



Father Sam's Forum

Time always seems to fly when it comes to the special seasons like Advent and Lent. This year is no exception. Here it is Wednesday, March 18, as I write this, the third week of Lent, and I found myself saying “wasn’t it just Ash Wednesday?”

Time is also mentioned in our readings today. “The days are coming,” we hear from the Prophet Jeremiah, “when I (the Lord) will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.” “In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh,” is the opening line of our epistle from the Letter to the Hebrews, and in John’s Gospel we hear Jesus tell Andrew and Philip that “the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”

The word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for “lengthen,” and refers to the days getting longer. Spring is here, and we look forward to the warmer days and more daylight as well as the re-birth that springtime brings. The spiritual connection is to that rebirth of our spirits as we hope for new life in Christ the source of our connection with God. The glory that Jesus speaks about in today’s Gospel is from a Greek word that has a double meaning. Not only does it refer to raising something upright (a cross), but also lifting up in the sense of exaltation.

In John, unlike the other evangelists, Jesus controls the process of his Passion. Being lifted on the cross, he is exalted. Listen to the Passion on Good Friday to get a better sense of this. It will sound differently than next Sunday’s version from Mark.

Speaking of the Passion, next Sunday begins Holy Week. Look for the insert today with the schedule of ministers and services for this most solemn week of our calendar. To get ourselves ready for Holy Week, we welcome Fr. Patrick Collins to our parish. Priest and author, musician and preacher, Fr. Collins is with us to explore our ability to love like Christ. All this week there are a series of evening and even some daytime gatherings for a Parish Mission that will hopefully allow us to slow down, listen and reflect.

Parish Tidbits: A huge thanks to Jane Sarra and Kathy Davis from Pastoral Council who organized the dinner for Bishop Zubik and the priests and deacons who came for the regional deanery meeting on March 17. With the help of a group of other men and women and with Jane’s delicious cooking, we offered a grand afternoon and evening hosting. I am

grateful to everyone who played a part in making the day a success. Some people wondered why we did not cancel our K-6 formation classes that evening since we had the Lenten Penance Service with the bishop. The reason is simple. He wants to see and believes in the Church alive, and this means kids. We certainly have lots of them and to see them on our campus was exactly what the bishop desires. Some adults seem to think this gets in the way, but they are missing the whole point of what Church is — a community gathered, sometimes messy, sometimes noisy, diverse and beautiful. That’s us! We all need to learn to appreciate that more and complain less. I’m proud of our kids, and the whole parish should be too. What kind of example do we give when they don’t feel welcomed? Not much, is it?

Mass Intentions: Mar. 29—April 5

Sunday, March 29—Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 7:30a **Lee Allan** (Florence Allan & Family)
- 10:00a **Ronald A. DeBlasio** (The Sadler Family)
- 12:30p **For the People of the Parish**
- 6:00p **John Golec** (Son, John J. Golec & Family)

Monday, March 30—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Alma Brunatti** (Mertens Family)

Tuesday, March 31—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Special Intention** (Clark Family)
- 8:30a **Eric Scheuering** (Mom & Dad)

Wednesday, April 1—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Roseann Hanna** (M/M David Ehrenberger)
- 8:30a **Earl Williams** (Mary Williams & Family)
- 7:00p **Geraldine Ehland** (The Sinneway Family)

Thursday, April 2—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Wilma Lokash** (Vic & Mary Ann)
- 8:30a **John Godzo** (Margaret Drapp)

Friday, April 3—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Richard Kruluts** (John & Rita Milavec)
- 1:45p **Manor Care: Edward Bruder**
(Dolores Ueberschaer)

Saturday, April 4—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Jack Sullivan** (Dolores Ueberschaer)
- 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, April 5—Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

- 7:30a **Tim Ellwood Smith** (Friends)
- 10:00a **Parents of Joe & Jackie Walsh**
(Joe & Jackie Walsh)
- 12:30p **Deceased Husband & Son** (Mina Schultz)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Mary & John Richert, requested by Randy & Beverly Richert, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of James Boston, requested by Janet & Family.

