



Father Sam's Forum

As today's readings indicate, celebrating Easter doesn't mean Good Friday is forgotten. The Scriptures today speak about the Passion of Christ in our need for His forgiveness. It's hard to believe that Holy Week has come and gone. The preparations for those solemn days took lots of effort and cooperation, and again I wish to extend my personal thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to all that had to be accomplished for us to mark the week, the Triduum, and Easter Sunday with such glorious celebrations. Two compliments came my way which made it all worth the efforts. One person said that it was like how things are done in Europe; reverent, solemn, done with deliberate execution and meaning. The second came from a parishioner who said it reminded him of how things were done "at home" where he grew up. He's from my home parish so I understood exactly what he meant.

While Catholics are getting better at understanding the Triduum, it is still very much apparent that everyone doesn't get it. When people complain that the Vigil is too long, it shows they have no clue about what liturgy means and what that most important celebration means for us. If we don't understand the RCIA process, then we don't get excited to see that there are adults who want to be Catholic. What should their witness say to us? If we believe religion is about "me and Jesus" and coming to Mass is an escape from the stuff we have to deal with out there in the world, we're stuck in a mindset that doesn't jive with what the Church teaches and proclaims.

We gathered our neophytes, the newly baptized, as well those who were received into full communion, and those who completed their initiation, and in our time of prayer and reflection, asked them about the experience of the Vigil. Listen to the comments and you can see why I am always so energized by the Triduum. One who did not sit with the group on Holy Thursday said that being near the back of the church she was able to appreciate the stripping of the altar and sanctuary as even the presider's chair was removed. The abundance of décor that she saw at the Vigil connected with the action of removing everything Thursday and the simplicity of the action of the Good Friday liturgy.

Another person said that looking at the crucifix throughout the Vigil, everything she had been studying and discussing since last August's first gathering of those who were asking to enter the Church came together, and it was as if she were

seeing it for the first time. Still another said that it made so much sense that the group was not admitted to the Eucharist from the very beginning of the process, but that they had to wait and develop a hunger for the sacrament.

This begs the question of all of us cradle Catholics. Do we hunger for the Eucharist? Do we see things in the same old way, or is there newness each time we come to celebrate the mysteries of faith? Do we appreciate the richness of our tradition and savor the sights, sounds, smells and touch of each liturgical action and movement and object? We can always learn from others. Someone said that Jesus played with children and taught adults, and we have instead done the opposite. Adult Catholics don't know everything they should many times. Taking a cue from these men and women who came of their own to the Church, let us really seek to grow in our understanding of our faith.

Mass Intentions: April 26—May 3

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)

Monday, April 27—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Josephine Maffei** (Joe & Gussie Maffei)

Tuesday, April 28—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Ellie Siconolfi**
 (Hilkka Fadgen & Betty Wagner)
 8:30a **Mirko Kosir** (Family)

Wednesday, April 29—Catherine of Siena, doctor

- 6:30a **June Brandt** (Geraldine & Paul McKosky)
 8:30a **Margaret Dolan** (daughter, Patricia)

Thursday, April 30—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Steven M. Pellerito** (Bill Barker)
 8:30a **Esther Gardner** (Fisher Family)

Friday, May 1—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Domenico Guzzo** (M/M Lorenzo Cicala)
 1:45p **Manor Care: Carol Heron**
 (The Sadler Family)

Saturday, May 2—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Robert J. Manion** (The Manion Family)
 5:00p **Leonard Wiegmann** (Wiegmann Family)

Sunday, May 3—Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 7:30a **James Rocco** (7:30 Sunday Mass Group)
 10:00a **Alex Dellana** (Wife)
 12:30p **For the People of the Parish**
 6:00p **John & Mary Godzo** (Mary Horn & family)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for the Frantz Family, requested by Mary Lois Vitale, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Wilma Lokash, requested by the Clark Family.



