



## Father Sam's Forum

**W**hen Saul arrived in Jerusalem...they were all afraid of him.... These words begin the reading today as we continue to listen to the Acts of the Apostles and reflect on the first believers. Why were the faithful in Jerusalem afraid of Saul? Remember that he was among those who wanted to arrest and try them because some of the Pharisee party were determined to eradicate this new sect. But Saul—soon to be called Paul—had been through a change. He was converted and began to proclaim the Gospel. Nothing to fear.

Who is afraid of you? Of me? Why? Could it be that we may be perceived as scary? Have we done something to give that impression like spread gossip or been harsh with someone? I know a few people think they can't speak with me because I am a very determined person. I take my responsibilities quite seriously and won't waver from what I believe is my role as a priest.

Today, we remember our mothers, and like a mother who does what is right for her children, a pastor has to do what he believes is right for his parish. If a mother is her child's friend, she has abrogated her responsibility. She can't set the necessary boundaries and teach respect and obedience. If she is too harsh she becomes a tyrant. A mother has to be gentle and strong, determined and compassionate. So does a pastor.

Jesus describes himself as the Vine in the Gospel today. We are the branches. It's about being a disciple. The fruit we bear gives the witness that we are being disciples or not. If it's rotten and sour, guess what...not doing so good. But if it's sweet and abundant, that's a good sign. Do people run the other way when they see you coming? Is there someone you try to avoid in the grocery store or at the parent's meeting at school, in the lunchroom or on the bus, after Mass or during a social event? Why is that? Could it be that person is the one who makes us so anxious we would rather not speak with them. But what if we are the one avoided?

This is a good day and week to consider our attitude and maybe do some pruning. What can we trim to get ourselves into spiritual shape and be the kind of disciples we are meant to be? If we stop talking about people—that's a good first step. Stop complaining about non-essential matters. That's a second one. Concentrate on our own conversion and not on everyone else's. That's three!

*Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers,  
grandmothers and everyone who takes the role of  
mother in our parish family!*

### Mass Intentions: May 10—May 17

#### 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**

#### Monday, May 11—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Joswiak & Danko Families**  
(Mary Beth Bokelberg)
- 6:00p **Ben's Men Installation Mass**

#### Tuesday, May 12—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Barbara Budahazi Conforti**  
(Ed & Martha Rohanna)
- 8:30a **Mary Jayne Capannelli**  
(Mary {Judy} Stewart)

#### Wednesday, May 13—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Charles Berroth** (Frizzell Family)
- 8:30a **Richard Kruluts** (John & Rita Milavec)
- 11:00a **McMurray Hills:**  
**Deceased of the Hudak Family**

#### Thursday, May 14—Matthias, apostle

- 6:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Louise Wiley)
- 8:30a **Theresa Burke** (Tom & Linda Burke)

#### Friday, May 15—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Marguerite Singer** (Women of St. Benedict)
- 4:30p **Wedding: Christine Vamos** (St. Francis)  
**Carl Beard**

#### Saturday, May 16—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Arcangelo Gargano** (daughter & family)
- 3:00p **Wedding: Brendan Sherry** (St. Benedict)  
**Jennifer Hutchison**
- 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

#### Sunday, May 17—Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 7:30a **Margaret O'Neill** (Phillips Family)
- 10:00a **Loving Memory of Husband, Dick Stewart**  
(Mary)
- 12:30p **Adele Moritz** (Family)
- 6:00p **Joe Klimek** (Ben's Men)

**The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for the  
Stitch & Huffner Families, requested by Nancy; the  
Bread & Wine are in memory of Elizabeth Huffner,  
requested by John & Rita Milavec; and the Altar  
Flowers are in memory of James Rocco, Sr,  
requested by the Clark Family, and Wilma Lokash,  
requested by the 6:30am Mass Group.**

**Next week is the last Sunday 6:00pm  
Mass until September.**

**The Parish Office will be closed today.**



## 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 16—May 17

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

**Lectors:** Norton, Pustay **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Femiani, Baumgartner, LaCamera, T & D Martin, Specca, Howell, G & P Adams **Servers:** Hillen, LaRosa, J, J & N Bianco

**7:30am—** Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Jung **Greeters:** Kalaski, Turchick **EMHC:** B & R. Jordan, J & S Brooks, Hollot, Joseph, Prado **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

**10:00am—** Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Trapanotto, Fitzgerald **Greeters:** Verlato, Becker **EMHC:** Serrino, Walnoha, Capozza, Torres, Faina, L & A Kelly, Glover, Klinar **Servers:** Shaw, A & E Ross, N & V DeRienzo

