

# Pastor's Notes

## Ready or Not!

It's hard to imagine but school begins this week. I'm not ready for it. Summer is gone. Ugh! But we'll be ready for our students come that first day.



The school cleaning is almost finished, and the inside convent work is done and ready to welcome the all-day pre-school class. Some outside work remains, but this can occur even as the children are in session.

An enormous thanks needs to be extended to that small group of parishioners who brought about the necessary changes, pushing to complete all that was needed. I'll speak of them in next week's bulletin.

The importance of having safe, healthy environments for our children has been met in a short period of time. For this we are most grateful. These are not final remedies for the greater concerns we may have for the use of our buildings. But pastoral council was insightful enough to identify what would be best for all our children this year.

## Peter's Malady; Our Necessity

You knew it was coming. Peter expressed his disdain to Jesus and showed his own personal preference. Peter's malady was that he often spoke before he understood what he was hearing. His impetuous response was a personal preference. He wanted a savior, and he believed Jesus was the one. Nothing wrong with that. What was wrong was his understanding of savior. (Notice the lower case 's'.) Jesus, as Savior, was of this world only to call humanity — individuals — to conversion of heart and mind to that of the Father. The Kingdom of God is a kingdom far removed from the desires of an earthly rule.

He forgot about Saul, and David, and the line of earthly kings who ruled the Jewish people for so many centuries. He forgot that God had never planned for his people to have an earthly king, that God promised that He would provide for their needs (and could do so better than any human).

He didn't understand that trial and struggle are part of growing in the grace of God, into his very being. Jesus knew and had accepted this as his own. He was ready to offer all for the sake of every man, woman and child. And he was here to share that with anyone who would listen and accept it

## REMEMBERING 9-11

The tenth anniversary of the bombing of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the courageous giving of life by those who averted additional tragedy in a field in Summerset County, is **Sunday, September 11**. Because of these events of just one morning, our lives have been, and will be, forever changed.

A special Ecumenical Prayer Service is being planned for that Sunday evening (9/11) at St. John the Baptist Parish. Local churches of the area are being invited to participate. As we plan this time:



- we wish to remember those whose lives were lost, as well as the families and friends left to mourn;
- we wish to pray for continued healing of the many animosities that may linger in mind and heart toward so many innocent people associated simply through ethnic background;
- we wish to pray for a world so torn by violence, power, and greed;
- we wish to pray that our own lives may be calls to holiness that help to change our world into one focused and opened to the presence of God;
- we wish to pray for the many atrocities occurring throughout the world each day revealing the presence of the evil one in the world;
- and we wish to pray for peace in the world, for the end of military necessity, and the safe return of military personnel around the world.

We'd like to include some local people effected by the death of a relative in these tragedies. Please call the parish office if you are willing to share your story as part of this prayer service.

as truth.

The feast day for St. Rose of Lima, a mystic from Peru, was celebrated last week. She wrote about a force that urged her to announce to the whole world:

*"We cannot obtain grace unless we suffer afflictions...If only mortals would learn how great it is to possess divine grace, how beautiful, how noble, how precious. How many riches it hides within itself, how many joys and delights! Without doubt they would devote all their care and concern to winning for themselves pains and afflictions. All men throughout the world would seek trouble, infirmities and torments, instead of good fortune, in order to attain the unfathomable treasure of grace..."*

Peter's malady is ours. We don't want pain. We only want joy without interference. We want sanitary lives, clean from hardship and struggle, and from being told what we must do. Well, the Lord, says, *"If you desire the kingdom of God, take up your cross and follow me."* Only when we do this, daily, do we grasp the meaning of "Savior."