There will be no 6:00pm Mass next Sunday nor on Easter Sunday.



Pastoral Staff

Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Michael Benya, Business & Facilities Manager—Ext. 201
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music & Liturgy—Ext. 304
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate—Ext. 206
 Janet Roberto, Youth Ministry Director—Ext. 234
 Colette Speca, Director of Religious Education—Ext. 205

Parish Staff

Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—Ext. 200
 Rachele Buynak, Religious Ed. Secretary—Ext. 208
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Shirley Jacobs, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 202
 Beverly Jurcic, Director
 St. Benedict's Preschool—724-731-0222
 Cathy Malencia, Formation Coordinator—Ext. 209
 Elaine Motyl, Youth Ministry Assistant—Ext. 234
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kathy Pfeifer, Communications—Ext. 200
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor—Ext. 200

* Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

Readings for the Week of March 29

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
 Monday: Dn 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30
 Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20,91-92,95/Jn 8:31-42
 Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
 Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
 Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56
 Next Sunday: Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47

Eucharistic Adoration

This week is our monthly 24-hour adoration which begins Thursday at 4:00pm and concludes Friday at 4:00pm. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

“five minutes with the Word”

Look for your copy of our Easter devotional in the baskets in the narthex of the church next weekend. A great prayer starter for the Easter season!

Lenten Confession Times

If you haven't yet been to confession this Lent, please know that our regular Wednesday 6:30—7:00pm confessions **will not** be heard this week, April 1, because of the Parish Mission nor on April 8, because of rehearsal for the Triduum liturgies. Our regular Saturday 11:00—11:30am confessions will be held as usual. We are also hearing confessions on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, from 3:00—4:00 in the afternoon. Go to confession early and avoid the rush.

Serving the Parish Next Weekend:

April 4—April 5

See Bulletin Insert

Easter Decorating

Join us on Holy Saturday, April 11, at 9:30am to get our church ready for Easter. We'll form teams of parish members to take on the various areas of the church and use their talents to place flowers, fabrics, wreaths, water, and garden. With enough folks this should only take until 11:00. Bring the whole family. Watch the bulletin for more detailed information about specific areas where you can help.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Jo Ann Borg**, sister of our parishioner Barb Franz, and **Pauline Kopeck**, sister of our parishioner Hub MacDonald, who died recently. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Building Fund Donation

In Memory of Jeanne Buttgerit

Chris & Laura Norton

First Communion Dates

Our second grade students will celebrate their First Eucharist at eight weekend Masses in April and May. Here are the dates and times for your information.

- Saturday, April 18, 5:00pm
- Sunday, April 19, 12:30pm
- Saturday, April 25, 5:00pm
- Sunday, April 26, 12:30pm
- Saturday, May 2, 5:00pm
- Sunday, May 3, 12:30pm
- Saturday, May 16, 5:00pm
- Sunday, May 17, 12:30pm
- Saturday, May 23, 5:00pm
- Sunday, May 24, 12:30pm (only if necessary)

Some parishioners may wonder why all the liturgies are in the context of the Sunday celebration. Diocesan guidelines strongly encourage the Sunday liturgy as **the most appropriate time** for the celebration of First Communion given the very nature of this sacrament. We expect 20—25 children in each group.

Hotline for Victims of Sexual Abuse
 412-456-3060 or 1-888-808-1235



Seven Church Vigil

Please join us for the Holy Thursday, April 9, Seven Church Vigil. We will be visiting seven churches by bus immediately following the Holy Thursday evening services. The seven churches are to be announced in next week's bulletin. Sign up in the narthex or call Bill or Kathy Wanninger at 724-941-0281.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

In these difficult economic times, many families who never thought they would need "charity" are asking for help—and this trend will continue. Anyone in need of help, who lives within the geographic boundaries of St. Benedict Parish, may apply for assistance from our Conference. Our assistance is discrete and confidential, and our clients are treated with the utmost dignity. No one outside of the Society knows who is receiving aid or what help has been provided. Please call our Parish Office at 724-941-9406 for more information about our services. We have the history, the resources and the commitment of dedicated members. We are eager to help!

