



Father Sam's Forum

Easter ends today! With the celebration of Pentecost, the 50 days come to a close. This has been a time for us to see our identity as the children of God, baptized in water, anointed in the Spirit, and sent forth to announce to all the nations the Gospel.

At all the Masses this weekend we are going to experience something a little different from most Sundays. I will address the assembly to disclose the *Pastoral Plan*. Each parish in our diocese is asked to formulate a plan that helps it live out its mission statement. Our Pastoral Council has been diligently working to make this happen. As the presentation today will demonstrate, their efforts over the course of many months now is coming to fruition. I am extremely grateful to them for all they have done.

Pentecost is a celebration of Church. *We are the Church, the Body of Christ*, we sing in one of the hymns we use at Mass. But Church is not the glass and bricks and steel that make up the building where we gather for the Eucharist and prayer. Church is the living presence of Christ among us, his people, as we take his life, death and resurrection and make it the foundation of how we live.

One of the outcomes of the pastoral plan is to promote the responsibility of adults to continue to learn about and understand their faith. My personal hope is that many more of you will recognize how much you can grow in your own relationship with Christ by taking the time to invest yourselves in all the parish will offer—and not only that—but to be a part of what is offered by sharing your own gifts and talents with all of us.

One way we will invite parents whose children are part of the religious education program here to be responsible is to gather them for adult learning sessions—what we call faith formation. More than the exchange of information, this is faith sharing. My experiences can help you and yours help me. All of us have a story, and when we share our stories we come to appreciate one another in a new way. We can see the common thread that runs through all our stories and the thread that connects us to *the* story, the story of Jesus.

I am excited about all the possibilities we have to become a more welcoming, better communicating and more spiritually charged parish. I hope you will be too.

Because so many of you have commented on how much you enjoyed the prayer booklets we offered in Lent and Easter, I have obtained them for June. Pick up a copy for your own prayer in the coming month. They are in the baskets in the narthex.

We finished with our celebrations of First Eucharist last weekend and welcomed 171 children to the Table of the Lord in April and May. They were wonderful opportunities for catechesis, for adults as well as the kids, as we came together to share our faith. Some parents were actually moved to tears as their little ones approached the altar. That speaks volumes. God wants us to always be moved by his love for us.

Mass Intentions: May 31—June 7

Sunday, May 31—Pentecost

7:30a **Virginia Regina** (Matthew & Kelly Hillebrand)
10:00a **For the People of the Parish**
12:30p **Marguerite Singer** (Gene & Rose Rockacy)

Monday, June 1—Justin, martyr

8:30a **Eileen Waldo** (Sister, Patty)

Tuesday, June 2—Weekday

6:30a **Wilma Lokash** (Barbara Smith)
8:30a **Mary & Bob Kolson**
(daughter, Kathy Harrington)

Wednesday, June 3—Charles Lwanga, martyr

6:30a **Raymond Froehlich** (George Flecker)
8:30a **Glenn Shample** (sister, Annette Karnash)

Thursday, June 4—Weekday

6:30a **60th Wedding Anniversary**
(M/M John Brucker)
8:30a **George DiNardo** (Jeanne)

Friday, June 5—Boniface, bishop & martyr

8:30a **Donald E. Huffner**
(Children & Grandchildren)
1:45p **Manor Care: Priscilla Bayer**
(Richard & Monica Mahla)
4:00p **Wedding: Kirk Stinner**
Rebecca Boggio

Saturday, June 6—Weekday

8:30a **Jack McCloskey** (Lois McCloskey)
3:00p **Wedding: Brandon Hathaway**
Krista Watson
5:00p **Deceased Members of the Suchan &**
Vandewater Families (Vic & Mary Ann)

Sunday, June 7—The Most Holy Trinity

7:30a **Jack & Dee Heisler** (Leslie & Jim)
10:00a **David Sunseri, Jr.** (Richard & Monica Mahla)
12:30p **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
in memory of Denise Blehar, requested by M/M
William Blehar.*



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

Readings for the Week of May 31

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23
 Monday: Tb 1:3;2:1a-8/Mk 12:1-12
 Tuesday: Tb 2:9-14/Mk 12:13-17
 Wednesday: Tb 3:1-11a,16-17/Mk 12:18-27
 Thursday: Tb 6:10-17;7:1bcd,e,9-17;8:4-9a/Mk 12:28-34
 Friday: Tb 11:5-17/Mk 12:35-37
 Saturday: Tb 12:1,5-15,20/Mk 12:38-44
 Next Sunday: Dt 4:32-34,39-40/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20

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.