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
 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: May 2—May 3

Sat. 5:00pm— First Eucharist Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Auer, Hruby **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego **EMHC:** Specca, D & T Martin, LaCamera, Scheuering, Baumgartner, Femiani, R & B Jordan **Servers:** Meyers, Curran, A Weaver, Peterson, Curry

7:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lector: Wanninger **Greeters:** R & J Jackson **EMHC:** Berger, Petricca, Puskarich, Barton, Boston, Basile, Wanninger
Servers: E, M, & E Jozwiak

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: McKenzie, Mahla **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:** Glod, Kail, Klinar, McGinnis, Glover, Bayer, A & L Kelly, Faina
Servers: Watson, D DeRienzo, C & A Mavrich, Wisniewski

12:30pm— First Eucharist Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Sichi **Greeters:** Ragan, Fink **EMHC:** Torres, Capozza, Boyd, Hufner, Oldaker, B Smith, Bench **Servers:** Luzier, K & C Bench

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Flanigan, Rovito **EMHC:** Hayes, Simmons, Quinn, Munsick **Servers:** Pfeifer, Byrne

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

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.

Pastoral Council Meeting

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Thursday, April 30, 7:30pm in Room 208. One of the items on the agenda includes the formation of our pastoral plan based on the feedback received from the various small group presentations that have been happening since February. Fr. Sam hopes to present the plan to the parish at large on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. We are looking to two broad goals that will be our focus for the coming year. Keep the council in your prayers.

Spiritual Adoption



The Spiritual Adoption Program begins today. There are prayer cards in every pew to help you pray every day to save your spiritually adopted child from abortion. Please take one home with you and pray for these precious babies.

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.

Mother's Day Luncheon

"Hats off to Mom," a Mother's Day Luncheon to benefit Sisters Place, Inc., will take place on May 9 at Ascension Auditorium, 318 Park Avenue, Clairton, PA. Sisters Place is dedicated to providing housing and supportive services to homeless women and children. The event will begin at noon and features a buffet lunch, including dessert and beverages; a fashion show featuring hats; and honoring mothers from the community. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$200 per table of 10. Hats are optional and reservations **must** be made in advance. Please contact Jodie with questions or to make reservations at 412-233-3903 or email events@sistersplace.org.



Youth Ministry News

Bites of Heaven

We are offering a series of cooking classes for 7th and 8th grade students on Tuesdays in May from 6:00-7:30pm in the kitchen in O'Brien Hall. The instructors will be Frank Esposito and Benny Jung. Each evening students will prepare a meal, eat their own creation, and hear stories of our faith. The final session will be a "Heaven's Kitchen" contest with celebrity judges. Classes are limited to 12 students, so get your reservation in early. Contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

Annual Diocesan Holy Hour

The annual Diocesan Holy Hour will be held at St. Paul's Seminary from 7-8pm on May 7. All teens are invited to come and join the seminarians to pray for an increase in priestly vocations. We will leave the parking lot at 6:00pm and will arrive back at 10:00pm with a stop for ice cream on the way back. Contact Youth Ministry office for more information.

Battle of the Bands

We are having a "Battle of the Bands" on May 2 from 6-11pm for all students in grades 7 through 12!! We have invited 6 local bands to participate and the proceeds will benefit the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Our entrance fee will be waived to anyone bringing more than 5 canned goods. Those bringing 2 will pay \$5 and the admission charge for anyone not bringing any will be \$10. There will be cash and other prizes to win.

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.

Global Links

Youth Ministry is sponsoring an evening of service at Global Links on May 6 from 5-8pm. Global Links is a non-profit organization that recovers surplus medical materials from US hospitals and makes them available to hospitals who serve the poor in less developed countries. Our teens will assist in organizing and packing supplies. Contact Janet for more information.

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.

WORD 80's Party

WORD will be hosting an 80's Dance Party after the 6:00pm Mass on May 3. Come in your best 80's gear and join us as we karaoke, roller skate/blade, and dance the night away. We will have lots of food and prizes. Eighth grade students are welcome to come!

Youth Ministry Calendar April 26—May 3

April 26, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
April 27, 7:00pm (YM Office) - Theology of the Body
May 2, 6:00pm (OBH & PBAC) - Battle of the Bands
May 3, 7:00pm (PBAC) - WORD 80's Party

Grief/Bereavement Support Program

We will once again offer a grief and bereavement "Emmaus Journey" program beginning May 9 from 9:30-11:00am in the bride's room of the church. This four week support group invites people to come together and share stories and memories about their loved ones who have gone home to God. For more information, or to register, please contact our pastoral associate, Dennis Gehrlein, at 724-941-9406.

