



Father Sam's Forum

The Easter season series about the ten priorities for adult Catholics in this new millennium continues. So far, I've written about *Adult Religious Learning, a lifelong pursuit*; *Baptism, a genuine vocation to ministry*; *Becoming a hospitable Church*; and *A renewed tradition of God's Word among us*. Today's priorities are *Parish Sunday Mass* and *Justice and Peace*.

We come to Sunday Mass to give life; in giving, we get new life. We have to remember that the Mass is a celebration we come to DO, not some pageant that we sit back and watch, not something done for us. Our gathering is the first integral component of this celebration. That's why hospitality is so important. We come together with a real awareness of ourselves and others who make this assembly of God's people ready to listen to God's Word. It means we pick up the hymnal and sing, even if we think we can't carry a tune. It means we make the responses with gusto, not half-heartedly. The energy we give to listen to the Word means we enter into dimensions of speaking, listening, silence and song.

All this calls for a response, and we respond in Eucharist and Mission. All that God has done for us is recounted by the priest in the Eucharistic Prayer. We remember together the sacrificial dying and rising of Jesus. The prayer gives thanks and praise to God repeatedly for all God has done. In a public act of communion, we share the presence of Jesus and our own presence as his Body. From this refreshment we are sent forth to be Word and Eucharist in the world, to another week of daily living as disciples of Jesus. The word "Mass" comes from the Latin *missam*, which means to send forth.

When we consider the story of Jesus, we see that he enfleshed the God who cares for humanity. By giving tangible help and comfort to the poor, the sick, the suffering, and the oppressed, and then commanding his followers to go and do likewise, Jesus demonstrated that being servants means serving others. Does the presence of our parish make a difference in the lives of people? Are we a place of hope for those seeking that care and comfort that Jesus gave?

And what about peace? If we pray for it every once in a while, but don't put aside the convenient distinctions between "religion" and "politics" and support our bishops as a voice of justice and peace in the world, then what difference does it make? Are

Mass Intentions: May 2—May 9

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)

Monday, May 3—St. Philip & St. James, apostles

- 8:30a **Jim Hendrie** (Hendrie Family)

Tuesday, May 4—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Edward McCloskey** (John T. McCloskey)
 8:30a **Elizabeth "Lil" Nalitz** (WOSB)

Wednesday, May 5—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Mike Helscher** (Alice Helscher)
 8:30a **George P. DiNardo** (Jeanne)

Thursday, May 6—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Joseph Yatchum** (Bob & Becky Chiocca)
 8:30a **Daniel A. Nieder** (Patricia Fink)

Friday, May 7—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Denise Nobile** (M/M Young)
 1:45p **Manor Care: Frederick Henning**
 (Shirley Dietzel Family)

Saturday, May 8—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **Bill Autry** (Helen Autry & Family)
 5:00p **Our Mothers, Living & Deceased**

Sunday, May 9—Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 7:45a **Our Mothers, Living & Deceased**
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 11:30a **Our Mothers, Living & Deceased**

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the 30th Wedding Anniversary of Blaise & Pat Hollot, the Bread & Wine is in honor of the 55th Wedding Anniversary of M/M Richard Wall, and the Flowers are in honor of Pat & Blaise Hollot and the First Communion of Kate & Erin Shannon.

Ascension Thursday

The celebration of the Lord's Ascension into heaven is Thursday, May 13. Ascension Thursday is a holy day of obligation which means every Catholic is expected to participate at Mass. Here in our parish, Masses for the Ascension will be celebrated at 7:00pm Wednesday, May 12, and on the holy day at 6:30 and 8:30am, and 4:00pm.

threats to the dignity of human life, from everything along the spectrum, including war and terrorism, capital punishment, torture, violence against women, and, of course, abortion and euthanasia subject to our personal preferences or to the Gospel?



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 8—May 9

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: H & M Buzzatto **Greeters:** Schardt, Mitchell
EMHC: Scheuering, Vandewater, LaCamera, P & G Adams, Norton, Mertens, D & T Martin **Servers:** Curry, Waigand, Nobers, Byrne, LaRosa

7:45am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Rossin, DiCello **Greeters:** Barton, Turchick
EMHC: Faina, Fagioletti, Gavran, Berger, Klinar, Basile, Petricca **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lectors: McKenzie, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato
EMHC: Serrino, Bayer, Kail, Torres, McGovern, Glod, J Smith, Schultz, Gaudy **Servers:** Maher, Watson, D, C & L Schratz

11:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Zuk, Balash **Greeters:** Navrotski, Fisher **EMHC:** B Smith, Capozza, Stein, Huffner, McGinnis, Hayward, Oldaker, Eckels, Fishers **Servers:** Luzier, A & E Ross

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week former parishioner **Ruth Blumer**, **Lucille Oberle**, mother of Jon Oberle, and **Josephine Lesica**, mother of Kathleen Heinz, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Readings for the Week of May 2

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a,34-35
Monday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2,22-29/Rv 21:10-14,22-23/Jn 14:23-29

Eucharistic Adoration

This is our monthly 24-hour adoration which begins Thursday at 4:00pm and concludes Friday at 4:00pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

First Eucharist



Our final celebration of First Eucharist for our second grade students will be Saturday, May 15, at the 5:00 Mass.

Remember this Mass will take a little longer than usual.

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.

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.

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



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, today 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.

