



## *Father Sam's Forum*

**M**y great-uncle, Joe Zingaro, was a shepherd back in Italy when he was growing up. He used to take the flocks up in the hills and spend the day with them, keeping watch over the sheep and their lambs. Most of us don't know any shepherds today, so when we hear Jesus call himself the Good Shepherd, this may not have much meaning for us in 2009.

What if instead, Jesus were to say that he is the pilot that brought down the stranded flight safely in the Hudson River? We can identify with that image, someone who is so concerned for our well-being that he risks his own safety, putting us before him. There is a connection, a relationship that forms because of the care and concern.

That relationship for us is described in the second reading today. *See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.* As always, the Scriptures speak about relationships communally, not privately. It is such an important part of our identity to say we belong to the Body of Christ. The Church is formed, not as one individual here and another there, but as people in relationship. We are always to be in relationship. Our bishop reminds us that Catholics don't have congregations. We have parishes, and these parishes are in relationship with other parishes, part of the local Church, called the diocese, and part of the Universal Church.

This means we aren't lone rangers, either as parishioners or pastors or parishes. We can't ever not care about what happens in our world because we are not directly involved. In Christ we are all brothers and sisters. I understand that there was a little grumbling about our children receiving First Eucharist during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday 12:30pm Masses. Since the bulletin did "advertise" the schedule for several weeks, everyone should have been aware of the communions. But more than that, what makes me sad is that instead of celebrating this event, because in an area full of senior citizens like Southwestern PA our parish is one of a few where there are actually lots of children, people became irritated.

If we are to be the vibrant and alive parish people want us to be, it will take everyone to be on board. Everyone. Not just some. Not just those with young children. If it sounds like I am preaching, I am. And

I won't settle for anything less. I can't. It's who I am to want us to be the best we can be and have the broadest vision of Church. We are what the Church calls us to be, or we shouldn't pretend to be Church. We have to begin to think about what kinds of intergenerational activities we can offer and promote to be a fully alive parish. Community is not just kids or seniors or young adults, it's all of us.

How marvelous it would be to see grandparents here teaching some skill to middle schoolers, and those who have no grandparents in the area "adopting" them from our parish. Sound like a dream? But it's the reality of the Good Shepherd's image. Really caring about one another.

### **Mass Intentions: May 3—May 10**

#### **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)

#### **Monday, May 4—Easter Weekday**

- 8:30a **Edward McCloskey**  
(Linda & Stan Kreminsky)

#### **Tuesday, May 5—Easter Weekday**

- 6:30a **Ruth D. Flecker** (George A. Flecker)
- 8:30a **George DiNardo** (Jeanne)

#### **Wednesday, May 6—Easter Weekday**

- 6:30a **Blair McRae** (M/M J. R. Sprouse)
- 8:30a **Pearl Murtaugh** (8:30am Mass Group)

#### **Thursday, May 7—Easter Weekday**

- 6:30a **Doug Sharratt & Family** (Jim & Sue Ralston)
- 8:30a **David Blutas** (Wife)
- 10:00a **WOSB Mass of Thanksgiving**

#### **Friday, May 8—Easter Weekday**

- 8:30a **Theresa Casilli**  
(Tootsie Jones Huffman & Family)

#### **Saturday, May 9—Easter Weekday**

- 8:30a **Joseph Lucas** (David & Barb Funk)
- 5:00p **Our Mothers Living & Deceased**

#### **Sunday, May 10—Fifth Sunday of Easter**

- 7:30a **Our Mothers Living & Deceased**
- 10:00a **Our Mothers Living & Deceased**
- 12:30p **Our Mothers Living & Deceased**
- 6:00p **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for the Busch-Schweibinz Families, requested by Claire Meredith; the Bread & Wine are in memory of the Menichi Family, requested by Erma Grego; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of George DiNardo, requested by Jeanne.*

***The Parish Office will be closed  
next Sunday, May 10.***



## 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: May 9—May 10

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton  
**Lectors:** Gordon, Ellsworth **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky  
**EMHC:** Milavec, Ligan, Sarra, Vandewater, Greenwald,  
 Mertens, Satler, Norton, Getto **Servers:** Traficante, Lioon,  
 Getto, P & M Ellsworth

**7:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** Brugger **Greeters:** Barker, Henger **EMHC:** Gavran,  
 Walnoha, S & J Christopher, Vines, R & E McMillan **Servers:**  
 M & A Severa, Brugger

**10:00am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** McPoyle, Wells **Greeters:** Fisher Stewart **EMHC:**  
 Fisher, Serrino, McGovern, Stein, Davis, Gaudy, Schultz, Orient,  
 Weaver **Servers:** Maher, D, C & L Schratz, S Weaver

**12:30pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Luttner **Greeters:** McDonnell, Bartoli **EMHC:**  
 McGinnis, Black, Hayward, Herald, P Newmaster, Baits, J Smith  
**Servers:** F & Matthew Meola, Rhoads

