



Father Sam's Forum

“**W**hen the hour came....” These are the first words of Luke’s Passion account that we hear today as Holy Week begins. It is the hour for our salvation to be accomplished. A commentator has written that *the suffering and death of Jesus is inseparable from the innocence of Jesus*. Luke wanted to stress the innocence of Jesus. As 21st century Christians we can easily understand that he was innocent, but this was not so evident to the Gentiles of the Roman Empire whom Luke addressed. Three times in this account of the Passion, Pilate declares that Jesus is innocent. And, Luke alone of all the evangelists recounts Jesus being brought before Herod, the tetrarch of Galilee, who also finds him innocent. Even the centurion at the foot of the cross tells us “this man was innocent beyond doubt.”

Why do you think Luke placed so much emphasis on this? Well, remember your history. In the time that Luke wrote, Christians were often persecuted by the Roman Empire. It was an illegal religion, in large part because its founder had been executed as an enemy of the state. Jesus was a criminal to the Romans. Think about that. Our Savior, a criminal!

This week as you pray, at home and in church, look at the cross. Those words spoken by the repentant thief, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,” can be ours. Maybe we too are innocent of something for which we have been accused. Maybe we have been guilty of accusing someone who is innocent. The cross is for us all. Whether we are guilty or innocent, God’s salvation is meant for us. No pointing fingers...just join your hands together in prayer and thanksgiving for the gift of salvation.

Mass Intentions: Mar. 28—April. 4

Sunday, March 28—Palm Sunday of the Passion

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
 9:30a **John Stanish**
 (George & Mary Lou Frost & Family)
 11:30a **Vic Moyer** (Bower Hill School Bus)

Monday, March 29—Monday of Holy Week

- 8:30a **Ruth Flecker** (George Flecker)

Tuesday, March 30—Tuesday of Holy Week

- 6:30a **Jim Boston** (Janet)
 8:30a **James Airey** (Susan Airey & Family)

Wednesday, March 31—Wednesday of Holy Week

- 6:30a **Don Ligman** (Ben’s Men)
 8:30a **Eric Scheuering 20th Anniversary**
 (Mom & Dad)

Thursday, April 1—Holy Thursday

- 7:00p **Mass of the Lord’s Supper**
Doris Patnesky (Charles Patnesky & Family)
Private Intention of Fr. Michael Ruffalo

Saturday, April 3—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30p **The Great Vigil of Easter**
For the People of the Parish

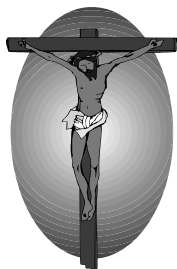
Sunday, April 4—Easter Sunday

- 7:45a **Intentions of our Flower Donors**
 9:30a **Intentions of our Flower Donors**
 11:30a **Intentions of our Flower Donors**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
 in memory of James C. Hendrie, Jr,
 requested by Ann E. McRory.*

*On Good Friday, our parish will take up the
 annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy
 Land. Your financial contribution helps to
 support the struggling Christian community
 and to protect Christianity’s holiest places.
 Please be generous in your support.*

Our liturgical schedule for this week...



Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper, 7:00pm, the church remains open for Adoration until 11:45pm when Night Prayer will be prayed.

Good Friday: Morning Prayer in the Chapel, 9:00am; Stations of the Cross, Noon; the 7 Last Words, 12:45pm; the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion, 1:30pm; Tenebrae, 7:00pm.

Holy Saturday: Morning Prayer, 9:00am; Church Decorating, 9:15am; Daytime Prayer & the Blessing of Easter Foods, 12:30am; the Solemn Vigil of Easter, 8:30pm.

Easter Sunday: Masses at 7:45, 9:30, & 11:30am.

*Everyone is invited to help decorate the church on Holy Saturday. Come for prayer at 9:00 and stay to help us—it will be divide and conquer—as we did at Christmas, with each group taking a portion of the sacred space to work on for Easter. **Again, remember there is no 5:00pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. The great Vigil of Easter begins in the dark at 8:30pm.***



Pastoral Staff

To reach a staff member, dial 724-941-9406, and then the extension number listed.

