



Father Sam's Forum

Love. Ain't it grand! Well, at least it's supposed to be. Both the Gospel and the second reading speak about love and ask us to "remain in" Christ's love and to "love one another." Easy to say, hard to do. Sometimes Christians are the most unloving people around. Makes one stop and wonder about all this love talk.

When Jesus says, "love one another," his words sound nice, but the actual practice of self-giving love takes us to very uncomfortable places. Think about poor Saint Peter in the first reading. This is a great story and if you have been reading the devotional *five minutes with the Word* for Easter, you may remember that when this story showed up on the Monday of the 4th week of Easter, the commentary explained that the reading, *Acts 11:1-18*, was not the actual story that we have today from *Acts 10*, but Peter's retelling of the story.

Peter was asked to love a Gentile. How hard for a Jew who had been taught to keep clear of these people all his life. Don't mess with those Gentiles. They are nothing but heathens, and God surely wants nothing to do with them, so you shouldn't even give them the time of day. So what happened when the Spirit guided him to the home of Cornelius, a Gentile? He broke the law, but he also broke down a barrier to love.

Speak to you? It speaks to me. The Spirit often sends us beyond our comfort zone if we pay attention. It's called stretching. How will God ask us to stretch? It might be by accepting some change that we feel is not necessary but that can bring about some kind of growth—like accepting Gentiles into the Church. You and I wouldn't be Christians today if that didn't happen. Risk-taking is always scary but not without results. Our diocese is going to take some risks with some re-organization, and our parish will look at some changes too. Both are meant to address growth in our faith—personally for each of us, but also for the greater good.

Can you see change as something that challenges, or is it always a threat? We can all chew on that this week. But it's not like taking the winter clothes out of the closet and storing them as the summer ones replace them. This change is related to what is at the heart of our following Jesus, *conversion!* Ongoing and constant, conversion is a process for our entire lives as believers. So, pray, pray, pray. And be open to the Spirit like Peter was.

Some parish news:

- Don't forget this week we mark the 40th day of Easter, the Ascension. Mass times are a little different from what you may be used to—so check the schedule.
- I am going to be working on the 2009-10 budget and staff restructuring this week, so I won't be scheduling any appointments. I also need to begin to clean out files and drawers and papers. How does all that stuff accumulate?
- If you are considering the parish pilgrimage to Italy in October, now's the time to talk to me.

Mass Intentions: May 17—May 24

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)

Monday, May 18—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **John Quarture** (Children)

Tuesday, May 19—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Jack Clark** (Joan Clark)
 8:30a **Antionette Strnisa** (Kay & Dave Stutts)

Wednesday, May 20—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Thomas Richtar** (Family)
 8:30a **Fred Kluglein** (Wife Carolyn)
 7:00p **Andrew Palombo** (Walt & Sylvia Becker)

Thursday, May 21—Ascension of the Lord

- 6:30a **Louis Tomshay** (Family)
 8:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 12:00p **Special Intention** (Bob & Irene Gordon)
 4:00p **Leona D. Dowrick** (McGovern Family)

Friday, May 22—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Ruth M. Flecker** (George A. Flecker)

Saturday, May 23—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Mike Helscher** (Alice Helscher)
 3:00p **Wedding: Chelsea Barnes** (St. Benedict)
Tyler Geist
 5:00p **Doris Noel** (Riske Family)

Sunday, May 24—Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 7:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 10:00a **Mike & Norma Ostronic** (Donna Burt)
 12:30p **Marie Metz** (Religious Ed Staff)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Fred Kluglein, requested by Wife, Carolyn.

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



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: May 23—May 24

Sat. 5:00pm—First Eucharist Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: Satler, Benya **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey **EMHC:** Mertens, Greenwald, Vandewater, Sarra, Ligman, Milavec, Kail, Scheuering, Satler **Servers:** A Weaver, Curran, Meyers, Byrne, Nobers

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton
Lector: Mamros **Greeters:** Barker, Barton **EMHC:** Glod, Basile, Boston, Puskarich, Petricca, Berger, Fagioletti **Servers:** Traficante, Peterson, Kelly

10:00am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Ross, Ott **Greeters:** Verlato, Stewart **EMHC:** McGinnis, Schultz, Gaudy, Davis, Stein, McGovern, Bayer, Spinabelli, Cushma **Servers:** Pampena, Carrington, L & J Spinabelli, Cushma

12:30pm—First Eucharist Fr. Esposito
Lector: Balash **Greeters:** Bartoli, McDonnell **EMHC:** Herald, Torres, Capozza, J Smith, Baits, Newmaster, Eckels **Servers:** Graves, Taylor, Chaplin

Readings for the Week of May 17

Sunday: Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17
 Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a
 Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
 Wednesday: Acts 17:15,22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
 Thursday: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23
 Friday: Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23a
 Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28
 Next Sunday: Acts 1:15-17,20a,20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/Jn 17:11b-19

Ascension Thursday Mass Schedule

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.

