

Pastor's Notes

Parochial Vicar

We must consider ourselves very fortunate to have Fr. Michael Suslowicz named as a Parochial Vicar for St. John's. The statistics concerning priests and parishes in the diocese, that we were given this spring, were that there are 32 priests as Pastors of two or more parishes and eight Parochial Vicars helping in more than one parish.

That leaves us among a select few parishes who have been blessed with assistance. It also means that we will continue to be a resource for assistance for other parishes when help is needed since no other parish east of Shadyside has a Parochial Vicar.

Thanks to Mrs. Tarr, our Director of Religious Education, and all the parishioners — adults and senior & junior high students, and college students home for the summer — for a wonderful week of "Bamboo", that is, Vacation Bible School. "Bamboo" happened to be the main character that the little ones will remember. Vacation Bible School takes a lot of work, and many people to be successful. So we're most grateful for all their work and really glad the kids had such a fun week learning about our God.



Everyone knows that tomorrow (Monday) is our nation's celebration of independence. Each fourth of July we celebrate our freedom with parties, cookouts, gatherings of families and friends, and fireworks.

Watermelon, hot dogs, baked beans and everything "American" are on display. This is good. Our country stands as a goal for people of every background and nation to attain. So let's celebrate freedom.

Let's remember those men and women who continue to serve in the military for the cause of freedom for all people. We may not always appreciate the lives of those who won us our freedom. Many were not Americans, but rather French. True, the government of France may have had a hidden agenda against England. But, nevertheless, the precious cost of life was given for us. We, in turn, continue to be that nation with freedom as an exemplar ideal of independence for all.

Let us be people who continue to seek freedom for all people — especially those living in fear rather than hope,

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Welcome Fr. Michael Suslowicz

Father was ordained in 1980 and is currently serving as the Parochial Vicar at St. Thomas More Parish in Bethel Park.

He has a great love for music and Christmas, which should make for an interesting holiday season.

He'll be able to better introduce himself in next week's bulletin and after his arrival on July 11th — just in time for the festival!

I've known Father for a number of years and am excited that he has been assigned to assist at St. John the Baptist Parish. — Fr. Tom

despair rather than joy, bigotry and oppression rather than opportunity and respect. These are qualities of God which are given us through Jesus Christ who freely gave of himself for all people.

Let us take a close look to make sure our words and actions are as honorable, since people in our own country continue to live in fear and despair, and are so often surrounded by bigotry and oppression. We've gained the freedom in this world. Let us continue to define that freedom by the gift of God's freedom which calls us to a greater understanding of life.



For the *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds* session this past week, each priest was to chart everything he did for a week. This provided many opportunities to examine how time is spent, and whether priorities are taking center focus. I did it for a whole month, and will continue to do it for weeks to come. I was actually able to see which days are best for doing certain things, and to realize that between staff and parishioners taking responsibility for some tasks, I was able to attend required workshops, do two-day hospital coverage for anointings and emergencies, and still have time to do home visits, and more.

So thanks to those who have taken on those many responsibilities. You have been a blessing.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom



Fraternity of Priests Healing Mass
Wednesday, July 6 — 7:00PM
St. Francis of Assisi Parish — Finleyville

Route 88 takes you directly past the parish. You may go either along the river on Rt. 885 (out of Duquesne and East McKeesport) or Rt. 88 out of South Park / Bethel Park.

Allow approx 70 minutes due to time of day.

GRAND RAFFLE

Don't Forget To Turn In Your
Tickets!!!!

Only Two Weeks To Go!!

\$10,100

July 13, 14, 15

3—Drawing Each Night

1—\$500 and 2—\$100 Drawings

July 16

3 GRAND PRIZE DRAWINGS

\$5,000—\$2,000—\$1,000

*Need more tickets?
Come to the rectory.*

Festival Grand Raffle Update

As of June 27, 2011 with only two more weeks to go, we have deposited \$16, 154 in the festival checking account. That means we are at 54% of our **\$30,000. goal**. The raffle typically brings in \$6-7,000 during the 4 nights of the festival. That means that our pre-festival sales should be around \$23,000 before the festival begins in order to reach our goal. We will not make our goal unless all of us do our part. We understand the state of the economy and some families are experiencing financial difficulties. Please do what you can. Some can do more than others. If we all do what we can we will hit our goal. Last year the Grand Raffle brought in 32% of the Festival profit. The raffle is a very important portion of the festival proceeds. All of the festival profits go towards Church Operation and Maintenance expenses. Please buy or sell as many tickets as you can.

