



Father Sam's Forum

The Gospel account today mentions “locked doors” twice. Jesus breaks through these barriers each time he appears to the disciples who were gathered in fear, not knowing what their fate would be. Wow! Does that speak to us today?

What doors have we locked? That metaphor is so strong as we face a culture where safety has become such a concern. We know that truly there is no real safety, no matter what locks or security systems we might have. In the random act of a driver going the wrong way, or getting caught in some violent act of a desperate person, or through some act of nature, we can easily forfeit any safety we may have thought we had.

But more than that, we have locked the doors to our hearts. When we succumb to our prejudices and fears, we make it impossible for anyone to break through. It's such a sad commentary that any kind of polite discourse is almost nonexistent in our society today. No matter the debate, each side seems to polarize itself and can't allow the other to speak or be heard. We scream and insist, interrupt and demand, all because we believe our position is the correct one. Just watch the commentators on TV or listen to talk radio...it's very sad.

What is it we are afraid of? Why do we not do as Jesus did and try to change hearts through gentle dialogue, through embracing others as humans, our brothers and sisters? Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, and God's gracious mercy is a gift we all depend upon. The reading from the first letter of John today shows the community of believers who experienced fundamental change as a result of faith in Christ. In the risen Jesus and in the power of his Holy Spirit, a new creation has dawned.

Jesus breathed upon those first disciples and gave them the power to forgive, to reconcile. It is no different today. We are empowered by the Lord to be people of reconciliation and mercy. Can we unlock the doors to our hearts and forgive? Can we reach out to someone who has a fundamental difference of opinion or belief and begin a dialogue?

“Do not be unbelieving,” Jesus said to Thomas. We



get a description of the sharing that resulted among the first believers in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. They recognized in one another the presence of Christ and cared for one another out of that regard. When we believe—when we can see that every person brings the face of Christ to us, then we have unlocked the doors and taken the first step to reconciliation, and to being the community Jesus came to form.

Again, my grateful appreciation to everyone who made our celebration of Triduum and Easter special!

Mass Intentions: April 19—April 26

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)

Monday, April 20—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Henry & Stella Glance** (Family)

Tuesday, April 21—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Jack Crossen** (Clark Family)
- 8:30a **Dakota Joseph Rolley** (Sam & Edna Rolley)

Wednesday, April 22—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Michael Stewart** (M/M John Brucker)
- 8:30a **Deceased of the Mikos & Rodal Families**
(Dennis & Maryann Rodal)

Thursday, April 23—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Francis McCaffrey** (Wife, Pat)
- 8:30a **Jack McCloskey** (Lois McCloskey)

Friday, April 24—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Mary M. Godzo** (Mary Horn & Family)

Saturday, April 25—Mark, evangelist

- 8:30a **Donald E. Huffner, Sr.** (Wife)
- 3:00p **Nuptial Mass: Matthew Stelmack**
Erica McLean
- 5:00p **Patricia Trocano** (Rita & John Milavec)

Sunday, April 26—Third Sunday of Easter

- 7:30a **John & Johana Kosir** (Family)
- 10:00a **For the People of the Parish**
- 12:30p **Lillian Rebholz** (Beatrice Rebholz)
- 6:00p **Mary McCurdy**
(A. J. & Maureen & Friends at Big Picture Con)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Gregory Smith, Sr., requested by Carol Baits; the Bread & Wine is in memory of Bruce Fussenegger, requested by Gail & Charles Fisher; and the Altar Flowers are in honor of First Holy Communion, requested by Dick & Dolly Wall.

The Bread & Wine for the week of April 5 was in memory of Edward Greenwald, requested by Charlotte Greenwald. We apologize for the omission that week.



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
 Rachelle 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 25—April 26

Sat. 5:00pm— First Eucharist Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: Buzzato, Smore **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** R & C Satler, Mertens, Greenwald, Vandewater, Sarra, Iigman, Milavec, Klinar **Servers:** Lioon, Traficante, Nobers, LaRosa, Hillen

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Rossin **Greeters:** Turchick, Kalaski **EMHC:** Kail, Gavran, Hollot, Glod, Fagioletti, S & J Brooks **Servers:** Kelly, Wiegmann, Bowlin

10:00am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Dembiczak, Morosco **Greeters:** Stewart, Fisher **EMHC:** Orient, Schultz, Gaudy, Davis, Stein, McGovern, Serrino, Fisher, J Smith **Servers:** Byrne, Mullan, Hilzendeger, Z & J Verner

12:30pm— First Eucharist Fr. Esposito

Lector: Tallon **Greeters:** Bartoli, McDonnell **EMHC:** Capozza, Torres, Baits, P Newmaster, Herald, Hayward, Black **Servers:** G & M Oberschelp, Tallon

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Shope, Wiegman **EMHC:** McCarron, Stoops, Locke, Phelan **Servers:** Graves, Mullan

Readings for the Week of April 19

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31
 Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Mk 16:15-20
 Next Sunday: Acts 3:13-15,17-19/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

Meetings with the Pastor

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.

