

Dates of Interest

Food Project for Burkina Faso
Saturday, June 7, 9:00 AM

Graduation Mass
Saint Elizabeth Parish School
Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 PM

Memorial Mass for Deceased Fathers
Saturday, June 14, 8:30 AM

Independence Day Holiday
Friday, July 4
Mass at 9:00 AM

Holy Day of the Assumption
Friday, August 15
Mass at 7:30 AM, 12 Noon, 7:00 PM

Labor Day Holiday
Monday, September 1
Mass at 9:00 AM

Saint Elizabeth Parish School
Opening Day for Grades 1-8
Tuesday, September 2

Elementary Faith Formation
Weekly Sessions Begin
September 8-9-10

Christ Renews His Parish
Women's Renewal Weekend
October 17, 18
Men's Renewal Weekend
November 14, 15

Celebrate in Song and Experience the Joy

Saint Augustine is credited with saying, "Those who sing pray twice." Indeed, music is an essential component to the Sacred Liturgy, so our song is truly an extension of prayerful participation at Mass. The Greek word that is rendered in English as "liturgy" has the root meaning: "the work of the people" or "a public service." So, as participants in the Liturgy, we have a specific task to join in every aspect of our communal worship. Attending Mass without singing is like going to a birthday party and standing silently around the cake!

Here at Saint Elizabeth Church, the music is joyful, engaging and truly celebratory – thanks to the dedication of the many parishioners who offer their stewardship service to the parish music ministry. They spend hours learning, practicing and sharing their musical prayers with the congregation. Rather than being performing artists up on a

stage, the music ministers are leaders of song, a role only complete when the assembly sings along to form a single community.

Saint Elizabeth Parish currently has nine music groups, including: the Adult Choir, the Teen/Adult Ensemble, Joyful Voices, the Vocal Octet, the Cranney Group, the Family Group Choir, Witness 4 God, the Guitar Group and the Holiday Children's Choir. Each group has a particular style, so there is something for everyone, from traditional to contemporary music.

"The Family Group is a perfect way to get parents and their children involved together, and they truly enjoy it," said leader and accompanist, Joanne Li. While music selections enhance the meaning of the readings, they are also selected to reflect the style of the specific music group leading each Mass."

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue:

Music Groups.....	1,2
Living Stations of the Cross.....	2
First Reconciliations.....	3
School Spirits.....	4
Comedy Night.....	5
CLOW.....	5
Confirmation Candidates.....	6
Family Spirits.....	7
Sister Parish Easter Party.....	8
Boys Basketball Champs.....	8
K of C Fish Dinner.....	8



The Teen/Adult Ensemble rehearses before Mass. Front row, from left: Bridgit Donneghue, Mira Messere, Mary Jane Byers, Sarah Howard, Donna Sugg. Back row, from left: Anne Marie Guthrie, Matt Jung, Brandon Carcella, Thomas Calder, Kerry Hess, Marissa Martini, Warren Fox

Celebrate in Song

(Continued from cover)

Charlotte Kroft, a co-director of the Teen/Adult Ensemble, encourages youth involvement. "We are fortunate to have a number of instrumentalists, including violins, violas, cellos, guitar, drums, flutes, trumpet and oboe. Members range in age from sixth grade to adults," explained Charlotte. "We always try to select music that is familiar to the congregation and introduce new songs before Mass begins so that the congregation hears them before they are used at Mass. The group members understand that the selection of hymns week to week is not based upon 'songs we like to sing.' They learn that the hymns need to be appropriate for that particular week's readings."

Fabien Forget, of the Guitar Group, expressed a sentiment that many music ministers share. "I've seen and felt what happens, individually and to a congregation, when all commune in song. It's pretty incredible. It's powerful. It's spiritual. Singing for me is praying from

the heart – exposing the soul. I'm convinced that the Holy Spirit enters the soul opened up by music. It's as close as I've come to understanding spirituality," he said. "The Bible contains many references to singing, such as 'Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord.' (Ephesians 5:19) It's pretty straightforward!"

Louise Shanley, Adult Choir Director and music teacher at Saint Elizabeth Parish School, agrees. "The most fulfilling feeling is when the music ministers are singing, and the congregation almost drowns out the choir because they are singing in earnest. It is then that the congregation becomes the choir, which is exactly how it should be," smiled Louise. "The Holy Spirit can truly be felt when the congregation becomes the choir!"

