



Father Sam's Forum

The Easter season continues. We use the sprinkling rite at the beginning of Sunday Mass during this season to connect us to our baptism—the primary sacrament. Last week, I began an Easter series about ten urgent priorities for adult Catholics in this new millennium. *Adult Learning* was the first. This week, let's look at the second one, *Baptized Adults*.

One of the major emphases of the Second Vatican Council was to shine the light on baptism. The bishops who gathered for the council clarified that it is baptism which is the basic call to ministry, service and full first-class citizenship in the Church. This reality was blurred during the Middle Ages, and it took centuries to re-focus. And because of that blurred vision, the person in the pew became ignorant of his or her role as Church. When we said Church, people understood the building or the hierarchy or the pastor and not everyone as the Body of Christ. People became passive spectators.

It is baptism that calls us to be disciples of Jesus—not one more member of some anonymous “congregation.” We are not congregationalists—we don't believe each parish stands apart or is not connected to every other parish throughout the universal worldwide Body of Christ. Baptism is our call to be witnesses to the Gospel by our daily lives, to serve other people in the name of Jesus in any way that we can. Within the Christian assembly, it is a call to proclaim and listen to God's Word in scripture and to carry out a variety of ministries for the assembly. It is a call to work for justice and peace in the world.

The ministry of any baptized adult is not less important than the more specialized ministries given by baptized adults called to serve as deacons, priests or bishops. The task of those in ordained ministry is to assist and inspire other believers in their discipleship. While we look to their guidance and leadership, it is human temptation to allow them to take care of our own duties while we watch from the sidelines.

Some people struggle with the vision of Church that was restored by Vatican II. If we associate baptism with personal salvation only, then we can have little awareness of the active discipleship asked of those who accept it. You can see it in people who think they have to receive Communion from a priest and not from a Communion Minister. That's just silly. Jesus isn't any different given from the hands of a

Mass Intentions: April 18—April 25

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**

Monday, April 19—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Lee Allan** (Florence Allan)

Tuesday, April 20—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Ed Leithauser** (The Opfermans)
8:30a **Alex Dellana** (Wife)

Wednesday, April 21—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Sharon Jost** (Judy & Dave Babcock)
8:30a **Stanley J. Zary** (Wife & Children)

Thursday, April 22—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Ralph Antone** (Rep. Dan Deasy & Family)
8:30a **Ruth Flecker** (George Flecker)

Friday, April 23—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Francis McCaffrey** (Wife, Pat McCaffrey)

Saturday, April 24—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Carlo Teodori** (Carol & Len Teodori-Blahut)
5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, April 25—Fourth Sunday of Easter

7:45a **Dakota Joseph Rolley**
(Sam & Edna Rolley, Grandparents)
9:30a **Wife, Dorothy Rago & Mary L. Weidner**
Kendall (Anthony Rago)
11:30a **Donald Huffner** (Nancy)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Jack McCloskey, requested by Lois McCloskey, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Deceased Members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Mary Ann Rodal.

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.

priest than he is from the hands of a minister. Another is the tendency to believe in some warped way that the clergy have to do everything or it doesn't count. We hear, “Father has to be at this meeting, run this program, teach this class...”. We have well-trained laity who can do those things as ministry and whose gifts may be better than Father's in those areas.

This is exactly what we are trying to accomplish here in our parish as we look to who welcomes, who invites, who shares faith with others. Our pastoral plan and objectives are about everyone being invested and working together to accomplish them. Why? Because of our baptism!



