



## Father Sam's Forum

Our third priority for baptized adults in this new millennium of Christianity is *hospitality*. If we look at our Mission Statement, it contains that word. Hospitality is a Benedictine ideal, but, more than that, it is part of the culture from which Jesus came. It is found throughout the bible.

With the technological age we live in, the Church, the Christian community, can seem impersonal. Over the years the Catholic Church has earned the reputation for being the least hospitable among the churches of Christianity. Why? Perhaps we have been so convinced of the strength and fullness of our own tradition that we just assumed that all of us plus any strangers or visitors would be caught up, necessarily, into what we do in our parishes on Sundays. After all, the ritual has deep meaning.

Today we recognize more than ever, the need to welcome, to reach out. And that isn't just for the priest or ministers, but for everyone. When did you greet someone you didn't know at Mass? Do you speak to the same people every week, or do you move out of your comfort zone and speak to someone you don't know? But being people of hospitality means more than this.

Transforming our parishes into places where people show care for one another has to start with how we greet people outside the church building. It means coming to Mass earlier and leaving in a far more relaxed way instead of the mad rush to the parking lot we see around here. We look for those who seem to be alone or new so that we are transformed from a congregation of very "private" people to becoming an assembly who has gathered deliberately to celebrate the faith we share.

The fourth priority is *honoring God's Word* alive among us. The bible can't sit on our coffee tables for show any longer. If we don't know the story, we are depriving ourselves of the rich heritage of our faith. There are lots of opportunities to study the bible as people of faith. Next Lent, in fact, we will offer an eight week series to allow people to get familiar with the bible as our story.

At Mass, we have restored the Scriptures to a place of honor, yet most people don't know the context of the Scriptures we read. Imagine having a job where you are expected to know the background of your line of work but are ignorant of it. You wouldn't get very far would you? The Protestants put us to shame in this regard. Honoring the Word of God

## Mass Intentions: April 25—May 2

### 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)

### Monday, April 26—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Jerry Tapolci** (Wife & Family)

### Tuesday, April 27—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Mary Ellen Werner** (Sadler Family)  
8:30a **Jack Manion**  
(George, Mary Lou & Mary Ellen Frost)

### Wednesday, April 28—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Andrew Joseph Leger, Sr.**  
(M/M Timothy Thomas)  
8:30a **Gene Farney**  
(George, Mary Lou & Mary Ellen Frost)

### Thursday, April 29—St. Catherine of Siena

- 6:30a **Lorraine G. Bittel** (M/M Ed Wisniewski)  
8:30a **Esther Gardner** (Fisher Family)

### Friday, April 30—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Linda Lee Joseph** (Joseph Family)

### Saturday, May 1—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Mary Elizabeth Salva** (Fedor Salva)  
3:00p **Wedding: Kay Mangieri**  
**James Wasaleskie**  
5:00p **55th Wedding Anniversary of**  
**M/M Richard Wall**

### Sunday, May 2—Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**  
9:30a **Robert J. Manion** (Manion Family)  
11:30a **60th Jubilee of Sister Tomasa Marcos**  
(Jay & Cindy Heisinger)

*The Bread & Wine this week is in memory of the Deceased Members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Mary Ann Rodal, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Frances & Regis McGrath, requested by their family.*

means listening attentively during Mass, but also reading the bible at home and reflecting on the readings. Since it was an oral tradition long before the Word was written, if we prepare before we come to church, we can really listen without the books in our hands, which don't help us to pay attention. Of course, this means the lectors have to do a good job of proclaiming the Word, and there are too few who speak in a way that would have us believe it. But if everyone paid attention to the lectors, I'm convinced they would do better.

The Word at Sunday Mass is the urgent Word of a loving God reaching out to break down the barriers we have set up between God and us, barriers between ourselves.



