

March 14, 2010

The Shepherd's Voice

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Welcome Home!

Last month Paul Koleske was here at Good Shepherd Parish to conduct our Parish Mission Renewal. While Paul was here I took him on a tour of Pittsburgh showing him Mt. Washington, PNC Park and Heinz Field, Downtown, and Oakland. We visited St. Paul Cathedral, stopped at Starbucks on Craig Street in Oakland, and visited the University of Pittsburgh Campus. While giving him a tour of our city we ran into a person that I know who considered themselves a "fallen away Catholic." They were born and raised Catholic but over the years fell away from the faith. They tried various traditional Protestant and Non-Denomination Churches. They were "church shopping" trying to find a perfect fit. Over the years this person never felt "spiritually fed." They were learning about the bible and the importance of scripture, but they missed the Eucharist. After hearing Paul Koleske give his powerful conversion story I invited this person to visit Good Shepherd Parish. This person has now "returned home" to the Catholic Church and is attending Mass at Good Shepherd on a weekly basis!

This Sunday, is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday, or "Rejoice Sunday." The readings focus on love and forgiveness. In the Gospel, when the younger boy returns home broken, vulnerable, and seeking help, the father forgives. The prodigal son is welcomed back, not because of what he has done or not done, but because of who he is; a valued member of the family. This gospel is an everlasting reminder that God is always there we admit our faults and we come home to God's loving embrace. The church is a reconciling community. Let us Let Go, and Let God.

Welcome Home!

Living Stations

The St. Ferdinand Parish—Cranberry Township, Youth Group will conduct "Living Stations" on **Sunday, March 28, at 7:30** at the **Good Shepherd Campus**. This wonderful live performance with over eighty participants includes music and scripture. It is free and open to the public.

Penance Service

Lent is a time to seek forgiveness and be refreshed and renewed. There are several Penance Services available the next few weeks to obtain the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Penance Services:

Wednesday, March 17, at 7:00 PM
Madonna del Castello Parish- Swissvale.

Thursday, March 25, at 6:15 PM
Holy Cross Parish- St. William and St. Helen Church,
East Pittsburgh

Tuesday, March 23, at 4:00 PM
St. Mary Czestchowa Parish- McKeesport

Monday, March 29, at 7:00 PM
Good Shepherd Parish- Sacred Heart Church-
Braddock Hills

RCIA

This weekend at the 9AM Mass we welcome the eleven members of the R.C.I.A. program who are now officially called "The Elect" and "Candidates." This weekend we celebrate the Second Scrutiny and read the Gospel of St. John about Jesus healing the man born blind. We pray, like the man born blind that we will perceive our own need for healing. May we be open to the radiance of God's goodness and learn to live as children of the light. Next weekend the Elect will join us for the 11:00 AM Mass.

Pastoral Council Members Elected

We welcome the four newly elected Pastoral Council Members-**Peggy Burke, Cathy Ebner, Linda Radovich,** and **Fred Wilson**. The new council members will begin their term at the next meeting in April. Welcome aboard!

Congratulations

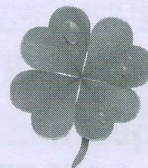
The Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America is honoring its top Adult Leaders this Thursday, March 18, at a dinner at Heinz Field. The Annual Silver Beaver Award is granted to adults who show extraordinary leadership and service to the Boy Scouts. We are very honored and pleased that **Robert Sobek** will be honored for the Silver Beaver Award. Bob has been involved in our Troop 61 for the past 25 years. Congratulations!

Scout Sunday has been rescheduled for Sunday, April 18 at the 9:00 AM Mass. We will honor the Scouts receiving their religious awards and celebrating Scouting at Good Shepherd Parish!

Something to Think About...

"Sooner or later, we're all going to let somebody down. We're all going to screw up. But life is about how you come back from it, how you learn from it, and how you can use it to make yourself a better, stronger person."

Matthew J. Darnell



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

With God, All Things Are Possible!

Fr. Tom Burke

Pastor

E-Mail: thomasburke70@hotmail.com