

Pastor's Notes

This past week we had the unfortunate opportunity to remember the 35th anniversary of our country's decision to legalize the killing of children — a decision which harkens back to Spartan times when newborns deemed unfit for use in the military were left to die on a hillside.

The only differences between then and now are that we do the killing before they are born, and that we have great technology that is meant to support life but used to destroy life. Yes, unfortunately it's used for many wrong reasons.

- We can see the infant in the womb, count its fingers and toes, see it breathing, and then determine it could be used well for spare parts and research.
- We can see a birth defect and deem the child unwanted.
- We can see the child, and end its life if it is not the desired sex.



And, of course, we can simply not look at any such photos, determining instead that we do not have to take responsibility for our actions. This often results after we've been out to use our bodies as

proving grounds for a fun time devoid of responsibility.

When we make choices, when we place ourselves in places we know are unsafe, when we don't use the minds God has given us, then we need to fess up and pay the consequence for those poor choices. An abortion is not a choice. One needs only to ask a woman or man who had made such a decision. Those who have a conscience will tell of the horrors now felt, the anguish they now carry deep within themselves.

Does the mention of abortion disgust you? It should. The life of a human being hangs in the balance and not enough people are doing anything about it, including our government leaders so busy with personal agendas and fearful of a minority voice.

I'm all for the protecting of environment, the trees, wildlife, etc. I support just laws that protect animals from abuse. I agree that Americans are wasteful concerning natural resources. And Church teaching is very clear about our responsibility for the care of ALL OF CREATION.

However, under no circumstance can any of these stand in higher regard than for an unborn child. A pet, a tree, a waterfall cannot be given the same importance as an unborn child. Yet our laws protect these better than the infant.

We can be fined for walking on the grass, littering, washing the car in a draught, and burning leaves in the fall. We can be sidelined without an emission sticker in the car windshield, and for digging up wild flowers along

the side of the road. But we can destroy a life, pay the doctor, and go on with life. Something is wrong with this picture!

Speaking of poor choices and not desiring to live with the consequences, how is it, that we as Americans continue to show so much ignorance toward the equality of all people? How is it that after forty-plus years of energy spent with the civil rights movement, we continue to find extreme prejudice in our society — in the hearts and minds of people who call themselves Christian.



How is it that the dignity of life has yet to transcend the differences of people? And how is it that color of skin is a determining factor in our acceptance or rejection of a person into our community or workplace?

DIGNITY OF LIFE is not an option in the Catholic Church to hold or to disregard. The Church's teaching is unwavering.

While in seminary a man from Mississippi was studying for the priesthood. He was African-American. He had three strikes against him as he approached ordination. He was black, he was Catholic, and he would be ministering in the heart of the Klan territory in the south. His bishop wept as he hugged him right in the middle of the ordination ceremony. He was the first native son to be ordained there.

I've wondered over the years how he would be received in parishes I've served, if he were named pastor.

Should I be surprised by the lack of acceptance and the little effort made to remove prejudice from society? Nah. How can I? In some areas in Pittsburgh we're still fighting over nationality ties. I'll not judge, but watch as the Hispanic, Vietnamese, Korean, and Indian populations really begin to flourish in our area, and grandchildren enter the house with, "Guess who's coming to dinner?"

I'm beginning to believe that our inability to understand is not so much an inability to understand, but rather, in many situations, simply a refusal to see in new ways. This is true concerning our faith, and something Jesus constantly confronted. A decision not to open the mind and heart to greater understanding is the greatest rejection of God's love and call. We fail to grow in understanding ourselves.

Thanks to the many parishioners who helped with last week's bulk mailing. That was the first of many you'll be receiving over the course of the months ahead, and part of our pastoral plan. It's the simplest form of evangelization and outreach. It will never replace the personal one-on-one approach that we lack.



Love and prayers
Fr. Tom

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday, February 1— 8:00 p.m.

until

Saturday, February 2 — 8:45 a.m.



If we desire to meet our God more and more in everyday life, it begins in seeing our Lord in the Eucharist — the heart of God's giving and sharing his life with us. Adoration provides the necessary time for allowing God to touch our hearts and lives.