Pastoral Life & Worship

Rachelle Buynak, Formation Office Coordinator— 107
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries— 108
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 109
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 110
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 112
 Marcia Snowden, Catechetical Assistant—107
 Colette Specia, Director of Faith Formation— 113
 Jay Specia, Coordinator Adult Formation & Liturgy—114

Pastoral Administration

Michael Benya, Parish Campus Manager— 105
 Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary— 100
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance— 100
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 131
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 100
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager— 106
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance— 100
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor— 100

- Formation Offices: Religious Education/Youth Ministry— 724-941-9587

St. Benedict Preschool

Beverly Jurcic, Director— 724-731-0222

**Serving the Parish Next Weekend
 April 3—April 4**

Please see schedule on Page 3.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Ann Furiga**, mother of Michele Engman; **Sin Fa Leu**, sister of Benny Jung; parishioner **Helen Lisak**; and **Steve Stiegel**, father of Gary Stiegel and grandfather of Gary Stiegel, Jr.; who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Easter Blessing of Families

On Easter Sunday, April 4, Bishops David Zubik and William Winter will welcome families of the Diocese to their Annual Blessing of Families at St. Paul Cathedral, Oakland beginning at 2:00pm (Please note earlier start time). As they greet and bless your family personally, they affirm and support you as a household of love and witness to your faith. All families, nuclear, single parent, blended, extended, etc., are invited to come and experience the Bishop's expression of appreciation for the gift that you are and the gifts that you bring to our Diocese. Each family attending will receive a special memento to take home, and the children will receive a sweet treat.

Peace Walkers Stop by Monday of Holy Week

Why would a group of people walk from Oak Ridge, TN all the way to the UN Headquarters in NYC? Come by for a cup of coffee and listen to these Peace Walkers who have taken the Pope's statement on a "world free of nuclear weapons" to heart. They are on a mission, and as they walk Monday from Washington, PA to St. Joan of Arc for a night's lodging, they will stop here around lunchtime tomorrow for refreshment and conversation. As our parish continues to model our patron's call for hospitality, let us also pray that there will be peace throughout our world one day.

Centering Prayer & the Passion

In place of our regular Monday evening gathering, there will be a time for prayer, quiet, music and an audio/visual program on the last hours of Jesus' life this Monday at 7:00pm in the Chapel. All are invited.

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

Readings for the Week of March 28

Sunday: Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14-23:56
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33,36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Is 61:1-3a,6a,8b-9/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
 Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9/Jn 18:1C19:42
 Saturday: Ex 14:15-15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Rom 6:3-11/
 Lk 24:1-12
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9

***There will be no First Friday
 Eucharistic Adoration this week
 because of the Triduum Services.***

Centering Prayer Workshop

"Be still and know that I am God." Let your heart discover what this phrase could mean in your own life as we again offer the Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop on April 17 from 9:00am to 3:00pm in room 204/206. Suggested donation is \$20 which includes all materials as well as six optional follow-up sessions that will take place Monday evenings in April and May from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in room 204. Refreshments will be provided on April 17, but please bring a bag lunch. For registration or more information, contact our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.



Liturgical Ministers for Triduum & Easter Sunday

Holy Thursday, 7:00pm, Mass of the Lord's Supper

Lectors: McKenzie, Brugger EMHC: J & S Christopher, Herald, Puskarich, Vandewater

Servers: Brugger, D & M DeRienzo, LaRosa, Pampena, Kimes

Rehearsal, Wednesday, March 31, 6:30pm

Good Friday, 1:30pm, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Lectors: Morosco, Mahla EMHC: Specca

Servers: Brugger, Waigand

Ushers: Silvestri

Rehearsal, Wednesday, March 31, 7:15pm

Good Friday, 7:00pm, Tenebrae

Lectors: Jung, DiCello, Wanninger

Servers: D, C, & L, Schratz

Rehearsal, Good Friday, April 2, 6:30pm

Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3, 8:30pm

Lectors: Specca, Ruggieri, Gehrlein, Pustay, Ross, Benya, Ellsworth

EMHC: Baumgartner, Bench, D & T Martin, Sarra

Servers: K & C Bench, Bowlin, Hilzendeger, Kimes, Figueroa

Ushers: Jung,

Rehearsal, Wednesday, March 31, 7:40pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

7:45am

Lectors: Brugger, Bonadio

EMHC: McGinnis, Bonadio, Serrino, S & J Brooks, Kail, Barton

Servers: Brugger, Hillen, Wiegman, Brooks

Ushers: Silvestri & Sunday crew

9:30am

Lectors: Wells, Trappanotto,

EMHC: Schultz, McGovern, LaCamera, G & P Adams, Glover, Cushma

Servers: A & D Wells, Wisniewski, Waigand, Nobers

11:30am

Lectors: DiCello, + 1 needed

EMHC: Oldaker, Huffner, Greenwald, Milavec, Capozza + 4 needed

Servers: D, C, & L Schratz

Did You Give?