**The Grand Raffle coordinators,
Susan Pompa and Pete Mariuzza**

Readings for the Week of July 3

Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Rom 8:9,11-13/Mt 11:25-30
Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57;42:5-7z,17-24a/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Gn 44:18-21,23b-29;45:1-5/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Gn 46:1-7,28-30/Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Gn 49:29-32;50:15-26a/Mt 10:24-33
Next Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23



Offertory Collections 2011

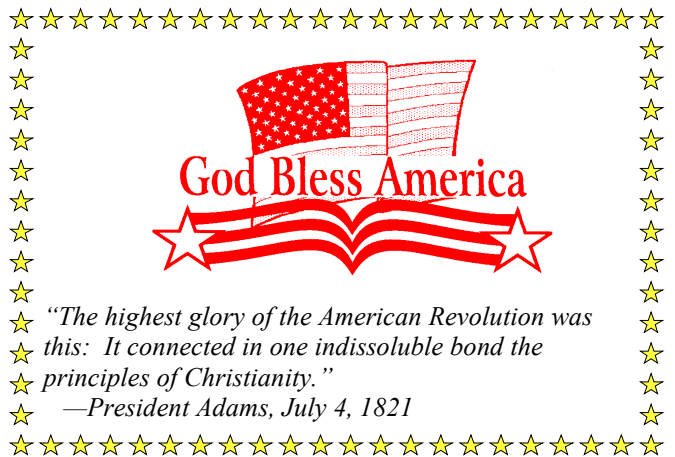
June 26 Offertory	\$ 9,767
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Offertory	\$565,642
Fiscal Year Goal	\$646,724
2nd collection June 26th	
Peter's Pence	\$1,323

Parish Share 2011

Responses 441 \$ 87,664 Collected

Today's Second Collection
Capital Improvement Fund

A special message for summer travelers—Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? St. John's offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you have plans to travel this summer, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. Simply call Ginger at the rectory 412-793-4511 (Monday, Tuesday or Thursday) to get started.



This Week

Sunday, July 3, 2011

Monday, July 4

Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5

6:00 p.m. Festival Set-up

Wednesday, July 6

6:00 p.m. Festival Set-up (Rain Date)

Thursday, July 7

9:45 p.m. YM leaving for Catholic Kennywood Day

Friday, July 8

Last Day for New To You Donations

Saturday, July 9

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

Sunday, July 10

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

LET ALL GO TO THE BALL GAME

St. John's is sponsoring a fundraiser for



Friday, August 19th at
7:05 p.m.
to see the new and improved

PIRATES vs REDS
AND ITS FREE SHIRT FRIDAY!



We will purchase Outfield Box Seats Tickets at \$20 per ticket so that the gang can sit together! Sounds like fun! If there is enough interest a bus will be rented.

Call the rectory at 412-793-4511 for ticket orders and payment information

How Do We Thank God and You for SOOOO Much?

Vacation Bible School was a HUGE success!!!! Thanks to the volunteer Station Leaders, Crew Leaders and all the helpers who devoted their time and talents to create Pandamania all last week at St. John's. Volunteers and parishioners' donate supplies for the week. Volunteers spend timeless hours preparing the program to ensure that our children have fun for the week. This does not include the preparations for each of their stations and crews every day. The success of the week depends on the dedication of these individuals.



We, as a parish, sometimes have to sit back and reflect on all the good things that are happening at our parish. This week gives us a great reason to reflect on how thankful we should be for all the good people we have who give up so much for spreading the GOSPEL MESSAGE for the little ones of our parish family. THANKS!

2 weeks to Sign up for Retrouvaille – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped over 10,000 couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on July 15, 2011, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or 3041@retrouvaille.org. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com.

Men's Fellowship

All men of the parish are welcome — and encouraged — to join fellow parishioners for an early morning faith sharing. The morning begins with a continental breakfast and continues with personal story experiences relating to scripture. If you are looking for a good way to begin the weekend—try this! You will experience a spiritual growth that will help you become a greater role model of faith in your home and at work.



The Men's Fellowship meets the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 7:30 a.m. in the annex.

Golden Wedding Celebration

The Catholic 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 9, 2011 beginning with a mass at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop Zubik will be the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall at the Cathedral.



