

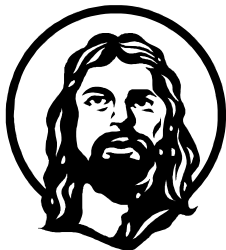
Pastor's Notes

Jesus, similar to last week when he bantered with the Canaanite woman, now gets into a give-and-take with Simon Peter. It comes down to a point-blank firing of the question:

“But who do you say that I am?”

He must answer. There’s no hiding, no cowering behind the other disciples. He has been with Jesus for a few years, seen the many miracles, heard his preaching, and grown in his understanding of the Kingdom of God. All this is grace at its best; God providing. So he responds:

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”



Simon is forever changed beginning with this very moment. True, he will falter along the way. But grace allows for a conversion of heart and mind that draws him back, as it does us, to what is most critical a true living of a profession of faith. For Simon it would later be a simple glance into the soul (of Peter) as Jesus is being condemned to death.

But even now, Simon is changed.

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church...”

Jesus is fully aware of Peter’s makeup: arrogant, self-confident, strong. Peter will need to have all of these to fulfill what he’s told what will be his responsibilities, not for himself, but for his doing the work of building up the Kingdom of God and making known the salvation won by Jesus Christ.

Grace is the very life — the mind and heart of God — being intimately shared at a particular moment with a person living in the human reality. So often we think of these as unique and special times as we do those “wow” moments that break the routine of our worldly existence. Far from it.

The reality is that God’s sharing of life is a constant. It is as consistent as ice melting under a hot summer sun or the sureness of a popsicle making a young hand sticky. So for a person of true faith, there are no “wow” moments where God is concerned (or shouldn’t be). God is revealing himself to us constantly so that we should not be surprised when it dawns on us that God is intimate with us all the time. It’s meant for every moment.

Our difficulty is letting go of the things of this life so that we free ourselves to have the opportunity to experience

God in every moment of life when we’re asked that same question as was Simon, henceforth to be known as Peter:

“But who do you say that I am?”

These are life-changing opportunities. They reveal the depth of our faith. They make known the level of our growth in the grace of God, grace that transfigures and forever changes us. These times invite us into a deeper sharing of the life and ministry, the sacrifice and sure hope meant for eternal joy, far removed from the daily satisfaction we grasp as a survival tool day in and day out.

Our response to Jesus’ question speaks of our humility in all things, most importantly that we cannot save ourselves. We must rely completely on Christ.

Our response says that only Christ can lead us to forgiveness of sins. We are incapable of doing so of our own accord. Forgiveness and mercy are found in God alone. *(Satan and his followers will never have a conversion of heart as forgiveness and mercy stem from perfect love, which they refuse to acknowledge. One must be intimate with God for such gifts of mercy and reconciliation to be manifested.)*

Our response says that we are ready to go beyond self and accept responsibility for the Church as was Peter.

The same can be said of those who have never come to understand the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession, Penance). Pride, envy, jealousy, greed, sloth, avarice, lust are sins against the ultimate power of God, which reveals his own giving, his own loving, his own perfection.



So the beautiful gift given to the Church through the Sacrament of Penance is brushed off as unnecessary. What a pity. When we do not avail ourselves to frequent celebration of the sacrament, we cannot honestly answer Christ’s question. We will get in the way of ourselves.

An old adage to go along with this scripture: *“Say nothing about anything until you know the truth. Only when all the details of a story are known can we speak and not look as if we should have remained quiet.”* God is truth. Know God; know truth.

A similar adage reads: *“Say nothing of another person unless you are willing to write it on paper and clearly affix your name to it. [O] Ben would have trouble with today’s networking that we think is “anonymous.”*

Thanks to those who have been helping with work in the convent and school, preparing for opening days. A few people have been working to accomplish the improbable.



Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom

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Last week we mentioned the gap between actual expenses, and income from the collections being down over 10%. This was almost made up by excess Parish Share. There is no reserve left. So what can we do as a parish? Look for information on an Increased Giving Campaign that will start after Labor Day. If giving does not rise to meet expenses, some tough choices lay ahead. —The Finance Council

Offertory Collections 2011

August 14 Offertory	\$ 10,893
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Offertory	\$ 73,985
Fiscal Year Goal	\$646,724

Parish Share 2011

457 Responses \$104,022 Collected

Second Collection

Capital Improvement, September 3/4

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated next Sunday following the **11:00 a.m.** Mass. Those preparing for major surgery and those preparing for hospital stays are strongly encouraged to share in this anointing. Those of advanced age, those living with terminal illness or emotional difficulties should also plan to seek the healing of mind, body and soul, remembering that God's grace is meant to strengthen the living and not be held off for those nearing death.



INTERPRETED MASS

Next Saturday's 5:00 p.m. Mass will be interpreted for those needing this assistance. Please sit in front of the ambo (pulpit) where you will be able to see the interpreter.



Playing Beautiful Music

The Music Ministry is in need of two handbell players for the Handbell Choir and a drummer for the Praise Band.



Each ensemble meets once a week for an hour and plays at Mass once a month.



If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in filling either of these positions, please contact Amanda Kraeger at sjbmusicministry.net or 412-793-1617.

Men's Fellowship

The sound of crickets is a sure reminder that our summer fun is soon to come to an end. Even though summer doesn't end until September 22, our activities and schedules change—We begin a new season.

Men's Fellowship is steadfast and renews itself each week through Scripture. Join us on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. in the annex. Begin a new season experiencing a deeper relationship with God.



Prayer & Praise

Join the Prayer Group Wednesday evening at 7:00PM in the Church for song, prayer, reflection and sharing of the gifts of God. All is directed by the Holy Spirit that continues to gift us with the understanding of the Father's will.



All parishioners and their friends are invited to share these special times.

This Week

Sunday, August 21, 2011

10:00 a.m. RCIA Mystagogy

Monday, August 22

8:00 p.m. Junior Youth Ministry - convent

Tuesday, August 23

Wednesday, August 24

7:00 p.m. Prayer Group - church

7:00 p.m. Scout meeting - annex

Thursday, August 25

8:15 a.m. PSM Intersection delivery

6:30 p.m. Social Justice committee - annex

6:30 p.m. Preschool Orientation - cafeteria

Friday, August 26

Saturday, August 27

7:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship - annex

Sunday, August 28

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Sunday - annex

Readings for the Week of August 21

Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/
Mt 16:13-20

Monday: I Thes 1:1-5,8b-10/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: I Thes 2:1-8/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51

Thursday: I Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: I Thes 4:1-8/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: I Thes 4:9-11/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



My Experience of RCIA by Ben Campbell



Growing up, I never had any experience with organized religion but I have always considered myself a good person and a religious person. One day my three year old son came home from St. Johns preschool and said, "Daddy, who is Jesus?" For the first time, I realized I really didn't know Jesus and I could not give him a meaningful answer. Throughout the RCIA journey, I was able to bring home my lessons and share them with my wife and two boys. Even though my wife was raised Catholic, it was good for her to hear these Scriptures again and it was great for us to share them together. I not only received an education about Jesus but it has helped me and my whole family grow stronger in our faith. We are excited to be part of the church and we look forward to actively participating in St. Johns Parish.

Ben received the Initiation Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist this past Easter Vigil.

Do you, or someone you know, have questions about Jesus Christ or the Catholic Faith? If you desire Baptism, are baptized in another Christian tradition or baptized Catholic and desire the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist, RCIA is for you! Weekly inquiry sessions begin on September 8 at 7:00 PM in the rectory meeting room. Please contact Ronald Donatelli at 412-793-1617 ext. 260 or Rondon216@aol.com for more information. You may also visit the RCIA page on our parish website.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY *dates to remember*

Feed the Hungry at the Intersection Inc., August 25

On Thursday, August 25, at 8:15 am, the Food Bank Committee will deliver 6 tuna casseroles to the Intersection. If you wish to help in cooking, please call the PSM office at 412-793-4511.

