



## Father Sam's Forum

Happy Easter! The Fifty Days follow our forty day Lenten journey—unfolding now as we explore what it means to be the community of the baptized – and disciples of Jesus Christ. What should our priorities be as baptized adults in this third millennium of Christianity? Over the course of the Easter season, I want to explore these in the Forum.

The first priority is *Adult Learning*. It doesn't matter whether we had twelve years of Catholic education or the hour a week of what we called CCD. The fact remains that the religious education we received as children is inadequate for our continued growing in faith as adults. Think about it. How could something we learned in the first part of our lives be enough to carry us through the rest of our lives? If we take it seriously—and far too many don't—then claiming our faith as adults is much different than how we learn it and practice it as children.

We all have our best ways of learning. Some may benefit from bible study, others from lectures, and still others from prayerful experiences that open up discussion in faith sharing. The model the Church gives us is the RCIA—*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*. This process is based on faith sharing and questioning what it is we believe as Catholic Christians.

We have to our benefit solid biblical scholarship and research that generations past did not have at their fingertips. We can explore the history and Tradition of the Church so that we will see our part in this adventure of faith. Those who became frustrated with the changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council were unprepared for them because they happened with very little explanation or understanding.

With so many resources available today, there is a way for everyone to continue learning. If you need help or a starting place, speak with any of the Formation staff here in the parish. Jay Specca, as Coordinator of Adult Formation, and Colette, his wife, as Director of Faith Formation, can offer you a variety of ways to better understand your Catholic faith. Adult Formation is a parish objective, part of our pastoral plan. Don't be confused—let the light of Christ shine as you take the steps you need to open up the Scriptures, ask questions or deepen your prayer life.

## Mass Intentions: April 11—April. 18

### 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)

### Monday, April 12—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Anna & Michael Rea** (Diana & Al Nizamoff)

### Tuesday, April 13—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Priscilla Bayer**  
 (Tom & Marguerite Bubenheim)  
 8:30a **Suchan & Vandewater Families**  
 (Vic & Mary Ann Vandewater)

### Wednesday, April 14—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Frederick Henning**  
 (Howard Gebhardt Family)  
 8:30a **Jack Sullivan** (Dolores Ueberschaer)  
 11:00a **McMurray Hills: John D. Reed** (Mary Reed)

### Thursday, April 15—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Mirko Kosir** (Family)  
 8:30a **Donald Huffner** (Wife, Nancy)

### Friday, April 16—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Josephine & Augusta Maffei**  
 (Joseph Maffei)

### Saturday, April 17—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Mary M. Godzo** (M/M Joseph Smith)  
 5:00p **Living & Deceased of Santaguida Family**  
 (M/M Salvatore Ortenzo)

### Sunday, April 18—Third Sunday of Easter

7:45a **Jack Reed** (Wife, Madeline)  
 9:30a **Ed McCloskey** (Amy Baumgartner)  
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Deceased Members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Mary Ann Rodal, the Bread & Wine is in memory of Frank & Matilda Sarra, requested by Jane Sarra.*

## First Eucharist



We continue the celebration of First Eucharist for our second grade students on these dates: Saturday, April 17, 5:00 Mass; Sunday, April 18, 11:30 Mass;

Saturday, April 24, 5:00 Mass; Sunday, April 25, 11:30 Mass; Saturday, May 1, 5:00 Mass; Sunday, May 2, 11:30 Mass; and Saturday, May 15, 5:00 Mass.

**Remember these Masses will take a little longer than usual.**



## 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

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend April 17—April 18

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton  
**Lectors:** Specca, Tallon **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey **EMHC:** T & D Martin, Mertens, Femiani, Greenwald, Sarra, Specca, R & C Satler **Servers:** Nobers, Wiegmann, Waigand, Curry, Tallon

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lectors:** Wanninger, Hrubby **Greeters:** R & J Jackson  
**EMHC:** E & R McMillan, Gavran, Berger, Joseph, Prado, Wanninger **Servers:** E, J & E Jozwiak

**9:30am**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lectors:** Smore, Trapanotto **Greeters:** Verlato, Becker  
**EMHC:** Serrino, McGovern, Torres, Capozza, Bayer, A & L Kelly, Orient, Cushma **Servers:** Severa, Wallach, Mackay, Cushma, Kimes