Love and prayers,  
Fr. Tom

<b>St. John the Baptist Pastoral Council Members</b>		
Dave Goldstein 724-325-8414 <a href="mailto:davejengold@comcast.net">davejengold@comcast.net</a>	Juan Ibarra 412-798-1752 <a href="mailto:cjibarra1@verizon.net">cjibarra1@verizon.net</a>	Susan Pompa 412-795-5145 <a href="mailto:susanpompa@comcast.net">susanpompa@comcast.net</a>
Mary Ann Hammill 412-793-6657 <a href="mailto:mahammill@comcast.net">mahammill@comcast.net</a>	Jack Patnik 412-793-0476 <a href="mailto:jppatnik@hotmail.com">jppatnik@hotmail.com</a>	Noreen Saville 412-795-5847 <a href="mailto:Honeygirl525@verizon.net">Honeygirl525@verizon.net</a>
		Betsy Yaklich 412-527-1170 <a href="mailto:ladywolfb@netzero.com">ladywolfb@netzero.com</a>

*We have mentioned the gap between actual expenses and income. This is a serious issue and we need everyone to be aware of this and we need to face it head on. This is unpleasant to address at any time, but we need you to know and we need your help if we are going to reverse this. Are you on board? —The Finance Council*

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

The Children's Liturgy of the Word team is looking for new and additional members as: Leaders, Readers, Singers, and Proclaimers, to continue on the tradition of this celebration for the "little ones" of our parish.



It takes a number of people of all ages and we need your help. The commitment is only once a month or less depending on the number of volunteers. Teenagers and young adults (anyone age 12 and above) are needed for readers and singers. Please consider helping in this worth while ministry. Please call Mrs. Tarr at 412-795-6376. Our children need to hear and understand the message that God is sending to them.

### St. John the Baptist Youth Ministry Needs You!

**We are looking for dedicated, vibrant and faithful**

**Catholic adults** to serve as members of the youth ministry team. Regardless of your level of experience or availability, we can find a place for you. If you are interested in finding out more information, please call Joann 412-793-1617 ext 281.

### 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](http://sjbmusicministry.net) or 412-793-1617.



*Just a reminder...*

**...CCD teachers, Aides and Staff.**

Our opening meeting will be held this week – Tuesday, August 30th at 7:00 PM in the Annex. See you there!

### Readings for the Week of August 28

Sunday: Jer 20:7-9/Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27  
 Monday: I Thes 4:13-18/Mk 6:17-29  
 Tuesday: I Thes 5:1-6,9-11/Lk 4:31-37  
 Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Lk 4:38-44  
 Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Lk 5:1-11  
 Friday: Col 1:15-20/Lk 5:33-39  
 Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Lk 6:1-5  
 Next Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20



### Offertory Collections 2011

August 21 Offertory	\$ 8,071
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Offertory	\$ 82,056
Fiscal Year Goal	\$646,724
Aide to Africa	\$ 3,387

*The above Offertory Amount does not include Vanco contributors.*

**The Parish Share Report will be in next week's bulletin**

*Second Collection*  
 Capital Improvement, September 3/4

### Prayer & Praise

*The gifts of the Holy Spirit are many and varied, all for the purpose of revealing God's presence in our lives and those to whom God directs us.*



*Understanding of these gifts is found in openness in prayer and in grasping God's Word in our lives.*

*Each week we gather in Prayer and Worship to discern God's revelation to us, to hear how he has touched and renewed some, and how the marvelous love of God has brought peace and strength to those who seek to know the Lord more fully.*

*We gather in the church at 7:00PM Wednesday evening. All are invited to join us for whatever time they may have for song, intercessory prayer, and reflection on God in our hearts.*

### This Week

#### **Sunday, August 28, 2011**

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Sunday, annex

#### **Monday, August 29**

10:00 a.m. SJBS Faculty meeting, annex

#### **Tuesday, August 30**

7:00 p.m. CCD Teacher meeting, annex

#### **Wednesday, August 31**

8:30 a.m. Preschool Teacher In-service Day

7:00 p.m. Prayer Group, church

7:00 p.m. SJBS Kindergarten Orientation, cafeteria

#### **Thursday, September 1**

10:00 a.m. Preschool Open House (3 yr. olds)