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 their 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.

Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family **Tyler John**, son of Jason & Rachel Nash, who was recently baptized. May he grow in wisdom, age and grace.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Patricia Gamble**, mother of our parishioner Michele Jarrett and sister of our parishioner Roy Fredericks, who died recently. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Sharing Your Talents

One of the things we need to do as a parish is begin to compile a "talent" folder—a listing of all the abilities our members have that can be of service to the parish. Fr. Sam is looking for an architect to advise on the Pope Benedict Activity Center renovations, we might also need an engineer to advise. But beyond that, it comes down to who do we call when we have specific needs like electrical work or plumbing, sewing or painting. While we have relied on the generous sharing of many in the past, as the parish grows we can't only rely on the long-time members but want to encourage everyone to take a role in parish life. Our stewardship is about that very thing. How do we give back from what we have received? In the sharing of time, talent and treasure, we return to God some portion of the blessings that come from Him in the first place. Watch for more about this next week.



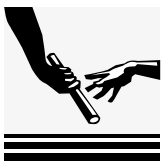
Summer Ministers Schedule

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, 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 have your information to her before May 31.

Our Parish Hosting Interfaith Hospitality Network

St. Benedict's will be hosting IHN from May 31 to June 6. Many volunteers are needed! If you would like to drive, make a meal or dessert, or stay overnight with these homeless families who need our hospitality, prayers and encouragement, please call Mary at 724-942-2478 or e-mail her at pchefmary@hotmail.com. Thank you to all who supported the dinner last month. It was a great success!

6th, 7th, 8th Graders



There is still time to sign up for our "Relay for Life" team. This township event raises money to fund cancer research and offers you a chance to help others while having fun with your friends.

St. Benedict Youth Council team members will receive an "FBI" t-shirt and are eligible to sleep over at the high school stadium. There are many ways to become involved: decorate the team booth; walk laps; fundraise; join us for Mass; or assist with the Survivor's Dinner. So grab your friends and get involved! Call Mrs. Fraticelli, 724-941-4230, to help.

Youth Council News

St. Benedict Youth Council has a team of students in grades 6–8 who will take part in the "Relay for Life" on May 30–31 at the PTHS. The team is busy planning and fundraising. On the day of the relay our team booth will hold a "Balloon Pop" Raffle and the prizes are gift cards. If you would like to support our effort to raise money for cancer research, please purchase a gift card valued at \$5 or more, and drop it in the church office before May 28. For more information, call Mrs. Fraticelli at 724-941-4230.

Youth Ministry News

Thank You

Thank you to all the Core Team members who have made this year possible and a great success. . . Ed Corbett, Mike Locke, Mike Masilunas, Cindy & Josh Peterson, Catherine McCarron, Alyssa & Amanda Simmons, and the entire Mertens family, Erik, Jillet, Elena, Ryder, and Talia.

Appalachian Mission Trip Collection

At this time we have over 25 teens and adults going to the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky for a summer mission trip. All teens going are asked to sign up to take part in a collection after the Masses over the weekend of May 30-31. Please start promoting this collection since all proceeds will go to cover the expenses of the trip as well as benefit the ministries of Fr. Beiting, our host.

Vacation Bible School News

Make sure you get your VBS counselor form in by May 29th. This year's theme is Crocodile Dock, and it is scheduled for the week of July 13-17. There are many activities to be planned, and positions are limited. If you need a form, please call the Youth Ministry Office at 724-941-9587

Please Pray For . . .

This week two of our teens, Billy and Kyle, will be confirmed at Nativity Church, South Park. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 17–May 24

May 17, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Senior Recognition Night
May 19, 6:00pm (OBH) - Bites of Heaven



Question of the Week

Why is there so much change in the Church; I thought it was the one place we could count on not to change?

Lesson of the Week

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

This is such a delicate question! On the one hand, we want to be a welcoming community and to accept that children make noise. That's just a fact. On the other hand, parents have a responsibility to teach their children appropriate behavior for worship. Parents of children who are old enough to come to Mass and pay attention should try to sit up close enough so that the little ones can see the action and be encouraged to participate. There are books that can help them to follow the Mass. If you don't know how to find one, ask our Religious Education Office.