Joyful Voices co-director, Diane Lang, added, "Parishioners can show their appreciation by singing with us, letting us know what hymns they find moving and joining one of the parish liturgical music groups. One thing we are trying to do with Joyful Voices is to learn some newer songs to keep the music moving forward. We like to see the younger members of the congregation inspired with a few up-tempo selections."

A choir schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex, listing when each group will lead the singing. No formal voice training is necessary to join one of the parish liturgical music groups...just the desire to make 'a joyful noise unto the Lord.' Look for rehearsal schedules in the weekly bulletin, too.

-Lisa Sheronas



Eighth Graders Bring Stations to Life

The eighth grade class at Saint Elizabeth Parish School presented the Living Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 11, under the direction of their teachers and parishioner Maria Fraser. Brendan Dougherty was selected by his teachers to enact the part of Jesus. Brendan explained, "Although it occurs during a very solemn time in the liturgical year, the Living Stations is a very uplifting experience to have with my classmates – especially in our graduating year. Mrs. Fraser makes the whole process a very prayerful experience for us, too."

Kids Say the 'Darndest' Things: Saint Elizabeth Youth Give Their Perspectives on Their First Reconciliations

I feel free as a bird," said Trevor, my eight-year-old son with arms outstretched and a blonde cowlick sticking straight up. He had just finished confessing his sins for the first time and was clearly buzzing from the experience at Saint Elizabeth Church. Meanwhile, my husband shrank away in fear from the confessional booths as he made a break for the back doors. The starkly different perspectives of this important sacrament, father versus son...well, it made me think: there's a newsletter article in there!

Like most Catholic families, we make a grand celebration of our children's First Holy Communion, but First Reconciliation often gets swept under the rug. Yet, this sacrament has such a big impact on the hearts and souls of the youngest among us – probably because the concept of forgiveness is often modeled by parents and, therefore, is easier for young people to grasp. Also, sociologists claim that 'guilt' is one of the earliest feelings children experience – they sneak a cookie, feel guilty, get scolded, and are forgiven.

Even so, my husband and I were struck by the fact that our seemingly blithe, nonchalant son was so impacted by First Reconciliation (for a second, it made us wonder...what EXACTLY were his sins!?!). Did the other second graders feel the same way as Trevor? After talking to a few of his classmates, we realized that indeed they were all very happy and relieved to confess and be forgiven. Here are a few of their uncensored comments – straight out of the mouths of babes!

"I was happy to receive this sacrament because it freed me from all of my bad parts. This made me feel really good. I think Jesus

kind of talks to you through the priest during Reconciliation. He tells you what to do to be better and how not to sin anymore – all through Father Mullin!"

-Ava Fraser, age 8

"When I was walking up to the altar, I was really nervous. But, when I got it all out, I felt good. God heard me. Well, I don't know if God's head was right down there next to mine but he was definitely listening in on everything."

-Conor Sweeney, age 7



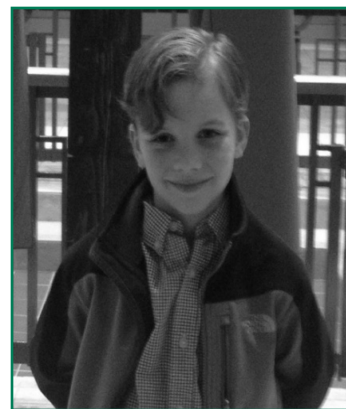
"I felt a little weird but then really good. I got out all of the bad stuff and that was great!"

-Regan Sweeney, Conor's twin sister, also age 7



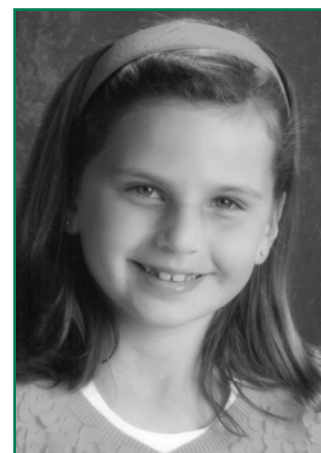
"I was not nervous at all. It was easy and the priest was really nice. Now I feel really good – and I'll go back. You just confess your sins and God says 'it's ok.' And you can start all over again!"

-Brady O'Connell, age 7



"Oh yes, I was nervous so I looked down at the paper a lot instead of up at the priest. It was easier that way. Afterwards, I felt free and think I will go again and again. Jesus wants to forgive our sins and doesn't get mad at us so that is really good."