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
Shirley Jacobs, Safe Environment Coordinator—107
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 24—April 25

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Norton, Pustay **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** Klinar, Norton, G & P Adams, LaCamera, Vandewater, Scheuering, Milavec, Pfeifer **Servers:** Figueroa, Curran, Quinn, Peterson, Rauscher

7:45am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Hollot, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Barker, Henger **EMHC:** Petricca, Basile, Kail, Barton, Walnoha, S & J Brooks **Servers:** N & V DeRienzo, Brooks

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Ross, Glover **Greeters:** Verlato, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Torres, McGovern, Gaudy, Schultz, J Smith, Weaver, E & T Mauro, Glover **Servers:** Wisniewski, Hilzendeger, S Weaver, C & A Mavrich

11:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Gehrlein, Oliverio **Greeters:** Bartoli, Navrotski **EMHC:** Herald, Baits, P Newmaster, B Smith, Capozza, Stein, Huffner, Oldaker, Hayward **Servers:** Graves, Chaplin, Taylor

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Dorothy Kiselich**, mother of Charles Kiselich, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

Scouting For Food

It's time for the annual "Scouting for Food" drive conducted by our Boy Scout Troop and Cub Scout Pack 1313. Scouts will be distributing empty plastic bags after all Masses this weekend. Please use these bags to bring your food donations to church next weekend (April 24/25) when the Scouts will be collecting and sorting the food. All donations will be distributed through the Peters Township Food Bank to needy families in our area. Thanks for your help!

Readings for the Week of April 18

Sunday: Acts 5:27b-32,40b-41/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:11-19
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Jn 6:60-69
Next Sunday: Acts 13:14,43-52/Rv 7:9,14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

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.

Lenten Mission 2011

We've just come from Lent into the Easter Season, and we're already talking about next year. That's because we need excited people who want to help us with our Parish Mission 2011. It will be a little different from the past two years. Instead of bringing a speaker here, we are hosting an 8-week parish study of the bible in a way that is sure to help you learn the major people, places, events and themes of Scripture. To do this right, we need lots of help. Watch the bulletin for more information about some initial meetings to kick off this *Quick Journey Through the Bible*.

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



Oldies Dance & Classic Car Rally

St. Benedict Parish and Ben's Men will be sponsoring a unique event on May 7 beginning with a classic car show (weather permitting) in the church parking lot from 5:00pm until 7:00pm and continuing with an Oldies Dance in O'Brien Hall featuring DJ Jim Butera at 7:00pm. Benny Jung and Frank Esposito will be preparing a buffet to tickle the palates of all "oldies aficionados." Dessert will be old fashioned milk shakes. Set ups and soft drinks will be provided. The cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. There are only 300 tickets available, so get them early!

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.

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.

WOSB Mass & Luncheon Deadline April 22

All women of the parish are invited to the WOSB Mass & 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. 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.

Budget News

Members of our Finance Council will bring portions of the new budget when they meet on April 27. Each member was given a section to complete. As they do this, they have met with staff and the pastor to learn what programs and plans are in place for the coming fiscal year and what expectations we have for things like maintenance costs, etc. We learned this year that the economic recession has hit us. It seemed we had been spared in 2008-09, but over the course of this current fiscal year we have seen our Offertory revenue below what was budgeted. In addition, we had to take \$13,000 from regular operating expenses to meet our Parish Share Goal. Watch in upcoming bulletins for a barometer that shows us how we are doing with this year's PSP and with debt reduction. We hope to have a visual reminder in the narthex as well. As we look to our 50th anniversary in 2012, there are capital improvements, such as a new roof on the Education & Family Life Center, a new boiler for the hall and connected buildings, and parking lot repairs, that should be addressed. We will have some small savings by the elimination of two part time positions in this current year, and will include other cost savings in the personnel portion of the new budget. ***N.B. Last week's numbers gave the wrong weekly average. It did not count the on-line figure. The correct weekly average is \$24,928.***

Counters Needed: Can You Help?



In order to comply with the financial policies for parish administration, every parish is supposed to rotate teams of money counters. Here we have the same teams who count the Offertory every several weeks. Our problem is that we don't have sufficient counters to rotate as we should. We have been cited for this by the diocesan auditors more than once. If you are willing to give up one Sunday morning every five or six weeks to help count, that would greatly reduce the stress on the three teams we have in place. Contact Kathy in the parish office if you can help. Collection counting begins about 9:30am and lasts to about 1:30pm. All the coffee you can drink!

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 people still bow their heads when the name of Jesus is said? What happened to that practice?