**6:00pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Ross, Schratz **EMHC:** A Simmons, Stoops, Eckels,  
 Phelan **Servers:** Eckels, Schratz

### Readings for the Week of May 3

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/1 Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18  
 Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10  
 Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30  
 Wednesday: Acts 12:24—13:5a/Jn 12:44-50  
 Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20  
 Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6  
 Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14  
 Next Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

## Welcome to Our New Members

At the Easter Vigil this year, we welcomed the following people into our faith community. Baptized, Confirmed and First Eucharist: Tami Salley, godparent, Maura Salley; and Kimberly Sokol, godparent, Jami Christopher. Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church: Kimberly Button, sponsors John and Barbara Groll; Andrea Castle, sponsor Kristina Makar; Lori Cicchini, sponsor Laura Johnston; Kelly DiPaolo, sponsor Tracy Clouston; Aaron Gatten, sponsor Joseph Straccai; Noelle Gatten, sponsor Erica Straccai; David Jones, sponsors Theodore and Virginia Starcevic; Michael Sokol, sponsor Steve Christopher; Jonathan Supinski, sponsor Joseph Bardzil; Donald Troup, sponsor Mary Kennedy. These baptized Catholics completed their Christian Initiation through Confirmation and Eucharist: Kevin Hospodar, sponsor James Dayka; Whitney Siconolfi, sponsor Ernest Siconolfi; and Daniel Zubritzky, sponsor Joseph Izzo. We have one more elect for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Jaymes Judd, godparent Jay Speca, will be initiated at Pentecost.

## Golden Anniversary Celebration

You are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Reverend Robert J. Reardon on May 17, at St. John Capistran Church, Upper St. Clair. Mass will be celebrated at 1:00pm followed by a reception in Capistran Hall from 2:00-3:00pm. Father Reardon served as pastor of St. John Capistran Church from 1991-2003, St. Louise de Marillac from 1978-1991, St. Conrad in Butler County, from 1975-1978 and as co-administrator of St. Bernard's from 1972-1974. He was in residence at St. Bernard's from 1974-1975, and has been a supply priest for our parish. Please join him as he gives thanks to God for his Golden Anniversary. No gifts please.

## 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.

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



## Blessing of Expectant Moms

All women of the parish who are pregnant are invited to gather on Sunday, May 10, Mother's Day, following the 10:00am Mass, to receive a special blessing that asks God's care and protection as they are expecting a new child. This brief service will take place in the Chapel and is sponsored by our MOMS group.

## St. Vincent de Paul News

Through the generosity of the Centimark Foundation, the St. Thomas More Conference of St. Vincent de Paul has set up a program entitled *"Bridge Over Troubled Waters."* Its purpose is to provide aid to families in the South Hills area who are in danger of losing their home because they cannot meet their mortgage payments. Temporary aid will be available for a viable reason. Applications are available from St. Benedict's SVdP Conference. For more information, please call our Parish Office at 724-941-9406.

## 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.

## 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.

## Spiritual Adoption Update



The baby you spiritually adopted has been quite active this month. Already your baby is developing a brain, spinal cord and nervous system. The baby's heart began to beat a few days ago and its heart can pump blood through its own circulatory system. According to statistics, the baby is most likely to be aborted during the next month. Reverence for life is part of our Catholic identity. Don't forget to pray for your baby daily and for all issues that affect our human dignity.

## Youth Ministry News

### 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.

### Bites of Heaven

We're offering a series of cooking classes for 7th and 8th grade students every Tuesday in May from 6:00-7:30pm in the kitchen in O'Brien Hall. We're lucky to have as our instructors Frank Esposito and Benny Jung who operate our parish kitchen for many events. 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.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

*May 3—May 10*

May 3, 7:00pm (PBAC) - WORD 80's Party  
 May 5, 6:00pm (OBH) - Bites of Heaven  
 May 10, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Teen Night

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



## Question of the Week

***How are bishops selected? Will we get another bishop since Bishop Bradley is being moved to Kalamazoo?***

## Lesson of the Week

***How do we pick the music we use at Mass?***

Back in the days of the Tridentine Mass, before the Second Vatican Council, the music used in the liturgy was standard. Gregorian Chant was it, along with a few polyphony type pieces (Mozart and Palestrina), plus some devotional type hymns (*Come Holy Ghost, Bring Flowers of the Fairest*) that came to be written or translated into the language of the place. Since the “propers” of the Mass, such as the *Introit*, or entrance antiphon were given in the Missal, the organist or choir would sing those based on one of the chant melodies which changed by the degree of solemnity. The liturgical celebrations were designated as “Low Mass,” “High Mass,” and “Solemn High Mass.”

Once the council’s document on the Sacred Liturgy was promulgated, each Bishop’s Conference was to determine the texts, and the US Bishops published “Music in Catholic Worship” back in the 1970’s to address just that. More recently, in November 2007, the bishops re-did their document and came out with “Sing to the Lord.” You can check it out on their web site, [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org).

