If you, a family member, or friend would like to be on our prayer list, please contact us at 412.241.1392.

Reaching Out

During this time of the coronavirus, COVID-19, we are more isolated and we ask that parishioners remember each other in prayer.

If you would like to contact someone you know from attending Mass and do not have a phone number or if you need assistance, call the Parish Office at 412.661.7222.

Like Us on Facebook
Saint Mary Madgalene Parish
[@smmppgh](https://www.facebook.com/smmppgh)

PASTOR'S NOTE

"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"



During these times of uncertainty with the Coronavirus pandemic, I would like to remind you not to have fear, but to have faith! Here at St. Mary Magdalene Parish, please know that I as your Pastor, along with Fr. David Taylor and our staff are here for you in any way possible.

The maintenance staff is hard at work sanitizing all of the church door handles, pews, hymnals, and floors, not to mention the restrooms, at all three of our campuses for you to feel at ease as you return to one of our worship sites once all restrictions have been lifted. Our Social Ministry Center continues to operate to serve those in need with food and/or clothing at a time when it is most in demand. Our pastoral staff is available to answer your phone calls and emails for any requests or inquiries that you may have. They are also working to keep you informed with up-to-date parish news and events taking place through our website, Facebook page, and electronic newsletter. We had 1,073 views on Facebook and YouTube for last weekend's Mass. Please make sure to join Facebook and like our page *Saint Mary Magdalene Parish*.

Printed copies of the parish bulletin will be made available at the parish rectory to those who do not have a computer or Internet access while mailed copies are being sent to the homebound.

We do all of this for you, but unfortunately, we can't do it without you! We need your continued financial support to help St. Mary Magdalene operate as normally as possible during these troubled times. Please consider mailing in your weekly offering to the parish office or participate in *Faith Direct*, our on-line giving program, as a way to assist the parish to pay for the operating expenses that we continue to incur in order to maintain our ministry to our Catholic community.

This weekend we celebrate the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This can be seen as a turning point in the Lenten journey as we prepare to celebrate the Paschal Triduum in two weeks. This weekend, March 28 marks the fifth anniversary of the death of my friend and mentor, Rev. Dennis J. Colamarino who was the long time pastor of Christ the Light of the World and St. Joseph Parishes in the City of Duquesne. He passed away struggling with ALS. I know that he is now at peace and at rest. Today's readings reflect on looking at life after death. In the first reading from Ezekiel we read how a prophet brings good news to the people in exile, who for years worshipped false idols and were spiritually dead. In the second reading from Paul to the Romans, we read that because the spirit of God dwells within them, the people of faith can rise to new life. In the Gospel of John, we read the story of the rising of Lazarus which is only found in the Gospel of John.

The splendor of the cross transforms sin, sorrow, and pain into signs of grace, joy, and eternal life. Jesus is the resurrection and our life. Because he has given us the spirit, we are no longer dead because of sin, but alive. As Catholics, we believe that death is not the end of life.

Let us pray for all of our family and friends who have gone home with the Lord and pray that we will see them again and wake up each day appreciating all the life that is around us.

"Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking"

Parish Improvements

Interstate Building Maintenance Corporation sprayed and disinfected St. Bede School.

The piano was recently tuned at St. Bede Church.

Mariani & Richards Inc of Overbrook has begun to spot point and repair mortar outside of St. James Church. Special thanks for those who contributed to the roof fund last Fall to make this major project a possibility. Contributions are still being accepted to complete this project. Please make check payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish and memo it "roof fund."

Even though we are not open for Masses, please remember to continue to support your parish by either mailing or dropping off your weekly envelopes or participating in our online giving program, Faith Direct.

Something to Think About...

See God's will in everything,
and do His will with joy, out of love of Him.
Blessed Caritas Brader

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke, Pastor
tburke@diopitt.org

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

Father Taylor's Reflection



During these challenging times we have the opportunity to reflect upon the spiritual meaning of our human mortality. As people of faith we accept the reality of our limited time in this world, but our priorities can tell a different story.

This Sunday's gospel is more than a reflection on the resurrection. It's also about the faith necessary to understand that how we live in this world is so connected to our life to come. Jesus restores both life and faith.

A big challenge that we all have is how to remain spiritually close to one another while we have to be physically apart. Jesus allowed Martha and Mary to think about this as he journeyed to Bethany. They learned, as we have to, that even in isolation the Lord is never far away.

There are so many ways for us to keep in touch. Let's avail ourselves of them. This may be a Lenten season that we will never forget and hopefully we will become more kind, thoughtful and loving to one another.

Yes, there is always light on the other side of the tunnel and that light is the Lord.

