



## Father Sam's Forum

**A**s we come round the bend to finish the Easter season in this final week and prepare for the celebration of Pentecost next weekend, the last two of the ten priorities for adult Catholics in this new millennium are offered for your reflection. Remember, we have already seen *Adult Religious Learning; Baptism as Vocation to Ministry; Becoming a Hospitable Church; A Renewed Tradition of God's Word Among Us; Parish Sunday Mass' Justice and Peace; Generosity;* and *Our Parish and Diocese*. This weekend I present *Children and Parents* and finish next weekend with *The Journey of Faith: A New Model*.

American Catholics have a long tradition of intense religious education of our children. We also have a high level of frustration and disappointment with the dis-interest of teenagers in continuing with the foundation we offered them. And Catholic adults, on the whole, have been less involved in learning and parish life in general than most other Christian groups. The main reason for this vicious circle of failure has been that our approach to Christian education has been child-centered and school-centered. We have let schools and religious education programs take over that first ministry of parents to their children: guiding their first growth in faith through home-centered experience and example. It is fair to say that religious "training" of children continues to be the biggest single enterprise in most parishes today. It is certainly the case here.

How do we re-orient our priorities? Obviously, after generations of one approach, to change causes consternation on a number of levels. But the children will become the beneficiaries of adult-centered learning in a parish. Their faith and understanding is sparked by the enthusiasm of parents, not by a hour a week in a classroom where boring facts that have no connection to their lives are offered in the most creative way we can think to do that. Our catechists do a great job, but some have come to me to share their own frustrations that what they do is like the seed that falls on rocky soil. They know there is no back-up at home. We've got this thing backwards, you see.

Our parish activities and programs for children are supposed to be a support to the role of parents in the growth of their children, not a substitute for it. We need more than token involvement of parents.

## Mass Intentions: May 16—May 23

### 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**

### Monday, May 17—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Dick Stewart** (Wife, Mary)

### Tuesday, May 18—Easter Weekday

6:30a **John Quarture** (Children)  
 8:30a **Rudy Massack** (Charles & Denise Abraham)

### Wednesday, May 19—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Claire Lane** (Joanne Barton)  
 8:30a **Antonette Strnisa** (Kay & Dave Stutts)

### Thursday, May 20—Easter Weekday

6:30a **Jacob Joyce**  
 (Phyllis & Paul Pecina & Evelyn Kerns)  
 8:30a **Andy Palombo** (Paula Palombo)

### Friday, May 21—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Fred G. Kluglein** (Carolyn S. Kluglein)

### Saturday, May 22—Easter Weekday

8:30a **Jack Reed** (Mezz & Jim McKean)  
 2:00p **Wedding: Richard Chimno**  
**Amy Sivak**  
 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

### Sunday, May 23—Pentecost

7:45a **Phillips & Singer Families** (Bernard Singer)  
 9:30a **Deceased Members of the Meehan Family**  
 (McGovern Family)  
 11:30a **Shoats/Dilla & Zakseske Families**  
 (Gene & Margot Pitowski)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of M/M J. L. Stanfill, requested by daughter, Patricia Stanfill; and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Dick Stewart, requested by wife, Mary.*

What this means is something our US bishops have considered for some time now. We call it *Whole Community Catechesis*. It means that we see that the entire faith community is responsible for one another. We are all in this together, and learning about our own spiritual hungers and how we as Church address those is not just for Sunday Mass but for daily living. The model is the RCIA which I will highlight next week in this *Forum*.

Our journeys are so similar even though we are all individuals. We all suffer, cry, mourn, fret, and struggle, as well as rejoice, celebrate, love, laugh, and come together. Next week's homilies will explore that further. As we re-present our pastoral plan, there are some definite ways we are going to reach out.



## 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 22—May 23

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton  
**Lectors:** Tallon, Specca **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey **EMHC:** G & P Adams, LaCamera, Vandewater, Scheuring, Getto, Baumgartner, Femiani, Pfeifer **Servers:** Waigand, Curry, Getto, Wiegmann, Tallon

**7:45am**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lectors:** Hollot, Trapanotto **Greeters:** Barker, Henger **EMHC:** Gavran, Fagioletti, Faina, D & T Martin, Walnoha, Puskarich **Servers:** E, M & E Jozwiak

**9:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lectors:** Smore, Ott **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:** McGovern, Schultz, Gaudy, J Smith, Kail, T & E Mauro, Cushma, Orient **Servers:** N & V DeRienzo, Kimes, Cushma, Mackay