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS

Sunday, February 3 — 7:00PM



How good it is to sit in the presence of the Lord with the people of God, giving praise and thanks for the day, for the beauty of all of creation, asking for strength to see God's presence in the world during the week to come.

Our Sunday evening vespers provides for this and the peace that allows us the assurance of God's care. A Service of Light, the prayer of psalms, scripture, and prayers provide the perfect opportunity to be filled with joy. Join us. It's beneficial for the whole family.

SOUPERBOWL DAY OF CARING

Sunday, February 3, 2008

We are on a mission to fight hunger and poverty. You can help. Our youth will hold soup pots at church doors next Sunday, February 3rd, Superbowl Sunday. They will join young people in churches across the country to collect money for those who are hungry and hurting. In 2007, over 14,000 groups participated in the Souperbowl Day of Caring generating over \$8 million dollars. Here at St. Johns we raised over \$1,400 dollars for local soup kitchens and food pantries.



Please have your \$\$\$\$ ready next week and support the cause!

Readings for the Week of January 27

Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/1 Cor 1:10-13,17/Mt 4:12-23
Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7,10/Mk 3:22-30
Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15,17-19
Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19,24-29/Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a,5-10a,13-17/Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
Next Sunday: Zep 2:3;3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a



Offertory Report

DATE: JANUARY 20, 2008

Sunday collection	\$ 9,808
Needed for Budget	\$ 12,762
Over/Under	\$ -2,954
St. Anthony Schools	\$ 1,702

*Second Collection
Capital Improvement February 2/3*

May God Bless Our Faithful Parishioners

NEED AN ADDITIONAL MAILING?

Contact the parish office if you have someone in your life who needs that little push found in our recent mailing.

This week

Sunday, January 27, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. RCIA Catechumenate - RMR
- 10:00 a.m. Fellowship - annex
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy - annex classroom
- 1:00 p.m. Anointing of the Sick - church
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Youth Ministry - convent

Monday, January 28

- 5:00 p.m. CCD - education center
- 6:30 p.m. CCD - education center
- 7:00 p.m. Q/A-Awareness of the Presence of Christ - ANX
- 7:00 p.m. Praise Band - church
- 8:00 p.m. Bell Choir - church

Tuesday, January 29

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool, parents session annex
- 9:45 a.m. Mom's Group - convent
- 4:30 p.m. CCD - education office
- 6:30 p.m. CCD - education office
- 7:00 p.m. Vocation Committee - annex

Wednesday, January 30

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool, parent session - annex
- 12:30 p.m. Preschool, parent session - annex

Thursday, January 31

- 3:00 p.m. SJBS Cantors - church
- 3:45 p.m. Jr. Choir - choir
- 6:30 p.m. Webelos - cafeteria
- 7:00 p.m. Cantors - church
- 7:30 p.m. Choir - church
- 7:45 p.m. Scouts - cafeteria

Friday, February 1

- 8:00 p.m. Adoration - church

Saturday, February 2

- 7:00 p.m. SJBS Family Bingo - cafeteria

Sunday, February 3

- Youth Ministry Souperbowl collection
- Following all masses
- 9:00 a.m. RCIA Catechumenate - RMR
- 10:30 a.m. Children's Liturgy - annex
- 7:00 p.m. Vespers

Awareness of the Presence of Christ Questions & Answers

Monday, Jan. 28
7:00PM in the Annex



This evening is based on helping individuals to become more and more comfortable with the presence of God in their lives, and recognizing that presence more consistently and easily. Join us in the Annex at 7:00 pm.. Additional evenings will be scheduled if interest is shown.



Men Standing on Truth Holy Hour with Bishop Zubik St. Paul Seminary Saturday, February 9, 2008 8:30-10:30a.m.