## 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 May 1—May 2

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Gordon, Ellsworth **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego  
**EMHC:** Klinar, Satler, Specca, Sarra, Greenwald, Femiani,  
McGinnis, Glod, Baumgartner **Servers:** J, J & N Bianco, P & M  
Ellsworth

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Jung, Brugger **Greeters:** Barker, Kalaski **EMHC:**  
Berger, Gavran, Fagioletti, Faina, S & J Christopher, Puskarich  
**Servers:** Wiegmann, Shaw, Brugger

**9:30am**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Fitzgerald, Wells **Greeters:** Verlato, Becker **EMHC:**  
McGovern, Torres, Walnoha, Kail, L & A Kelly, Bayer, Serrino,  
Getto **Servers:** Pampena, Kelly, A & D Wells, Getto

**11:30am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Auer, McCabe **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:**  
Huffner, Stein, Capozza, B Smith, P Newmaster, Baits, Herald,  
Boyd, Slomiany **Servers:** Toscano Children

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Alfonso Brunatti**, father of Sandy Mertens; **Jozef Jaroszynski**, Grandfather of Debby Brennehan & Leah Krakoff; and **Rudy Henger**, brother of Don Henger, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

## Baptism Dates & Parents' Meetings

The sacrament of baptism is scheduled to be celebrated at these times in the next two months. May 2, 1:00pm; May 9, during 9:30 Mass; May 16, 1:00pm; May 23, during 11:30 Mass; May 29, during 5:00 Mass; June 6, 12:45pm; June 13, during 9:30 Mass; June 20, 12:45pm; and June 27, during 11:30 Mass. Parent meetings are set for May 6, June 6, and July 1. Parents have to attend before scheduling a date.

## Invitation to Dedication of New Church

Fr. Joseph McCaffrey invites the parishioners of St. Benedict the Abbot to the dedication Mass of the new church at Saints John and Paul Parish in Franklin Park, on Sunday, 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.

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

## Readings for the Week of April 25

Sunday: Acts 13:14,43-52/Rv 7:9,14b-17/Jn 10:27-30  
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10  
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30  
Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a/Jn 12:44-50  
Thursday: Acts 13:13-25/Jn 13:16-20  
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6  
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14  
Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a,  
34-35

*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.*

## First Eucharist



We continue the celebration of First Eucharist for our second grade students on these dates: 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.**



## Parish Census 2010

The government is conducting the census this year, and it's important to complete your census form so that vital information is collected. Here in our parish, it's time for a census as well. Without accurate figures, we can't do planning properly, nor can we provide for the spiritual care we should so that everyone is cared for as they should be. Watch the bulletin for more information about our parish census that will begin this summer.

## Pastor's Cabinet

The Pastor's Cabinet will meet Tuesday, May 18, at 7:00pm in Room 208. Everyone who chairs any group, ministry or organization should be present to hear what's happening around the parish. We will provide an update from the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council about the parish plan and the budget process. Preliminary discussion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the parish will be part of the agenda.

## Usher & Greeter Prayer & Formation Sessions

There will be Prayer & Formation Sessions for all Ushers and Greeters on April 27 at 7:30pm, April 28 at 11:30am, and May 1 at 12:00 noon in Room 202. Please plan to attend one of these sessions so we can pray together and continue to explore these ministries. It is necessary for all ministers to attend one of the sessions. Also, if you are interested in serving the parish in one of these capacities, you are welcome to join us. Contact Jay Speca at Ext. 114 with any questions and to register for one of the sessions.

## 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!

## A Safe Environment

The US Bishops Charter for the protection of young people requires that every parish be in compliance as far as maintaining a database of volunteers. There are five parts to being able to work around young people. If you are a volunteer and have not yet completed the five requirements, please contact Shirley Jacobs, our Safe Environment Coordinator. Shirley is updating our records and will be contacting everyone who has not yet completed all the pieces necessary to be in compliance. Those pieces are: 1) criminal background check; 2) child abuse clearance check; 3) pastoral code of conduct; 4) *Protecting God's Children* workshop; and 5) national database registration. If you have any questions, please call the office.

## 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. Please join us for an informational meeting on May 5, 2010 either in the morning at 9:30am and/or in the evening at 7:30pm in Room 204/206.

## 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!

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



## Ask Father Sam

*How long does it take to become a priest?*

### Lesson of the Week

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

There are several times in the New Testament that we hear the injunction to *bow our heads* at the name of Jesus. We also hear “every knee should bend....” The reverence for the holy name of Jesus came from this background of what our sacred texts have contained since the first days of Christianity. In the *Acts of the Apostles*, for example, we hear that the apostles were told not to speak the name of Jesus, and that they proclaimed that there is no salvation except in this name. Someone is healed because they do speak the name, that’s the power it has.