Social Justice Committee (S J C) Meeting,

Thursday, August 25, 6:30 p.m., Annex

All are welcome to attend the SJC meeting to help to build the Kingdom of God through prayers, good works, and action. See the enclosed PSM column for details.

End of the Summer Food Drive

The End of the Summer Parish Food Drive will be **Sunday, August, 28, 2011.** Your donations will be given to local food banks.

Sunday, August 28, "Fellowship Sunday" following the 9:00 a. m. Mass

All parishioners and visitors of St. John's are welcome to join us for fellowship next Sunday following the 9:00 a. m. Mass in the annex, enjoy a cup of coffee, a donut and conversation before going home.

*Are you planning involvement
in school or CCD
activities this year?*

*Do you wish to become involved
as a liturgical minister?*



NOW is the time to prepare and act on what is required by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

ALL ADULTS INVOLVED IN PARISH ACTIVITIES are required to meet the standards of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for creating a safe environment.

This includes the below-mentioned workshops.

Those planning involvement in the school MUST contact Mrs. Stonebraker.

Those planning involvement in the CCD program and Youth Ministry program MUST contact Mrs. Tarr in the Religious Education Office.

Those desiring ministry involvement where children may be present must contact Bonny Welch at the Rectory Parish Office.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS

**St. Bernadette Parish, Monroeville
Wednesday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.**

OR

Saturday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Biedenbach Hall
Contact: Marlene V. Kopper
at 412-373-1797

Walk to Break the Silence of Ovarian Cancer

The National Ovarian Cancer Coalition is having the 11th Annual Ovarian Cancer Walk on Sunday, September 11, at North Park Boathouse. Registration is from 8:00-10:00 a. m. Opening ceremonies at 9:00 a.m. The walk begins at 10:00 a. m. The purpose for the walk is to raise awareness, promote education, and support ovarian cancer research. Pre-registration online: nocc.kintera.org/Pittsburgh. Mail-in registration forms are in the church vestibule.

Are you feeling helpless because you think your Marriage is heading downhill?

Don't despair. Retrouvaille (French for Rediscovery and pronounced Re-tro-vi) is a proven and effective program that is helping hurting couples rebuild their trust and renew their communication. For confidential information about or to register for the weekend program beginning September 23, 2011, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or 3041@retrouvaille.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

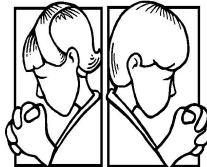


- Senior High Kick -off --- Sunday, September 4th from 7-9 pm.
- Mark your calendar:
—Middle School Faith Rally for all 7th & 8th graders November 4th.
- World Youth Day Cruise- It's time again! An evening of prayer, dinner, music, socializing and lots of fun on the Gateway Clipper's finest cruising Pittsburgh's three Rivers. All high school teens are invited to join us for this event Sunday, November 13, 2011. The cost is \$35 which includes transportation. Money and permission slips are due NO Later than September 13th.



Religious Education CCD News

The Religious Education Office is up and running strong. Registrations are now being taken for CCD for students in grades one through eight who have not been previously attending CCD here at St. John's. Any student who has been attending will automatically be moved forward in the same session and day. Any family who needs to change their session/day, please call the office, 412-795-6376, and do so prior to August 31st.



NOTE: Any eighth grade student who has not as of yet chosen a session, must also do so prior to August 31st.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED



A few teachers and aides are needed for all levels, times and days of CCD. If anyone is willing to spend a little time passing on their faith to the children of St. John the Baptist Parish, please call Mrs. Tarr. Sharing your love of God and his Church is one of the best experiences anyone can have in a life time.

