



Father Sam's Forum

Happy Pentecost! It's been one year since the Pastoral Plan developed by our Pastoral Council was rolled out to everyone. Today is a chance to see how the year unfolded and where our next steps will take us. I am speaking at all the Masses to offer this update and an invitation to participate in what we have named *Abbey Community Ministry*.

Throughout the Easter Season, I presented the ten urgent priorities for adult Catholics in this new millennium. Today is the last one for you to consider, *Adult Journey of Faith*. Since the Second Vatican Council, the Church restored a process that is known as RCIA, the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. This experience is a return to the normal—**yes, the normal**—practice of the early centuries of Christianity, before it became common to baptize whole tribes in Europe.

Here in our parish, this process has been in place for some time now. You have noticed that we formally welcome those who seek to become members of our faith community. From fall through Lent, we send them off after the homily to “break open the Word,” which means in their small group they share what the readings at Mass say to them in their own experience. It is NOT about what the readings mean but about how they are alive in each person who hears them.

We need everyone to make this happen. Sponsors, witnesses, members of parish organizations who can welcome and provide refreshments, those who will faith share in small groups at Sunday Mass—that's what being a vibrant, authentic, Catholic community is all about. This restored tradition incorporates adult learning, experiencing God's Word among us, hospitality and care for each other, commitment to Baptism, and generosity with personal time and talent...all those things I wrote about in the previous weeks since Easter Sunday.

Now, as we look at what *Abbey Community Ministry* means, this can be such an opportunity for us to claim our faith and make it come alive. Like those disciples, filled with the Holy Spirit, we have the chance to breathe new life into our parish. With so many programs and events, the very first thing we are about—the very first thing we have to be about—is sharing our faith. That's what happened at Pentecost. The disciples shared their faith with others, and look what happened!

Mass Intentions: May 23—May 30

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)

Monday, May 24—Weekday

- 8:30a **June Ganser** (Cleary Family)

Tuesday, May 25—Weekday

- 6:30a **Alfonso Brunatti** (Joanne Barton)
 8:30a **Ralph Antone** (Dolores & Don Howell)

Wednesday, May 26—St. Philip Neri, priest

- 6:30a **Frederick Henning**
 (Howard Gebhardt Family)
 8:30a **Jack Manion** (Janet Boston)

Thursday, May 27—Weekday

- 6:30a **Louis Acompora** (Sue George & Daughters)
 8:30a **Marie McGovern** (McGovern Family)

Friday, May 28—Weekday

- 8:30a **Helen Orcutt** (Women of St. Benedict)

Saturday, May 29—Weekday

- 8:30a **Edward J. Puskarich, Sr.** (Ellie Puskarich)
 5:00p **50th Wedding Anniversary—**
Vic & Mary Ann Vandewater

Sunday, May 30—The Most Holy Trinity

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
 9:30a **Mary Ober** (Walnoha Families)
 11:30a **Mary D. Connor** (Daughter, Ann E. McRory)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Elsie Schauer; the Bread & Wine is in memory of deceased members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Mary Ann Rodal; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Fred G. Kluglein, requested by Carolyn A. Kluglein.

Priorities for Adult Catholics

To review the ten topics covered over the last weeks, here are those *10 Urgent Priorities for Baptized Adults* in this new millennium.

1. *Adult Learning*
2. *Taking Baptism seriously*
3. *Hospitality*
4. *God's Word Alive*
5. *Sunday Mass*
6. *Justice & Peace*
7. *Generosity*
8. *Parish & Diocese—a connection*
9. *Parents & Children*
10. *Adult Journey of Faith: a model for us*



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 29—May 30

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Pustay, Norton **Greeters:** Mitchell, Schardt
EMHC: Klinar, Milavec, Specca, Sarra, Greenwald, McGinnis,
Glod, Mertens, Norton **Servers:** Byrne, Nobers, J, J & N
Bianco

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Rossin, Jung **Greeters:** Turchick, Kalaski **EMHC:**
Gavran, Petricca, Basile, Barton, Berger, J & S Brooks **Servers:**
Peterson, Kelly, Brooks

9:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Ross, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Becker,
Oberschelp **EMHC:** McGovern, Walnoha, L & A Kelly, Serrino,
Bayer, Torres, Weaver **Servers:** C & A Mavrich, S Weaver,
Hilzendeger, Wisniewski

11:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Auer, Oliverio **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:**
Capozza, B Smith, Slomiany, Boyd, E & T Mauro, P Newmaster,
Baits, Herald **Servers:** Shaw, Taylor, Chaplin

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week **Jean Wilkes; Henry Shope**, father of Tom Shope; and **Anna Merletti**, Grandmother of Kris Piscatelli. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Readings for the Week of May 23

Sunday: Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3b-7,12-13/Jn 20:19-23
Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Mk 10:32-45
Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5,9-12/Mk 10:46-52
Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13/Mk 11:11-26
Saturday: Jude 17,20b-25/Mk 11:27-33
Next Sunday: Prv 8:22-31/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15

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.

Summer Ministers' Schedules

It is time to schedule ministers for Masses in July, August, and September. All Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and schedule changes to Jay Specca by emailing him at jspeca@stbenedicttheabbot.org. (please put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line) or call 724-941-9406, Ext. 114. He will be running the schedule the second week of June, so please have your information in before June 6.

Lectors' Gatherings

There will be Prayer & Formation Sessions for all lectors on May 25, at 7:00pm, May 26, at 7:00pm, and May 29, 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. Contact Jay Specca at Ext. 114 with any questions and to register for one of the sessions.

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



Protecting God's Children

A training session for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children," has been scheduled for June 10, from 7:00pm until 10:00pm in Rooms 204/206. Please call Colette in Faith Formation at 724-941-9587, Ext. 113 to register.

