



Father Sam's Forum

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! We are called to the feast, to rejoice in the new life that Christ has won for each of us through his saving death and victory over the grave. Alleluia!

Welcome to everyone who has come to worship here today. Over the past months I have been inviting people to form deeper bonds of community as our parish becomes what Jesus has called the Church to be. Bishop Zubik, in his three pastoral letters, echoed that call. Because of our baptism, renewed in a sense today through our recommitment to be disciples, we aren't just folks who know the story of Jesus, but who are sent forth to live the story of Jesus.

Easter is about more than the eggs and chocolate and returning to whatever it was we were like before the beginning of Lent. It is about a fresh start, like what we try to do when a new year begins. Even if this Lent was not a time of deepening relationship for you in your search for meaning in life and understanding that it is only Christ who provides the meaning for which we all search, here we are, together. So start now.

The empty tomb is a symbol of far more than just the Resurrection of Christ. It is a symbol of our own emptiness and how we fill the void in our lives. What we seal in the tombs of our lives has to see the light of a new day to become free and to allow our spirits to join the Holy Spirit of God that Jesus breathed upon his followers when he rose. That breath of new life formed a community of faith. And that's exactly what we are meant to be. Not spectators, but participants together in the mission to be Christ for one another.

Mass Intentions: April 4—April. 11

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**

Monday, April 5—Monday of Easter Octave

8:30a **Alice McArdle** (Joanne Dolinar)

Tuesday, April 6—Tuesday of Easter Octave

6:30a **Lucille McGurk** (M/M Charles Kramer)
 8:30a **Earl Williams** (Mary Williams & Family)

Wednesday, April 7—Wednesday of Easter Octave

6:30a **John Reed** (Joseph & Dorothy Keener)
 8:30a **Albert F. Calfo, Sr.**
 (Donald & Arleen Wagner)

Thursday, April 8—Thursday of Easter Octave

6:30a **Esther Gardner** (Fisher Family)
 8:30a **Richard Demmick** (Bill & Mickey Shanafelt)

Friday, April 9—Friday of Easter Octave

8:30a **M/M Joseph Martin** (M/M J. J. Martin)
 1:45p **Manor Care: Victoria Hucko**
 (John & Beth Huton)

Saturday, April 10—Saturday of Easter Octave

8:30a **Lee Allan** (Florence Allan)
 5:00p **In Memory of Our Parents & Family Members** (M/M Michael Gima)

Sunday, April 11—Second Sunday of Easter

7:45a **Mike & Lallie Lordi** (Children)
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 11:30a **Mrs. Dorothea L. Lorenzo**
 (Donald & Patricia Fink)

The Altar Bread & Wine this week is in memory of the living & deceased members of the Schweibinz & Busch Families, requested by Claire Meredith, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of George J. Wagner, Sr, requested by Donald & Arleen Wagner.

Parish News & Notes

From Fr. Sam, Fr. Michael, Deacon Jack and all the Pastoral Staff,

Blessings and Joy as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Happy Easter!

First Eucharist Celebrations begin next weekend. Over the next five weekends we will welcome to Table of the Lord for the first time, our young parishioners who have been preparing to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in this sacrament. The 5:00pm Saturday Mass on April 10, 17, 24, May 1, and 15, and the 11:30am Mass on April 11, 18, 25, and May 2, are the times for these celebrations.

Coming up in April: In addition to the celebrations of First Eucharist for our children, there are a number of spiritual and social events planned this month. Be sure to check out our website which is always updated and full of much more information than we can publish in the bulletin. You can even sign up to get the bulletin on line! Check it out.



Pastoral Staff

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

Pastoral Life & Worship

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

Readings for the Week of April 4

Sunday: Acts 10:34a,37-43/Col 3:1-4/Jn 20:1-9
 Monday: Acts 2:14,22-33/Mt 28:8-15
 Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
 Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35
 Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
 Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14
 Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
 Next Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Easter Blessing of Families

Today 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.

