

Pastor's Notes

With Bishop David Zubik being named as the bishop for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, we are assured of having a very prayerful man to lead us in Pittsburgh. I know this from first hand experience during the closing of churches in the North Side. He is compassionate, understanding, fair, and not afraid to speak the message of the gospel.

As an auxiliary bishop here, confirmations were joyful times but also times of challenge. "If you are not ready to live this...please do not stay," he would say. So great was his faith and the desire to transmit the need of commitment to the young people.



He'll upset some, as he has a strong track record which supports the social justice teaching of the Church, and the concern all believers must have for the needs of every person. Individual agendas have no place in the Church, the Body of Christ, as he has demonstrated in his teaching of controversial issues such as immigrant workers, abortion, gay marriages and other issues already spoken about in the papers. His taking the time to learn the Spanish language speaks volumes.

Our GOD FIRST initiative is one that he would embrace wholeheartedly. It says what he is about. God is first in his life, and that is what he would seek to have in the lives of all people.

Please pray for Bishop Zubik, Bishop Paul Bradley who has done such a wonderful job as diocesan administrator for the past 14 months, and for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as we continue to grow into that kingdom established by Christ.

Next Sunday — August 5 — the admission of those entering the Deacon Formation Program will take place during a 3:00PM Mass at St. Mary Church in Glenshaw. Among those being admitted is Joe Vannucci from St. John's. Joe, and the other men have been in a preparatory program during the past eight months which has included discernment of vocation, readiness of the candidate, support of family, and the beginnings of formal study.



We are excited for Joe and all the men who have been accepted into the four year time of study and further discernment leading to ordination as deacons in 2011.

Please keep Joe and these men in your prayers. If possible, join us Sunday afternoon for this liturgy and celebration of the whole Church of Pittsburgh.

We have our three-year review coming up — "we" meaning priests, staff, pastoral council leaders, and finance committee — with the dean in a few weeks. It is the dean's responsibility to see that goals and objectives are in place, that everything is balanced, that the sacramental books are

accurate and complete, that there is a vision for the parish.

Some of the areas that we must evaluate and rate, include: Evangelization, Stewardship, Welcoming, Worship. On a scale of one to nine, (nothing happening to doing well) how would you evaluate St. John the Baptist Parish?

Now before you do, be mindful that these are to be rated according to how the whole of the parish takes an active participation in them. That may change your response.



The work of Pastoral Council last spring, which we have categorized now into one, three, and five-year goals and objectives, will be provided for us during a Town Hall Meeting in September. The summer is hardly a good time to have a large number of parishioners present or to receive solid input.

I wrote this prior to leaving last Sunday for a week's retreat at Notre Dame. Some asked what I was planning to prepare and bring back — that is "work to do". I told them I didn't know as I hadn't spent time listening to the Lord concerning this. I'll find out while there. I'll let you know in the weeks to come.

One of the reasons Notre Dame is such a powerful experience for me each year is that I have the opportunity to spend a large number of hours before the Blessed Sacrament. That's where abandonment of self and openness to God's will takes place. ND's legacy is much more than football and the Golden Dome. For me during retreat it is a place where wholeness of the being is offered. Prayer and silence before the Blessed Sacrament allows for this.



Eucharistic Adoration — wherever it is held, like here at St. John's — is like a mini retreat. It is one-on-one and personal and renewing and very real. When we "let go" of all the attachments, we find ourselves already filled with the presence of Christ that we are worshiping in the Eucharist.

So I encourage, as I've done time and again, to take time to be present to the One who can make a difference in life — the Lord most perfectly present to us in the Eucharist. A number of first-timers were present last month.

See it as a mini-vacation from the rat race.

Thanks to those who helped finalize the storing away of all our festival materials last week. We had great crews working Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday that made for a very speedy cleanup. We're also thankful for the electricians who not only took down all the wiring, but also reorganized it and cleaned it up for easier storage.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom



Is accomplishment relegated to that feeling of "having survived"?

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 — 8:00PM
To
SATURDAY, AUGUST 4 — 8:45AM



Is life just one giant blur? Do you feel life is not all that it's cracked up to be? Are you not feeling any fulfillment for all that is done during the week.

Try spending time with the Lord — and yourself. It may be what is needed to find that purpose to your 'being'!

Did that picnic or gathering really make you feel thankful for your family and the day?

