



## Father Sam's Forum

**H**ere we are—entering into the most solemn week of our year, the week we call *Holy*, because at its center is the mystery we celebrate over and again as Christians—the dying and the rising of the Lord Jesus. In our parish we have prepared for this week by our Lenten fasting and works of charity, by our increased efforts to be people of prayer, and joined ourselves to the millions around the world who have done likewise.

Now we come to the intense and emotional days where we place ourselves with the Lord at the Supper, at the Cross, and at the Tomb. For obvious reasons the Triduum is central to our identity as those incorporated into Christ. For those same reasons it is my favorite liturgy. Not liturgies, but liturgy—one single celebration that spans the three days.

Won't you come for the whole liturgy? If we only take part in a portion, we can miss the scope of the entire celebration, which leads us from death to new life. You are invited to plan your week so that the whole time from Thursday night until Easter Sunday is free from social engagements, entertainment, and free of meals except for the simplest nourishment. We enter into the solemn fast of the Three Days, different than our regular Lenten fasting. In keeping ourselves focused on what is happening, on what we are celebrating, we join in prayer with those who will come to the Easter sacraments at the Great Vigil on Saturday night.

Here's the synopsis of what it means to keep the Three Days. The cross is exalted as Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper begins. We lift it high to show its prominence in our lives as followers of the One who went to the cross. Listening to God's plan for deliverance of God's holy people, first the Hebrew slaves in Egypt and now all those reborn in baptism, we are given an example of how we are to live now. We take a towel and basin and go to wash feet. In this humble service of one another we become the doers of the Gospel. *"Love one another as I have loved you."*

After the Eucharist, we carry the Blessed Sacrament in procession to a place of quiet prayer. The altar is stripped, and the sanctuary left bare. In the Chapel, people keep watch in Christ's presence in the holy sacrament. Night Prayer just before Midnight ends the time of prayer.

Good Friday is a day of quiet and reflection. Morning Prayer at 9:00 begins our day and then at Noon, we follow Jesus on the Way of the Cross. Deacon Jack

will lead the devotional Seven Last Words, calling us to think about those words spoken by Jesus on the cross. The liturgical celebration of the Passion begins at 1:30. In this center piece of the Triduum, we listen as the Scriptures call our attention to Jesus, the servant of God, guilty only of love, who went to the cross. After prayers for the whole world, we come forward, kicking off our shoes to stand on holy ground as we venerate the cross of Christ. Good Friday evening is about the shadows, *Forum continued on page 4...*

### Mass Intentions: April 5—April 12

*For the complete detailed Holy Week Schedule, see page 2.*

#### **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)

#### **Monday, April 6—Monday of Holy Week**

- 8:30a **Ann Weaver** (Barbara Smith)

#### **Tuesday, April 7—Tuesday of Holy Week**

- 6:30a **Special Intention** (M/M John Brucker)
- 8:30a **Mary McCurdy**  
(A.J. & Maureen & Friends at Big Picture Con)

#### **Wednesday, April 8—Wednesday of Holy Week**

- 6:30a **Helen Hauck** (Terry & Sharyn Jackson)
- 8:30a **Living & Deceased of Schweibinz & Busch Families** (Claire Meredith)
- 11:00a **McMurray Hills: Deceased Members of the Hudak Family**
- 7:00p **Joseph Klimek** (M/M Ron Gaab)

#### **Thursday, April 9—Holy Thursday**

- 7:00p **Mass of the Lord's Supper:**  
**Albert "Butch" Schultz**  
(Eric & Denise Gordon)  
**Priscilla Bayer** (Jerry Serrino)

#### **Saturday, April 11—Holy Saturday**

- 8:30p **The Great Vigil of Easter:**  
**For the People of the Parish**  
**Irene Kosowski** (S.H. Knights of Columbus)

#### **Sunday, April 12—Easter Sunday**

- 7:30a **Intentions of our Flower Donors**
- 10:00a **Intentions of our Flower Donors**
- 12:30p **Intentions of our Flower Donors**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week  
in memory of our families, requested by  
Dick & Reene Gawronski.*

**Remember that there is no 6:00pm Mass  
on Easter Sunday.**

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



## 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 Specca, 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 April 5

Sunday: Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47  
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11  
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33,36-38  
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25  
 Thursday: Is 61:1-3a,6a,8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21  
 Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42  
 Saturday: Ex 14:15-15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Rom 6:3-11/  
     Mk 16:1-7  
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43/Col 3:1-4

**The collection on Good Friday will benefit  
 the Holy Land Shrines**

## First Communion Dates

Our second grade students will celebrate their First Eucharist at ten 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)

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. The children and their families will sit in the pews on the center aisle. We expect 20—25 children in each group.