With infants and toddlers, the role of parents is to try to join the worshipping community as much as possible while not neglecting what these children need from moms and dads. You are beginning to show them that sitting still for some length of time is possible. If they get antsy, don't try to force them to sit still; give them a chance to stand in the narthex or cry room. Parents can talk to the kids before Mass and explain that it might be hard to sit still and pay attention, but as they get older it will become easier to do. The cry room isn't really for playing; it is for those who are not yet ready to participate at Mass like everyone else. Our children's bulletins allow them to color figures that are part of the bible stories of that particular Sunday. Take the time to tell them these stories.

If children become disruptive—and that means screaming, not just talking—then parents can take the child out of the worship space for a short break. Those around you will appreciate that you are considerate of them as well as of your child's needs.

Food in church? A bottle for a baby is acceptable, breast feeding in public is not. Moms can use the Chapel for that. Some parents bring cereal and other snacks, and we have to be understanding, but we have to be careful not to teach that Mass is casual enough for a snack. After a certain age, there should be no eating in church. Parents are always welcome to use the Chapel, Cry Room and Narthex as they need to so that they may still attend Mass without having to leave their little ones at home. But parents are the first teachers about faith, so how you behave at Mass is what counts.

News from Faith Formation

Vacation Bible School 2009

"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 by the end of May.

Calling All Artists - 7th-12th Grade

The Religious Education Department is looking for talented parish students who would enjoy painting the set design for Vacation Bible School. This service opportunity is open to any student willing to help out before VBS begins. We will be painting between June 2 and June 30. You do not have to sign up as a VBS Counselor to participate. To volunteer, please call the Religious Education Coordinator, Cathy Malencia, at 724-941-9587 Ext. 209.

Registration for 2009-10

Registration for the Formation Program (Religious Education) for the coming year will begin early this summer. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead.

Great Job Kids!

\$1,867 was raised for Heifer International! Thanks to all the children in Religious Ed who participated in the "Read to Feed" Lenten service project and the families who supported them with pledges. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students were able to raise \$1,339. Kindergarten and 1st grade, who are new helpers this year, raised \$528 with their "Fill the Ark" campaign. Teaming with Heifer International, a world hunger organization who helps needy families across the globe, our children are helping other children by sending them livestock as a renewable food source. The children voted by grade level on what animals were to be sent and here are the results:

K & 1st—Rabbits, Chicks, Ducks & a Water Buffalo
 3rd—Chicks, Rabbits, Trees, Goats & a Water Buffalo
 4th—Goats, Sheep, a Water Buffalo, a Llama & Trees
 5th—Chicks, Trees, & a Water Buffalo

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



Spiritual Adoption



Your spiritually adopted baby is quite active now, able to squint, swallow and move its tongue and even make a tight little fist! This baby you are praying for weighs just one ounce!

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!

Parish Pilgrimage Italian Shrines & Wines

If you have never been to Italy, now's the time to go. Join Fr. Sam and a group from our parish as we visit the shrines of our patron, St. Benedict, and enjoy the wineries and foods of the central part of this lovely country. Departing October 20, we will stay for four nights in a Villa near Siena—home to St. Catherine—and visit her shrines, as well as daytrips to Florence and Lucca. Stopping overnight at Norcia, the birthplace of our patron, we will also visit nearby Cascia, the town of St. Rita. We stay four nights in the Eternal City, Rome, with a papal audience, Mass at St. John Lateran, the pope's cathedral, and visits to all the regular sites of classical and religious Rome. We also visit Montecassino, the famous abbey founded by St. Benedict and rebuilt after WWII. Stop by the office for a brochure and more information.

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.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, May 17

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

8:00a	Blood Drive	(OBH)
7:00p	Youth Ministry Senior Recognition	

Monday, May 18

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)

Tuesday, May 19

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
6:00p	Bites of Heaven	(OBH)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Pastoral Council	(206)
7:30p	St. Benedict Gardeners	(213)

Wednesday, May 20

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
6:30p	Grief/Bereavement Support	(Bride's Rm)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, May 21

Ascension Thursday—Offices Closed

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Finance Council	(Rectory)
7:30p	Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, May 22

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

Saturday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 24

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

Gardeners' Meeting

The Gardeners of St. Benedict will meet on May 19 at 7:30pm in room 213. We will be looking at plans for renewing parts of the property. If you enjoy gardening and would like to help us, please come to the meeting. Families are welcome and encouraged to participate. Each gardener has an area on the church grounds and cares for it on their own schedule. Any questions, please call Linda Maydak at 724-941-3123.

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



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

Fred Abrew
724-941-4696

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