SUNDAY VESPERS
SUNDAY, August 5 — 7:00PM

A good way to thank the Lord, close off the day, and prepare for the business of the week to come, is share at vespers — quiet prayer and reflection using the prayer of the Church. It's good for all ages.

Golden Wedding Celebration

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is again planning its annual Golden Wedding Celebration for the couples who have been married for 50 years. This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, October 7, beginning with a mass at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral. A reception will follow at Oakland Catholic High School.

If you are celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2007, and would like to attend the celebration, please call the rectory. **Deadline to parish office is August 6th.** Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.



Readings for the Week of July 29

Sunday: Gn 18:20-32/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13
Monday: Ex 32:15-24,30-34/Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28/Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Ex 40:16-21,34-38/Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37
Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Lv 25:1,8-17/Mt 14:1-12
Next Sunday: Eccl 1:2;2:21-23/Col 3:1-5,9-11
Lk 12:13-21



Offertory Report

DATE: JULY 22, 2007

Sunday collection	\$10,114
Needed for Budget	\$12,762
Over/Under	\$ -2,648

Second Collection

Parish Social Ministry July 28/29
Improvement Fund August 4/5

May God Bless Our Faithful Parishioners

DATES OF
VERY IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Monday, August 6

3:00 p.m. Dean's visit w/Staff
6:30 p.m. Dean's visit w/Pastoral Council Leaders
Finance Committee

Monday, August 13

7:00 p.m. Festival Wrap-up Meeting ANX

Wednesday, August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
A holy day of obligation

Thursday, August 16

7:00 p.m. School Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 21

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council Meeting RMR



YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY
August 5, 2007



Son of God.
Prince of Peace.
King of Kings.
Young Adult.

**Jesus Christ conducted his entire ministry—
and saved the world—as a young adult!**

Next Sunday, August 5, 2007, parishes across the Diocese of Pittsburgh will celebrate **Young Adult Sunday** and honor Him and other young adults—singles and couples in their late teens, 20's and 30's.

For more information on young adult ministry, please contact Gary Slifkey at the Department for Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Pittsburgh at 412-456-3140 or yampgh@diopitt.org



Register NOW For Our Fourth Annual Craft Show



**Saturday, September 15
Sunday, September 16th.**

**If you make any kind of craft, sign up for
the craft show and let your talent be seen.
Please contact the rectory for a registration
form or
print one out from the parish website.
All types of handmade crafts are wanted!**



YOUTH MINISTRY

Senior Youth

- Summer is wrapping up, but there is still plenty going on with Senior Youth Ministry. Join in on the fun!!
- Sandcastle Wednesday, August 1, 10am-5pm. If you would like to attend, please contact Christie. There is room, however you will need to pay the full gate price.
- Camping Monday, August 6 to Wednesday, August 8, Bear Run Campground \$35 per person due by July 30. Please let Christie know if you plan to attend.
- YMCA SWIM AND PIZZA PARTY sponsored by Our Lady of Joy. Join us for fun at the 286 YMCA on Sunday, August 12th from 8:15-10pm. FREE!!!!
- Lock-In Monday, August 13 to Tuesday, August 14, 9pm-6am, School.



Junior Youth

- Come one, come all to Junior Youth Ministry. Don't miss any of the great events scheduled for this summer!
- Sandcastle Wednesday, August 1, 10am-5pm. There is still room, but you must let Christie know this week if you plan to attend.
- Water Fight Night THURSDAY, August 9, 7-8:30pm. Bring water guns and wear a swim suit! Please note the date change. There were many activities happening on the other date, so we wanted everyone to be able to come!
- Willow's Mini Golf THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 7-8:00pm, meet there!
Please note the date change!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OR ALL EVENTS
CONTACT CHRISTIE SMITH AT 412-793-1617 x261 or
email sjbyouth@comcast.net

Starving For the Eucharist

In the inserts of the bulletin today is the story of Martha Tonn, a young woman who came to understand that the greatest gift which Jesus gives us is His very self in the Holy Eucharist. There are many reasons why individuals decide to inquire about the Catholic Church. Perhaps surprisingly, one of the most frequent reasons is that many non Catholics have come to understand that the Eucharist is not merely a symbol or remembrance of the Last Supper but the true Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Once they desire this great gift of the Eucharist they begin to desire the understanding and reception of all the gifts the Lord has given His Catholic Church.