Advisory Councils

Parish Pastoral Council

Patricia Albacete
Linda Atkins
Lois Campbell
Anne Kovalan-Santoni
Peter Lahoda
Teresa Maynor
Denise Charron-Prochownik
Joan Price
Janice Reed
Dante Romito
Eric Setzler
Gloria White

Pastoral Council meets
on the 3rd Monday
of the month.

Finance Council

Martin Albacete
David Aleva
Linda Burke
Michael Myers
Michael Polite
Judy Prata
Bill Rawlings
Mara Sullivan
Victor Thorpe

Finance Council meets
on 4th Monday
of the month.

Advisory Councils Minutes

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council meeting minutes are on the homepage of our website.

If you wish a paper copy of the minutes, please contact the Parish Office at 412.661.7222.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory for March 22: \$1,767

March Online Offertory: \$25,171

PSP 2020

Goal: \$153,393 Received: \$16,282

Weekly and Monthly Envelopes may be mailed to the Parish Office.

To sign up for online giving at Faith Direct, for regular contributions or for a one time gift, such as PSP, visit faithdirect.net and use church code PA994.

For online giving information, see the homepage of our website: saintmarymagdalenepgh.org or call Frank Grande at 412.661.7222 x 202.

Laundry Detergent is requested for our parish pantries during the month of April. When they reopen, please place donated items in the containers at each of our churches.

It is suggested that donations no longer be put in plastic bags but recyclable bags which will then be used at the pantries.

Thank you for your continued support!

Early Bulletin Deadlines



Bulletin announcements are due early for the following:

**April 3
for April 12, Easter**

Bulletin email:

bulletin@stmarymagpgh.org



From a parishioner... "Michael Natalia is a wonderful man, husband, father and worker. I have known him for over 20 years. He has a heart of gold and is a very hard worker. He will keep our parish in good shape."

Fellow Pilgrims in the Desert

You do know that "quarantine" comes from "40" days?

Here are a few things I'm pondering as we hunker down in our own deserts.

Lent begins with Jesus being led into the desert by the Spirit. So he had a divine companion to help him fight off temptation. The desert, as I literally experienced in the Sinai, is a place of desolation but also beautiful. All the non-essentials are stripped away. What is vital and lasting comes to the surface. Nowhere to hide from ourselves and God.

We are asked to "scrutinize" 3 main issues:

- ◇ Like the *Woman at the Well*, what do we hunger and thirst for?
- ◇ Like the *Blind Man*, what are our blind spots that keep us from growing, healing, thriving?
- ◇ Like the *Entombed Lazarus*, what binds and even entombs and paralyzes us?

Lent is a time to challenge ourselves to let go of what does not inspire and invigorate, of the petty hurts and grudges we hold on to, and of the wrappings that keep us closed off from one another.

Then it gets worse (Good Friday) before it gets better (Resurrection).

The only way out (of this desert/quarantine) is to go through it.

Patricia Morgan

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most merciful and Triune God,
We come to you in our weakness.
We come to you in our fear.
We come to you with trust.
For you alone are our hope.

We place before you the disease present in our world.
We turn to you in our time of need.

Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.
Welcome those who have died into your eternal home.

Stabilize our communities.
Unite us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in your care.

Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.

Author Unknown

Way of the Cross...Way of Compassion; A Public Procession of Prayer through Wilkinsburg



on Good Friday, April 10, from 10 to 11:30 am beginning at St. James Church, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, 718 Franklin Avenue in Wilkinsburg. Sponsored by Pittsburgh Area Pax Christi and hosted by some of the Christian Churches of Wilkinsburg.

We will gather to celebrate God's unconditional love and mercy on this Good Friday, recognizing that God's is a heart-wrenching, aching love, witnessing human rejection of Jesus and all the possibilities that he offered us. Yet God forgives us: love shaking us to wake up to the dream he has for us and for our world. To wake up and choose life!

Wilkinsburg is an impoverished community left behind from the prosperity of much of America. It suffers, like similar neighborhoods across the US and the world, from conditions that undermine the quality of full, human life. We will gather to be present to Jesus suffering today in Wilkinsburg, but also to efforts to bring love and resources for a more just and peaceful community here and beyond.

Please note: Because of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, *The Way of the Cross* will only be held if the sanctions on large gatherings are lifted.