CCD Sessions Begin

**Monday, September 19th at 5:00 PM
for students in grades 1 through 7 and
6:30 PM for 8th grade students only**

**Tuesday, September 20th at 4:30 PM
for grades 1 through 7 and
6:30 PM for students in grades 1 through 8.**

SCHOOL NEWS



**The First Day of School is a half day,
Wednesday, August 31st.**

**The Opening School Mass is on
Thursday, September 1 at 9:00AM**

**The School Office is now Open during
the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Before school begins the teachers have some in-service sessions to attend (they're starting school already) for the exciting new Lead 21 Reading Program, for the new Spanish & Computer Program (Max & Max), and the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program, which was funded through a special grant.

Congratulations! LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS

Winners from August 8 to Aug 13:

Unsold #103, Abra McClure #224, Barb Quaglieri #498

Unsold #756, Alice Schaeffer #450, Unsold #979

**St. John's Preschool
Parent Orientation
Thursday, August 25 at 6:30 p.m.
in the cafeteria**

**Please call to register
Mrs. Anna Mae Newmaster
at 412-793-5130.**



**We're excited since the All-Day
Preschool Program is moving
into the convent for more
space and flexibility.**

Room remains available for children in all our preschool programs, but it is limited. Call now!



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (08/21)

- 5:00 p.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish
- 7:30 a.m. Charles Cosnotti (Fred Vaccarelli)
- 9:00 a.m. Georgeann Coyne (David and Michele Walton)
- 11:00 a.m. Sam Cariati (Nancy Cariati and Family)

MONDAY - The Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary (08/22)

- 9:00 a.m. Joanne M. Kelly (Eugene F. Kelly)

TUESDAY - Saint Rose of Lima (08/23)

- 9:00 a.m. 64th Wedding Anniversary of Guy and Bernadette Bacco (Family)

WEDNESDAY - Saint Bartholomew (08/24)

- 9:00 a.m. William E. Svoboda (Mother)
- 9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

THURSDAY - Saint Louis of France (08/25)

- 9:00 a.m. John and Mary Humar (Family)

FRIDAY - Weekday (08/26)

- 9:00 a.m. 50th Wedding Anniversary of Barb and Bill Volzer

SATURDAY - Saint Monica (08/27)

- 9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Ristway Family (Family)
- 5:00 p.m. 40th Wedding Anniversary of Alan and Susan Pate
Interpreted Mass

SUNDAY - Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (08/28)

- 7:30 a.m. The Living and Deceased of the Parish
- 9:00 a.m. John Drop (Bernice and Patty)
- 11:00 a.m. Deceased of the Rusnak, Mergendahl, Kier Families (Joanne Rusnak and Family)
- 12:15 p.m. *Anointing of the Sick*

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!



Communities of Salt and Light Reflections

"The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission" (U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light*).

New Evangelization Seminar

Gilmary Center, September 2 and 3

Do you know a loved one or dear friend who has stopped practicing their Catholic faith? Are you concerned about how our society has changed over the years, especially with regard to the role and place of faith and religion in our culture? For these reasons, the "new evangelization" has been a continuing theme in the pontificates of Blessed John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Come and learn about the "new evangelization" with Father James Wehner, a priest of our diocese, who will explore the who, what, and how of the new evangelization as it applies to each and every Catholic in the Church today. There will be a free lecture open to the public on Friday evening, September 2, at 7 p.m. On Saturday, September 3, there will be an all-day seminar. Registration is required only for the Saturday seminar. For pricing and to register, please go online at www.gilmarycenter.org or call the Gilmary Center at 412-264-8400.

Catechetical credits will be available for both nights. Forms will be available at the event.

Pray for our Seminarians

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 studies later in August.

VOCATION CROSS



Please join Jenny Molcsan in prayer this week as she displays the Vocation Cross in her home to pray for Religious Vocations.

Questions regarding our parish vocation cross may be directed to Suzy Adamonis at 412-793-6110.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord, You told us that "The harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His fields." We ask You to strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which You have called us. We pray particularly for those called to serve as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons:

- Those whom You have called,
- Those You are calling now,
- Those You will call in the future.

