



## *Father Sam's Forum*

As the series about *Catholic Life 2000* continues in this Easter season, I look at *Generosity* and *Parish & Diocese*, the next two priorities of the ten that are urgent for us as Catholic adults.

Any of you who grew up in the parishes in the city of Pittsburgh or the mill towns surrounding it back in the 1950's and 1960's can remember a church where the pastor and a few others—the Sister who was Principal of the school, the organist, and the janitor, were the only staff. There were a couple of volunteers and maybe a committee of men who came together to raise money for some special need. The Christian Mothers and Holy Name Society existed for women and men, and there was probably a boys' choir and maybe a men's choir too.

After the Second Vatican Council that all changed. For a number of reasons, demographics included, people moved, aged, and the priests and Sisters were fewer in numbers. But the most important reason was that the renewed understanding of what baptism means brought a call for every person, man and woman, to see themselves as ministers.

While there will always be those who are inclined to offer their time and talents, the challenge is to take generosity seriously. So many here are generous in their financial giving, but the same people seem to step forward in service when a call goes out. It's not that others wouldn't do so, but how can we invite them and include them? Each person is important and has something unique to share. What can parents of small children do to share? That's not the same as someone who is retired and has more time available. But everyone can do something.

When we think of our connection between parish and diocese, we see a deeper reason for existence than the historical one that Bishop Wright saw a need for a church here in this township. A parish satisfied with being a membership club will wither and die. A Catholic parish has to be a life-giving presence in its wider community. And size need not be a detriment as some may think. The mega parishes in places like Texas where it is not unusual to have 4000 households are able to sustain many ministries because people believe in the mission of the Church, which is the mission of Jesus Christ.

We are part of a local church, namely the Church of Pittsburgh. We serve as a piece of the Catholic community in this geographic area, and have to see

## Mass Intentions: May 9—May 16

### Sunday, May 9—Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

### Monday, May 10—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **M/M Stanley Mikos & M/M Bayert Rodal**  
 (Dennis & Maryann Rodal)

### Tuesday, May 11—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Mr. J. L. Mayer**  
 (Daughter, Patricia A. Stanfill)  
 8:30a **M/M Paul Stryker** (Bill & Kathy Wanninger)

### Wednesday, May 12—Easter Weekday

- 6:30a **Elizabeth Jackson** (Roberta Junker)  
 8:30a **John Reed** (Women of St. Benedict)  
 11:00a **McMurray Hills: Joe Yatchum**  
 (Widows & Widowers Group)  
 7:00p **John Stefan, Sr.**  
 (Dante & Mary Pat DeRienzo)

### Thursday, May 13—Ascension of the Lord

- 6:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 8:30a **Donato & Angela Pasquarelli**  
 (Frank & Sandy Pasquarelli)  
 4:00p **George Trevorrow** (Bob & Becky Chiocca)

### Friday, May 14—St. Matthias, apostle

- 8:30a **Ralph Antone** (Fran Uhrine)

### Saturday, May 15—Easter Weekday

- 8:30a **50th Wedding Anniversary:**  
**Donald & Yvonne Cannon**  
 5:00p **Floretta Hill** (Sue George & Daughter)

### Sunday, May 16—Seventh Sunday of Easter

- 7:45a **Sin Fa Leu** (Brother, Benny Jung)  
 9:30a **Janet & Carl Steenberge** (Family)  
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in loving memory of Dick Stewart, requested by Wife, Mary; the Bread & Wine is in memory of the Living & Deceased of the Schweibinz & Busch Families, requested by Claire Meredith; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Mary E. Salva, requested by Fedor Salva.*

how we can communicate our mission to others, begin to cooperate with other parishes in our vicinity, begin to talk about how resources of personnel, programs and priests should be distributed and shared. Even in the simplest forms of ministry: driving someone to church, taking a day a month to clean the church, sitting with children so parents can attend some program, we can have the bigger picture in mind. All this points to something more.