Lenten Almsgiving: Global Solidarity Partners

As a part of our Lenten observance to pray, fast and give alms, we are asked to sacrifice generously to give alms to our St. Mary Magdalene Global Solidarity Partners: *Fr. Fred's School, Queen of Apostles Academy, in rural Kyerero, Uganda; Partners in Progress, supporting Fatima House Orphanage and Health Clinic in Fondwa, rural Haiti, and Bread for the World, a Christian organization that advocates through public policy for global nutrition around the world.*

If the churches reopen, there will be a second collection for Lenten Almsgiving on Palm Sunday Weekend, April 4 and 5. A *Lenten Almsgiving* envelope is in the monthly packet for April. You may also contribute on Faith Direct as part of your monthly giving or by making a one-time gift. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Partners in Progress

The Pittsburgh Haiti Solidarity Committee founded Partners in Progress (PIP) to support rural sustainable development in Haiti in 2001. PIP works with the Peasant Association of Fondwa and the Sisters of St. Antoine, an order of sisters founded by Fr. Joseph Philippe, a Haitian Spiritan priest who lives and works in Haiti. The Sisters administer and staff St. Antoine's School, Fatima House Orphanage, and a Health Clinic in Fondwa, a large rural area about 30 miles south of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

Becky Newlin, a St. James parishioner and religion teacher at Oakland Catholic High School, spent her sabbatical year as a volunteer in Fondwa. Becky and other parishioners, who had been to Fondwa, shared their experiences with the parish and Fr. Metzler made the decision to include a monthly envelope to *Support the Mission in Fondwa*. Over the years, Fr. Joseph, Dr. Rich Gosser, Mike Neumann, PIP's Executive Director, and others have spoken to parishioners at weekend liturgies.



About 7 years ago, St. James began to host a fair-trade fair in December with proceeds benefiting Catholic Relief Services and PIP. Our support for PIP has continued now for 13 years. We are grateful to all who provided regular donations and encourage everyone who has yet to get involved to begin with your almsgiving this Lent. Haiti continues to be the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The aid we provide is important to the children in the orphanage and all served by the health clinic.

St. Mary Magdalene Parish is committed to our partnership with PIP and will work to cultivate support for PIP among all our parishioners and children in our schools as we determine combined commitments and priorities going forward.

We invite everyone to visit the PIP website: piphaiti.org

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, Bread for the World provides help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live. We can end hunger in our time. Everyone, including our government, must do their part. With the stroke of a pen, policies are made that redirect millions of dollars and affect millions of lives. By making our Christian voices heard in Congress, we can help make our nation's laws fairer and compassionate to people in need.

Bread for the World members write personal letters and emails and meet with our members of Congress. Working through our churches, campuses, and other organizations, Bread for the World engages more people in advocacy. As a non-profit, Bread for the World works in a bipartisan way. Its network of thousands of individual members, churches, and denominations ensures Bread for the World's presence in all U.S. congressional districts. Together, Bread for the World builds the political commitment needed to overcome hunger and poverty.

Queen of Apostles Academy

Kyerero, Uganda

Co-Founder and Director: Fr. Dr. Fred Leo Nkwasiwe, A.J.

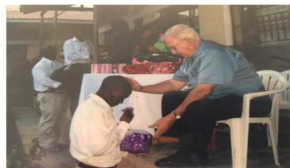
Queen of Apostles Academy (QOA) is a non-profit boarding school for adolescent students in Kyerero Rural Community in southwest Uganda. Donations support and sponsor children who are poor and many are orphaned. Our support provides them the opportunity to: 1) access formal education and overcome illiteracy, 2) foster humanitarian and Christian values, and 3) train, develop skills and competencies to prepare students for a young adult life at a university or a trade school. They strive to serve the world's poorest and most vulnerable children.

Fr. Fred is a member of the order of the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries. In 2005, he came to Pittsburgh to pursue his PhD in Business Administration at Duquesne University. Fr. Fred received room and board at St Bede with Fr. Bryce. Fr. Fred shared his vision for QOA with the St Bede community. St Bede Parish supported several projects including: computer lab, science lab, library and books, water tower, kitchen, girls' EcoSan latrine, solar panels, shirt-uniforms for dance and music assemble, drums for liturgy and choir, and installing electricity. St Bede Parish also sponsored many scholarships for students both at QOA and the elementary school that sent students to QOA.

Fr. Bryce, Fr. Peter and some St Bede parishioners have gone to Uganda and visited the children, families, faculty and staff of the QOA community. Some have accompanied Fr. Fred on one of his visits home. St. Bede continues to support the QOA mission. **St. Mary Magdalene Parish will raise money during Lent for a clean water filter system and for sufficient plumbing to reach students' bathroom and kitchen.**



Bringing gifts from St. Bede



Fr. Peter and Fr. Bryce visiting QOA



Checks can be made out to and sent directly to: APOSTLES OF JESUS

APOSTLES OF JESUS

C/O FR. BRUNO DONGO, A.J.

829 MAIN STREET

NORTHAMPTON, PA 18067

Please write in the Memo: QUEEN OF APOSTLES ACADEMY-KYERERO C/O FR. FRED.