If you are a parishioner celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2011, and would be interested in attending the celebration along with the other jubilarian couples, please call the rectory or drop a note in the weekly collection basket no later than August 7th. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.

Senior Youth Ministry



- **Want to do something different this Summer?** For Your Glory: Service Experience—For teens entering 9th-12th grades! Mission Trip to Villa Maria, PA. August 12-15th. We will be working with Habitat for Humanity, and an organic farm. Costs \$110 per person. For more information please call Joann 412-793-1617. Space is limited, reserve your spot today! Permission slips and money are now due.
- Sandcastle - All teens entering 7th- 12th grade are invited to join us for a day at Sandcastle on Wednesday, July 27th. Cost is \$20 if money and permission slips are turned in no later than June 26th, any permission slips and money turned in after June 25th the cost is \$25.
- Senior High will meet Sunday July 10th from 8:00 -10:30 pm. and August 1st 8:00- 10:30 pm.



Luncheon - Card Party

25th Anniversary

For the Benefit of

Pittsburgh Diocesan Seminarians

Saturday, August 20, 2011 — 11:30AM

Highland Country Club

450 Highland Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15229

Door prizes, Raffles, and Chinese Auction

\$25.00 Donation

Choice of:

Stuffed Chicken Breast - "English" Broiled Scrod

Fresh Fruit Plate

Reservations Needed by August 13, 2011

Please call Lisa 412 824 1032

NEW TO YOU DONATIONS KEEP THEM COMING

Please leave your donations at the school entrance under the overhang
Questions? Call 412 427-4275
**REMINDER: LAST DAY WE ARE
ACCEPTING DONATIONS IS JULY 8th.**



Dear Sandi, Fr. Tom and the Wonderful SJB Teachers and Staff (Past & Present):



A single letter cannot really express the heartfelt gratitude that Linda and I have for all that you have done for Patrick and Erin over the past 12 years. The Catholic Faith that we have tried to live at home was taught everyday at St John the Baptist. The many values like compassion, generosity and love that we tried to teach at home were reinforced every day at St. John the Baptist. The faith and values that they have learned at St. John the Baptist will stay with them for their entire lives. I know this because I have never forgotten the lessons I learned at St. Bart's over 35 years ago.

Thank you for enabling us to give Patrick and Erin a tremendous gift over the past 12 years - the gift of a great Catholic grade school education. The Gilboys can never thank you enough and will never forget any of you.

With all our thanks and love,
Jim & Linda Gilboy

Note: Jim and Linda need to be thanked as their own involvement helped make St. John the Baptist School a good environment.



SCHOOL NEWS

Our school staff is off on vacation — so the school office will be closed during the month of July.

The School Office will reopen on August 1st. Please use the Parish Office if it is necessary to drop off materials or information for SJB School.

LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS:

Calendars remain available at the rectory office.

Lucky Lottery Winners from June 20 to August 1st will be announced in August. Checks will be sent out on August 1st. Volunteers who handle this fundraiser are off for the summer.

**Preschool Registration
will be taken by appointment
only. Please call
Mrs. Anna Mae Newmaster
412-793-5130**



Mass for the Intentions Week

SUNDAY - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (07/03)

5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) Matis and Anna Lepovsky (Children)
 7:30 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish
 9:00 a.m. 25th Wedding Anniversary of
 Jerry and Susan Pompa
 11:00 a.m. 25th Wedding Anniversary of Dave and Patty Hall
 (Brian and Kristina)

MONDAY - Saint Elizabeth of Portugal (07/04)

9:00 a.m. Matilda Contreras (Carlos and Beatrice)

TUESDAY - Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria (07/05)

9:00 a.m. Spiritual and Temporal Welfare of
 Rege Hoolahan (Family)

WEDNESDAY - Saint Maria Goretti (07/06)

9:00 a.m. Frank Podobnik (Kathleen Cybert)
 9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

THURSDAY - Weekday (07/07)

9:00 a.m. Elizabeth Gatz (Barb and Bill Volzer)

FRIDAY - Weekday (07/08)

9:00 a.m. Earl Sunder (Volzer Family)

SATURDAY - Saint Augustine Zhao Rong (07/09)

9:00 a.m. John Loftus (Harry and Judy Haerr)
 3:00 p.m. Leslie Baldwin and Nathan Lucas (nuptials)
 5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) Edward A. Pochatko (Barb and Edward)

SUNDAY - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (07/10)

7:30 a.m. Spiritual Blessings for Jane Plake
 (Roy and Jackie Colbert)
 9:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish
 11:00 a.m. John G. Ricci (Wife and Children)

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!