New Recycle Bin

Trying to be conscious of helping the environment as well as making a few dollars for our special projects, we have now placed a paper recycling bin on the parish campus. Located near the Rosary Garden, next to the St. Vincent de Paul clothing donation box, the bin is for all your papers, magazines and newspapers. It cannot take phone books or cardboard. We'll split any reimbursement we get from the recycling among three parish groups; our preschool, our formation office, and our garden group. So bring all your junk mail and old papers and help the parish with this project.

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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: June 6—June 7

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Hruby, Auer **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego **EMHC:** Milavec, Ligan, Sarra, Vandewater, Greenwald, Mertens, R & B Jordan, Baumgartner **Servers:** Nobers, Byrne, Meyers, Curran, A Weaver

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lector: Wanninger **Greeters:** Kalaski, Henger **EMHC:** Petricca, Puskarich, Barton, Boston, Basile, Walnoha, Wanninger **Servers:** E, M & E Jozwiak

10:00am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Smore, McCabe **Greeters:** Stewart, Verlato **EMHC:** J Smith, Capozza, Torres, Bayer, McGovern, Stein, Davis, Gaudy, Orient **Servers:** Wisniewski, C & A Mavrich, D DeRienzo, Mackay

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito

Lector: Tallon **Greeters:** McDonnell, Bartoli **EMHC:** Oldaker, Huffner, Boyd, Eckels, P Newmaster, Baits, Herald **Servers:** Rhoads, Luzier, Tallon

Protecting God's Children

A training session for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children," has been scheduled for June 4 from 9:30am to 12:30pm in Rooms 204 and 206. Please contact Rachelle in Religious Education at 724-941-9587 or at stbeneformation@yahoo.com to register for the class.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Lucille McGurk**, mother of our parishioner Patricia Fink, who died recently. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Lost & Found

It seems that every week we find items that people leave behind after attending Mass. We have glasses, umbrellas, coats, purses, children's items, etc. If you think you left something behind during Mass, check and see if we have it. Come to the office or check the tables in the narthex. We are planning to clean out the left-behinds and give them to the poor after two weeks of us finding them.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word for our preschool children will break for the summer with today's 10 am Mass. Our thanks to all those who helped with the ministry this year, especially the McGovern Family. Parent volunteers are always needed to help make the Mass more meaningful for our little ones. If you think you might be called to this wonderful ministry, please contact Theresa Buzard at 724-941-6051 or our pastoral associate, Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406.



Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Parish Share</u>
April 5	\$30,498	\$6,486	\$2,534
April 12	\$48,553	\$540	\$4,542
April 19	\$23,403	\$5,264	\$3,279
April 26	\$23,255	\$1,704	\$2,050
Monthly Totals *	\$77,156	\$13,994	\$12,405
Weekly Average *	\$25,719		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		
* Does not count Easter Sunday			

Youth Ministry News

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 to be part of the 5th and 6th grade program.

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.

Donation Thank You

Many thanks to the Dolcich Family who gave the new pedestal for our statue of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, that stands outside the entrance to the church. This memorial was given in memory of Bill's mother and will allow us to keep Our Lady in place all year round.

Summer Ministers' Schedule

It's time to schedule ministers for July, August and September. All Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers should submit 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.** The schedule runs the first week of June, so have your information to her by the end of today.

Preschool News

We have had another successful year at our school. We are looking forward to beginning our fourth year at St. Ben's. We have added additional classes for next year, and, as a result, we still have a few openings left in our PM Early Learners class and in our PM Pre-K class. If you or anyone you know is interested in exploring our school, please call 724-731-0222 for information. Thanks and have a great summer!

Many thanks for the continued generosity of those who support the parish through their financial offerings. We rely on your help to continue the operation of such a large parish with our many programs and events. The new budget for the coming fiscal year and our parish needs assessment will be discussed in upcoming bulletins this summer. Just like your homes, some of our buildings are showing their age and are in need of repairs, improvements and updating.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Helen Orcutt

Stephen Ministries of St. Benedict the Abbot

In Memory of Mary Elizabeth Salva

Thomas & Betty Fredrickson Linda Henriksen
Lawrence & Joni Fredrickson
Philip Branch & Family

In Memory of Frances Resignalo

8:30am Mass Group

Spiritual Adoption



Your spiritually adopted baby now weighs over a pound! The mother can feel some movement. We are halfway through the pregnancy now. Pray that this baby will make it to the time of natural birth.



Ask Father Sam

The new title of the column better reflects its content. If you want to ask Father Sam a question, drop it in the collection basket, at the office, or e-mail him at pastor@stbenedicttheabbot.org. The only stipulation is that you give your name in the event that he needs to respond in person because of the nature of the question.