**11:30am**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lectors:** Ray, Hajzus **Greeters:** Ragan, Fisher **EMHC:** B Smith, P Newmaster, Baits, Herald, Slomiany, Boyd, Fisher, Bench, Eckels **Servers:** Hillen, K & C Bench

## Thanks to All!

It takes many hands and lots of effort to pull off the liturgies for Holy Week. A great big thanks from Fr. Sam to everyone who helped make these days as special as they were. From the decorators and designers, to the ministers and choirs, the cleaners and set-up folks, all played an important part in coming together as parish—as Church—to do what Church is about—form the Body of Christ in action. A special word of thanks to Jay Specca who did so much behind the scenes to coordinate every detail so that our liturgies flowed smoothly.

## Meetings this week...

- Pastoral Council meets on Tuesday, April 13, at 7:30pm in Room 210.
- Parents' Pre-baptism session is Thursday, April 15, 7:00pm in Room 210.

## Men's Emmaus Retreat

Emmaus Retreat is a weekend men's retreat to help men reset their priorities and hear how other men deal with life and their approach to their faith. The next weekend will be April 23 to 25 (Friday night to Sunday) at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. Registration forms are available in the narthex of the church. Space is limited so don't delay. Contact Ed Corbett at 412-302-1659 or John Stone at 412-519-7573 with any questions.

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

## Readings for the Week of April 11

Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-11a,12-13,17-19/Jn 20:19-31  
Monday: Acts 4:23-31/Jn 3:1-8  
Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37/Jn 3:7b-15  
Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26/Jn 3:16-21  
Thursday: Acts 5:27-33/Jn 3:31-36  
Friday: Acts 5:34-42/Jn 6:1-15  
Saturday: Acts 6:1-7/Jn 6:16-21  
Next Sunday: Acts 5:27b-32,40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:11-19

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Marion Kuna**, mother of Carolyn Mullan, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

## Parish Directories

The Parish Directories have arrived and will be available for pick-up after all Masses this 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 served basis.



## Centering Prayer Workshop Saturday

“Be still and know that I am God.” Let your heart discover what this phrase could mean in your own life as we once again offer an Introduction to Centering Prayer 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.

## The Melodies of St. Mary's Bells

The Women of St. Benedict will hold their final general meeting of the season on April 22, at 7:00pm in O'Brien Hall. The local group *St. Mary's Bells* will perform. Come and enjoy an evening of beautiful melodies from these local musicians. If you've wanted to attend a meeting and haven't done so yet, this is a wonderful opportunity to sit back and relax and enjoy great music and conversation.

## 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 Mass and May Crowning in the Chapel 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.

## Sweet Sixteen Dinner

The annual IHN fundraiser for homeless families in our area will be held April 17 at 7:00pm at the Christ United Methodist Church in Bethel Park. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by calling 724-229-1129.

## Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>PSP</u>
March 7	\$27,745	\$5,650	\$11,030
March 14	\$19,106	\$1,756	\$8,687
March 21	\$18,668	\$1,235	\$6,700
March 28	\$23,359	\$2,706	\$4,754
On-Line Giving	\$10,832	\$1,330	\$2,040
Monthly Totals	\$99,710	\$12,677	\$33,211
Weekly Average	\$19,942		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		

Again, thanks to everyone who supports the parish through financial offerings. Once April is over, we'll have a better handle on how we have recovered from the winter storms that cost us in a number of ways. Finance Council is working on the new budget, and we expect some changes in the coming fiscal year to help us reduce costs in a few areas. Watch for more information in the weeks ahead.

## Ben's Men Meeting

Ben's Men will have their next meeting on April 12. It is the rescheduling of our Valentine's evening with our spouses as special guests. The Rosary begins at 6:00pm and the social follows at 6:30pm. Our speaker is Fr. Michael looking at 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.

## 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.

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



## Ask Father Sam

*Do the people who come late to Mass fulfill their obligation?*

### Lesson of the Week

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

Our former bishop, Donald Wuerl, launched a program known as *Envisioning Ministry for the Future* shortly before he was transferred to the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The purpose behind this program was to begin a dialogue among Catholics in our diocese to face realistically the challenges of fewer clergy in the coming years, as well as to call the laity to embrace their baptismal identity as ministers of the Gospel.