6:30 p.m. Scout Committee, library

7:00 p.m. Increased Giving meeting, annex

#### **Friday, September 2**

10:00 a.m. Preschool Open House (Pre-K/4 yr. olds)

7:00 p.m. Pack Committee meeting, cafeteria

#### **Saturday, September 3**

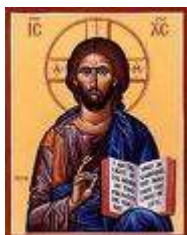
8:00 a.m. Outreach, Jubilee Kitchen, parking lot

#### **Sunday, September 4**

7:00 p.m. Senior Youth Ministry, convent

## Easiest Way to Evangelize Ever!

So, you know Christ has called you to evangelize, right? Speaking to others about your Catholic faith may at times be a great challenge for various reasons but today we've made it as simple as possible. Included in the bulletin today is an insert for



RCIA. Do you know someone who is not baptized and has questions about Jesus Christ? Just hand them the insert! Do you know someone who was baptized in another Christian tradition but has questions about the Catholic Church? Hand them the insert! How about people you know who were baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Eucharist? You guessed it; hand them the insert!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) of our parish is dependent upon God's grace working in our parishioners to welcome and lead others who have questions about the Catholic Faith to receive answers to their important questions. The RCIA weekly inquiry sessions begin on September 8 at 7:00 PM in the rectory meeting room. If you have any questions please contact Ronald Donatelli at 412-793-1617 ext. 260 or via email at [Rondon216@aol.com](mailto:Rondon216@aol.com). Remember to hand on that insert!

## St. Paul of the Cross Men and Women Retreats



### St. John's Men Retreat September 30th through October 2nd

Reservation Forms can be found at all  
entrances of the church and at the rectory  
or email [stpaulrcpa@cproov.org](mailto:stpaulrcpa@cproov.org)

Contact Jon Parrotta  
412-5192058 for more information

### St. John's Women's Retreat October 7th through October 9th

Reservation forms can be found at all  
entrances of the church and at the rectory  
or email [stpaulrcpa@cproov.org](mailto:stpaulrcpa@cproov.org)

Contact Lisa Noca, 412-826-8888 or  
Linda Scott, 412-327-515  
for more information

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



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

### **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

### **PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY *dates to remember***

#### **Jubilee Kitchen, a Parish Outreach, Saturday, September 3, 8:00 a. m.**



The Jubilee Kitchen is in need of plastic containers, twist-ties and super market size plastic bags. For this purpose, we have placed four 25" pop-up hampers in the Church.

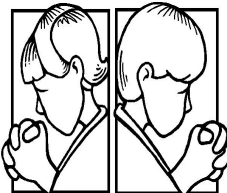
On Saturday, September 3, the Food Bank Committee will go to Jubilee Kitchen. If possible, join us for this corporal work of mercy. The departure time from the parking lot will be 8:00 a.m. All are welcome. *"I assure you, as often you neglected to do it to one of these least ones, you neglected to do it to me."* Matt. 26:45

## YOUTH MINISTRY



- Senior High Kick -off --- Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 4th. All teens entering 9th-12th grade are invited for a night of fun.
- World Youth Day Cruise- It's time again to cruise Pittsburgh's three Rivers. Enjoy an evening of prayer, dinner, music, socializing and lots of fun on the Gateway Clipper. All high school teens are invited to join us for this event on Sunday, November 13, 2011. The cost is \$35 which includes transportation. Money and permission slips are due NO Later than September 13th.
- St. John the Baptist Youth Ministry needs you!!! **We are looking for dedicated, vibrant and faithful Catholic adults** to serve as members of the youth ministry team. Regardless of your level of experience or availability, we can find a place for you. If you are interested in finding out more information please call Joann 412-793-1617 ext 281.
- Find us on Facebook! Search for "SaintJohn Youth-Ministry" and join our group to make new friends, get involved, and stay up to date on the latest news in Youth Ministry.