Next week's lesson will continue from where this week's leaves off...

Lesson of the Week

Why do we ask parents to pay a fee for our (religious education) formation program?

It seemed very strange when I arrived here in May 2007 that SBA had no registration fee for the cost of the program. With almost 1300 children in K-8, the number of texts we need are costly. Replaced yearly, this amount continues to grow as paper becomes more expensive. I don't know of any program in our diocese that does not charge a fee these days. Some people point to St. Gabriel in Whitehall, where there is no tuition for the parochial school, but as Fr. Haney, the pastor, is quick to remind you, this only happens because the parishioners are committed to tithing. Tithing! A word that scares us Catholics. Sounds so Protestant and yet it is biblically based. When we give 10% of our material wealth to God not only do we get many blessings in return, but we are able to operate our parishes without having to nickel and dime the people.

I tithe. I don't say that to boast but to prove my point. Back when I was earning \$40,000+ as the Director of Pastoral Care at UPMC, I would give to many charities, but from what I had left over, not from my everyday wealth. It seemed that I was always broke. There were days when I had nothing in my checking account or in my pocket. When I went to Good Samaritan in 2001, I made the decision to begin to tithe. I thought to myself, I will have even less now because I took such a drastic pay cut to return to parish work. But it never happened. Never. I always have a few dollars in my pocket. So, yes, I believe that tithing works. God will not let us down if we trust enough to give him 10%.

Because everything we do here, from turning on the lights to providing the daily meditation booklets costs money, the parish relies on the support of all its members. Next week, I'll continue this topic with some illustrations of what it costs to run our parish. You might be surprised!

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.

Changes Coming!

As Fr. Sam presented today at Mass, there will be a new focus on the way we do catechetical instruction here at our parish. Whole Family Faith Formation is the general heading of how our Catholic bishops have asked us to hand on the faith. Our program will have some new elements to it and looks to invite and involve the whole parish—not just parents and children, but everyone who is part of the faith family.

Musical Theatre Summer Camp

Accelerando Music Conservatory, a Musical Theatre summer camp, was founded by one of our cantors, Christina Chirumbolo. She is inviting all students interested in theatre arts to come and join her and her all-star staff consisting of Carnegie Mellon Alumni and seasoned Broadway actors. The 3 week camp runs from June 22-July 11 at the Southminster Church in Mt. Lebanon. For registration and further information, contact Christina at 724-255-6860 or accelerandomusicconservatory@gmail.com. Space is limited, so call today!



St. Vincent de Paul News

Prayer needs no special day; it's timeless and eternal. It is an excellent way to send your love to a family member or friend for Father's Day, graduation, anniversaries, or any other occasion. St. Vincent de Paul Society **Gift of Love Certificates** offer the gift of prayer in a way that petitions Heaven for you and yours. Please consider this special way to honor and pray for a dear friend or family member. **Gift of Love Certificates** and instructions are available in the new St. Vincent de Paul Center located in the narthex of the church. Pick one up to use now or to save for an upcoming special occasion.

New South Hills Thrift Store

The St. Vincent de Paul Society opened their new Thrift Store on May 18 in the South Hills; it is located at Rt. 88 and Grove Road in Castle Shannon. If you have furniture, workable small appliances, lamps, kitchenware, etc., or have questions as to what donations our stores will accept, please call Gwen Payne at the Pittsburgh SVdP Donation Center at 412-321-1071, ext. 202. Gwen can coordinate and schedule a truck to pick up your donation. Clothing and shoes should continue to be placed in our SVdP Donation Box located adjacent to our Rosary Garden.

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.

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

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, May 31

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

Monday, June 1

7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

Tuesday, June 2

8:30a Special Needs Children (213)

Wednesday, June 3

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

Thursday, June 4

9:30a Protecting God's Children (204/206)
12:00p NA (208)
4:00p Eucharistic Adoration Begins (Chapel)
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
7:30p Troop 1313 (PBAC)
7:00p Parents Baptism Class (210)

Friday, June 5

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

Saturday, June 6

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

Sunday, June 7

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

Shoe Box Santas

The Women of St. Benedict will be collecting soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc. for families in Appalachia. As you travel this summer, please save the hotel samples for us. Your cooperation over the past years is greatly appreciated. Last year we packed 433 shoe boxes and we hope to pack more this year. There will be a collection box in O'Brien Hall. If you have any questions, call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955.

Blood Drive Thank You

Many thanks to those who donated the Gift of Life during our semi-annual blood drive. A total of 29 total product units were collected in the 5 hours the drive was open. A special "thank you" to Abbey Coffee House for sharing their doughnuts as refreshments. The next blood drive will be in Mid-November.



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