-Emma Eitzen, age 8



Close to 200 happy-go-lucky second graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Saint Elizabeth this past March. They experienced the same peace of mind and sense of moral rebirth that many adults do – but without the apprehension that often creeps in to cynical, grownup hearts. So, congratulations to all the children...and thank **YOU** for reminding the adults in your life how freeing this gift from God can be for everyone.

-Lisa Barbadora

School Spirits

Merging Common Core Standards and Technology to Enhance the Learning Experience

Even though the school year is winding down, students at Saint Elizabeth Parish School are busy learning and growing – sometimes without even knowing it! With the implementation of the Common Core Standards into the current curriculum and the expanding use of technology in the classroom, the students are continuing to discover new and exciting ways to learn.

Instead of just reading and memorizing facts about historical events such as the Great Depression from their textbooks, Saint Elizabeth third grade students recently received a well-rounded lesson on what it was like to actually *live* during that time period.

“The students got to go beyond the facts in the textbook,” explained Dr. Diane Greco, Principal of Saint Elizabeth Parish School. By doing their own research on computers, listening to a PowerPoint presentation given by two eighth grade students and interacting with a teacher’s parents who lived during the Great Depression, the students were able to go one step further; learning how the

events of that time really affected people’s lives.

“With the implementation of the Common Core Standards into our current archdiocesan curriculum, we’ve been able to enhance learning. We didn’t throw our old standards away...just added to them,” stressed Dr. Greco. “We’re doing more now. As a school, we’ve determined how best to incorporate the standards into our teaching to encourage more in-depth, global thinking while still maintaining the standards we’ve always relied upon.”

Technology is another tool used to help keep students interested, motivated and more involved in their own learning. Saint Elizabeth Parish School has made a lot of progress with technology this school year. A special thank you goes out to the Knights of Columbus Council #13141 for their generous grant for the purchase of additional iPads. “Our ultimate goal is to have an iPad (or preferred device) for every student in every grade – a one-on-one ratio,” emphasized Dr. Greco.

for regular, predictable use while keeping in mind our pedagogical purpose. We want to build the technological skills of both our teachers and students.”

Dr. Greco and her staff are concentrating on five fundamental areas when considering software for future use. From planning, presenting, monitoring and assessment to constructive learning, and finally to organization, there are many apps and programs available. “We are trying to avoid drowning in the ‘app ocean,’ said Dr. Greco. Instead, we’re looking for productivity apps and ones that enhance our textbooks.”

Using apps and programs as a creative tool to enhance learning encourages the students to get more involved in the lesson. By using presentation software such as PowerPoint, the students can combine their research and what they’ve learned into a more creative way to present and teach their peers. With apps such as Socrative, teachers can more readily monitor and assess what the students are grasping from their responses and input. And, by constructing a Claymation on the iPads, as the seventh grade class just did together, students are learning creativity and teamwork.

Who knows, with the exciting new ways to learn and create, students might want to stay in school for the summer! Ok, that might be stretching it a little, but hopefully these enhancements motivate students to become life-long learners.

–Rhonda Jones



“Learning on the iPad is so much better than using a book,” agreed the kindergarteners as they worked together on their lesson.

Comedy Night: A Laugh a Minute

The Social Fellowship Committee at Saint Elizabeth pulled off another great event with the Comedy Night back in February. The parish social hall was packed with more than 200 parishioners who mingled and swapped war stories with tablemates about surviving the power outages. The event began with a beef and beer dinner, followed by a non-stop stream of jokes and one-liners from three comedians. The audience, weary of shoveling and frigid temperatures, was primed to be amused and exploded in laughter all night long!

The three headliners had an arsenal of equal opportunity barbs aimed at people (nuns, “the marines of Christianity”), places (Upper Uwchlan, “the thinking man’s Pottstown”) and

things, (e.g., Temple U’s “wimpy owl mascot”). Their skewering hit both genders, the skinny and the overweight, the serious with the flippant: men at a funeral (“always a pallbearer, never...”) and women’s obsession with weight (“the only thing from high school that still fits are my socks”). The habits of the Sisters of St. Joseph (SSJ) were compared to the tall balloons at a used car lot and the priest’s biretta, to a Canadian hunting cap. Of course, one entire riff was devoted to the somewhat dicey relationship between husbands and wives.

The evening ended with dessert and another chance to chat with



Comedians Theresa Hummel-Krallinger, Chip Chantry and Grover Silcox share a joke with Father Mullin backstage.

tablemates. However, by then, many in the audience were too sore from laughing to eat. All in all, kudos to the Social Fellowship Committee for creating a memorable evening in this winter of discontent.