Lesson of the Week

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

I think this has been addressed before in some fashion, and Fr. Michael even preached about it last year, but it probably bears repeating. It seems there is no slowing down of those who arrive late for Mass every Sunday. In fact, we have people who come to daily Mass late as well, like the starting time doesn't matter and when they arrive, they arrive. So maybe it's just that people tend to run late, not giving themselves sufficient time to get ready—or don't count traffic conditions like stop lights...I'm not sure. When I was first ordained, I fell into that category and often was embarrassed as I arrived after the beginning of some event. I began to leave early and continue to try to do that today.

What part of the Mass must you be present for in order to satisfy the obligation to participate at Mass? Technically, we speak of having to be present to hear the Gospel. So long as you come in time to hear the Gospel being proclaimed, you fulfill the Sunday obligation. To me, such an approach smacks of legalism. It says "what is the least I can do and still be counted in?"

Much more broad is our understanding that the entire Liturgy of the Word—all the Scripture readings are important because they together offer us our story as a community of faith. The first and second readings as well as the Gospel are meant to be heard. They aren't like pre-game warmup before the show as if only the Liturgy of the Eucharist counted or it is more important. Both parts of the Mass are equally important. That's why I would discourage ushers from seating people during the readings. If you do arrive late and the lector or the deacon or priest is proclaiming what we believe is the LIVING WORD OF GOD and you saunter to the pew, that is a distraction and lack of reverence for God's Word. It announces that this is not really important, which is not what we believe.

So please feel free to be seated during the opening song, during the greeting and penitential rite. But, once we enter the Liturgy of the Word, that should cause us to stop everything else and listen. If you arrive as the readings are being proclaimed, wait in the back until the natural break, after the homily, and then be seated.

Youth Ministry News

Bike Raffle Winner

Congratulations to Ted Kartofilis, the winner of the customized bike. The monies raised will help support the youth group's mission trip. A special thanks to the parishioner who donated the bike.

Senior Graduation Mass & Celebration

All Seniors are invited to participate in the Senior Recognition Mass on May 16 at the 11:30am Mass. Seniors and their families must respond by calling Young Adult Ministry at 724-941-9587. All Seniors are asked to turn in 3 pictures for the power point show that will be returned the day of the event.

Appalachian Mission Trip

Next week's second collection will help to subsidize the cost of the Mission Trip for all participants. All those going need to turn in their down payment of \$100 by April 30.

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 18—April 25

April 18, 7:00pm—WORD (PBAC)

April 25, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)

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.



Dedication of New Church

Fr. Joseph McCaffrey would like to invite the parishioners of St. Benedict the Abbot to the dedication and first Mass of the new church of Saints John and Paul Parish in Sewickley on May 2, at 2:30pm. He wishes to thank everyone for their continued prayers and support, and, if you cannot make the dedication, invites you to join them for mass in their new church at some future date.

Day of Reflection

The Pittsburgh Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, along with Bishop Zubik and Fr. Angelus Shaughnessy, invite all women of the Diocese and clergy to *A Day of Reflection* on May 15 from 8:00am to 3:00pm at the Four Points Sheraton-Pittsburgh North. Bishop Zubik will be the Mass Celebrant and guest speaker. The fee is \$40, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Reservations are required by April 23. Call Kathy Meissner at 724-285-1949 with questions or to make a reservation.

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 more information please call 412-884-3213 or 724-933-0098.

Be A Sister: 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.

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

This Week In Our Parish

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)

Monday, April 19

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	Cub Scout Den 1	(RmA)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(204)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, April 20

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, April 21

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, April 22

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:00p	Cub Scout Den 6	(RmA)
7:00p	WOSB	(OBH)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	MOM's Group	(213)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, April 23

8:15a	Lifeline Health Screening	(OBH)
10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Nursery)

Saturday, April 24

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
5:00p	Cub Scout Pack 1313	(PBAC)

Sunday, April 25

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

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

The Parish Directories are available for pick up in the Parish Office. If you had your picture taken, please stop in and pick up your free copy. Extra copies are available on a first come, first-served basis for \$10 each to anyone who did not have a picture taken but wishes to have a directory.



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