8:30 a.m. Adoration and Benediction
9:30 a.m. Witness Talk
9:45 a.m. Presentation by Fr. James. Wehner
10:10 a.m. A Vision for Catholic
Men's Ministry
10:30 a.m. Refreshments and Fellowship

Single and married lay men of all ages are invited. This event is free. Registration is requested. You can register at CatholicMensFellowhip@cmfpitt.org or call St. Paul Seminary at 412-921-5800

Young Adults

YOUNG ADULT LENTEN FAITH SHARING

Wednesday Nights in Lent

Beginning February 13 — 7:30-9pm

Session held in former Convent

Young Men and Women ages 18-40, married or single are invited to attend. Come and share your faith with others. For more info email sjbyouth@comcast.net



Vocations Committee Meeting New Members Welcome

The next meeting for the Vocations Committee will convene on Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the ANNEX. The mission of this committee is to promote Religious Vocation awareness.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Questions can be directed to Suzy Adamonis at 412-793-6110.

CHANGE OUR HEARTS benefit concert by noted composer Rory Cooney to be held at Our Lady of Joy Parish on Friday, February 15. The concert is to benefit the Beit Benedict Peace Academy in Jerusalem. Cost of the tickets is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. The Peace Academy offers hope to Christians, Jews and Muslims who long for peace.

ANNUAL LADIES OF CHARITY FOOD DRIVE

February 9/10th

Unlike some other community problems, hunger is invisible. The child sitting next to your child may not be getting enough to eat and nobody would know. Or her parents may feed her supper and go without themselves at the end of the month when money runs short.



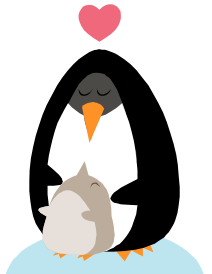
Hunger transcends all economic and social levels right here in our neighborhood. In fact, one in seven people, including children, seniors and working people, don't get enough to eat.

St. John's Ladies of Charity will be collecting non-perishable foods, paper products and cleaning supplies February 9/10th. Donations can be left in the vestibule of the Church.

God bless you for helping your neighbors and living the corporal works of mercy, "Feed the Hungry."

Parish Social Ministry

Families who have experienced a death, especially families with children, are invited to come and participate in Catholic Charities' *Touch of Love Family Focus* grief support program, open to all generations. It will be hosted by St. Irenaeus Parish, Oakmont. The gathering will take place on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. in the PLEC Building on Fourth Street. Activities will be available for children and the adults who love them, with several options for follow-up. There is no charge. All family members will be together during the welcoming and the closing ceremony, and also grouped into sharing circles. They will hear about skills necessary for coping with life, following the death of a loved one. All activities will be led by professionally trained and certified facilitators. Interested families should pre-register by February 7th by calling Paula for more information at the Catholic Charities Bereavement Office at 412-456-6923.



Town Hall Meeting

With Dan Onorato at Boyce Park

Everyone is invited to a Town Hall Meeting with Dan Onorato on Saturday, February 2nd from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at Boyce Park Ski Lodge. This meeting is to learn about Dan's County Parks Action Plan and share suggestions on future improvement to the park

If you are unable to attend, you can read about the action plan and fill out a survey at www.alleghenycounty.us/parks.

5th-8th Grades Students Your Are Invited To Attend!

On Monday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the annex, there will be an information meeting for any student in grades 5-8 interested in becoming an Altar Server. All students interested should attend this very informative meeting as we go over and discuss the responsibilities of an altar server, scheduling, training sessions, and any other information needed. The meeting will be approximately one hour. We ask that at least one parent or guardian attend the meeting with the student.



We will also have additional registration forms available at the rectory office for your convenience. It is our hope that you can attend the meeting, but if you are not able you may contact either Mr. Joe Vannucci at 412-795-5294 or jvannuc@comcast.net; or you may contact Fr. Bill at 412-793-4511. We look forward to having more of our young people serving at the Altar of our Lord.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Senior Youth

Upcoming Sunday Night Sessions

TONIGHT!!!! January 27

7:30-9pm

Youth Room

Mark your calendars for:

February 17 & 24

Superbowl Day Of Caring

Sunday, February 3

After all masses

Hold soup pots at the door and collect for local soup kitchens.



Email Christie at sbyouth@comcast.net and let her know what mass you will help at.

All Night Laser Tag

Friday/Saturday, February 8 & 9

Laser Storm, McKnight Rd

Leave SJB by bus at 11:45pm

Return to SJB at 6:00am

\$30 per person, due TONIGHT

WE MUST HAVE 25 students for this to happen!



