

**Dates of Interest**

**Graduation Mass**  
 Saint Elizabeth Parish School  
 Wednesday, June 15, 7:00 PM

**Memorial Mass for  
 Deceased Fathers**  
 Saturday, June 18, 8:30 AM

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

**Solemnity of the  
 Assumption of Mary**  
 Monday, August 15  
 Mass at 7:30 AM, in the Chapel

**Labor Day Holiday**  
 Monday, September 5  
 Mass at 9:00 AM

**Opening Day for Grades 1-8**  
 Saint Elizabeth Parish School  
 Tuesday, September 6

**Elementary Faith Formation**  
 Weekly Sessions Begin  
 September 13-14-15

**No More Teachers, No More Books –  
 Reconnect with Jesus and your pals this summer**

Every summer, our community emerges from hibernation out of the darkness of winter to reconnect. Whether with neighbors at block parties, with friends at the beach or local pool, or with extended family at graduations or other events...summertime is when we jump into fun. It becomes one, long string of celebrations that take us from spring through Labor Day. This year, why not take Jesus along with you?

Matthew Kelly's latest book, *Rediscover Jesus*, encourages us all to do exactly that – and not just during the summer months. "The best time to rediscover Jesus is right now," he writes. Kelly also says that his book is an invitation – not unlike the many invitations we get all summer long – to reconnect with God.



This past February, Saint Elizabeth Parish distributed more than 1,500 complimentary copies of the book to parishioners to use as a guide during their 40-day spiritual Lenten journey. It also was given as an opportunity to begin a habit of daily prayer. But, most importantly, it was an invitation to get to know Jesus more intimately and develop a more personal, ongoing relationship with Him.

On the Sunday after Easter, the Adult Faith Formation Committee sponsored an interactive discussion facilitated by Father Mullin where participants looked more deeply into some of the key concepts presented in the book. The gathering was designed to encourage a thoughtful conversation about each person's own interpersonal relationship with Jesus. Father Mullin began the program reiterating the author's purpose for the book:

*"This book is about an encounter. My deep longing is that it facilitates a powerful encounter between you and Jesus, because whether we are aware of it or not, what you and I need more than anything else is to encounter Jesus. Whatever is happening in your life right now, nothing is more important than encountering him anew."*

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## New Ministry: Chosen Fathers

**S**aint Elizabeth Parish introduced a brand new ministry this spring that calls together all fathers in the parish who have children with special needs. The men meet and support one another as they walk the sometimes difficult but always fulfilling path of fatherhood, guiding and loving their children who have physical, mental, sensory, or emotional challenges. These special dads lift one another up to follow Christ's example of love, patience, mercy, and service in facing the unique needs of their children by sharing their experiences. They support each other, too, with guidance and suggestions that may have helped them in their own experiences. But, maybe the greatest gift of this new ministry is the comfort of knowing they are not alone in their vocation.

The group formed after several men in the parish were inspired to create a group to support their lives as dads of special kids. They saw a need for this group because many of them often felt

alone in their efforts to raise their children. "You have to take time to look and see God's hand in your life," says Joe Howard, one of the group's founders, "and men don't necessarily take time to do that."

Next, the men contacted Sister Kathleen Schipani, IHM, Director of the Archdiocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities, to learn if there was a program that addressed their needs. There was not, so working with Saint Elizabeth parish staff they initiated the first *Chosen Fathers* parish group in the Archdiocese. The *Chosen Fathers* program at Saint Elizabeth has become a model for other parishes wishing to launch their own groups.

Monthly meetings, which Joe describes as very laid back, begin with a prayer followed by a Scripture reading, reflection, and a question and answer period. The meetings typically include time at the end for coffee and cookies. "It is so good to get reinforcement from other men of

faith, and to connect that faith to what we are living every day," says Joe.

A diocesan-wide *Chosen Fathers* retreat was held on Saturday, April 30, at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Doug Keck, Sportscaster and COO at EWTN, was the keynote speaker. Saint Elizabeth's *Chosen Fathers* group offered its meeting format and service to the retreat and Saint Elizabeth's Men's Choir sang at the closing prayer service.

The *Chosen Fathers* program is open to all fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, godfathers, and close friends in the parish who are trying to be the best support they can be for a child with special challenges. The group brings immeasurable comfort and benefits all who attend. Please contact Joe Howard via email at [jchoward72@aol.com](mailto:jchoward72@aol.com) or call him at 610-425-0200 for more info.

~ Lisa Sheronas



*Saint Elizabeth's newest ministry is Chosen Fathers, which supports fathers with children who have physical, mental, sensory or emotional challenges. The program has quickly become a model for other parishes.*

## Welcome Ryan Schwalm - Setting Fire to Youth Ministry

**R**yan Schwalm, newly minted Youth Ministry Coordinator at Saint Elizabeth, grabbed hold of the reins with gusto this spring. Volunteer experience with the youth groups at Saint Elizabeth, Saint Isaac Jogues in Wayne, and Saint Norbert in Paoli over the last few years has helped prepare Ryan for the job. But it's his deep desire to alight the spiritual fire in the hearts of our middle and high school youth and young adults that uniquely qualifies Ryan.