Genesis Tag Day

Volunteers from our Youth Council will be collecting donations next weekend, Mother's Day, at the exits of the church after all Masses to benefit Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc. This non-profit social service agency offers free services including counseling, infant needs, temporary shelter, prenatal & parenting classes, and adoption services to girls and women in our community facing an unexpected pregnancy. Anyone making a donation will receive a red rose appliqué as a token of gratitude for your support. If your 6th, 7th or 8th grade student would like to volunteer to help with this collection, or if you have any questions, please contact Beth Quinn at 724-942-1057.

Parish Directories

Have you picked up your Parish Directory yet? We still have a large amount of unclaimed directories. If you had your picture taken, please stop in the Parish Office, Monday through Friday or Sunday morning, 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 would like to have a directory.

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, either in the morning at 9:30am and/or in the evening at 7:30pm in Room 204/206.

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 plan 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.

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.

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.

A Safe Environment

The US Bishops' *Charter for the Protection of Children and 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.



Ask Father Sam

What are the steps to being married in the Catholic Church?

Lesson of the Week

How long does it take to become a priest?

Becoming a priest is both an educational and a discernment process. When a man hears what he believes is God's call to this life of service in the Church, he begins by talking about it with others. His family certainly, but also another priest, his pastor, someone he knows and trusts. This call can come at any time. Fr. Michael heard it in high school, and I in college, even though I had thought about being a priest when I was still in grade school.

From the educational standpoint, the young man has to complete high school, unlike years ago, when some boys went to test their vocation after the 8th grade. We see now that having a normal high school experience with dating and social life is very important to forming a healthy priest. If the man enters the seminary for college, he lives in a house of formation with other young men who are also trying to listen carefully to God's call. Here in our diocese, these men live at St. Paul Seminary in the Crafton area of the city. They take courses at Duquesne University, declare a major, and pursue their degree. They also take classes at the seminary. Their day includes prayer and Mass, recreation and even work at times, sometimes in the kitchen or on the grounds. Those who have a college degree already begin as pre-theologians, which mean they have to receive some preparatory formation before beginning the study of theology at a major seminary. They may take courses at Duquesne also or just those offered in house at the seminary.

After graduation or pre-theology, the young man has to be approved by the faculty to continue to study. He is assigned by the bishop to a major seminary such as St. Vincent in Latrobe, or the North American College in Rome. For four years he takes intensive classes in various areas of study such as dogmatic theology, moral theology, and Sacred Scripture. During this time he receives the ministries of lector and acolyte and is accepted as a candidate for Holy Orders. There are summer assignments in parishes and other pastoral training that occurs in these years. Before the final year of study, he is ordained a deacon and returns to the seminary to finish his course work before he is ordained a priest by his bishop in his home diocese. So, if there are no delays, the young man who enters after high school becomes a priest in 8 years.

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 Powerpoint show that will be returned the day of the event.

Youth Ministry Mulch Sale

St. Benedict teens are once again 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

May 2—May 9

May 2, 7:00pm—WORD (YM Office)

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.



This Week In Our Parish

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Sin Fa Leu

Jeff & Sandy Mertens

In Memory of Alfonso Brunatti

Judge & Mrs. Diamond Kip & Rita Milavec
 Dick & Dolly Wall
 Michael & Jeannie
 Shannon & Family

In Memory of Dorothy Wasieleski

Bernie & Pat Suchoza

Summer Camp Volunteers

The Father Ryan Arts Center and Sisters of St. Joseph are recruiting college counselors for their summer Peace Camp held July 26 through July 30. Counselor training is July 20 through July 25. The mission of the camp is to teach 80 children, ages 6 through 12, nonviolent conflict resolution through working together with different arts and artists. Counselor training and housing will be at the Gilmary Center. Counselors will receive a stipend. Please e-mail Marcia Snowden at snowden3590@comcast.net.

Oldies Dance & 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 5:00 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 is old fashioned milk shakes. Set ups and soft drinks will be provided. Cost is \$20 per person or \$35 per couple. There are only 300 tickets available, so get them early!

St. Joan of Arc Registration

Registration is now open for new enrollment in the 2010-2011 school year. St. Joan of Arc offers preschool, full or half-day Kindergarten, and 1st through 8th grades, and the Peters Township public school buses serve the school. Register now to save your child's spot for the Fall school year. You can register from 8:30am to 2:20pm, Monday through Friday in the Main Office of the School. Tours of the school are available. If you have any questions, please call 412-833-2433, or visit mysjaschool.org.

Sunday, May 2

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

7:00p WORD (PBAC)

Monday, May 3

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)
 7:00p Cub Scout Den 5 (RmA)

Tuesday, May 4

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

Wednesday, May 5

9:30a Lenten Mission 2011 Mtg. (204/206)
 12:00p AA (208)
 6:30p Confessions (Church)
 7:30p Lenten Mission 2011 Mtg. (204/206)
 7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

Thursday, May 6

9:00a WOSB Bridge Group (OBH)
 12:00p NA (206)
 4:00p Eucharistic Adoration Begins (Chapel)
 6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
 7:00p RCIA (206)
 7:00p Parent Baptism Session (213)
 7:00p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)
 7:00p Ministry of Welcome Mtg. (210)
 7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

Friday, May 7

10:00a Prayer & Share (Nursery)
 4:00p Closing of Adoration (Chapel)

Saturday, May 8

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

Sunday, May 9

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

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.

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



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