Now, under Bishop Zubik, we have moved to a Vicariate structure where four regional vicars direct the clergy in the parishes under their jurisdiction as the bishop's representatives and have as their charge to encourage and facilitate the cooperation among these priests and deacons. This means the priests will actually have to work together! There can't be any "turf guarding" as I call it—no more competition among parishes, but a real sense that all of us are called to spread the message of Christ.

This also means parishioners have to see a larger picture of what it means to be Church. It can't be only a parish-based view so that people don't care what happens anywhere else so long as things go the way they want them to in their parish. Whether it is sharing programs, resources, and even personnel, the man or woman in the pew can't expect that things will remain as they have been in the past.

For example, our Vicar, Fr. Fred Cain, told us at a recent meeting that we know that "parochial vicars," or what we used to call assistants, are dinosaurs that quickly are becoming extinct. The luxury of two priest parishes is ending since we just don't have the priests to fill these positions. How long until we have only one priest here? No one knows for sure, but it is coming.

Once the numbers change in any parish, the Mass schedule will have to change. People can't pretend that it won't. We have to look at how we can help our neighboring parishes when a priest there is ill, for example, so two parishes with the same Sunday schedule isn't very smart. Weekday Masses will also change, be eliminated, or shared among parishes. What can the laity do to help?

## 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.

### 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.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

*April 11—April 18*

April 11, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)  
 April 13, 7:00pm—Theology of the Body (St. Louise)  
 April 18, 7:00pm—WORD (PBAC)

### Life Line Screening

Once again, Life Line Screening, a provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will be here on April 23 from 8:30am until 5:30pm. Screenings for carotid artery (stroke), heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis can be done. There are limited appointments, and pre-registration is required. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-679-5192.



## This Week In Our Parish

### Eucharistic Rosary March

The Legion of Mary, with the permission of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, is sponsoring the 67th International Eucharistic Rosary March on May 2 beginning at 1:30pm at Epiphany Church, 108 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh. The service will begin with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a Eucharistic Rosary Procession with the Most Blessed Sacrament to St. Mary of Mercy Church on Stanwix Street. For those who cannot process, there will be recitation of the Rosary while the marchers are enroute to St. Mary's. For more information please call 412-884-3213 or 724-933-0098.

### Explore!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a nun? Have you ever considered a vocation as a Sister? The Sisters of St. Joseph invite girls in the eighth grade through high school to *Explore!* the life of a Sister on April 25 at St. Joseph Convent, Baden, from 10:00am to 4:00pm. The day will include Liturgy in the Motherhouse Chapel, brunch with the Sisters, a tour of the Motherhouse, hearing about the Sisters' ministries, prayer life and community, plus time for questions. There is no fee for the program, but you must register. Please contact Sister Marguerite Kropinak for more information or to register at 724-869-6585 or visit [www.stjoseph-baden.org](http://www.stjoseph-baden.org).

**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.**

### 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 [wwmepittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:wwmepittsburgh@gmail.com) or check us out on the web at [wwme-pittsburgh.org](http://wwme-pittsburgh.org).

**Check out this great Catholic site:  
[www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)**

#### Sunday, April 11

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

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

#### Monday, April 12

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
10:00a WOSB Yoga (OBH)  
6:00p Ben's Men Rosary (213)  
6:30p Ben's Men Meeting (OBH)  
6:30p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Centering Prayer/Mystics (Chapel)  
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (208)

#### Tuesday, April 13

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (206)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)  
7:30p Pastoral Council Meeting (210)  
7:45p Cub Scout Den 4 (Rm.A)

#### Wednesday, April 14

9:30a Light Weigh (206)  
12:00p AA (208)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:30p Confessions (Church)  
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)  
7:45p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

#### Thursday, April 15

9:30a WOSB Board Meeting (204)  
12:00p NA (206)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Parents' Baptism Meeting (210)  
6:00p MOM's Group Dinner (OBH)  
7:00p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

#### Friday, April 16

10:00a Prayer & Share (Nursery)

#### Saturday, April 17

7:30a Catholic Men's Fellowship (206)  
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)  
9:00a Centering Prayer Workshop (204/206)  
11:00a Confessions (Church)

#### Sunday, April 18

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

9:00a Faith Formation Session  
11:00a Faith Formation Session  
7:00p WORD (PBAC)



## 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