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN

Protecting God's Children Workshops



St. Bernadette Parish — Monroeville

Wednesday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Biedenbach Hall

Contact: Marlene V. Kopper at 412-373-1797

or mvkopper@stbrnadet.org

All adults in parish programs and in programs using parish facilities are required to obtain the proper clearances AND attend the Protecting God's Children Workshop.

BASKET AUCTION

We are still collecting baskets and treasures. Please bring them to the rectory during normal business hours.



Pre-made baskets are also welcome.

Pray for 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 seminaries and studies later in August.

VOCATION CROSS



Please join Betsy Yaklich 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

Gracious God, You have called me to life and gifted me in many ways. Through Baptism You have sent me to continue the mission of Jesus by sharing my love with others. Strengthen me to respond to Your call each day. Help me to become all You desire of me. Inspire me to make a difference in others' lives. Lead me to choose the way of life You have planned for me. Open the hearts of all to listen to Your call. Fill all with Your Holy Spirit that we may have listening hearts and the courage to respond to You. Enkindle in my heart and the hearts of others the desire to make the world a better place by serving as Lay Minister, Sister, Priest, Brother or Deacon. Amen.



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY (PSMP)

Happy 4th of July

"I still have a dream today that one day justice will toll down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. I still have a dream today that in all of our state houses, and city halls, men will be elected to go there who will do justly, and love mercy and walk humbly with their God. I still have a dream today, that one day war will come to an end, that men will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; that nations will on longer rise up against, neither will they study war anymore. I still have a dream today, that one day the lamb and the lion will lie down together, and every man will sit under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall be afraid. I still have a dream today, that one day every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill will be made low, the rough places will be made smooth, and the crooked places straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh see it together. I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despairs and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day, when there will be peace on earth and good will toward all. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy."



Reflection on Peace, Justice and Hope from Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us pray that our Lord will continue to give us men of great wisdom and dreams. Let us pray that the dreams of justice, peace and the sacredness of life will come to fruition. May God continue to bless the United States of America. Happy 4th of July!

Thank You for a Successful Blood Drive

We thank you for your participation in the Summer Blood Drive. You met your community responsibility, because the blood you donated cannot be manufactured, and there is no substitute for it. Wonderful! Twenty seven people signed up to donate blood. A word of gratitude to the Knights of Columbus, Council 4242, for helping in setting up and disassembling of the Central Blood Bank's medical equipment. They began to serve at 6:30 a.m. and complete their task at 1:30 p.m. Thanks to the St. John's Blood Bank Committee who assisted in calling possible donors and worked in the canteen. Please mark your calendar, the next blood drive is Sunday, October 9, 2011.



You may be interested

The Foundation of Hope, established by Christian Associates, is looking for volunteers from the faith-based community to help with the inmate mentoring program at Allegheny County Jail. For more information please contact Tony Richardson at (412) 321-3343.

Welcome to St. John's

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

Sean, Cathy, Ava and Raegan Wildon

Weddings

III Leslie Baldwin and Nathan Lucas

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to Jerry and Susan Pompa who are celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary today, and to Dave and Patty Hall who will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on July 5th. 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 John Kelly, who died on June 22nd.

Praying for the Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home and requesting our prayers: William Duffy, Rachael 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, Nancy Cariati, Ruth Gorcynski, 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, Lou Gaussa, Nick Roman, Betty Beckett, Amy Carmichael, Louis Drop, Dorothy Kokal, Jean Duffy, Jane Truxal.

If you have an immediate concern, are ill or you know someone who is infirmed, call the rectory and your request will be forwarded to 45 prayer warriors.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and on the special occasion of the 62nd Wedding Anniversary of Aileen and Nick Roman

Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for All

On the most basic level, the Church responds to persons with disabilities by defending their rights. Pope John XXIII's encyclical *Pacem in Terris* stresses to innate dignity of all men and women. "In an ordered and productive community, it is a fundamental principle that every human being is a 'person'... [One] has the rights and duties... flowing directly and spontaneously from [one's] very nature. These rights are therefore universal, inviolable and inalienable." (9)

-- Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities, 11 16, 1978