Junior Youth

LOVEWALK FOR THE POOR

February 10

1:15pm-5:00pm

Sacred Heart Church-2pm Mass followed

by a walk to the East End Cooperative Ministry where we will complete small, fun service projects.

Bring non-perishable food or paper products to donate to the soup kitchen.

Print out permission form at

www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net/youth and return it by February 1st!



ALL NIGHT BOWLING

February 23-Friday Night/Saturday Morning

12:30am-4:30am

Nesbit's

\$10 per person includes unlimited bowling, shoes, pizza, drinks and snacks.

Print out a permission form at

www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net/youth and bring it with you to all-night bowling along with your \$10(cash please).

Abb
C100

Did ya Know?

*Why do we say "God Bless You"
when someone sneezes?*

During a pestilence in which a sneeze was a mortal symptom, it is said Saint Gregory originated this blessing and recommended its prayerful use.

Questions are still being taken from the Abbott and Abbess—send all questions via the rectory. If you send your question by email stjohnthebaptistparish@comcast.net, please title it for Abbot and Abbess.

SJBS News

- Family Bingo Night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Friday, February 1st—early dismissal at 11:30 a.m.



Congratulations, Lottery Calendar Winners:

January 14-20th

Annie Puskar #555, Unsold #574, John and Mary Columbus #638, Karen Schade #165, Rudolph Stolar #468, Unsold #527, Jean Gallagher #557.

Calendars are available at the rectory. We still have 11 months to go!

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching the people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want.

That is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.

—Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (01/27)

- 5:00 p.m. Thomas Braitto (Family)
Interpreted Mass
- 7:30 a.m. Patrick O'Toole (Hanlon Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Betty Donatelli (Children)
- 10:30 a.m. Karen S. Houston (Trisha Elk)
- 12:00 p.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
Catholic School Week Opening Mass

MONDAY - Thomas Aquinas, priest/doctor (01/28)

- 7:00 a.m. Charles Kadora (Michael and Theresa Kobylanski)
- 9:00 a.m. Joseph Kurimsky
 (M/M John McMillin and M/M Jos. Duean)

TUESDAY - Weekday (01/29)

- 7:00 a.m. Carl F. Subic (Helen Vingin)
- 9:00 a.m. Apollonia DaDamo (Family)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday (01/30)

- 7:00 a.m. Bill Patellos (Mike and Ann Kozusko)
- 9:00 a.m. Courtland A. Shoemaker
 (John and Maria Delvecchio)
- 9:30 a.m. Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion

THURSDAY - John Bosco, priest (01/31)

- 7:00 a.m. Charles Vogan (Kay)
- 9:00 a.m. Connie Karpiak (Steve and Kristina McCullough)

FRIDAY - Weekday (02/01)

- 7:00 a.m. Edward McManus (Connie Marmo)
- 9:00 a.m. Robert Vormack (Wife and Family)
- 8:00 p.m. *Adoration*

SATURDAY - Presentation of the Lord (02/02)

- 9:00 a.m. Mary M. Glozik (Helen Heglar)
- 9:30 a.m. *Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*

SUNDAY - Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (02/03)

- 5:00 p.m. Nancy Sandala (Don and Jackie Sandala)
Praise Band
- 7:30 a.m. For the Living/Deceased Members of the Parish
- 9:00 a.m. Scout Sunday
Bell Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Mary Jane Pattison (Joan Auth, daughter)
- 12:00 p.m. Madelyn F. Parrish (Family)
- 7:00 p.m. *Vespers*

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!

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Series

Every Sunday we are challenged to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Sometimes this is easier said than done! Mike McCoy, former NFL football star knows something about Sundays—he made a career out of playing NFL football (mostly on Sundays). Mr. McCoy shares how what happens on Sunday should be and can be transferred into the rest of the week. Mike McCoy is a native of Erie, PA and graduate of Notre Dame University. He played 11 years in the NFL (defensive tackle) (Green Bay Packers, Oakland Raiders and New York Giants). Mike is the National Director of the *Champions for Today* Program an organization of Christian athletes who speak across America and abroad in public, private and Catholic schools. We invite you to join us for his presentation, "Taking the Peace of Christ on Sunday into Everyday Life" to be held on Tuesday, February 5th at St. Paul Seminary Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons and catechists. The lecture is free—all are welcome to attend. Bring a friend.



