



## Father Sam's Forum

**B**uona Pasqua! That's Happy Easter in Italian, in case you didn't know. Welcome to all our visitors—we hope you come to worship with us often. This morning marks the first day of the Easter Octave, eight days that continue to be celebrated as one. We repeat all the special elements of our liturgy today throughout the coming week.

“This is the day the Lord has made,” is our song. “Let us rejoice and be glad.” From Psalm 118, the Easter psalm calls us to gratitude, to give thanks to the Lord for the marvels of salvation. Jesus, the cornerstone, is the foundation upon which we build our lives.

An ancient Easter hymn from the fifth century gives us these words:

*Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky,  
Heaven thunders forth its victor cry;  
The glad earth shouts its triumph high,  
And groaning hell makes wild reply.*

*While He the King of glorious might  
Treads down death's strength in death's despite,  
And trampling hell by victor's right,  
Brings forth His sleeping saints to light.*

*Hell's pains are loosed, and tears are fled;  
Captivity is captive led;  
The angel, crowned with light, has said,  
“The Lord is risen from the dead.”*

*We pray thee, King with glory decked,  
In this our paschal joy, protect  
From all that death would fain affect  
They ransomed flock, thine own elect.*

The empty tomb is the central focus of all the Gospel accounts of the resurrection. It is the women who go to see the place of Jesus' burial, and their leader seems to be the woman we call Mary of Migdal, or Mary Magdalene. In John's account today she announces that the tomb is empty, and later, in the same Gospel, she is the first to see the risen Lord and to announce his Resurrection to the apostles.

Those who followed Jesus did not always understand what he said or did, and today is no exception. Mary thinks someone must have removed the body of Jesus from the grave. Whatever doubts we have or whatever confusion surrounds us in moments of grief or sadness, we are asked to be like the “other disciple” of today's Gospel, the one who sees the empty tomb and believes. It's about trusting God.

Jesus promised to bring new life, and the tomb that is empty points to the fulfillment of that promise, but it is only with eyes of faith that we can see that. The beloved disciple sees nothing where he expects to see death. This “nothing” is good news. Faith gives us eyes to see the possibility of new life even in empty, dead and hopeless situations. Alleluia! He is risen!



*Thanks to everyone who helped us ready the church, prepare and execute the services, and anything else that was part of our celebrating Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum and today's feast. I appreciate the willingness to share time and talents as well as treasure.*

*from Fr. Michael, Deacon Jack, the Pastoral Staff and myself...a Very Blessed and Holy Easter is wished for all of you!*

### **Mass Intentions: April 12—April 19**

#### **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**

#### **Monday, April 13—Easter Monday**

8:30a **Rick Sekinger** (Jim & Barb Dominowski)

#### **Tuesday, April 14—Easter Tuesday**

6:30a **Michael Yurkovich** (Jack & Sylvia Hanauer)  
8:30a **Jack Sullivan** (Dolores Ueberschaer)

#### **Wednesday, April 15—Easter Wednesday**

6:30a **Joseph Fisher** (Gregg Baley)  
8:30a **Mary McCloskey** (Joan Becker)

#### **Thursday, April 16—Easter Thursday**

6:30a **Peter & Lorraine Sheppard**  
(The Ott Family)  
8:30a **Esther Gardner** (Fisher Family)

#### **Friday, April 17—Easter Friday**

8:30a **Joseph Labriola** (Wife, Alberta)

#### **Saturday, April 18—Easter Saturday**

8:30a **Mildred Kampert** (Husband, Philip)  
5:00p **Edward A. McCloskey** (Amy Baumgartner)

#### **Sunday, April 19—Second Sunday of Easter**

7:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
10:00a **Schweibinz & Meredith Families** (Claire)  
12:30p **Stanley J. Zary** (Wife & Children)  
6:00p **Elsie & Charles Fussenegger**  
(Gail & Charles Fisher)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Elsie Schauer, requested by Ann Hayes, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Priscilla Bayer, requested by the 6:30am Mass Group.*



## 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

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend: April 18—April 19

**Sat. 5:00pm—First Eucharist** Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton  
**Lectors:** Norton, Benya **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:**  
 LaCamera, T & D Martin, Speca, P & G Adams, Getto, Norton  
**Servers:** Meyers, Getto, J, J & N Bianco

**7:30am—** Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Balash **Greeters:** Henger, Barker **EMHC:** Petricca,  
 Berger, E & R McMillan, Vines, J & S Christopher **Servers:**  
 Shaw, M & A Severa

**10:00am—** Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Richardson-Gohring, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Verlato,  
 Becker **EMHC:** Walnoha, Orient, Faina, L & A Kelly, Bayer,  
 Glover, Cushma, Spinabelli **Servers:** Cushma, L & J Spinabelli,  
 Carrington, Pampera