**11:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lectors:** Gehrlein, Hajzus **Greeters:** Ragan, Navrotski **EMHC:** Boyd, Slomiany, B Smith, Capozza, Stein, Huffner, Oldaker, Hayward, Bench **Servers:** Graves, K & C Bench

## 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.

**The Second Collection this weekend  
is for the Catholic Relief Services & Third  
World Churches**

## Readings for the Week of May 16

Sunday: Acts 7:55-60/Rv 22:12-14,16-17,20/Jn 17:20-26  
Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Jn 16:29-33  
Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Jn 17:1-11a  
Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Jn 17:11b-19  
Thursday: Acts 22:30;23:6-11/Jn 17:20-26  
Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Jn 21:15-19  
Saturday: Acts 28:16-20,30-31/Jn 21:20-25  
Next Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

## Don't Forget the Red!!!



Next Sunday is Pentecost, the culmination of the fifty days of Easter. Everyone is encouraged to wear something red to Mass next weekend. Because it is the "birthday" of the Church, Fr. Sam will preach at all the Masses, presenting an update of our Pastoral Plan and some direction for the coming year.

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

## 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.





## 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. Fr. Sam is also going to declare some days in the coming weeks for cleaning his office as well. Old records, forms, and files that have accumulated over the past 30+ years need to go.

## Italian Trip Gathering

Everyone who went on our parish pilgrimage last October is invited to gather on Friday, June 11, for a reunion. Barb Giglotti will host at her home, 341 Snowberry Circle, Venetia. If you need directions, call her at 724.941.2908.



## Free Blood Pressure Checks

Members of our health ministry program will provide free blood pressure checks next Sunday in O'Brien Hall after the 7:45am and 9:30am Masses.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Liturgy of the Word for Children will conclude Pentecost Sunday at the 9:30am Mass. We will resume this ministry again in September. If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the children so we can expand this ministry in the future, please call Teresa Buzard at 724-941-6051 or our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.

## 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.

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

## Protecting God's Children

Training sessions for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children," have been scheduled for May 21, from 9:30am until 12:30pm and June 10, from 7:00pm until 10:00pm. Both sessions will be held in Rooms 204/206. Please call Colette in Faith Formation at 724-941-9587, Ext. 113 to register.

## Abbey Players Auditions for "Joseph"

**Students in Grades 7-12**—Auditions for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* will be held today from 2:00-5:00pm in room 210. The audition fee is \$35 for non-members of Abbey Players (it is \$50 to join Abbey Players which includes classes throughout the year). Show dates will be June 18 & 19. To sign up for an audition time, or for more information, please contact Nicole Marie Gasse at 724-747-0617 or nmgasse@gmail.com. Walk-in auditions are welcome.

**Students in Grades 3-6**—Abbey Players are looking for students in this age group to be part of the children's chorus in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The cost is \$35 and includes a cast shirt. There is no need to audition to be a member of the children's chorus. To sign up, or for more information, contact Nicole at the above phone number or email address.

## 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 this summer and more about our census.

## Parish Picnic Coming Soon!

Mark your calendar now for the St. Benedict the Abbot Parish Picnic on August 21. Watch future bulletins for more information.



## Ask Father Sam

*What's this about the parish being organized into neighborhoods?*

### Lesson of the Week

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

Following that initial meeting with the priest, the engaged couple is given a schedule for the months before the wedding to complete all the necessary requirements for marriage in the Church. These would include some form of pre-nuptial preparation such as an Engaged Encounter Weekend, our own parish program that is offered several times yearly, the program of another parish, or the one given by the diocese throughout the year.

At these gatherings, couples hear from others who are married about topics like finances, sharing faith, communication, and parenting. In addition, most couples here are asked to complete a FOCCUS inventory. That acronym means *Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study*. In a series of statements, the couple gets to agree or disagree with these and then the scoring is done to show how much alike or not they are. Areas for discussion are shown, and in future meetings the priest can help them to look at these.

There are forms the priest must complete before any wedding. Marriage is about a life-long commitment, and the couple is asked questions that indicate they are willing to undertake this. Do they know that this is about fidelity? Are they open to children? If one of the parties is not a Catholic or the couple was not from the parish originally, witnesses are asked if there is any reason the couple should not be married. In the case of mixed religion, the forms are sent to the bishop for permission. If one of the parties was never baptized, a dispensation must be given.