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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend April 10—April 11

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Benya, Bonadio **Greeters:** Mitchell, Schardt **EMHC:** Baumgartner, Milavec, Scheuering, Vandewater, LaCamera, P & G Adams, Norton, Bonadio **Servers:** Quinn, Curran, Figueroa, LaRosa, Byrne

7:45am— Fr. Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Rossin, Mamros **Greeters:** Kalaski, Turchick **EMHC:** Basile, Petricca, Puskarich, J & S Christopher, Faina, Fagioletti **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Mahla, Ott **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Verlatto **EMHC:** Capozza, Torres, McGovern, Serrino, Klinar, Glod, J Smith, Schultz, Gaudy **Servers:** Maher, D & M DeRienzo, Z & J Verner

11:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Balash, Zuk **Greeters:** Navrotski, Bartoli **EMHC:** Herald, Baits, P Newmaster, B Smith, Hayward, Oldaker, Huffner, Stein, McGinnis **Servers:** F & M Meola, Oberschelp

Journey With the Mystics

Our Contemplative Prayer Group will present Part 3 of "Spiritual Journey with the Mystics" Easter Monday, March 5 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel. Our guide for the night of prayer will be Abraham Joshua Heschel, rabbi and one of the leading Jewish theologians of the 20th century. The series will conclude next Monday with the unknown author of the "Cloud of the Unknowing." For information, call Dennis at 724-941-9406, ext. 109. (A quick intro to Centering Prayer will be offered at 6:45pm in the Chapel.)

Health Ministry Survey Update

Our thanks to all those who took the time to fill out the health ministry survey last month. We are still going through all the data provided to see what first steps we can take to best serve the needs of the parish. If you misplaced your survey, extra copies are in the parish office or you can call our pastoral associate Dennis.

Recent Phone Scam

The diocese has informed us of an unknown agency calling former parishioners of diocesan churches soliciting funds for a "Father Jack" who is having some sort of financial trouble. This is another of many phone scams soliciting money for relatives or friends in trouble. Please remember that our parish policy forbids releasing any parishioners personal information, including former parishioners, to any third party and our staff follows this policy.



Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Julia Cushma

John & Mary Jane Rosile

In Memory of Elizabeth McDonnell

Eleanor R. McAndrews Gary & Jeanne Bennett
Jay & Dolores Jarrell

In Memory of John (Jack) D. Reed

M/M Stephen F. Brown Garland & Leslie Foster
James W. Zeller Karen & Donald Kelly
Judith & Jack Bruce Ara & Leslie Bagdasarian
Bernadette Wittman Jack & Margaret Eckenrode
Eastman Chemical John & Carole Furey
David & Marguerite Decrescente
LaFace & McGovern Assoc., Inc.
Friends of son, Joe at Travelers Insurance, Amston, CT
St. Clair Behavioral Health Unit

In Memory of Ralph Antone

Jay & Dolores Jarrell

In Memory of Dorothy Wasieleski

8:30 Mass Group Gary & Noreen Kosem

Ben's Men Meeting

Ben's Men will have their next meeting on April 12. It will be the rescheduling of our Valentine's evening with our spouses and girl friends as special guests. Our speaker will be Fr. Michael and will be devoted to women and their roles throughout the Bible. Keep in mind that this is the last general meeting until September so make your reservations early! Ben's Barbecuers, as always, are planning a special evening for the ladies.

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.

WOSB Mass and Annual Luncheon

All women of the parish are invited to the WOSB Annual Mass and Luncheon on May 6. We will begin with a Mass of Thanksgiving and May Crowning at St. Benedict Church at 10:00am followed by lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn/Southpointe, 1000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg. Entrée choices are Maryland Crab Cake or Herb Crusted Chicken Breast. The luncheon is \$13 for parishioners and \$25 for guests. Fliers with details are available in the narthex, church office and at the WOSB meetings. Checks should be made payable to WOSB and along with the reservation must be turned into the church office by April 22. They may also be mailed to WOSB c/o St. Benedict the Abbot Church.

Catholic Life 2000 A.D.

As we unfold this new millennium of Christianity, what challenges do we have to be Church? Some years ago, even before the year 2000, a group of scholars produced ten priorities for Baptized Adults. They are: 1) Adult Learning—a lifelong pursuit; 2) Baptism—a vocation to ministry; 3) Becoming a hospitable Church; 4) A renewed tradition of God's Word among us; 5) Parish Sunday Mass; 6) Justice and Peace; 7) Time, Talent, Money and Resources; 8) Our Parish and Diocese: the Church reaching out; 9) Children and Parents; and 10) The Journey of Faith—Christian Initiation of Adults. Watch the bulletin throughout the Easter season for what these mean for us today.