**12:30pm—First Eucharist** Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** Zuk **Greeters:** Fink, Ragan **EMHC:** Torres, Capozza,  
 McGinnis, Smith, Oldaker, Huffner, Boyd **Servers:** Chaplin,  
 Taylor, Graves

**6:00pm—** Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** Meyer, Lundquist **EMHC:** A & A Simmons, Eckels,  
 Corbett **Servers:** Corbett, Curran

## Readings for the Week of April 12

Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43/Col 3:1-4  
 Monday: Acts 2:14,22-33/Mt 28:8-15  
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18  
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35  
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48  
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14  
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15  
 Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

## Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them

Please remember in your prayers **Evelyn Brannen**,  
 Grandmother of our parishioner Jeremy Brannen,  
**Alice McCarthy**, Grandmother of our parishioner  
 Glenn Brenneman, and our parishioners **Anthony  
 Segulin** and **Doris Patnesky**, who died recently.  
 May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful  
 departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## First Communions Begin

Keep in your prayers our young parishioners who will  
 be called to the Table of the Lord for the first time as  
 they receive First Eucharist. Beginning this Saturday  
 at the 5:00pm Mass, we have schedule eight  
 celebrations for this sacrament of Christian Initiation.  
 The children and their immediate families will sit in  
 the pews off the center aisle of the church, about  
 eleven pews on each side from those closest to the  
 altar.

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

## Council Meetings

These groups have meetings scheduled with Fr. Sam  
 in the coming weeks:

*Finance Council, April 21, 7:30pm*  
*Youth Council, April 23, 7:30pm*  
*Pastoral Council, April 30, 7:30pm*  
*Pastor's Cabinet, May 6, 7:45pm*

## No Confessions April 22

Our regular Wednesday evening confessions are  
 cancelled on April 22 because there is a Clergy  
 Convocation, and the priests will be with Bishop  
 Zubik that afternoon and evening.

## Easter Blessing of Families

This afternoon, 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 Bishops' 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.



## Pastor's Cabinet Meeting

All members of the Pastor's Cabinet are invited to gather with Fr. Sam on Wednesday, May 6, 7:45pm in the Education Center, Room 204. Our agenda includes getting updates about each group's projects and happenings in the parish and from the pastor a glimpse at some of the restructuring and budget planning that will be underway by that date. If your name is on the inside back cover of the bulletin you should attend this meeting.

## Furniture Drive

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is opening a new South Hills Thrift Store in mid-May located at Rt. 88 and Gove Road in Castle Shannon. They are in desperate need of furniture for needy families. In particular, they need twin or double beds, including box springs and mattresses (no sofa beds). Headboards and footboards will not be picked up. They also need tables **with** chairs, lamps, couches (not sectional) and basic household items (linens, blankets, kitchenware, small working appliances like microwaves, mixer, etc). If you have clean clothing to donate, it must be boxed or in plastic bags.

On their behalf, the St. Benedict SVdP Conference is coordinating a furniture drive from April 13-24th. If you have furniture to donate, please contact Juanita Timney at 724-941-5720, Chris Kail at 724-941-6721 or Gary Seraly at 724-942-3912. We will screen and coordinate your donation with the proper authorities. Our Diocesan Donation Center will contact you directly to schedule a pick up time. Thank you for your generosity.

## South Hills Interfaith Ministries (SHIM)

**"Rescue & Loss: Saving the Voices"**

All parishioners are invited to attend the 30th Interfaith Holocaust Observance Service to be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Washington Road in Upper St. Clair on April 26 at 7:30pm. This contemplative services uses dramatic vignettes, readings, music and candle lightings to tell the stories of those who lived through those dark years and those who did not survive. One of the highlights of this service will include vignettes of the Rescue at Assisi, where priests in that Catholic monastery saved hundreds of Jews by disguising them and providing them with false documents. This is an excellent opportunity for parents of older children and teens to teach tolerance and discuss the impact of following one's conscience.

## Youth Ministry News

### 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.

### 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 12—April 19

April 12—No Teen Night  
 April 13 (YM Office) - Theology of the Body  
 April 19 (PBAC) - Teen Night



## Question of the Week

**Why 50 days of Easter? What's behind Pentecost coming from our Jewish roots?**

## Lesson of the Week

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

It is the influence of the traditional spring rites that made Easter so egg-special. And myths coming down to us from an incredibly distant past have shown man's relationship with the egg to be very deep seated one. An old Latin proverb: "Omne vivum ex ovo". This means "all life comes from an egg". Not just the Latin saying, eggs are just laid well over all corners of the world. From ancient India to Polynesia, from Iran, Greece, and Phoenicia to Latvia, Estonia, and Finland, from Central America to the west coast of South America, there are reports of myths of the whole universe created out of an egg. Thus, it is not unusual that in almost all ancient cultures eggs had been held as an emblem of life. The concept of all living beings born from an egg is also a foundational concept of modern biology.