-Kathy Link

CLOW Provides Spiritual Grounding for our Youngest Parishioners

If you have attended the 9:30 AM or 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday, you’ve seen a parade of little ones, led by adult and teen shepherds, leave the main church just before the Liturgy of the Word and return during the Offertory hymn. What’s going on?

It’s the Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) program for children in Pre-K through grade 4. Adult and teen shepherds share with the children age-appropriate versions of the three scripture readings of the Sunday liturgy. CLOW is held every Sunday, except for holidays, such as Easter and Christmas.

“It is not anything less than what is going on in the main church,” emphasized Deacon Jim Bogdan, Director of Religious Education and Evangelization at Saint Elizabeth. “The Liturgy of the Word takes place. The readings are proclaimed, the psalm is sung, there are



A student reads from scripture during a recent CLOW program at 9:30 AM Mass.

General Intercessions and the Creed, and there is a reflection by the leader.”

The program is interactive, with activities that help bring Jesus to life. An average of 60 to 90 children attend CLOW each weekend; they are divided into two groups, one for Pre-K and kindergarten in the daily Mass chapel and the other for grades 1-4 in the parish ministry center.

Parishioner Andrea Bell, who recently assumed leadership of the program, noted that there are intangible rewards for the volunteers. “We experience God with the children, and that is very enriching spiritually.”

Training and support materials are provided to the CLOW leaders and shepherds. “The leaders bring the Word and the message of the readings to children at their level so they will be more attentive to the readings and realize that the stories in the Bible are their stories, too,” added Deacon Jim.

Any adult parishioner is welcome to volunteer for CLOW – both program training and child protection training is required. If you’re interested, contact Andrea at aabcebell@gmail.com.

-Sue Morgan

Confirmation Candidates Inspired to Share Fruits of Holy Spirit

The fruits of the Holy Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control and chastity. *Which do you need the most?*

This was the question that was posed to parents and students who came together at Saint Elizabeth parish in February for the annual Confirmation retreat. Two separate Saturday morning retreats were held for all candidates preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation and their parents. According to Deacon Jim Bogdan, retreat facilitator, "The goal of each retreat was to get students and parents talking to each other about their faith, and talking to Christ."

"In the Sacrament of Confirmation, students receive the fullness of God's gift and sacrifice," noted Deacon Jim. "On the strength of that, we want to teach the candidates that they are to become Christ for others. The fruits of the Holy Spirit they were about to receive are like seeds being planted in the bottom of their souls. They have to put in the effort to make them grow, like watering seeds so they will sprout and blossom. God came to save us, but not without our cooperation."

Parents and students who attended the retreat watched a CBS *60 Minutes* segment entitled "Africa Mercy," which told the poignant story of doctors who sail across the western coast of Africa, visiting civilians of its poorest countries and changing their lives by curing disease with modern medicine. "This was an example of how each and every one of us has the gifts and the inherent goodness to change others' lives," noted Deacon Jim. Children and their parents also put together scrolls, listing

each other's attributes, and gave them to each other. They worked together to produce 1,400 breakfast bags for local shut-ins through *Aid for Friends*.

Families attended a short prayer service in the chapel before heading to the church to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Parishioner Monica Dougherty, who attended the retreat with her daughter Maren, said, "The retreat was very well-done; it was a great experience for both of us. The video was wonderful; it was an amazing story and all of the parents and kids were moved. We also really enjoyed being able to help create gifts for those in need, and walked away with gratitude for all that we have, not simply the physical things in our life, but for the emotional experiences that we are able to have as well."

Sixth grader Lizzie Conklin reflected: "At the retreat, I learned about helping people in need. It was a good experience, and I enjoyed it very much. One of the highlights was when we wrote our parents a note about what fruit of the Holy Spirit we thought they best represented. It made me think about all that we have and how fortunate we really are."

"When the parents broke into small groups, we spoke to each other about what being a Catholic means to each of us," remembers Lizzie's mother, Lee Conklin. "The group was very open about discussing the many issues and challenges that we face as Catholics. The highlight for me was being able to talk openly and honestly without guilt or a sense of blasphemy, yet also with hope."

"It was a very busy day, with the intent of helping both the candidates and

their parents see the gifts they have been given, and how Christ is calling them to a deeper relationship," concluded Deacon Jim.