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



Thank You!

The Board of Directors of the Peters Township Food Pantry wishes to express their gratitude for your Holy Thursday contribution of \$65 and the canned goods and paper products. How wonderful to think of the less fortunate as we celebrate this wonderful season. Your generous support is certainly appreciated.

Question of the Week

How do we pick the music we use at Mass?

Lesson of the Week

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

Over the centuries, Catholics have adopted the practice of naming their children after saints. This began in Rome when martyrs were honored by this practice. The earliest saints—before the process of canonization began—were those who died for their faith. So we have the first Christian churches given the names of the martyrs: Anastasia, Cecilia, Agnes, Lucy, Marcellinus, Peter, Clement, etc.

As the Church began to formally canonize men and women who were not martyrs but were recognized for their virtues and life, other names were also given the children of Christians. Gregory, Gertrude, Elizabeth, and William, to name but a few. Going to the Scriptures was also a custom that believers adopted to find a name for their babies. Hannah, Sarah, Gabriel, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Deborah, are examples of this.

From the above names, every language and culture made adjustments so that we have a real treasury of names today. Witness Gabriella, Ann, and Jeremy from the biblical names, and Stacy, Celia, and Marcy from the names of the martyrs.

So, are parents obliged to pick a saint's name? Not exactly. But when we consider it, most names today except the most unusual are almost always derived from some name that is associated with a saint or biblical figure. Even our last names have meaning. They came about to denote a person's place of residence or occupation or family.

The custom of naming children after the saints remains a commendable practice. This is because we believe in the Communion of Saints and understand the saints to be powerful intercessors for us, heroes who have demonstrated that one can live the good life as it is understood by our faith.

Mission DVD's

Anyone who ordered the DVD "*The Meaning of Love*" during our mission week with Fr. Collins, can pick them up in the parish office.

Scouting for Food

Boy Scout Troop 1313 is collecting, bringing and sorting food donations this weekend in O'Brien Hall. All food will be distributed through the Peters Township Food Bank to needy families in our area. If you've forgotten your food at home, Scouts will be at the exits after Mass to accept cash donations. The money will be used to purchase needed food items. Troop 1313 thanks you for your help in this project.

Scouting Religious Awards

Many of our young parishioners who are involved in Scouting have recently earned Catholic Religious Emblems. The following scouts will receive their awards during the Convocation today at the Cathedral from Bishop Bradley:

Ad Altari Dei 1st year: Chris Laster, Kyle Mottola, Matt Mamros, Matt Mullan, Adam Shope, Ian Sopko, Derek Taylor and Dan Wiegmann.

Pope Pius XII: Jonathan Bertrand, Erik Lundquist and Connor Mullan

The Spirit Alive: Kaitlin Wiegmann, Elena Lages, Erika Jozwiak and Claire La Rosa

The following girl scouts have earned awards at a local level:

Family of God: Kelsey Mullan

I Live My Faith: Alyssa Ference, Leah Kolesar, Emily Konwick, Sydney Laughner, Ashley McCay, Laura Shope, Brenna Taylor

Congratulations to all our scouts!

Furniture Drive

St. Vincent de Paul Society is in desperate need of furniture for needy families. In particular, they need twin or double beds, including box springs and mattresses (no sofa beds). They also need tables **with** chairs, lamps, couches (not sectional), clothes, and basic household items (linens, blankets, kitchenware, small working appliances, like microwaves, mixers, etc). The St. Benedict SVdP conference is still accepting any donations you may have. Please contact Juanita Timney at 724-941-5720, Chris Kail at 724-941-6721 or Gary Seraly at 724-942-3912 if you have furniture to donate.



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.

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.

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 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

Monday, April 27

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

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, April 30

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	NA	(206)
4:00p	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	(Chapel)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Pastoral Council	(208)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, May 1

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Prayer & Share	(Cry Rm)
4:00p	Closing of Adoration	(Chapel)

Saturday, May 2

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
6:00p	Youth Ministry— Battle of the Bands	(OBH & PBAC)

Sunday, May 3

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

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

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



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