Children Helping Children

What can 3rd, 4th and 5th grade children do to stop world hunger? READ! Students in the St. Benedict Faith Formation program are fundraising through reading. The money they collect will be donated to Heifer International, a world hunger relief organization that provides livestock to hungry families throughout the world; livestock that becomes a food source and an income to a needy family. Best of all, their gift keeps on giving when the animal's offspring is shared with other families. Please support our students this Lenten Season as they learn to help others. Watch for the "Ark" display in O'Brien Hall and give generously.

WOSB will be selling the "Taste of Heaven" cookbook for \$12 at the Arts, Crafts and Antiques Fair on April 18

Spring Fling—April 18

Donations for the basket raffle and bake sale are needed. Please contact Ernie McMillan at 724-941-4503 or drop off basket items at Abbey Coffee House. Baked goods for the bake sale may be dropped off in O'Brien Hall on April 17.

Weekend Custodian Needed

We are in the process of looking for an additional weekend custodian. The position includes janitorial duties such as floor mopping and sweeping, hall and classroom setup and tear down, and light maintenance when necessary. Winter duties include cleaning sidewalks and plowing parking lots. The work schedule would be between 6-8 hours on Saturday and 4-6 hours on Sunday, depending on events, activities and weather conditions. If you are interested, or know someone who would be interested, please contact Michael Benya at the Parish Office, 724-941-9406, ext. 201.

Lenten Mission Schedule

Keep this schedule handy for reference to this week's Lenten Mission.

Monday, March 30—Thursday, April 2, Father Collins will celebrate and preach at the 8:30am Mass, speaking about our baptism and the Body of Christ.

Monday, March 30, 7:00pm, Spiritual Concert "The Meaning of Human Love: the faces of family and friends".

Tuesday, March 31, 10:30am, "Where do I Fit in?", an informal gathering with coffee and discussion; 7:00pm, Spiritual Concert, "Loving the World: the faces of strangers".

Wednesday, April 1, 7:00pm, Fr. Collins will preach at the Lenten evening Mass, followed by an informal gathering for questions about Catholic faith today.

Thursday, April 2, 7:00pm, Closing prayer service and Spiritual Concert "The Spirituality of Thomas Merton: loving our own faces".

Lenten Fish Fry

Ben's Men invites you to the final Friday Fish Fry from 4:00pm to 7:30pm. We are serving our delicious fish dinners (Adult \$7.50/Child \$5.00), sandwiches (\$5.50), Fr. Sam's famous Italian pizza (\$6.00/pie or \$1.00/slice), and Benny's Clam Chowder (\$2.50). Eat in or take out. Crafts and movies for the kids too!

Once again, we will have our Friday Fish Fry Lunch, which includes a fried fish sandwich, coleslaw, and french fries for \$6.50. Our lunch will be eat-in or take-out and is served from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Relevant Radio is an all-Catholic Radio Station. It can be found at 1590am—WZUM



WOSB Annual Luncheon

The Women of St. Benedict are hosting their annual spring luncheon on May 7. The day begins with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:00am, followed by lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe. Information regarding reservations, meal choices, and prices will be announced in future bulletins.

Question of the Week

What is this new form of governance the diocese is looking to create?

Lesson of the Week

What is the music we sing during Lent after the sign of Peace?

Those who are old enough to have been around in the 1940's and 50's remember that liturgy of the Roman Church was in Latin. For centuries the language of the Church in the west was Latin, and even though we had hymns in English or in the ethnic language of our home parish, all the regular parts of the Mass were sung in Latin. In fact, the melodies known as Gregorian Chant, named for the Benedictine monk who became Pope Gregory I in the 6th century, are still used in many monasteries throughout the world.