## 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 15—May 16

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Bonadio, Benya **Greeters:** Patnesky, Reed **EMHC:** Greenwald, Sarra, Specca, Milavec, R & C Satler, Bonadio, B & R Jordan **Servers:** Peterson, Quinn, Curran, Figueroa, Hillen

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Wanninger, Mamros **Greeters:** J & R Jackson **EMHC:** J & S Christopher, Wanninger, Prado, Joseph, R & E McMillan **Servers:** Rauscher, Severa, Bowlin

**9:30am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Mahla, Morosco **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Gaudy, Schultz, McGovern, Torres, Bayer, Serrino, Klinar, A & L Kelly **Servers:** Oberschelp, Z & J Verner, D & M DeRienzo

**11:30am**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Ray, Hruby **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Huffner, Stein, Capozza, B Smith, Slomiany, Boyd, Herald, Baits, P Newmaster **Servers:** Wallach, F & M Meola

## Pastor's Cabinet Meeting

The Pastor's Cabinet meets Tuesday, May 18, 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.

## Readings for the Week of May 9

Sunday: Acts 15:1-2,22-29/Rv 21:10-14,22-23/Jn 14:23-29  
Monday: Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a  
Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11  
Wednesday: Acts 17:15,22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15  
Thursday: Acts 1:1-11/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28;10:19-23/  
Lk 24:46-53  
Friday: Acts 1:15-17,20-26/Jn 15:9-17  
Saturday: Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28  
Next Sunday: Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14,16-17,20/Jn 17:20-26

*The Second Collection next weekend  
will be for the Catholic Relief Services &  
Third World Churches*

## Online Giving: think about it



More and more parishioners are opting to use the online giving services provided by our envelope company, *Our Sunday Visitor*. Check it out by going to our web site and clicking on the link there. For those who sign up for this service, we will not send any more envelopes through the mail—all special

collections and second collections can be donated to online now. We even have the fee for VBS registration coming in the online format! And soon faith formation class fees will be there too.

## Ascension Thursday

The celebration of the Lord's Ascension into heaven is 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.

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week **Stephen Hlancik**, father of Marci Leech. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.



## Office Spring Cleaning

It's time to *Spring Clean* the Parish Office! In order to clean our parish office, **we will be closed** on these Wednesdays: May 19, 26, and June 9. We must clean out the files and reorganize records. No parish business will be conducted on those days, except for emergencies.

## Genesis Tag Day

Youth Council will be collecting donations this weekend 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 number 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.

## Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family **Matteo Charles**, son of Michael & Tara Hardoby; **Nina Irene**, daughter of Christopher & Kara Logero; **Clare Faustina**, daughter of David & Lori Lyle; **Ian Thomas**, son of Timothy & Michelle Ferlin; **Gavin Michael**, son of Terrence & Jacqueline Larkin; **Kenna Marie**, daughter of Michael & Dea Lynch; **Karli Elizabeth**, daughter of Kirk & Rebecca Stinner; **Keira Lynn & Vanessa Nicole**, twin daughters of Michael & Conni Rinsem; and **Connor William**, son of Timothy & Andrea Glass. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

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

## Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>PSP</u>
<b>April 4</b>	<b>\$7,509</b>	<b>\$4,459</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>
<b>April 11</b>	<b>\$21,563</b>	<b>\$2,527</b>	<b>\$8,220</b>
<b>April 18</b>	<b>\$20,233</b>	<b>\$1,800</b>	<b>\$2,112</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>\$19,037</b>	<b>\$2,760</b>	<b>\$2,089</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>\$37,203</b>		
<b>On-Line Giving</b>	<b>\$10,474</b>	<b>\$1,295</b>	<b>\$1,420</b>
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>\$116,019</b>	<b>\$12,841</b>	<b>\$15,941</b>
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>\$29,005</b>		
<b>Weekly Budgeted</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>		

*The weekly average is way above our budgeted amount because of the Easter collection. That's a good thing. The Finance Council looked at March's figures and each member is working on a portion of the new budget. We will meet on May 27 to finalize our figures and then we will publish the new budget here in the bulletin. Watch for two visual reminders for our debt reduction and Parish Share goal that we are going to place in the narthex so folks can see how progress is being made in paying off these bills.*

## Census 2010

Keeping good records is an important piece of parish business. Our census records are outdated in many instances, with households still listing adult children who are no longer present and sometimes we have people who are present in the household missing. To update our data, a parish-wide census is beginning this summer. We are going to have several ways for people to update their records. One will be online on our web site. Another will be having forms in church that people can complete. A third way is through the mail. Watch for start up dates and more about our census.

## Parish Picnic Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar now for the St. Benedict the Abbot Parish Picnic on August 28. Watch future bulletins for more information.