Baptism Prep Schedule

Upcoming sessions for parents requesting to have a child baptized are on the following dates: Sunday, May 3, following 10:00 Mass; Thursday, June 4, 7:00pm; Sunday, July 5, following 10:00 Mass. The gatherings will be held in the Education Center.

Spiritual Adoption—A Way to Respect Life



Everyone loves the beauty and innocence of a baby. As an expression of that love for new life, our parish will begin a *Spiritual Adoption Program* giving you the opportunity to “spiritually” adopt a newly conceived baby in danger of dying through abortion. Yellow Spiritual Adoption cards will be placed in every pew next weekend for you and your family to take home. You can name your baby and pledge to pray for him or her every day for the next 9 weeks, representing the actual 9 months of pregnancy. Beginning on that day, and every day throughout the program, you may prayerfully cherish and nurture this child as though he or she were your very own.

The bulletin will give a weekly report describing your adopted baby’s monthly development. Then on June 13, a full sized crib will be in O’Brien Hall for your “shower” gifts, such as new layette items, disposable diapers, clothes, etc. The crib will be there through June 28, when your spiritually adopted baby will be born! Shower gifts, and the crib, will be donated to Lifeline of SW PA.

There are thousands of babies in grave danger of abortion every day. Here is your chance to spiritually adopt one in desperate need of prayers and love. We thank you for the babies who have no voice; no one to speak for them but you! The Respect Life Committee.



Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Parish Share</u>
Mar. 1	\$27,802	\$5,395	\$2,473
Mar. 8	\$23,804	\$4,283	\$34,609
Mar. 15	\$22,682	\$4,470	\$654
Mar. 22	\$24,063	\$2,061	\$13,220
Mar. 29	\$22,928	\$2,314	\$2,360
Monthly Totals	\$121,279	\$18,523	\$53,316
Weekly Average	\$24,255.80		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		

Thanks to everyone for continued generosity to the parish. As you can see we have already paid \$53,316 toward our PSP goal of \$202,000. That's a good start at 26% paid in just one month. Remember that anything we raise above the \$202,000 stays in our parish without assessment by the diocese for our own use here, and we will have some expenses from refurbishing and replacing items in the new fiscal year. Even though we as a nation are experiencing economic difficulties, our collections have so far remained constant, thank God. Keep up the fine demonstration of stewardship!

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.

Widow & Widowers' Group

Widows & Widowers will have a "game night" on April 23 at 7:00pm in Room 208. All are welcome. For more information, please call Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686.

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.

Youth 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.

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. Use the flyer in this week's bulletin to present to Bob Evans when you go for dinner.

Youth Ministry Calendar April 19—April 26

April 19, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
April 20, 7:00pm (YM Office) - Theology of the Body
April 26, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night



Question of the Week

Do parents have to select a saint's name for their child at baptism?

Lesson of the Week

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

Our English word for *Easter* derives from an ancient root that means "to shine," or "dawn," or "the direction of the sunrise." In the season that now lies before us, the Church gives us 50 days to let the light of Christ's Resurrection dawn in our hearts and minds until it burns brightly in the fire of Pentecost. From as early as the third century, the celebration of Easter has overflowed into a 50-day season of celebration. That means Easter is older than Lent! The Church Fathers described this period in different ways. Saint Athanasius called it the "great Sunday." Saint Hilary referred to it as a "week of weeks" - that is, seven weeks of seven days, an emblem of eternity. During this season the people would remain standing to pray; kneeling and fasting were not permitted. We see a remnant of this whenever we chant the Litany of the Saints in the Easter Season, such as for the Vigil we just celebrated, or for an Ordination. Usually we kneel for the litany, but in Easter, we stand. Recent Church documents echo the language of the Church Fathers. "The 50 days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better, as one 'great Sunday'". These are "sacred days"; "these above all others are the days for the singing of the *Alleluia*".