Because we treasure the heritage we have as rich and beautiful, every Catholic is encouraged to know some Latin chants even though Mass is celebrated in the language of the place where he or she lives. Here, during Lent this year, we are using one of those chants, *Agnus Dei*, the Lamb of God. This chant accompanies the fraction rite, the breaking of bread that comes just before we receive Communion. Since we normally sing one of the arrangements of this chant in contemporary English and in modern composition without the chant melody, it may seem strange to those unfamiliar with the history of Catholic musical tradition. The Latin chants can be found in the back of our hymnal, *Breaking Bread*, with the other Mass settings.

The document on the liturgy that came as a result of the Second Vatican Council declared that Latin still held a place of honor in liturgy and should therefore be continued to some degree through the various Mass parts. Singing the Lord's Prayer, for example, in Latin, *Pater Noster*, along with *Agnus Dei*, and even the Holy, Holy, Holy, *Sanctus*, and the Creed, *Credo*, are given as examples of what the faithful should have as part of the general repertoire that we can use from time to time.

Youth Ministry News

Girls Only Twilight Day

We know you love the movie, so we're going to make a day out of it. The youth minister at St. Valentine and Janet Roberto have planned a day on April 4 for high school girls to watch and interpret *Twilight* through the eyes of faith. There will be food, fun, and a lot of sharing. We will leave from St. Benedict's for St. Val's at 11:30am and return around 5 pm. Anyone interested should contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

Lead Retreat

This retreat is an overnight leadership experience for 7-8th graders at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg from 10:00am on April 18 through 3:00pm Mass on April 19. The retreat explores how to deal with peer pressure, decision making and Christian leadership. The cost is \$75 per person and includes accommodations, meals, t-shirt, and access to challenge course games, high/low course elements, and climbing/rappelling tower. Registration is required before April 6. Contact Janet Roberto for more information at 724-941-9587.

Summer Mission Trip

Registration is being taken for the Youth Ministry Mission Trip to Louisa, Kentucky from July 26, to August 1, to help Fr. Ralph Beiting in his missionary work to the Appalachian people. All high school students going into 10th grade and up are encouraged to reserve their spot now with a \$50 deposit. There will be an informational meeting on April 7, at 7:00pm in the Youth Ministry Office for all parents and teens who want to make the trip. For more information or questions, call Janet at 724-941-9587.

Youth Ministry Mulch Sale

St. Benedict teens will once again be selling mulch this Spring. This fundraising event helps the Youth Ministry program reduce the cost of summer programs and retreats. Please pick up an order form and price list in the Narthex of the Church or the Church Office.

Youth Ministry Calendar Mar. 29—April 5

Mar. 29, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Mar. 30, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
Mar. 31, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
April 5—No Teen Night



Peters Twp. Food Pantry

The PT Food Pantry serves approximately 60-65 area families on a monthly basis. Their shelves were literally empty after the last distribution on March 13, and they are asking local churches for their support. They will accept any non-perishable food donation you may wish to give but are asking St. Benedict's especially for paper products; i.e., tissues, paper towels, toilet paper, and toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, & bath soap—bar or liquid). Items may be placed in the bin in the coat closet in O'Brien Hall. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity and support of the food pantry.

Children's Choir

This year the Children's Choir will sing at the 10:00am Easter morning Mass. Rehearsals will be on the following Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm in the Choir Room: April 2 & 9. The Children's Choir is open to those in the 2nd grade or older. Please call Greg Fincham at 724-941-9406 Ext. 304 if you need more information.

Youth Handbell Choir

The Youth Handbell Choir will be ringing at the 10:00am Easter morning Mass. Rehearsals will be on the following Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:00am in the Choir Room: April 4 & 11. Those interested must be in the 5th grade or older and be able to read music. There are a limited number of positions to be filled. Previous members are given preference, and others are added in the order in which they contacted the Music Director. Please call Greg at 724-941-9406 Ext. 304 for more information or to express interest.