If we follow the principles for liturgy, the given texts of the Scriptures and feast determine the music we sing at that particular celebration. #123 of the bishops’ document says, *Each particular liturgical celebration is composed of many variable verbal and non-verbal elements: proper prayers, scriptural readings, the liturgical season, the time of day, processional movement, sacred objects and actions. This kind of ritual art requires that those who prepare the Liturgy approach it with artistic sensitivity and pastoral perspective.* It takes great care to shape the liturgy with these considerations. One cannot just pick four hymns that the people like or know. For the power of the liturgical celebration to be manifest, everything from the preaching to the music to the proclamation of the Word, to how the Eucharist is distributed, has to come together.

New hymn texts of the past few decades have been composed from the texts of Sacred Scripture and so, with care, a parish musician can select those texts which will accompany the readings as well as those tunes which are singable in that particular assembly. As the bishops tell us, *artistic sensitivity and pastoral perspective.*

## Ben’s Men Installation Mass and Banquet

Chairman Dan McPoyle is happy to announce the details for the Installation Mass and Banquet. All parishioners are invited to participate at the Ben’s Men Installation Mass on Monday, May 11, 6:00pm, in the Chapel. Members of Ben’s Men should arrive at 5:30pm, dressed accordingly. Fr. Joe McCaffrey, pastor of Saints John & Paul Parish, Franklin Park, and former parochial vicar here, will celebrate Mass and deliver the homily, with our parish priests concelebrating. The Installation Banquet follows the Mass and is open to Ben’s Men members only. Social time begins at 7:00 with dinner served at 7:30. Our barbequers, headed by Frank Esposito, plan a menu of Beef Wellington, twice baked potatoes, fresh green beans and salad bar. Following dinner, Chuck Correal, a past officer, will take the role of Master of Ceremonies for the installation of the new officers, and Fr. McCaffrey will be the banquet speaker.

### Outgoing Officers

Ernie Sichi	President
Gene Pitowski	Vice Pres.
Richard Denning	Secretary
Jim Vines	Treasurer

### Incoming Officers

Jeff Mertens
Jack McGinnis
Benny Jung
Dan McBride

## New Envelopes Coming

Beginning with the July/August packet, we are going to switch our envelope company to Our Sunday Visitor. OSV already handles the Parish Share mailings and so it is easier, more economical and more thorough to have one company for all our stewardship mailings. In the next few months we are going to be combing through the records. Those who have not used their envelopes for two years will be dropped from the mailing list since there are expenses involved to send envelopes and we don’t want to waste money. While these people are still registered with the parish, they simply won’t be on the envelope mailing list. Also, you will have a choice as to how you want to receive the envelopes. Some people prefer monthly and not weekly envelopes since they pay once a month—that’s one option. Another is to continue to have an envelope for every one of the 52 weeks of the year. Finally, some people would like the electronic transfer of their donations. We want to be practical and economical, so parishioners can select what works best for their own giving. Why send weekly envelopes if they will get tossed because you only use one a month? OSV will also monitor our campaign pledges with reminders for those who have not yet completed their church building pledges, as well as providing an opportunity to make a pledge for those who have not yet done so.



## Blood Drive

Plan to give the gift of life—a gift that has no artificial substitute! Central Blood Bank will be in O'Brien Hall on May 17 for our bi-annual blood drive from 8:00am-1:30pm. Free refreshments are available to all who donate. This is a great opportunity for first time donors to get into a life saving habit. Be sure to bring a photo ID; you must be 17 years old to donate, or be 16 with a signed parental consent. Drop-ins are welcome, but scheduling an appointment is appreciated. Call Blaise at 724-942-0748 to schedule your desired time.

## Weekend Custodian Job

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.

## Un-decorating Help

We had such a great turnout to help with our Easter decorations in church, and we will need a crew again to help un-decorate when the season is over. Plan to join us on Sunday, May 31, at 1:30, following the 12:30pm Mass.

## 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.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, May 3

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

7:00p Youth Ministry Teen Night

### Monday, May 4

10:00a WOSB Yoga (OBH)  
7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (206)

### Tuesday, May 5

8:30a Special Needs Children (213)  
9:30a Catholic Scripture Study (204-208)  
6:00p Bites of Heaven (OBH)  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)

### Wednesday, May 6

12:00p AA (208)  
6:00p Religious Education Session  
6:30p Confessions (Church)  
7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)  
7:45p Pastor's Cabinet Meeting (204)

### Thursday, May 7

9:30a WOSB Bridge (OBH)  
12:00p NA (206)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:30p Women, Inc. (210)  
7:30p Troop 1313 (PBAC)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

### Friday, May 8

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

### Saturday, May 9

7:30a CMF (206)  
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)  
9:30a Grief/Bereavement Support (Bride's Rm)  
11:00a Confessions (Church)

### Sunday, May 10

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

7:00p Youth Ministry Teen Night

## WOSB 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.



## 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