As a kid going to parochial school, I was taught by the Sisters to bow my head each time I spoke or heard the name of Jesus. It happens automatically today for me and for many who were trained in the same manner. But how often do we hear people speak God’s name, or Jesus’ name in a way that, while maybe not malicious, is still disrespectful? TV always shows people’s reactions to a makeover of person or home and the most common thing from the mouths of these people is, “Oh, my God!” Is it a prayer? No. Just a matter of habit that we can develop easily.

Today at home, not many parents make a big deal of the head-bowing practice. Look around in church and see how many heads dip at the mention of the holy name. Not as many as used to since it is not regularly taught any longer. Like so many things that come and go, this practice might resurface. Let’s hope that even something as simple as reading this column will get a few people thinking about it.

All the externals of our faith are supposed to serve some purpose. We don’t do things to be noticed or just for show. If we do, then they are very effective. But when our interior disposition, the life of our souls, can be so intense that we demonstrate that through how we act on the outside, then it means something. Whether that’s just making the Sign of the Cross with intent or genuflection before entering the pew at church, or kneeling to say our night prayers, these exterior actions are to point to a deeper reality. Bowing the head at the name of Jesus is the same. It points to our connection that this is the name by which we are saved. This is the name above all others. Think about it, and then do it.

## Youth Ministry News

### 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.

### 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 25—May 2*

April 25, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting  
May 2, 7:00pm—WORD (YM Office)

### Scouting For Food

Boy Scout Troop 1313 is collecting and sorting food donations this weekend in O’Brien Hall. All food will be distributed through the Peters Township Food Bank to needy families in our area. If you’ve forgotten your food at home, Scouts will be at the exits after Mass to accept cash donations. The money will be used to purchase needed food items. Troop 1313 would like to thank you for your help with this project.

### Seeking Volunteers With Legal Experience

The Finance Council is seeking any volunteer with Gas Leasing experience and/or Legal experience in mineral rights law to help explore the possibility of the parish entering into negotiations to lease gas rights and to determine if in fact we have those rights. Please contact Fred Abrew at 724-941-4696 if you can help.

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



## Lost & Found Items

We have once again accumulated quite an amount of articles that have been left behind in various locations on the Parish Campus, including coats, purses, gloves, children's items, and assorted keys and jewelry. If you think you have left something behind, please check on the table outside the Formation Office, the narthex of the church, or the Church Office. After June 1, any unclaimed items will be donated to the poor.

## Elijah Cup

Parish signups for those wishing to receive the "Elijah Cup" will be held the weekend of May 1-2. The "Elijah Cup" is a consecrated chalice that belonged to Fr. Donatelli and is presented to a family each Sunday at the conclusion of Mass. The family uses the cup as a focal point while praying daily that week for an increase in religious vocations, both a responsibility and privilege of the laity. The chalice is then returned before the Saturday evening Mass the following week. Those of you who have signed up in the past, please do not hesitate to sign up again. If you are unable to sign up this weekend, please call Carlotta Zuback at 724-941-5787.

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Today is World Day of Prayer for Vocations, with the theme of "Witness Awakens Vocations." Please pray for our priests, brothers, deacons, and women and men in consecrated life, that they be great witnesses to the whole Church and that their examples strengthen within our youth the desire to seek God's will for their lives.

## Fish Fry Thank You

St. Benedict's Ben's Men would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the parishioners and people in the community for their patronage of the Lenten Fish Frys. A big thank you to the dedication and great efforts of everyone who worked and helped at this year's Fish Fry: Ben's Men and their wives, the men and women of the parish, and all the middle school youth and high school teens. A special thanks to Fr. Sam, Fr. Michael, the parish staff and custodians for supporting our efforts these past six weeks. Without all of you, the Lenten Fish Frys would not happen. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, April 25

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

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

### Monday, April 26

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

### Tuesday, April 27

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (206)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)  
7:00p Finance Council (Rectory)  
7:30p Ushers & Greeters Meeting (202)

### Wednesday, April 28

12:00p AA (208)  
11:30a Ushers & Greeters Meeting (202)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:30p Confessions (Church)  
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)  
7:45p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

### Thursday, April 29

12:00p NA (206)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)  
7:00p MOM's Group (210)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

### Friday, April 30

10:00a Prayer & Share (Nursery)  
7:00p Cub Scout Den 2 (Rm A)

### Saturday, May 1

7:30a Catholic Men's Fellowship (206)  
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)  
11:00a Confessions (Church)  
12:00p Ushers & Greeters Meeting (202)

### Sunday, May 2

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

7:00p WORD (PBAC)

***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 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