Ryan's story is a little bit different than some. Even though his education spans prominent Catholic schools like Saint Katharine of Siena, Devon Prep, Archbishop Carroll High School, and Immaculata University (where he earned a BA in Marketing), Schwalm hasn't always been as passionate about religion. In his words, Ryan notes that he wasn't ready to truly explore his faith when he was younger...at least not yet.

"It wasn't until the youth leader at Saint Isaac Jogues recognized my hesitation when I was a junior in high school. He ignited a spark in me by literally letting me start the fire for s'mores during a youth group gathering. By meeting me where I was spiritually," says Ryan, "he helped me begin to re-ignite my faith life."

The quote - "Speak about Christ only when you are asked, but live so that people ask about Christ," which hangs in Ryan's office, describes his philosophy for working with youth. "Like myself as a teen, most youth

aren't ready to launch into a discussion about Christ and their faith right away. I truly believe you have to meet the kids where they are. In the beginning, it's really about encountering, not evangelizing," recognizes Ryan. "Getting to know the kids and keeping them here lays the groundwork for future encounters, for more in-depth exploration."

Ryan's hope is to encounter, engage, and educate as many young parishioners as possible. To start, he's putting his marketing degree to work by organizing focus groups, researching the needs of each of three age groups and strategizing ways to reach and retain the young people in our parish.

Working with the High School Youth Group to organize the Summer Mission Trip, one of the highlights of the year for the high school youth, is also keeping Ryan busy. Twenty high school parishioners will travel to Cherry Grove, West Virginia where they will work with Habitat for Humanity during the day and pray and play in the evenings. At the end of the trip, the group will travel to Steubenville, Ohio to attend the Catholic Youth Conference, before returning home. "This is such a wonderful, eye-opening experience for everyone," Ryan explains.

Ryan's not sure what his future holds. "I didn't picture myself as



*Ryan Schwalm, Youth Ministry Coordinator, hopes to encounter, engage, and educate as many young parishioners as possible.*

a youth minister when I started college," he acknowledges, "but here I am, thanks in large part to a youth leader who identified my apathy and gave me something to set on fire. We can't be afraid to let a kid do something out-of-the-box if that's what it takes to keep them involved."

~ Rhonda Jones

*If you or your child are interested in learning more about the exciting changes to our youth group programs coming this fall, please call Ryan Schwalm at the parish Youth Ministry office: 610-646-6534.*

# Students Inspired to Discipleship through Confirmation

On a spring Saturday in March, 195 girls and boys of Saint Elizabeth Parish said “yes” to God through their profession of faith as they received the sacrament of Confirmation. The Most Reverend Bishop Michael Fitzgerald celebrated two Confirmation Masses, speaking to the candidates about allowing God's grace to help them continue to grow in faith, and in service to others. “By keeping our values in line with God and allowing faith to triumph over everything else in life, we proclaim that we are Christians,” he explained.

Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and fully initiated into the Catholic Church, some of our young parishioners reflected upon how they found Jesus through this sacrament, and how they will live as disciples this summer:

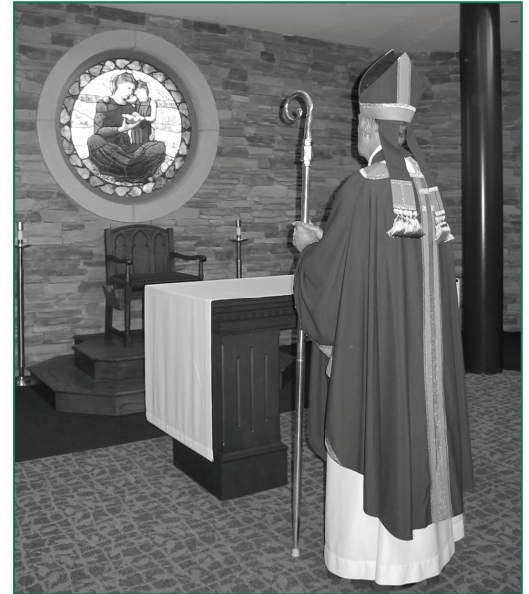


Confirmation candidates process into the church for the Sacramental Mass. In all, 195 parish girls and boys received the gifts of the Holy Spirit on Saturday, March 12, 2016.