Pray for our Seminarians

David G. Rombold and Charles M. Scheerbaum

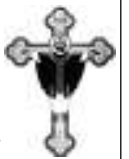
Saint Paul Seminary

2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205

The seminarians enjoy hearing from our parishioners and are grateful for all prayers.

VOCATION CROSS

Please join the Brown Family in prayer this week as they display the Vocation Cross in their home and pray for Religious Vocations. The Vocation Cross is scheduled for EVERY week of 2008! Thank you for your support of Religious Vocations awareness. Watch the bulletin in the fall for scheduling the cross in 2009.



Prayer for Vocations

Bountiful God, You are boundless with your blessings and faithful to your promises. Through our ancestors in faith we have come to know and to trust in your guidance on our life's journey. At Jesus' baptism you confirmed him in his mission. Commission us through our baptismal graces to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Open our hearts to recognize your holy calling. Bless our church with devoted married couples, committed single men and women, and dedicated deacons, priests, sisters, and brothers.

Guide those who are discerning how best to serve you. With your favor, we set out to proclaim your reign through Jesus, your beloved Son in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confirmation Quiz — No. 3

We learned the commandments in second grade. They were essential for our coming to confess our sins for the first time. They are guides to direct us to love in the same way as God loves us. Many a Christian cannot list them, let alone try to explain them properly. Can You? That's the quiz for this week. Name the Ten Commandments.



Last Week

Can you pray the Acts of Faith, Hope, and love?

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and the truths that the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because you revealed them who can neither deceive or be deceived. Amen

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on your infinite goodness and promise, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen

Act of Love

O my God, I love you above all things with my whole heart and soul, because you are all good and deserving of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me and ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen

Ministry of Presence

Compassionate care for the body and mind with particular focus on “care of the soul” is the foundation upon which the Celtic Hospice & Palliative Care team ministers. During this sacred time in a person’s life, we journey with them in intimate conversation as well as profound silence. This is accomplished through the professional interdisciplinary team consisting of: physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual counselors, bereavement counselors, community educator, and volunteers. It is our privilege to be companions on our journey together toward eternal life. If you have any questions or would like to talk, please call Sr. Catherine Higgins, CSJ, LSW, hospice social worker and chaplain at 800-355-8894 or 724-766-6425. Celtic Hospice currently services Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler and Beaver Counties. Hospice benefits are covered by Medicare an most of the insurance providers.

Welcome to St. John’s

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

Gabriel III, Piper, Sawyer and Tobias D’Andrea
Matthew, Janean, Michael and Rhianon Arnold

Baptism

We welcome into our faith community with great joy the newly baptized: Rhiannon Rose Arnold, Jaiden Grace Gentile, Abigail Grace Milleman. May God send his peace upon you and your loved ones in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rest In Peace

Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of the dearly departed, especially **Virginia Tedeski**, aunt of Christie Smith, **Barbara O’Block**. They both died on January 19th. **Ann Zecca**, mother of Mara Dean, died on January 22nd.

Praying for the Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home and requesting our prayers: Luke Emmerling, Edward Habjan, William Duffy, Maribeth (Cherok) Chessey, Paul Arndt, Dolores Burns, Veronica Sacsek, Rachael Faas, Raymond Milleman, Evelyn Komisak, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkus, Emma Davis, Sr. Janet, Mary Svoboda, John Hicks, Anthony DiBello, Betty Telles, John Truxal, Richard Novotny, Ernest Gigliotti, Helen Hromyak, James Polliard, Hayward Markham, Robert Jenkins.



NEXT SUNDAY
We will celebrate Scout
Sunday next weekend at
the 9:00AM Mass

2008 OFFERTORY INCOME TAX

STATEMENT REQUEST

From the Rectory Office

If you need a statement of your annual contributions it will be mailed to you UPON REQUEST ONLY. Please fill out the form below and send it to the Rectory Office or drop it in the collection basket.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ENVELOPE NUMBER _____