May they be open and responsive to the call of serving Your people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY (PSM)



Prayer For Those With Profound Disabilities

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you know the pain of brokenness,
 you took our weakness upon your shoulders
 and bore it to the wood of the cross.
 Hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters
 whose bodies fail them and whose minds
 are crippled by the ravages of disease.
 Implant a love for them deep within our hearts,
 that we, disfigured and disabled by our sin,
 may treasure and nurture the gift of their lives.
 May we find you in their weakness, and console you
 in our care for them. For you are Lord, forever and ever.
 Amen. —Book of Blessing, No. 228

Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for All



“Handicapped” is an archaic term (no longer used in federal legislation) that evokes negative images of pity, fear and more. The origin of the word is from an Old English bartering game, in which the loser was left with his “cap in his hand”

and was to be applied to people with certain conditions. A legendary origin of the word refers to a person with a disability begging with his “cap in his hand.” This antiquated, derogatory term perpetuates the negative image that people with disabilities are homogenous, needy people! Others who share a certain characteristic are not all alike, and individuals who happen to have disabilities are not alike. In fact, people with disabilities are more like people without disabilities than different!

___ People First Language, by Kathie Snow

Social Justice Committee (SJC) Meeting,
Thursday, August 25, 6:30 pm

All are welcome, especially those parishioners who are cooking for the Intersection, those who have worked at the Jubilee Kitchen; Food Bank Committee; Respect Life Committee; Advocacy for the People with Disabilities; Advocacy for the People Opposing the Death Penalty, Advocacy to a Healthier Living and the Committee for a Better Environment. The SJC kick off meeting will be held in the annex on Thursday, August 25, at 6:30 pm. This time will be used for prayers, thanksgiving, feedback and “building the Kingdom of God.” Thank you.



*To Jesus, who promised
 to be with His Church for all time,
 be glory for ever and ever!*

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Guy and Bernadette Bacco who will celebrate their 64th Wedding Anniversary on August 23rd and to Barb and Bill Volzer who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 26th. May you continue to enjoy God’s peace and goodwill and live together in love.

Rest In Peace

*Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of the dearly departed, especially **Elizabeth Arno** who died on August 11th, **Mary Remley Carteris**, sister of David and William Saville, who died on August 1st.*

Praying for the Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home and requesting our prayers: William Duffy, Rachel Faas, Raymond Millemann, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkush, Betty Telles, John Truxal, Hayward Markham, Matt Drop, Maxine Drop, Joan Yushinski, Suzanne Skillen, Carolyn Szydowski, Pat Guerriero, Betty Lawson, Ruth Gorczynski, Jennie Molcsan, Madeline Ferragonio, Dominic Mollica, Sister Janet Barnicle, Delores L. Serre, Rosemary Koontz, Lucille Perhac, Ralph Genella, Sr., Martha Jo Faircloth, Tillie Holiday Allsopp, Mary Thompson, Jim Abel, Lucille Brose, Dawn Kelly, Jean Guerriero, Anna Urick, Marian Brownhill, David Marshall, Thomas Kuntz, Chris Russo, Bertha Subic, William Bradley, Mabel Dancu, Don Kitchener, Ruth Sarich, Paula Titus, Nick Roman, Betty Beckett, Amy Carmichael, Dorothy Kokal, Jean Duffy, Jane Truxal, Mabel Barlich, Christina Rosignoli, Joseph Telles, Eva Ignelzi.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Barb and Bill Volzer

Flowers at the Altar

are given in the honor and glory of our Lord, in loving memory Frank J. Bahor and son, Michael requested by Mary L. Bahor and sons, Bruce and Brian Bahor AND In loving memory of Jim Simmons requested by wife, Verna

You may be interested:

Maybe God is calling you to serve others this fall? Birthright of Pittsburgh has a few openings for pro-life board members. Friendly members, flexible schedule and fulfilling opportunities. A gentle and nonpolitical organization. Express your commitment to moms and babies with involvement in a great organization celebrating 40 years in the community. Call: 412-621-1988 or 412-916-0199 for more information. We need you!