Martha's story also points out the very important witness of Catholics who love Christ, love the Catholic Church and practice their faith. It is primarily through the example and invitation of Catholics like you, and many others in our parish, who help others open their minds and hearts to Christ and the truth of the Catholic Church.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin weekly inquiry sessions in September. We invite you to share Martha's story with someone you know who may have interest or questions about the Catholic Church. Please call Ron Donatelli, Coordinator of RCIA, at 412-793-1617 ext.260 for help or information. He may also be reached via email at Rondon216@aol.com

Prayer of Compassion

*Jesus, may the contemplation
of your sufferings
move me with the greatest compassion,
make me hate my sins,
and kindle in my heart
a more fervent love for you . . .
my beloved Jesus, grant that
I may never cease to love you,
and do with me as you will.
Amen.*

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

SUNDAY – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (07/29)

5:00 p.m. Rose and Frank DePalma (M/M John Ricci)
Interpreted Mass

7:30 a.m. For the Parish

9:00 a.m. Paul H. Kokal (Roseann and Family)

10:30 a.m. Charles Rogers (sister, Pat Russo)

12:00 p.m. Marie L. Goettler (Barbara and Paul Goettler)

MONDAY - Peter Chrysologus, bishop/doctor (07/30)

9:00 a.m. Tressa Konecni (Jonathan Warnock)

TUESDAY - Ignatius of Loyola (07/31)

9:00 a.m. John, Jennie and Joseph Bosso
(Fran Balenciaga)

WEDNESDAY - Alphonsus Liguori, bishop/doctor (08/01)

9:00 a.m. Don Regan (Diane Gault)

9:30 a.m. Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

THURSDAY - Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop (08/02)

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of the Ashley Family (Family)

FRIDAY - Peter Julian Eymard, priest (08/03)

9:00 a.m. John F. Galamb (Mother and Family)

8:00 p.m. *Eucharistic Adoration*

SATURDAY - John Mary Vianney, priest (08/04)

9:00 a.m. Irene Borkovich (anniv.) (Margaret Lesko)

SUNDAY - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (08/05)

5:00 p.m. Patricia Fischer
(Mark and Patty Grabowski and Family)

7:30 a.m. Patricia and Daniel Gavlik (Family)

9:00 a.m. Lawrence J. Letzkus (wife, Pat and Family)

10:30 a.m. Alice Mitchell (Al and Ruth Mack)

12:00 p.m. For the Parish

Parish Mission Statement

Saint John the Baptist Parish is located in Plum Borough, Pennsylvania and is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

As a faith community, we strive to imitate our patron Saint John the Baptist who led others to Christ. We are committed to keeping our faith alive and growing through prayer, sacraments, faith formation and service. Through evangelization and stewardship we encourage full and active participation of all members.

We hope to reflect the life and love of Christ by strengthening the faith of our parishioners while reaching out to all God's people.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us!

Welcome to St. John's

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to St. John's:

Annette Triolo-Woods

William Woods, Jr.

Mark J. Nader

Rest In Peace

Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of the dearly departed, especially: Samuel W. Patellos, Avilla M. Guntz, Matthew M. Girdich.

Praying for the Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home ill or recovering: Edward Habjan, William Duffy, Maribeth (Cherok) Chessey, Paul Arndt, Dolores Burns, Veronica Sacsek, Rachael Faas, Raymond Milleman, Evelyn Komisak, Ralph Genella, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkus, Bernie Nowicki, Emma Davis, Sr. Janet Barnicle. May their faith comfort them and God's blessing's heal them.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week

in loving memory of

Rose and Frank DePalma

requested by Mr. and Mrs. John Ricci

VOCATION CROSS

Please join James and Tracy Sander and Joe and Ginger Vannucci in prayer this week as they display the Vocation Cross in their homes and pray for Religious Vocations. Parishioners interested in hosting the Vocations Cross in their home may call Suzy Adamonis at 412-793-6110.



Please pray for all our seminarians as they serve in their various assignments throughout the diocese this summer. These weeks in parishes provide these men with opportunities to experience pastoral ministry firsthand. They will return to their seminaries and studies later in August.

Prayer for Vocations

Father, in your plan of salvation you have provided through the ages shepherds for your people. We humbly ask you to strengthen our diocese by calling forth worthy ministers for your altars and gentle and faithful servants to proclaim the gospel. Lord through the intercession of our Blessed Lady the first servant of Christ, we ask you to give courage to those who you call to say yes as Mary accepted your call so long ago. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.