## Religious Education CCD News



The Religious Education Office is up and running strong. Registrations are now being taken for CCD 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 chosen a session, must also do so prior to August 31st.



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**  
Three 5th Grade Teachers  
are needed for Tuesday Sessions  
*please call the Religious Ed Office*  
412-795-6376

### CCD Sessions Begin

**Monday, September 19th**

at 5:00 PM for students in grades 1 through 7th  
and 6:30 PM 8th grade students only

**Tuesday, September 20th**

at 4:30 PM for grades 1 through 7th  
and 6:30 PM for students in grades 1 through 8th.

Catechetical Sunday — Sunday, September 17

## SCHOOL NEWS



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

**The Opening School Mass is on  
FRIDAY, September 2 at 9:00AM**

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

**Monday, August 29**

—Faculty Meeting at 10:00 a.m. , annex

**Wednesday, August 31**

—Kindergarten Orientation at 7:00 p.m., cafeteria

**Congratulations! LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS**

Winners from August 14 to August 21 will be announced  
in next week's bulletin.

## St. John's Preschool



**Teacher In-Service**  
**Wednesday, August 31st**  
at 8:30 a.m.

**Open House (three year olds)**  
**Thursday, September 1**  
at 10:00a.m.—Preschool Building

**Open House (four year olds/ PreK)**  
**Friday, September 2**  
at 10:00 a.m.—Preschool Building

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

*The children rush out to the bus alone  
Woe! they cry. Alas! they groan  
While you slide on a tiny grin  
Your time is now your own again  
Enjoy the peace! Enjoy the quiet!  
For now your house is free from riot!*





**Mass Intentions**

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

- 5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) 40th Wedding Anniversary of Alan and Susan Pate
- 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*

**MONDAY - The Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist(08/29)**

- 9:00 a.m. Frank Podobnik (Helen Subic)

**TUESDAY - Weekday (08/30)**

- 9:00 a.m. Winkler Family (Madelyn Schaffer)

**WEDNESDAY - Weekday (08/31)**

- 9:00 a.m. Pauline Elko (son, Tom and Family)
- 9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

**THURSDAY - Weekday (09/01)**

- 9:00 a.m. Mary Agnes Pickens (Vivian and Harry Trautmann)

**FRIDAY - Weekday (09/02)**

- 9:00 a.m. John B. Plake, Jr. (M/M Raymond Colbert)

**SATURDAY - Saint Gregory the Great (09/03)**

- 9:00 a.m. John F. Sopcak (Helen and Family)
- 5:00 p.m. Tom Connors (Wife and Children)

**SUNDAY - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (09/04)**

- 7:30 a.m. John Joseph Stewart (wife, Ann)
- 9:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish
- 11:00 a.m. Dorothy and Irwin Stoecklein (Family)

The 7:00 a.m. daily Mass will resume on Monday, September 12th, 2011

*Do you have the desire to volunteer to help others?*



*Do you have time to share?*

*If so, the Ladies of Charity is looking for you.*

*Our First meeting is September 22, 2011*

*at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex.*

*Please come to learn more about the Ladies of Charity.*

*If you have any questions, please call Michele Dongweck, President, at 412-795-5125*

*Following the Lord means nothing less than the cross: offering ourselves with Jesus as a living sacrifice and not conforming ourselves to this world. Following Him will entail derision and scorn, yet the Lord is our help.*



**Communities of Salt and Light Reflections**



“Our Social doctrine is an integral part of our faith; we need to pass it on clearly, creatively, and consistently. It is a remarkable spiritual intellectual, and pastoral resource that has been too little known or appreciated even in our own community.”

(U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Communities of Salt and Light*).