Stephen Ministers Class Forming

A Stephen Minister is a "Christian friend with a caring heart, and through training who will walk alongside a person with difficulties providing emotional and spiritual support." An informational meeting will be held at 7:30pm on June 10 in Room 210. Training sessions will begin in September. For details, please call Jay Jarrell at 724-941-5026.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Our Liturgy of the Word for Children concludes today 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.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Alfonso Brunatti

M/M Benny Jung

In Memory of Harry & Agnes McPoyle

Dan McPoyle

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.

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.



Office Spring Cleaning

Old records, forms, and files that have accumulated over the past 30+ years need to go. It's time to *Spring Clean* the Parish Office! In order to clean our parish office, **we will be closed** on these Wednesdays: May 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 declaring these days in the coming weeks for sorting his files as well: June 3, 9, and 17. He will take no appointments those days.



Online Giving: think about it— Do you have questions?

So many people do their banking, bill paying and most everything else online today. More and more parishioners are opting to use the online giving services provided by our envelope company, *Our Sunday Visitor*. This is a secure site where you simply register and provide the information so your checking account can be debited on a regular basis according to how you set up the withdrawals. The greatest thing about this is the convenience to know that forgetting your envelope will be a thing of the past. Even when you are away—for a weekend or a month—your parish relies on your financial support, and it happens automatically with online giving. Some people feel they have to place something in the basket because people are looking, but really it is between you and God. You know how you are giving. 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.



Ask Father Sam

I made a donation toward the Easter flowers but on Easter Sunday there didn't seem to be many flowers in church...why?

Lesson of the Week

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

Last year we introduced the Pastoral Plan for the parish with a call to form three groups that would address our goals to enhance adult formation, work on communication to parishioners, and be better at welcoming others. In July 2009, volunteers came forward, and the work began. Over the course of the past year, these groups were modified according to what they saw as their desired outcomes, and some shifted in what they were about. One group is still working on what will become a kind of *Parish Welcome Wagon* that supports new parishioners. Another is looking at the information we give to new members, and still another at supplementing adult formation with a Lenten program in 2011 known as *The Great Adventure*, a chance for people to learn the family story—our biblical ancestors that lead us to Christ, connecting the dots so to speak. Our web site has been enhanced and we offer much more information there as well as through the *Blasts from the Abbey*, a regular email communication to those who signed up for it.

The group charged with welcome has poured lots of effort into a new ministry that will be called *Abbey Community Ministry*, which has as its purpose to form neighborhood communities, named for various American Benedictine Abbeys, to offer a sense of belonging and caring. With such a large parish, people can feel lost or unknown. Dividing the parish into smaller communities based on geography allows neighbors to reach out to one another in real concrete ways and bring the Gospel to life. These small faith communities would do things like welcome new people, visit the sick, provide meals when a neighbor has a new baby or is recovering from illness, as well as host social events just to get to know one another better. There is also a spiritual component to this as these neighborhoods might want a communal house blessing with one of the priests visiting the homes in the vicinity and then gathering everyone for a meal. Faith sharing happens in these ordinary and everyday settings. Neighborhood Masses in Lent or Advent could be arranged, and small group study of some particular aspect of our Catholic faith might also be what the neighborhood identifies as a need. My homily today calls everyone to learn more about this awesome endeavor as continue to strive to be better disciples.

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.

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.

"High Seas Expedition" Vacation Bible School

Exploring the Mighty Love of God

During the week of July 12-16 from 8:45am until 12:00 Noon, children entering grades K-6 in the fall will set sail for a voyage on the high seas of God's love. This fun-filled journey is filled with exciting games, activities, music, snacks, and, of course, Bible stories. Information and registration forms will be available on-line or in the Faith Formation Office on Sunday, June 6 following all Masses. Don't forget to circle a volunteer area—we need many hands on deck to set this ship on course! Contact Colette or Cathy in the Faith Formation Office for more details.

Registration forms will not be mailed.

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.



This Week In Our Parish

Blood Drive



Plan to give the gift of life—a gift that has no artificial substitute! Central Blood Bank will be in O'Brien Hall on June 6 for our bi-annual blood drive from 8:00am until 1:00pm. This year donors will receive free Pirate tickets. This is a great opportunity for first time donors to get into a life saving habit. Be sure to bring photo ID; you must be 17 years old to donate or be 16 with a signed

parental consent. Drop-ins are welcome, but scheduling an appointment is appreciated. Call Blaise at 724-942-0748 or Kevin at 724-942-0388 to schedule your desired time.

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.

Employment Opportunity

The Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Diocese of Pittsburgh is seeking women and men for positions as "Sales Counselors" at the Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Peters Township. If you enjoy working with people and prefer a flexible schedule, this may be your opportunity. We have both part-time and full-time opportunities available. Call Denise at 1-888-966-2424 or send your resume to jobs@ccapgh.org.

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.

Sunday, May 23

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

Monday, May 24

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

Tuesday, May 25

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:30p	Make-up Confirmation Mtg.	(OBH)

Wednesday, May 26

Parish Office Closed Today

12:00p	AA	(208)
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No Confessions Today

6:00p	Rehearsal for "Joseph"	(PBAC)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	(206)

Thursday, May 27

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Finance Council Budget Mtg.	(Rectory)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)

Friday, May 28

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Nursery)
3:30p	Rehearsal for "Joseph"	(OBH)

Saturday, May 29

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

Sunday, May 30

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

1:00p	Rehearsal for "Joseph"	(OBH)
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Need confidential assistance? Companionship and understanding for a difficult time? Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Call 724-941-5026.

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



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