Another gathering with the priest before the date of the wedding is to explain and prepare the liturgy for that ceremony. Because it is a sacramental rite of the Church, the readings, music, and actions of a wedding follow norms. Couples are encouraged to involve their families as much as possible in the ceremony through participation in the rite by greeting people, handing out the programs, proclaiming the Scripture readings, bringing the gifts of bread and wine to the altar, etc. The couple also meets with the Director of Music Ministry and selects hymns and instrumental music for the wedding.

## Youth Ministry News

### Youth Group Camping Trip

Memorial Day weekend we're heading to the woods of Raccoon Creek Mountain and spending time relaxing, canoeing, hiking, and tenting. Don't worry if you're not an "outdoor friendly" kind of person. It's a fun and simple trip, and we'll have adults and college students around to make sure you're okay. Fair warning, there are no showers, no cell reception, and no electricity. We will be leaving on May 28 and returning on May 30. The cost is \$50, which includes everything. Registration is due May 24.

### Thank from Youth Ministry

Now that the school year is wrapping up, we need to say a sincere thank you to everyone who gave of their time and talents to be with the teens. . . Elaine Motyl, Alyssa and Amanda Simmons, Ed Corbett, Mike and Sarah Locke, and Tracy Leja. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate all you do!

### 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.

### 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.



## St. Vincent de Paul News

May 12, 2010 marked the 6th anniversary of the founding of St. Benedict the Abbot Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society. Our Conference is a part of an international organization of Catholic laymen and women who seek, in a spirit of justice and charity, to help those in need. We work quietly and in complete confidentiality with our clients on a case-by-case basis to provide short-term relief for those beset by hardship due to sickness, loss of job, natural disaster, or just plain bad luck. Because of the generosity of members of St. Benedict the Abbot Parish, our Conference has been able to affect the lives of many individuals and families in our community through financial assistance for rent or mortgage, utilities, food or gasoline vouchers, medical or dental, etc. Thank you for your support over the years. Together we can help those less fortunate as they carry their cross of suffering and pain. Anyone in need of help may apply for assistance from our Conference by calling the parish office at 724-941-9406.

## Health Ministry

After reviewing data from our parish survey, members of the health ministry support team have been meeting to discuss what first steps we might take. Probably the most important item mentioned was providing information and materials to parishioners, particularly seniors and their caregivers, about programs and services that are available. We're looking to put together a health fair in early fall that might feature tables or booths reflecting several categories of peoples' lives, including physical, emotional, spiritual, vocational, social, intellectual and environmental. If you're a health care professional or service provider and are interested in helping us, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein for more information.

## Concert at St. Bernard's Come—Be Renewed in Spirit!

Dove Award-winning Christian music artist John Michael Talbot will be at St. Bernard Church, Mt. Lebanon, for a two-day series Wednesday, May 26 and Thursday, May 27 at 7:30pm. Wednesday evening will be a time of prayer and renewal. Thursday evening will present music and reflection on the Word of God. No charge—all are welcome! Free-will offerings accepted. If you are unfamiliar with John Michael Talbot, check him out on YouTube.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, May 16

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

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

### Monday, May 17

10:00a WOSB Yoga (OBH)  
6:00p Rehearsal for "*Joseph*" (PBAC)  
6:30p Aerobics (OBH)  
7:00p Centering Prayer (204)  
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (208)  
7:15p Marriage Preparation Class (210)

### Tuesday, May 18

8:00a Election Polls (OBH)  
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (206)  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)  
7:00p Pastor's Cabinet Meeting (208)  
7:00p Money Counter's Meeting (204/206)

### Wednesday, May 19

*Parish Office Closed Today*

12:00p AA (208)  
6:00p Rehearsal for "*Joseph*" (PBAC)  
6:30p Confessions (Church)  
7:00p Worship Committee Mtg. (210)  
7:30p Gardening Committee Mtg. (208)  
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

### Thursday, May 20

12:00p NA (206)  
5:00p Troop 1313 Court of Honor (OBH)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p RCIA (206)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

### Friday, May 21

9:30a Protecting God's Children (204/206)  
10:00a Prayer & Share (Nursery)  
3:00p Rehearsal for "*Joseph*" (PBAC)

### Saturday, May 22

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

### Sunday, May 23

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

## Widows and Widowers

The Widows and Widowers of St. Benedict the Abbot will be meeting for dinner at 6:00pm at Piccolina's on May 21. For further information, please contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686. New faces are always welcome!



## 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