Capital Campaign Memorial

We are close to completing the preparations for our memorial and need to finalize the donor lists. The lists are still available in the parish office for you to view and check the accuracy of spelling, etc. If you were missed because of poor record keeping, please check with Kathy in the parish office. The deadline for any changes is March 31.

Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>PSP</u>
Feb. 7	No	Collections	
Feb. 14	\$30,921	\$4,453	\$4,671
Feb. 21	\$21,368	\$3,651	\$42,745
Feb. 28	\$19,056	\$1,999	\$4,465
On-Line Giving	\$8,887	\$1,150	\$635
Monthly Totals	\$80,232	\$11,253	\$52,516
Weekly Average	\$20,058		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		

As you can see from the above figures, the blizzard at the beginning of the month really hurt us financially. We are grateful for two donors who offered \$2,000 to help in the cost of the snow removal. Our 2010 PSP program is off with a bang as the month's totals in gifts toward our assessment is over \$50,000. Remember that giving to PSP allows us to lower our tax assessment. In the effort to reduce costs there have been two part time jobs eliminated. The office assistant in Young Adult Ministry and the bookkeeper positions are now gone. Shirley Jacobs, formerly our bookkeeper, will become the Safe Environment Coordinator, required by the diocese to see that all staff, volunteers and ministers are current with their clearances and training for this important child protection program. Finance Council members have begun their work on the new budget and Fr. Sam expects to have a rough draft from them by mid-April. *A member of Finance Council will be available in O'Brien Hall for your questions and concerns on Sunday, April 11, after the 9:30am Mass.*

Food Bank

St. Benedict is currently hosting the Peters Township Food Bank and the following items are especially needed: coffee, tea, fruit juice, and other beverages. In addition, toiletry items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo and toilet paper would be appreciated. Donations are needed by April 8 and are to be placed in the Food Bank bin in the closet in O'Brien Hall.

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



Ask Father Sam

What is the Church's rule on broth and stock during Lent?

Lesson of the Week

When I was young there used to be *Laetare Sunday* followed by *Passion Sunday* and then *Palm Sunday*. Did that change?

Following the Second Vatican Council, the calendar we follow for the liturgical year was adjusted and modified. Before the season of Lent began, in the old calendar, we had three weeks of preparation time. Known as *Septuagesima*, *Sexagesima*, and *Quinquagesima*, these Sundays brought us already into what Lent would offer for our reflection, the Passion of the Christ. Then came the five Sundays of Lent and then what we called Palm Sunday. The fourth Lenten Sunday was known as *Laetare Sunday* from the opening words of the entrance verse. The Latin word *laetare* means joy. And then the fifth Sunday was called *Passion Sunday* because in the last two weeks of Lent we heard about the plot to have Jesus arrested and the events leading up to the Passion.

In our current liturgical calendar we still have the fourth Lenten Sunday known as *Laetare Sunday*. We have the option of wearing rose colored vestments, which we did here. The glimpse of Easter joy shows through even in Lent. While we no longer have those preparatory Sundays before Ash Wednesday, we still consider that from the fifth Sunday of Lent we enter into what is known as *Passiontide*, and again, it is because the readings used are about the betrayal and plot to have Jesus killed. It used to be customary for all statues and crosses to be veiled from that Sunday until the Easter Vigil. There was a 1988 circular letter sent

from the Holy Father concerning the celebration of Lent and Easter that gave this custom as an option once again. Each conference of bishops may decide whether to allow this practice in their diocese or not.



Today, what we call Palm Sunday, has a much longer official title. It is *Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion* because we proclaim the Passion of Jesus Christ, and we enter into Holy Week with this celebration. Did you know that in some cultures, olive branches are used instead of palms, and in others pussy willow branches?

Youth Ministry News

Young Adult Mission Trip

We are offering two simultaneous Mission Trips to high school students and young adults (18-25) for the week of July 25-30 to Appalachia, Kentucky. The high school trip is full with 30 teens, but there is still room in the young adult portion. The cost for the trip is \$200, with a \$100 deposit due with registration. Fundraising will help subsidize some of the cost, but all participants are required to help and do community service. Call Janet at 724-941-9587 with questions.

Hey Seniors (and their parents)

A letter went out to each senior last week with the application for the Ben's Men Scholarship and the sign-up for the Senior Recognition Mass on May 16th. If you have not received it, please call the young adult office. All pictures for the power point presentations must be submitted by April 16th.