**12:30pm— First Eucharist** Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

**Lector:** Hajzus **Greeters:** Fink, Ragan **EMHC:** Herald, Hayward, Black, B Smith, Oldaker, Huffner, Boyd **Servers:** Toscano Children

**6:00pm—** Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** McKay, Broglie **EMHC:** McCarron, Hayes, Corbett, Pfeifer **Servers:** Corbett, Maher

## Readings for the Week of May 10

Sunday: Acts 9:26-31/1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8  
 Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26  
 Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a  
 Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8  
 Thursday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Jn 15:9-17  
 Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17  
 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21  
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

## Ascension Thursday

Thursday, May 21, is the *Ascension of the Lord*, a holyday of obligation. All Catholics are expected to participate at Mass that day. Here at St. Benedict we will offer five different Mass times to allow everyone to attend. Beginning on Wednesday, May 20, with a Vigil Mass at 7:00pm, and then on the holyday itself, Masses will be at 6:30am, 8:30am, 12:00Noon, and 4:00pm.

## Summer Ministers Schedule

It's time to schedule ministers for Masses in July, August and September. All Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers should submit any away dates or schedule changes to Kathy Pfeifer at [staff@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:staff@stbenedicttheabbot.org), put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line, or call 724-941-6541. **Please note that this is a different e-mail address.** She will run the schedule the first week of June, so please have all your information to her before May 31.

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

## Staffing Changes & Position Opening

Something in the works for a few months now is a restructuring of the parish staff. With the growth we have experienced and the changes we need to meet the growing demand for services, this is an opportune time to expand and adjust what staff positions we have here. Working with the Pastoral and Finance Councils, Fr. Sam is looking to shape a staff that is able to meet our current and future needs. While the specifics are still being honed, at least two new positions will become available, one full time and the other part time.

The full time position is currently being called *Parish Communication Manager*. This person must have excellent communication and business skills, understand the technology used today, address the ways we gather and offer information, not only by the traditional bulletin and web site, but also through electronic communication, and would be responsible for keeping the parish calendar, scheduling parish activities, working with liturgical ministries, and the daily management of the parish office. Some knowledge of liturgy and spirituality is necessary.

The part time position, *Catechetical Assistant*, will offer help in our faith formation program for children in grades 1—4, including the sacramental preparation programs in second grade. The position runs mid-August to mid-May.

Anyone interested? Contact Fr. Sam please for more information and to schedule an interview.



## Upcoming Baptism Dates

Our parish will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism on these dates and at these times in coming months: 1:30pm, Sunday, May 24; during the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, May 30 (Vigil of Pentecost); 1:30pm, Sunday, June 7; during the 10:00am Mass on Sunday, June 14; 1:30pm, Sunday, June 21; during the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday, June 28; 1:30pm, Sunday, July 5; during the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, July 11; Sunday, July 19, 1:30pm; during the 10:00am Mass on Sunday, July 26; Sunday, August 2, 1:30pm; and during the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday, August 9.

## New St. Vincent de Paul Center

We are pleased to announce the installation of our new St. Vincent de Paul Center located in the narthex of the church near the chapel entrance. The center has a *Poor Box*, donation envelopes, *Gift of Love* certificates and other Society literature for your convenience. Your kind offerings to the Poor Box help the Society to come to the aid of the needy in our parish family. A Gift of Love certificate offers the gift of prayer for anyone celebrating a birthday, anniversary, graduation, promotion, birth of a child or to honor the passing of a loved one. What an excellent way to send your love to a beloved parent on Mother's Day or Father's Day! Pick one up to use now, or to save for an upcoming special occasion. Never underestimate the Power of Prayer!

## 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.

## Spiritual Adoption



Your spiritually adopted baby is developing external features and internal organs. The child's brain is functioning, its heartbeat can be detected, and the baby can even suck its little thumb!

## Youth Ministry News

### 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 Roberto at 724-941-9587.

### 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 in the Church Office.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

*May 3—May 10*

May 10, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Teen Night  
 May 12, 6:00pm (OBH) - Bites of Heaven  
 May 17, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Senior Recognition Night

### Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Marie A. Metz**, mother of our parishioner John Metz, who died recently. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

### Pentecost Vigil Mass

Like last year, the *Vigil Mass* for Pentecost will not be like a regular Saturday afternoon Mass. With some additional readings and ceremony, this special liturgy connects us to the Great Vigil of Easter as we conclude the 50 days of Easter. There will be some Baptisms celebrated at the Vigil, and those baptized at the Easter Vigil will return wearing their white robes. If you want to have a unique experience of Church, plan now to attend and participate. That's Saturday, May 30, 5:00pm Mass.