-Julie Krumenacker



*Got a story idea?
Would you like us to cover an
upcoming parish event?
Want to nominate a family for
our Family Spirits section?
E-mail Sara Richardson at:
sarahrichardson7272@gmail.com*

"The Spirit" Staff

Staff Chairperson

Sara Richardson

Editor-in-Chief

Lisa Barbadora

Pastoral Associate

Deacon Barry Midwood

Contributors

Lisa Barbadora
Georgann Cindrich
Rhonda Jones
Julie Krumenacker
Kathy Link
Sue Morgan
Lisa Sheronas

Photos

Mike Richardson

Layout/Graphics

Sara Richardson

Other Staff

Amy Giampietro
Karen Hofmann
Father Thomas M. Mullin

Family Spirits

Meet the Kervinen Family

The Kervinen family focuses their time together on three areas: Saint Elizabeth, Stewardship and Science...in that order! Both Jeannine and Jukka obtained Doctorate Degrees in Bio-Chemistry, are active members at Saint Elizabeth Church and volunteer within the community.

Jeannine and Jukka have been married for 16 years and have three children. Maiya, their oldest, is 15 years old and attends Downington East High School. She is an altar server, sings in the choir and was a teen aid for the Elementary Faith Formation program "Bugs." Matthew is 13 and in seventh grade at Saint Elizabeth Parish School. He is active in CYO basketball, track and also is an altar server and teen aid for Elementary Faith Formation. Matthew also plays the guitar and piano. The youngest Kervinen is Marissa, age ten and in fourth grade at Saint Elizabeth Parish School. Marissa plays soccer, sings in the school choir and plays the clarinet in the school band.

Jukka, a native of Finland, met Jeannine while they were working at the National Cancer Institute of Health in Frederick, Maryland. Jukka had planned to work in the United States for three years and then re-



The Kervinen Family. From left, Maiya, Jukka, Matthew, Jeannine and Marissa.

turn to Finland. After meeting Jeannine, suddenly his plans changed. They married and moved to the area in 2001. Seven years later, Jukka became a U.S. citizen and also attended RCIA classes here at Saint Elizabeth. He was received into the full communion of the Catholic Church and confirmed at the Easter Vigil in 2008. Two life-changing accomplishments!

"One of the greatest aspects of Saint Elizabeth for me is the widespread cultural presence within the community" said Jukka. Jeannine agreed adding, "being a member of Saint Elizabeth really feels like having an extended family."

Jeannine homeschooled her children before they transitioned to Saint Elizabeth Parish School, as they increasingly grew in their faith. Today, Jeannine continues in her

teaching vocation by presenting various biology courses at Immaculata University and Delaware County Community College. Jukka is a successful scientist at Fraunhofer USA, which is a non-profit Center for Molecular Biotechnology. A major focus of the center's work lies in the production of recombinant proteins in plants – facilities for the open-field cultivation of transgenic plants allow such proteins to be produced economically on a large scale.

As a family and individually, the Kervinens provide stewardship service in various ways across many areas within the community and at Saint Elizabeth. For example, Jukka has coached GEYA soccer for many years. Jeannine started her faith journey with a faith sharing group sponsored at Saint Elizabeth Church and now continues to volunteer as an EFF teacher. Jeannine has also served the larger community as a volunteer EMT with the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps. As a family, the Kervinens also volunteer for the Saint Elizabeth Day of Service each year.

Thanks to the Kervinens for all their stewardship service and commitment to Saint Elizabeth!

-Georgann Cindrich



The annual Stewardship Day of Service was held on Saturday, April 5. See a complete slideshow of photos on our parish website: www.stelizabethparish.org



Top L: 18 parish volunteers including girl scouts, teen volunteers and sister parish planning team members co-hosted an Easter Party with Visitation BVM parish on April 12. One hundred children enjoyed crafts, games, music and an egg hunt.



Top R: The Knights of Columbus hosted and served parishioners during their annual fish dinner on April 11. Bottom: The Saint Elizabeth boys basketball team won the Parish League Championship. Front: Stephen Long. Middle: Jake Stelma, Alex Chaban, Ciaran McKay. Back: Kirk Oates, Patrick Bobko, Nathan Cruz, Thomas Waite, Sean Oates, Patrick Kelly, Matthew Riotto, Mark Riotto.

Rev. Thomas M. Mullin, Pastor
 P.O. Box 695
 Uwchlan, PA 19480-0695
 Phone: 610-321-1200
 Fax: 610-646-6513
 E-mail: steuucc@stelizabeparish.org
 Web site: stelizabeparish.org
The Spirit is a publication of the Parish Newsletter Staff. If you would like to join *The Spirit* staff, please call the Mullin Ministry Center.



Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 231
 Uwchlan, PA 19480

Return Service
 Requested