## Our Holy Week & Easter Schedule

### Serving the Parish This Week:

**Rehearsals for the Triduum Liturgies are this Wednesday, April 8, at 6:00pm (Holy Thursday), 7:30pm (Good Friday) and 8:00pm (Easter Vigil). All Lectors and Servers are required to attend.**

#### April 9—Holy Thursday

##### Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00pm

Frs. Esposito, Ruffalo, Deacon Layton; **Lectors:** Brugger, Wanniger **EMHC:** S Brooks, J & S Christopher, Huffner, McGinnis, Sarra, Wanninger **Servers:** Brugger, Hilzendeger, LaRosa, Z Pfeifer, J & Z Verner

##### Night Prayer, 11:45pm Fr. Ruffalo

#### April 10—Good Friday

##### Morning Prayer, 9:00am Fr. Esposito

##### Stations of the Cross, 12:00noon Fr. Ruffalo

**Servers:** D, N & V DiRienzo

##### Seven Last Words, 12:45pm Deacon Layton **Lector:** Morosco

**Liturgy of the Passion, 1:30pm** Frs. Ruffalo, Esposito, Deacon Layton **Lectors:** DiCello, McPoyle **EMHC:** Glover, Oldaker, Puskarich **Servers:** Brugger, Nobers, J & Z Verner

##### Tenebrae, 7:00pm Frs. Esposito, Ruffalo **Lectors:**

Yurkovich, Wells **Servers:** J, J & N Bianco

#### April 11—Holy Saturday

##### Morning Prayer, 9:00am Fr. Ruffalo

##### Church Decorating, 9:30am —All are welcome!

##### Blessing of Easter Food, 12:30pm Fr. Esposito

**The Great Vigil of Easter, 8:30pm** Frs. Esposito, Ruffalo, Deacon Layton **Lectors:** Buzzato, Specca, Gehrlein, Beam, Norton, Pustay, Brugger, Benya **EMHC:** Baumgartner, J & S Christopher, Norton, Ott, Sarra, Scheuering **Servers:** K Bench, Brugger, Hilzendeger, R & Z Pfeifer, C & D Schratz

### Serving Our Parish Next Week

#### April 12—Easter Sunday

##### 7:30am—Fr. Esposito **Lector:** Luttner **EMHC:** Barton,

J & S Brooks, Hollott, McGinnis, Puskarich, Vines

**Servers:** E, E, J & M Jozwiak, Wiegmann

##### 10:00am—Fr. Ruffalo **Lectors:** Mahla, Wells **EMHC:**

Bayer, Bench, Faina, Glover, Kail, McGovern, Quinn, Schultz, Serrino **Servers:** Quinn, Shaw, J & Z Verner, Watson

##### 12:30pm—Fr. Ruffalo **Lector:** Sichi **EMHC:** Hayward,

Huffner, L, K, & P Newmaster, Oldaker, Ruggieri

**Servers:** Bowlin, Chaplin, F & M Meola, Nobers

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Carole Shinkle**, mother of our parishioner Vickie Skraitz, who died recently. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.



## Church Decorating

Don't forget to bring the whole family to help decorate our church for Easter. Meet after Morning Prayer on Holy Saturday, 9:30am. We need those who can bring their irons and boards to do some banner pressing, as well as wreath hangers, flower placers, tomb decorators, sanctuary preparers, baptismal font fixers, Chapel and narthex arrangers. There is a lot to do, but once we get in our work teams, it should only take about an hour and a half. It's a great preparation for what Easter really means.

## Easter Blessing of Families

On Easter Sunday, April 12, Bishops David Zubik, Paul Bradley and William Winter will welcome families of the Diocese to their *Annual Blessing of Families* at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland, beginning at 3:00pm. As they greet and bless your family personally, they affirm and support you as a household of love and witnesses to your faith. All families, nuclear, single parent, blended, extended, etc. are invited to come and experience the Bishop's expression of appreciation for the gift that you are and the gifts that you bring to our Diocese. Each family attending will receive a special memento to take home and the children will receive a sweet treat.

## Seven Church Pilgrimage

Please join us for the Holy Thursday Seven Church Vigil. We will be visiting seven churches by bus immediately following the Holy Thursday evening services. This year we will be visiting churches in the Mon Valley. Sign up in the narthex or call Bill or Kathy Wanninger at 724-941-0281.