For the Jewish people, Pentecost was a feast of thanksgiving that marked the conclusion of the grain harvest; it was also a time to commemorate the giving of the law at Sinai. It was celebrated 50 days after Passover. For those first believers in Jesus who gathered to celebrate this feast in Jerusalem, the gift of the Holy Spirit reinvented Pentecost. It marked a new beginning. Now God would be present not in words that were carved in stone—the tablets of the commandments—but in a whole new way, living in the hearts of believers. Just as the Jewish feast was about giving back to God the first fruits of the fields, so the new Pentecost celebrates the abundance of God's giving to us—through the many gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is being celebrated today at Our Lady of Grace Church in Scott Twp. There will be Holy Hour of Prayer, Benediction and blessing with a relic of Saint Faustina starting at 3:00pm.

Scouting for Food

It's time for the annual "Scouting for Food" drive conducted by our Boy Scout Troop & Cub Scout Pack 1313. Scouts will be distributing empty plastic bags after all masses this weekend. Use these bags as you bring your food donations to church next weekend (April 25 & 26) when the Scouts will be collecting and sorting the food. All donations will be distributed through the Peters Township Food Bank to needy families in our area. Thanks for your help!

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.

DVD/VCR Player Needed

Our church Nursery is in need of a dual DVD/VCR player to show educational Catholic teaching videos to our St. Benedict children. If you would like to donate a player or need additional information, please contact Beth Buzzelli at 724-942-4288. Any player donated would be considered a tax deduction for 2010.

Father's Day Run & Walk To Support Prostate Cancer Awareness

The 7th annual Father's Day 5/10K Run/Walk for Prostate Cancer Education and Support will be held in downtown Pittsburgh at Riverfront Park near Heinz Field beginning at 8:00am on June 21. Pre-registration fee is \$25; \$15 for the Funwalk down the promenade. Forms can be obtained by calling 412/572-6830 or email JerryL2202@yahoo.com. The founder/director of the event is our own parishioner Jerry Livingston. We wish him and the event much success. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!** There are many ways to assist. Please give some of your time for this important event. Contact Jerry Livingston at 724/328-0013 or at the above phone number and email address to help out.



WOSB Annual Spring Luncheon

Please join us for the Annual Luncheon hosted by the Women of St. Benedict on Thursday, May 7. We begin with Mass at 10:00am in the Chapel, followed by lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn, Southpointe. The cost is \$11.50/parishioner and \$23/non-parishioner. Forms indicating the entrée choice and other information are available in the narthex of the church or at the parish office. 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.

Caregiver's Retreat Day

The Diocese of Pittsburgh's *Department for Persons with Disabilities* invites parents and caregivers of children and adults with disabilities to pause, rest, and be renewed in God, April 25, at St. Thomas More Church in Bethel Park. The morning of prayer and fellowship begins at 9:30 and ends with Mass at 11:30. Deacon Tim Killmeyer will offer his reflections on "Striving for Holiness" and guide the group to consider: "Can those of us who live normal, everyday lives be called to holiness?" And, as caregivers, "What does it mean to be holy?" to walk in the footsteps of Jesus who says, "Be holy as I am holy." For more information and to register for this event, please contact Sue Sunderland at 412-456-3119, ext. 1, or email ssunderland@diopitt.org.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Series

We are very pleased to invite you to an evening lecture to be given by Bishop David Zubik, who has graciously accepted an invitation to give the last lecture in this year's Adult Lecture Series. All of our speakers this year were asked to speak on a particular passage from St. Paul in light of Paul's opening line in his letter to the Romans, "Paul, a slave of Jesus Christ." Bishop Zubik's talk, "The Church Alive!" will be centered on this passage from Ephesians, 4:11-13: "And he gave some as apostles, other as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Please join us for Bishop Zubik's presentation to be held at St. Paul's Seminary Auditorium, April 29, at 7:30pm. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons and catechists. The lecture is free.

This Week In Our Parish

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

Monday, April 20

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
7:00p	Theology of the Body	(YM Off.)

Tuesday, April 21

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Finance Council	(Rectory)

Wednesday, April 22

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education	
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:30p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

No confessions today

Thursday, April 23

9:30a	WOSB General Meeting	(OBH)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Widows & Widowers	(208)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Youth Council	(210)

Friday, April 24

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

Saturday, April 25

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, April 26

**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

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

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

**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