## Ask Father Sam

*What are the steps to being married? (Part II)*

### Lesson of the Week

*What are the steps to being married in the Catholic Church? (Part I)*

When a couple becomes engaged, wedding plans soon follow. To have that wedding celebrated in Catholic ritual, there are a few questions to consider. The priest who meets with the couple will help them to answer these questions. So, the first step is to contact the priest. In every diocese I know today, a wedding date is not set until this initial meeting has taken place. Why? Shouldn't you book the hall first? No.

First of all, in the meeting the priest can determine a few things. Is the couple free to marry? If one or both of the parties has been previously married it may not be possible to have a Catholic wedding until an annulment is granted. Sometimes this is as simple as presenting documentation that shows the previous marriage was not according to Catholic form; that is, before a deacon or priest with two witnesses. And sometimes a formal process is necessary, which means a wedding has to be delayed until this occurs.

The next thing the initial meeting will offer is the reason the couple wants to marry according to the Catholic rite. Sometimes it's very easy: this is how the parties believe marriage should be, a sacrament, and to begin wedded life without God's blessing seems foreign. But sometimes the couple is not connected to their faith and are looking to please family by having a church wedding. That's never a good reason to marry in church. Or, they may not be sure they really believe, but the ceremony is rich and the setting just perfect for photos.

In 2009, a couple came to me: the bride-to-be, a baptized Catholic, the groom-to-be, never baptized. As we talked, he told me he was attending a Baptist church (in another state) and liked it. His family had also started to attend. I asked the young woman about church and she said she went with him. "Not to Mass?", I asked. "No," she said. I explained that when a mixed religion marriage happens, the Catholic party is asked to sign a statement that says he or she will share their Catholic faith with any children that the couple may have—baptism and rearing them in the Catholic faith. "How will you do this?" I asked her. She told me she wasn't sure she would or could. I had to tell them I couldn't officiate at the wedding.

It would have been dishonest to have a Catholic wedding because she had no intention to live as a Catholic and wasn't doing so. Why come to me? Her

## 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 9—May 16*

May 16, 11:30a—Senior Recognition Mass

mother was a childhood friend and both parents were practicing Catholics. She was trying to please them. I sent her away asking her to think about this seriously. If she did, and came to the conclusion that she indeed was going to live as a Catholic and was going to make every effort to share her faith with her children, then she should call me again. I never heard back from her.

Our sacraments aren't magic. I say this hundreds of times to many people in any number of settings, from parent meetings for Baptism and First Eucharist to homilies and talks about our faith. They are connected to our lives. Or should be. So, that initial meeting is very important, because it can get the couple to think about why they are seeking a church wedding. It also allows the priest to come to know them better as he asks about how they met, what keeps them together, why they believe this is the right person for them to marry, etc.

*(Continued next week...)*

***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 Ralph Antone

John & Rita Milavec  
Chris & Steve Mazza

#### In Memory of Liz McDonnell

Antone Family

### In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict's Military Support Group, we have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

### 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 Gilmory Center. Counselors will receive a stipend. Please e-mail Marcia Snowden at [snowden3590@comcast.net](mailto:snowden3590@comcast.net).

### Magnificat Pittsburgh

Please join the Catholic Women of Pittsburgh for prayer and breakfast on May 22 from 9:00am until 12:00 noon at the Radisson Hotel in Greentree. The featured speaker will be Kathy MacInnis, coordinator of the Magnificat West Tammany Chapter in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The cost is \$18 per person and the registration deadline is May 14. To register call Kay at 724-722-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906, or download a registration form at [www.magnificatpittsburgh.org](http://www.magnificatpittsburgh.org).

#### Sunday, May 9

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

#### Monday, May 10

6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(204)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:15p	Marriage Preparation Class	(210)

#### Tuesday, May 11

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Cub Scouts Den 4	(Rm A)

#### Wednesday, May 12

12:00p	AA	(208)
12:30p	Staff Meeting: Office Closed till 2:00	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:00p	Welcome Committee	(210)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

#### Thursday, May 13

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:00p	Cub Scout Den 3	(Rm.A)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

#### Friday, May 14

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Nursery)
--------	----------------	-----------

#### Saturday, May 15

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

#### Sunday, May 16

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

2:00p	Auditions for Joseph Musical	(210)
-------	------------------------------	-------

### 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](http://mysjaschool.org).

**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