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



## Question of the Week

***Why do parents allow their children to misbehave at Mass? Is it appropriate to bring food to church for your kids?***

## Lesson of the Week

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

Since the earliest days of Christianity, the selection of bishops has undergone some changes. In those first days, the apostles themselves, considered as the “first” bishops, selected their own successors from among the communities they established. Once the Church was legitimized by the Roman Empire, in the fourth century, bishops began to be named by popular acclamation. In other words, the people had a voice in deciding who they wanted to be their shepherds. Saint Ambrose, bishop of Milan, is a good example of this process. Ambrose was not even a priest when the people acclaimed him their new spiritual leader. As the number of Christians grew, it fell to the bishop of Rome, the Pope, to name those who would lead the dioceses that had grown up to serve the people of various nations and areas. But often the sons of nobles were put in charge of the local churches throughout Europe, often with little or no spiritual training, inclination or desire. During the Middle Ages, the *Investiture Controversy* came to a head as kings and nobles took it upon themselves not only to appoint, but to install the bishops for their realms and regions. This ended when the Pope claimed his right as spiritual leader and determined that he alone had the authority to name bishops.

An interesting note is that when the United States was formed, permission was given to have a council of clergy select the bishops. This only happened once though, with the selection of our first American bishop, John Carroll. Subsequently, bishops here were, and are, selected in the same way as other countries. Priests and some laity of a diocese are asked to submit names of those they believe have the qualities to be bishops. The names are submitted to the Office for Bishops at the Vatican in a list called a *terna*. From the three names on the list, the Holy Father may pick one, but he is not obliged to pick from the list. He may select another priest known to him.

With the departure of Bishop Bradley, Pittsburgh will not have an auxiliary bishop who is still in active ministry. It remains to be seen whether the Pope will continue to name Auxiliary Bishops or not since by definition a bishop should have a diocese, and auxiliaries are given dioceses that no longer exist.

## 25th Jubilee—Fr. Joe

Former parochial vicar, Fr. Joe Keenan, will mark his 25th anniversary of priestly ordination at the end of May with a small celebration at Saint Bernadette, Monroeville. Fr. Joe is currently in replacement ministry for the diocese and resides at the *Saint John Vianney Manor, 2600 Morange Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205*. We are sending him a card with our prayers and congratulations. Be sure to stop in the narthex this weekend and next to sign the card.

## Vacation Bible School

“Crocodile Dock” Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of July 13-17 for children in Grades K-4. Get ready for an exciting adventure where you’ll be swamped in activities and buzzing with fun. Registration forms will be mailed to the homes by the end of May.

## Parish Stewardship: New Envelopes Coming

Beginning with the June/July 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 a period of time—24 months—will be dropped from the mailing list since it costs money 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 a monthly and not weekly envelope since they are paid once a month—so that’s one option. Another option 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 that we have been talking about for a year now. 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 and offer a chance to make a pledge to those who have not yet done so. Look for the explanatory letter from Fr. Sam with the first OSV packet that contains the July/August envelopes.



## 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	Jeff Mertens
Gene Pitowski	Vice Pres.	Jack McGinnis
Richard Denning	Secretary	Benny Jung
Jim Vines	Treasurer	Dan McBride

### Incoming Officers

## PT Thespian Production: Once Upon a Mattress

Rally-4-Relay Players, a group of Peters Township high school and middle school students, will present "Once Upon a Mattress" May 14, 15 & 16 at 7:30pm in the Pope Benedict Activity Center. The show is a musical version of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Princess and The Pea" and is directed by Lisa Rothaar and Nicole Gasse. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for age 18 and under and will be available at the door. All proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society on behalf of the Peters Township Thespian Drama Troupe #185 Relay for Life Team.

## Walk For Life 2009

The Pregnancy Resource Center of South Hills is hosting its annual Walk-a-thon on May 16, 10:00am in South Park. The Pregnancy Resource Center exists for the safety and welfare of young adults facing unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and broken relationships. It's not too late to register and get sponsors! Can't make it May 16? Simply walk the 2 miles on your own and mail-in the Pledge Form(s). Pledge forms are available in the church office or by calling PRC at 412-833-7445.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, May 10

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

**The Parish Office is Closed Today**

**Following the 10:00am Mass:  
Blessing of Expectant Mothers (Chapel)**

7:00p Youth Ministry Teen Night

### Monday, May 11

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:00p	Ben's Men Installation	(Church/OBH)
7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)

### Tuesday, May 12

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

### Wednesday, May 13

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 14

9:30a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Women, Inc.	(210)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

### Friday, May 15

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

### Saturday, May 16

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

### Sunday, May 17

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

7:00p Youth Ministry: **Senior Recognition Night**

## 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.



## 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