Caring for the Sick

As we strive to practice service and hospitality, part of our mission, caring for the sick, is a real part of how we do that. But to do that, we have to first know who the sick among us are. Please contact the parish office if someone is hospitalized or recovering at home and would benefit from a visit, Communion at home, or some other form of pastoral care. In such a large parish, it is easy to slip through the cracks. Dennis Gehrlein, our pastoral associate, is trying to bring together volunteers who can assist him and the clergy in this important part of parish life. ***Going to the hospital? Please tell one of the priests so that you may receive a special blessing or the sacrament of the sick. It helps.***

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 can you tell us about
Envisioning Ministry for the Future?*

Lesson of the Week

What is the Church's rule on broth and stock during Lent? Why do we fast?

Fasting has been a part of the Christian tradition since the beginning. From our Jewish roots, the Church was begun by people used to this spiritual practice. Typical fast days of Tuesday and Thursday in the Jewish faith were moved to Wednesday and Friday for Christians. Friday, of course, being selected because of its place as the day on which the Lord was crucified.

Over the centuries we have seen some of the external fasting we grew up with change a bit or perhaps take on a different meaning. Before the Second Vatican Council, every Friday was a day when Catholics abstained from eating meat. This act of penance was to unite us with the sufferings of Jesus on that day. Lent was a season with lots of fasting and also with abstinence from eating meat.

It was determined that all animal flesh and also anything from that flesh—and only mammals and fowl are included in this—was the food from which to abstain in order to keep the spiritual practice of abstinence. So, fish was fine but steak was not. Broth and stock made from fowl or flesh is taboo then. Because the body of Christ suffered torture and execution, we refrained from slaughtering animals in those first eras of Christianity. No blood spilling was allowed on Fridays.

With the Council, the Friday rule was changed, remaining a day for penances to be practiced, but allowing each person to determine what that penance should be. Only the Fridays of Lent, then, were mandated as days of abstinence. Fasting was seen as eating less than normal, or doing without certain foods, like the things we enjoy and give up for Lent.

We also fast though, as a way to prepare to receive the Lord's Body in the Eucharist. Those who are old enough remember the fast before Communion that began at midnight before Sunday Mass. By the time I made my First Communion in 1960, it had changed to three hours before Mass, and then was changed again to one hour before, the practice that remains. This fasting is to prepare us for what it is we will receive when we come to the Eucharist.

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.

Man Alive—A Guys' Retreat

"Man Alive" is a weekend retreat on April 16-18 for guys in grades 9 through 12. This retreat is a chance for you to get away from the busy-ness and stress of life and experience God in a new way. The cost for the retreat is \$95. For more information or to register, contact Janet 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 the Parish Office.



Parish Directories

The Parish Directories have arrived and will be available for pick-up after all Masses next weekend in O'Brien Hall. If you had a picture taken for the directory, please stop in and pick up a free copy. There will also be extra copies available for anyone who didn't have their picture taken, but would still like to have a directory. The cost for the extra directories is \$10 and they will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

Spring Fling

The Women of St. Benedict will have their Spring Fling on April 10 from 9:00am to 4:00pm in O'Brien Hall. Donated baked goods should be dropped off at the hall on Friday evening, April 9. The day will include basket raffle, vendors, crafters, artists, antique dealers, and buying your unwanted gold. Food will be served all day. Contact Ellie at 724-941-4686 if you have any questions.

Life Line Screening

Once again, Life Line Screening, a provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will be at St. Benedict's on April 23 from 8:30am until 5:30pm. They offer screenings for the carotid artery (stroke), heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. Appointments are limited and pre-registration is required. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-679-5192. This event is sponsored by Ohio Valley General Hospital.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Marriage is a journey! Whether you've been married one year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held April 23-25 at the Gilmary Retreat Center in Moon Township. For more information or to register, contact Jay or Judy at 412-635-7775 or wwwmepittsburgh@gmail.com or check us out on the web at wwme-pittsburgh.org.

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

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, April 4

Abbey Coffee House is Closed Today

Parish Offices Closed

No Faith Formation Sessions Today

Monday, April 5

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 5	(Rm.A)
7:00p	Centering Prayer/Mystics	(Chapel)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, April 6

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, April 7

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	AA	(208)
7:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Pastoral/Finance Council Mtg.	(208)

Thursday, April 8

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 3	(Rm A)
7:00p	MOM'S Group	(213)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, April 9

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Nursery)
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Saturday, April 10

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
9:00a	Spring Fling	(OBH & PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, April 11

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:45 & 9:30 Mass*

9:00a	Faith Formation Session
11:00a	Faith Formation Session

Online giving is in full operation! Visit the parish website and click on the link to sign up to begin donating to the parish automatically today. It's easy and convenient! And...now special collections are available online too! Check it out.



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 Scheuring
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