In Christian times, the egg was a symbol of new life just as a chick might hatch from the egg. The Easter egg tradition may have celebrated the end of the privations of Lent. In the Medieval Europe, eggs were forbidden during Lent as well as other traditional fast days. During the strict Lenten fast of forty days no eggs were eaten. It was traditional to use up all eggs before Lent began, which established the tradition of Pancake Day, or Fat Tuesday. In Eastern Christianity, both meat and dairy are still prohibited during the fast, and eggs are seen as "dairy" (a foodstuff that could be taken from an animal without shedding its blood). That is the reason why eggs laid during that time were often boiled or otherwise preserved.

An Orthodox tradition related with Easter celebrations is the presenting of red colored eggs to friends while giving Easter greetings. According to a legend about Mary Magdalene, after the Ascension of Christ, Mary supposedly went to the Emperor of Rome and greeted him with "Christ is risen", whereupon he stated, "Christ has not risen, no more than that egg is red" (pointing to an egg on his table). After making this statement it is said the egg immediately turned blood red. She then began preaching Christianity to him. The egg is symbolic of the grave and life renewed by breaking out of it. The red symbolizes the blood of Christ redeeming the world, represented by the egg, and our regeneration through the bloodshed for us by Christ. The egg itself is a symbol of the Resurrection; while being dormant, it contains a new life sealed within it.

## Building Fund Donations

### In Memory of Mildred Teodori

M/M Richard Teodori                      M/M Jay Jarrell  
M/M Terrance Teodori                      Cordelia Caffrey  
M/M Joseph Piccioni

### In Memory of Carlo & Mildred Teodori

Judge & Mrs. Terrence McVerry                      Patrick Joyce  
M/M John Quarture                                      M/M David Thal

### In Memory of Carl Adolph

M/M William Standish                      M/M A.M. Wiggins, Jr.

### In Memory of Jackie Villani

Widows and Widowers

## WOSB Annual Luncheon

Please join us for the WOSB Annual Luncheon on May 7. We will begin with a 10:00am Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Benedict Church followed by lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn/Southpointe, 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg. Choose from the following entrees: Sliced Beef Tenderloin with Pancetta Demi-glaze, Herb Infused Whipped Potatoes, and Garlic Roasted French Green Beans with Sauteed Red Peppers OR Mixed Greens topped with Grilled Steak, Pesto Encrusted Salmon, or Grilled Chicken, Grape Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Olives (assorted dressing on the side). All entrees will be served with Fruit Cocktail Mojito (appetizer), Strawberry Napoleon-Puff Pastry (dessert), rolls, butter, and coffee or hot or iced tea. Cost is \$11.50/parishioner and \$23/non-parishioner. Cash or checks (payable to WOSB) may be deposited in the yellow box in the Parish Office, along with the completed registration form, or mailed to WOSB, c/o St. Benedict the Abbot. Flyers are located in the narthex and Church Office.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Entrée Choice: Sliced Beef Tenderloin \_\_\_\_\_

Mixed Greens Salad (circle one)

Steak    Chicken    Salmon    \_\_\_\_\_

Cash/Check enclosed in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Relay For Life

There will be a kick-off meeting for the Relay for Life on April 16 at 7:00pm in the Religious Ed Building. The Relay will take place this year May 30-31. All students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to come and join our team. For more information please contact Mary Lou at 724-941-4230.

## In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict's Military Support Group, we now have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

## 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.

## Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. In today's busy world, many couples experience boredom, coldness, frustration, and loneliness. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on April 24, 2009, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com)

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

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, April 12

**No Abbey Coffee House Today**  
**No Religious Education**  
**Parish Offices Closed**

### Monday, April 13

6:00p	Ben's Men Rosary	(208)
6:30p	Ben's Men Meeting	(OBH)
7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
7:00p	Theology of the Body	(YM Office)

### Tuesday, April 14

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
4:30p	Girl Scouts	(213)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Golf League	(208)

### Wednesday, April 15

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education	
6:30p	Diocesan In-Service	(OBH)
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)

### Thursday, April 16

9:30a	WOSB Board Meeting	(204)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

### Friday, April 17

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Prayer & Share	(Cry Rm)

### Saturday, April 18

**Catholic Men's Fellowship Convention—All Day—  
Palumbo Center, Duquesne University**

9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
9:00a	WOSB Craft Show	(OBH)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

### Sunday, April 19

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

8:40a	Religious Education Session
11:10a	Religious Education Session
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night

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

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



## 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