**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!***

**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 John and Gloria Kutzner in prayer this week as they display the Vocation Cross in their 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)**



**Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for All**

If people with disabilities are to become equal partners in the Christian community, injustices must be eliminated and ignorance and apathy replaced with warm acceptance. The leaders and the general membership of the Church must educate themselves to appreciate fully the contribution people with disabilities can make to the Church's spiritual life. They bring with them a special insight into the meaning of life; for they live, more than the rest of us perhaps, in the shadow of the cross. Out of their experience they forge virtues like courage, patience, perseverance, compassion and sensitivity that should serve as an inspiration to all Christians.

(13) When we think of people with disabilities, we tend automatically to think of doing something for them. We do not reflect that they can do something for us and with us. As noted, people with disabilities can, by their example, teach the non-disabled person much about strength and Christian acceptance. Moreover, they have the same duty as all members of the community to do the Lord's work in the world, according to their God-given talents and capacity. Because individuals may not be fully aware of the contribution they can make, Church leaders should consult with them, offering suggestions or practical ways of serving. (17) \_\_\_\_\_ Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities, November 16, 1978

In the next weeks we hope to continue to make known to you the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church ensuring inclusion, freedom and respect for all. We are pleased to announce that two more parishioners, Jim and Judy Rogers, have completed their studies and received their Certification for the Parish Advocacy Program from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Secretariat for Catholic Education, Department for Persons with Disabilities. Martin Clancy, Jim and Judy Rogers will take a lead role in working with the parish's Advocacy Program for People with Disabilities.

**Thank You Note From Plum Food Bank**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given the Plum Food Pantry. We will soon be celebrating our 30 year anniversary. The Pantry has gone from 30 families to 150 families average per month. This has only been accomplished because of a very dedicated group of volunteers and your support.

Soon we will have a drastic change in our hours of operation. We will no longer have afternoon hours for our clients. As of September 6, 2011 our only hours will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Also, we distributed 46 emergency orders to non-client families. In order to meet the needs of our clients, we would like your continued support. We thank you for your wonderful donations brought in today.

Blessings,  
Joseph S. Utterback, Chairman



**Baptism**

*We welcome into our faith community with great joy the newly baptized: Domenick Frank Dominkush and Carmen James Pointer.*

**Congratulations**

*Congratulations and best wishes to Alan and Susan Pate who are celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary today. 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 **Phyllis Jenkins** who died on August 17th,*

**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 Milleman, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkush, Betty Telles, John Truxal, Hayward Markham, Matt Drop, Maxine Drop, Joan Yushinski, Suzanne Skillen, Carolyn Szydlowski, 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.*

**You may be interested:**

**Race for Pace 5K Run/Walk and Paws for Pace 1 Mile Dog Walk**—Saturday, October 15th start time 9:00 a.m. Benefits the children of Pace School. The race will take place at Pace School, 2432 Greensburg Pike, Churchill. Awards: \$125, \$75, \$50 cash prizes—first three male and female finishers, \$50 gift cards—first male and female Master (40+), Medals—first three male and females in each age group. Teams must pre-register by October 7 and include a minimum of 5 registrants. Event Fees: \$20 for adults and \$15 for youth (15/under) Adult price increases after October 7th. For more information or to register, contact [www.PACESCHOOL.ORG](http://www.PACESCHOOL.ORG) or 412-244-1900. Paws for Peace 1 Mile Dog walk start time is 9:05. Awards: Best Costume, Biggest Dog, Smallest Dog, Longest Tail, and Biggest Ears. Each dog receives a bag of goodies.

**Seven Week Grief Support Group**—The bereavement ministry of Our Lady of Joy will have a seven-week grief support series beginning Wednesday, September 28th from 7-8:30 PM downstairs in the Father Marchukonis hall. This support group is for those who have lost a loved one and are seeking the company of others in their time of need. We will meet every Wednesday through November 2nd and conclude with a Mass of Remembrance on Saturday, November 5th at 10am. All are welcome. If anyone would benefit from our ministry, please call Liz Bachtel at 724 337 0049 or the religious education office at 412 795 4389 to register.