## Holy Thursday Collection: Peters Twp. Food Pantry

Everyone who comes to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday is asked to bring something that will help our local 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 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). Baskets to hold these donated items will be placed on the sanctuary steps and parishioners will be invited to bring them forward during the Mass.

## Youth Ministry News

### Parents of 2009 Graduates

St. Benedict the Abbot will be acknowledging our 2009 graduating seniors on May 17. The evening begins with Mass at 6:00pm, a program in the church at 7:00pm, and a reception following in O'Brien Hall. This night is for all St. Benedict's graduating seniors, regardless of any Youth Ministry involvement. We are making a slide show and need 3 pictures of each graduate, one being their senior picture. All pictures submitted will be returned on May 17. Please contact Janet at 724-941-9587 if you have any questions about this event.

### Service Opportunity

St. Benedict Youth Council is planning a service opportunity for students of the parish in grades 9-12. On May 2 we will participate in Pittsburgh Cares, a city-wide day of giving back to the community. A revitalization/renovation project is being planned for our group. If you are interested in volunteering that day, let us know and we will put you on the team. Adults are needed to help with planning and transportation. Please contact Sheila Arcuri at [youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org).

### Join Us For Dinner

Support the Youth Ministry programs by joining us for dinner at Bob Evans on April 22 from 3:00-9:00pm. A portion of your dinner total will be donated back to our teens. Look for the flyer in next week's bulletin to present to Bob Evans when you go for dinner.

### Youth Ministry Calendar *April 5—April 12*

April 5—No Teen Night  
April 6, 7:00pm (YM Office) - Theology of the Body  
April 12—No Teen Night

### Service of Apology

At 7:00pm on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, Bishop David Zubik will be leading a special *Service of Apology* at Saint Paul Cathedral in Oakland. If you, a loved one, a friend or a family member has been harmed in any way by the Church, please prayerfully consider attending. When we forgive and are forgiven, we are healed. And when we are healed, we are healthy, strong and able to truly celebrate Easter, able to live the mission that God designed for us.



## Question of the Week

**What is the significance of the Easter egg?**

## Lesson of the Week

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

Following the March 2008 meeting of the Priest Council, Bishop Zubik accepted a recommendation that the Diocese of Pittsburgh study in earnest the prospects of establishing regional vicariates in place of the current deanery system. An *Ad Hoc* committee was established to conduct the study and after the Fall 2008 deanery meetings, the committee formed six work groups. In the recent Spring 2009 deanery meetings, the results of the committee's work was reported. The bishop will name three to five priests as Regional Vicars to be his link to the parishes in the three to five vicariates. It is expected that by the end of April we will know how many vicariates will be formed. The overall goals of the vicariates would be:

1. To assist the diocesan bishop in the exercise of the bishop's pastoral office a) in the ministry of the Word, b) in the liturgical life of the diocese, and c) in the pastoral governance for the Diocese by providing pastoral supervision and administrative support in implementing directives and practices of the Church
2. To extend the presence of the diocesan bishop, especially into the parishes of the diocese
3. To support, promote, and coordinate the work of the apostolate for the building up of the Church and the spread of the Gospel by encouraging and coordinating common pastoral activity
4. To provide a vehicle through which the diocesan bishop can better consult with the parish communities on broad-based Diocesan issues
5. To provide a line of communication between the local parish and the diocesan pastoral services regarding developing trends and issues
6. To assist in ascertaining the most efficacious assignment of priests and deacons.

The priests selected as vicars will be pastors with experience in parish life. They will live within and have their offices within their vicariate so they can visit and work with all the parishes in that area. One of their major duties will be to help the work of envisioning ministry happen. This means that in the clusters that already exist, the vicars will facilitate planning to meet the declining numbers of priests that will be available for parish ministry. This will take various forms such as sharing resources and personnel, working with councils and groups, and adjusting Mass and sacramental schedules.

*Father Sam's Forum...continued*

...a service we call *Tenebrae*. In this simple yet moving liturgy, we listen to readings and pray together as candles are extinguished, and we are reminded that Jesus has been placed in the Tomb. The Church awaits the promise of the Resurrection.