Youth & Parent Survey

Youth Ministry is seeking input and feedback from all parents and teens to better meet the needs of the parish. We are putting out surveys to both parents and teens through the website. Please take the survey and encourage others to do so in order that we can get a wide base for the feedback. To participate, go to www.stbenedicttheabbot.org/ym. Thank you so much for your time and support.

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 Parish Office.

Seven Church Walk

Please join us April 1 for the Holy Thursday Seven Church Vigil. We will be visiting churches in the Mon Valley Region. Buses will leave promptly after the Holy Thursday liturgy. Sign up in the narthex or call Bill or Kathy Wanninger at 724-941-0281.

Check out this great Catholic web site: www.wordonfire.org



The Triduum Explained...

The Triduum is the name given to the *three days* that are central to our Christian calendar. From the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday through the Masses of Easter Sunday, we stop the normal routines of our lives to enter a time of deep reflection, prayer and celebration. It's important for Catholics to really understand what this means and that these days are different from all others.

Holy Thursday is about Eucharist, priesthood and service. As we come to remember the Last Supper of Jesus, we see in his actions on that evening that he handed over to his apostles the mission to continue what he did and would do the next day on the cross. In an unusual move, he put aside his garments to take the role of servant and wash their feet. Our service to others imitates the One who came not to be served, but to serve. *Do this in memory of me.*

Good Friday is a somber day, marked by silence and introspection. We continue to reflect on the self-giving of Jesus, who not only broke bread and poured wine and told us that he would be present in these elements, but whose body was broken on the wood of the cross, and whose blood was poured out on the hill of Calvary. We must be broken and poured out as well. *Do this in memory of me.*

We keep a fast during these days that the Church tells us is *different* from the fasting of Lent. Our abstinence from food and drink is more intense as we devote time to prayer and reading the Scriptures. The liturgy of Good Friday is *not Mass*. We receive Communion from what was consecrated on Holy Thursday. The service is centered on the telling of the Passion by John, followed by veneration of the cross. We genuflect or bow as we come without our shoes on this *holy ground* where the Savior's blood was shed for our salvation. In the evening we keep a ceremony of "shadows" or *Tenebrae*, reminding us of the time Jesus spent in the tomb.

Holy Saturday is a day of preparation. Those who have been getting ready to celebrate their profession of faith as Catholic Christians, and who will be anointed with the Spirit in Confirmation and come to the Lord's Table for the first time, spend the day in prayer. Let us join them. Volunteers come forward to prepare the church for Easter. The special foods we will eat for our Easter feast at home are brought to church to receive the blessing of the priest. And we await the Great Vigil that night. In darkness, a fire is lighted and the Easter Candle is brought into church as Christ dispels the darkness of sin and death. This is liturgy—not a 60-minute Mass

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, March 28

**Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:45 & 9:30 Mass
No Faith Formation Sessions Today**

Monday, March 29

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(PBAC)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)

Tuesday, March 30

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
7:00p	Confessions	(Church)

Wednesday, March 31

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	AA	(208)
4:30p	Children's Choir Rehearsal	(Choir)
6:30p	Rehearsal for Triduum liturgies	(Church)

**See Page 1 for the liturgical schedule
for the next three days**

Thursday, April 1

**Holy Thursday
Parish Offices Closed**

Friday, April 2

**Good Friday
Parish Offices Closed**

Saturday, April 3

9:15a	Church Decorating	(Church)
12:30p	Blessing of Easter Foods	(Chapel)

Sunday, March 28

**Abbey Coffee House is Closed Today
Parish Offices Closed
No Faith Formation Sessions Today**

The Triduum Explained ...continued from left column

at our regular hour, but late, in the darkness of night. It requires time and energy to do it right.

After hearing many readings that tell the story of salvation, the Gospel announces that Jesus is risen. New members are welcomed through the sacraments and the Eucharist is celebrated and shared. The next day, we continue to announce the Good News. In story and song, we proclaim that Christ is risen from the dead.

That's the Triduum. It takes time. You have to want to be there. But it is worth every second because it tells us who we are. *Do this in memory of me.*



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL...

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Altar Servers

Kathleen Bench
724-942-0338

Ben's Men

Jeff Mertens
724-941-6484

Bowling League

Blaise Hollot
724-942-0748

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

Cub Scouts

Steve Ridge
724-941-9816

Elijah Cup

Carlotta Zuback
724-941-5758

Engaged Couples' Program

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

IHN

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

Mike Silvestri
724-941-5238

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431