CMF Conference

Join 1700 men of our Diocese at the 2009 Gathering of Catholic Men on April 18, at the AJ Palumbo Center, Duquesne University. There is a line-up of outstanding and dynamic speakers, including Bishop Zubik, TV and radio personalities Mike Clark and Larry Richert, and many others, who will enlighten men on how to "be transformed" with God in their daily lives. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$10 for students, and includes bus transportation from SBA and lunch. Contact Ed Corbett, 724-942-6429 or at Eccorbett@verizon.net.

Need confidential assistance? Companionship and understanding for a difficult time? Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Call 724-941-5026.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, March 29

**Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Masses**

Parish Office Closed Today

8:40a Religious Education Session
11:10a Religious Education Session

Monday, March 30

7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (206)
7:00p **Parish Mission** (Church)
7:30p Divorce Recovery Series (204/206)

Tuesday, March 31

8:30a Special Needs Children (213)
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (204-208)
10:30a **Discussion with Fr. Collins** (OBH)
3:00p Youth Ministry—Busted Halo (PBAC)
6:00p Religious Education Session
7:00p **Parish Mission** (Church)

Wednesday, April 1

11:30a Staff Meeting (Office Closed until 3:00)
12:00p AA (208)
6:00p Religious Education Session
No Confessions today
7:00p **Parish Mission** (Church)
7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

Thursday, April 2

9:30a Light Weigh (206)
9:30a WOSB Bridge (OBH)
12:00p NA (206)
4:00p Eucharistic Adoration Begins (Chapel)
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
6:30p RCIA (204)
7:00p **Parish Mission Closing** (Church)
7:00p Women, Inc. (210)
7:30p Boy Scouts Troop 1313 (PBAC)
8:00p Adult Choir (Choir)

Friday, April 3

8:30a Special Needs Children (213)
9:30a Prayer and Share Group (Cry Rm)
Lenten Fish Fry 11:00am-1pm & 4:00pm-7:30pm
4:00p Closing of Adoration (Chapel)
7:45p Stations of the Cross (Church)

Saturday, April 4

7:30a Catholic Men's Fellowship (206)
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)
10:00a Parents Confirmation Meeting (Chapel)
11:00a Confessions (Church)

Sunday, April 5

**Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass**

No Religious Education Today



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL . . .

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Altar Servers

Kathleen Bench
724-942-0338

Ben's Men

Ernie Sichi
724-916-4595

Boy Scouts

Kevin Dolinar
724-942-0388

Cantors, Choirs, Bell Ringers

Greg Fincham
724-941-9406

Catholic Men's Fellowship

Ed Corbett
724-942-6429

Catholic Scripture Study

Tara Curry
724-942-7539

Elijah Cup

Carlotta Zuback
724-941-5758

Engaged Couples' Program IHN

Ed & Mary Lou Fraticelli
724-941-4230

Eucharistic Adoration

Mary Ann Campbell
724-941-4297

Extraordinary Ministers

Jack McGinnis
724-941-4213

Finance Council

chair vacant

Food Bank

Susan Brooks
724-942-4287

Funeral Repast

Mary Kay Schaner
724-941-5147

Funeral Server

Dick Gawronski
724-873-7911

Greeters

Erma Grego
724-941-6956

Mary Spinabelli
724-942-2478

Lectors

Dawn Pustay
724-942-2451

Library

Ellen Mavrich
724-941-2446

Liturgical Environment

Emma Diamond
724-941-8315

Military Support

Jamie Christopher
724-747-9396

Ministry to the Sick

Barb Scheuering
724-941-9104

MOMS

Kathleen Chaudhari
724-941-8546

Pastoral Council

Aimee Schmidt
724-941-7046

Respect Life Committee

Beth Quinn
724-942-1057

Stephen Ministry

Jay Jarrell
724-941-5026

St. Benedict Gardeners

Linda Maydak
724-941-3123

St. Vincent de Paul

Please call parish office
724-941-9406

Ushers

Don Ligman
724-941-5938

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431