Holy Saturday is another day for reflection. Keeping ourselves away from all our usual Saturday errands and activities, we are invited to make preparations for the Easter celebration. Again we pray at 9:00 the Morning Prayer of the Church. After that, all are welcome to gather in the church for decorating as a community of believers who prepare the space of our worship for the grandest event, the Easter Vigil. The special foods we will eat on Easter Sunday are brought to be blessed at 12:30, and those about to enter the Church through the Easter sacraments are gathered to make their final preparations before tonight's liturgy.

Our scouts will prepare a large bonfire on the hill outside the church as night falls and I will bless that fire at 8:30. Then taking the fire, I will light the Easter candle which is carried into the darkened church as we sing "Christ our Light!" In a series of seven readings we listen to the story of salvation before we sing the *Gloria*, and the bells, silent since Holy Thursday, are rung. Then St. Paul speaks to us about the union we share in the dying and rising of Christ because of our baptism. The *Alleluia*, gone since Lent began, is sung as the Book of the Gospels comes in procession through the church. Those in the assembly can reverence the sacred tome with a kiss or touch or bow, and the deacon proclaims the Easter Gospel.

After the homily, the rites of initiation begin. The Elect come forward for baptism as the Litany of the Saints is chanted and water is poured into the font. After making their profession of faith, they step into the baptismal pond and receive the saving waters of new life. Then all of us renew the promises of our baptism and we are sprinkled with this Easter water. The newly baptized return to the assembly and join those being received into the Catholic Church and those completing their initiation with the sacrament of confirmation.

Finally the Eucharist is celebrated and the newly baptized and confirmed come forward first to receive the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation. Then all of us eat and drink of the Lord's Body and Blood before we are sent forth rejoicing in Easter joy. What a marvelous moment in our Christian life!



## Holy Week at St. Emma Monastery

The Benedictine Nuns of St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg, invite single women, ages 16-40, to experience Holy Week through the tradition of monastic prayer, April 8-12. During these days, join the nuns in chanting the Divine Office, silence, personal prayer, and Holy Week liturgies. Please contact Sr. Maria at 724-834-3060 or email vocations@stemma.org for additional information.

## Catholic Charities Aging Conference

Bishop David Zubik will celebrate Mass and Rev. Terrence P. O'Connor will deliver the keynote address at Catholic Charities' 16th Annual Wisdom, Age and Grace Conference on May 8, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Mars. Fr. Terry serves as pastor of Good Samaritan and St. John the Baptist Parishes in Beaver County and is the son of Judy and the late Mayor Bob O'Connor. His talk, and four conference workshops, will focus on the theme "All Wisdom Comes from the Lord." Registration is \$35, which includes breakfast and lunch. Call 412-456-6975 to register.

## 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 Ecorbett@verizon.net.

## Help for Those Who Are Grieving

Family Hospice and Palliative Care is pleased to offer Growing Through Grief—Rebuilding Hope, a free 6-week educational/support program for those dealing with the death of a loved one. The program will begin on April 14 from 6:30-8:30pm at Jefferson Regional Medical Center's meeting building and end on May 19. Attendance at all six sessions is requested and pre-registration is required. For further information, please call the Bereavement Specialist at 412-572-8829.

## This Week In Our Parish

**All Parish Offices will close at 4:30pm  
on Wednesday and re-open  
on Monday, April 13, at 8:30am.**

### Sunday, April 5

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

**No Religious Education**

### Tuesday, April 7

**No Religious Education**

3:00p Confessions (Church)

### Wednesday, April 8

12:00p AA (208)

**No Religious Education**

**No Confessions today**

6:30p Rehearsal for Triduum Liturgies (Church)  
7:30p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

### Thursday, April 9

10:00a The Chrim Mass (St. Paul Cathedral)  
7:00p **Mass of the Lord's Supper** (Church)  
11:45p Night Prayer (Chapel)

### Friday, April 10

9:00a Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
12:00p Stations of the Cross (Church)  
12:45p Seven Last Words (Church)  
1:30p **Liturgy of the Lord's Passion** (Church)  
7:00p Tenebrae (Church)

### Saturday, April 11

9:00a Morning Prayer (Chapel)  
9:30a Church Decorating  
12:30p Blessing of Easter Food (Chapel)  
8:30p **The Great Vigil of Easter** (Church)

### Sunday, April 12

**Abbey Coffee House Is Closed Today**

**No Religious Education**

**Parish Offices Closed**

## Ben's Bogiers Friday Golf League

There will be an organizational meeting for the Golf League on April 14 at 7:45pm in room 208. All good and not so good golfers are welcome to join. We will be playing again at Rolling Green Golf Course on Rt. 136 on Friday afternoons.

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



## 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