*“I have found Jesus through Confirmation by the Holy Spirit, who strengthens me to go out and spread the Word, just like the disciples did after they received the Spirit on Pentecost. I am going to live as a disciple this summer by altar-serving in the Church, helping my family at home, and participating in service projects.”*  
- Nina Duncheskie

*“My EFF teachers helped me to find Jesus through the sacrament of Confirmation. They inspired me to know Him better. I will live as a disciple this summer by striving to be a nicer person, and respect all people. I will also try to do good things for other people whenever possible.”*  
- Ashlin Leatherwood

*“When I received the sacrament of Confirmation, it felt like I said yes to God. I renewed the promises my parents made for me at Baptism twelve years ago. At that time I had absolutely no idea what was going on, but I am glad my parents decided that I should be Catholic. At Confirmation, I made the decision on my own. Through this sacrament, I hope to become a better member of our Church and say yes to God every day of my life. I want to grow in my faith, learn to love God above all things, and put God at the center of my life. At Confirmation, I also accepted the gifts of the Holy Spirit that will help me follow Jesus. My desire is to always follow Jesus' teachings and values. I feel empowered to be called a fully initiated member of our Church and I understand my responsibilities to serve God and others.”*  
- Christopher Grill



Bishop Michael Fitzgerald, who celebrated two Confirmation Masses at Saint Elizabeth, paused in the Chapel prior to the ceremonies.

*“We discovered Jesus through the sacrament of Confirmation through the Holy Spirit and our sponsor, Rachael (our sister), who is our role model. Rachael has always set a religious example for us and we look up to her. We are going to live like disciples during the summer by thinking about our actions and trying to follow in Jesus' footsteps by setting good examples for others.”*  
- Alyssa and Elayna Kinmartin

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our newly confirmed parishioners throughout the summer, and the rest of their lives

~Julie Krumenacker



## Rediscover *cont'd*

During the program, Father Mullin highlighted various passages from *Rediscover Jesus* for reflection and offered a few thought-provoking questions to inspire interactive discussion. He also spoke practically about how to accept Kelly's invitation, saying "We may have good intentions to pray more or read the bible more, but we need to be specific and have a real plan to reconnect with Jesus – the same way you would if you were planning an event with friends – in order to nurture a lifelong relationship."

Kelly, for example, proposes to practice the prayer process, defined as follows: 1) begin with gratitude to God; 2) reflect upon the day's activity to become more aware of how you have been living; 3) identify moments in which God may be speaking to you; 4) ask God to forgive your wrongs and restore peace in your heart; 5) speak with God about how He is inviting you to change your life; 6) lift up in prayer those around you who need God's blessings and guidance today; and 7) close with the Lord's Prayer.

As we head into the summer months during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let's take to heart author Matthew Kelly's words: "Over time, we discover that what we really want deep inside is what God wants for us. Once we realize this, we can begin the daily quest to seek His will in our lives."

Father Mullin concluded April's interactive discussion by saying, "This is the core of one's spiritual life. If, with Matthew Kelly, we are convinced that 'the life Jesus invites us to in the Gospels is the

**How else can Saint Elizabeth parishioners rediscover Jesus this summer? Here are a few ways to take Jesus with you on vacation, to the pool, or even to your backyard barbecue:**

- **Read** inspirational works such as Matthew Kelly's *Rediscover Jesus* or *The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic* while sitting by the pool, on the beach, or catching some sun on a hammock.
- **Visit** the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA. It's voted one of the Top 10 Catholic Shrines in America and celebrates 1,000 years of Christianity in Poland. Recently expanded, it includes a replica of the chapel from the Jasna Gora Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland, a large visitor center, beautiful view of the Peace Valley, and more.
- **Plan** a trip to the Saint Katharine Drexel Mission Center and National Shrine in Bensalem, PA, and learn more about Philadelphia's own saint and her special mission to care for and to educate Native American and African American children.
- **Enrich** a trip to Center City, Philadelphia with a stop at the National Shrine of Saint John Neumann, C.Ss.R., fourth bishop of Philadelphia (1852-1860), avid promoter of Catholic schools, and special devotion to the Holy Eucharist.
- **Headed** to Bethany Beach in Delaware? Stop by Saint Ann Parish, one of the parishes with a Holy Door of Mercy to celebrate the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis.
- **Light** a candle and tour the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. Explore the Grotto cave, the family visitor's center, and the campus grounds. It's also an opportunity to explore a college option for high school students.
- **Take** a short retreat. There are many opportunities at the Malvern Retreat House to take a brief time-out on life and reconnect with Jesus without the distractions of daily life. In fact, on Sunday, August 7, 2:00-4:00 PM, the Retreat House is hosting a women's afternoon tea. The theme is "Women Abounding with Joy: Learning from Mary," and the program will be led by Meghan Cokeley, Director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office of New Evangelization. The cost is \$25 and includes tea and refreshments. To register, call 610-644-0400 or visit [www.retreathouse.com](http://www.retreathouse.com).

best way to live,' then in rediscovering Jesus we learn how to live in this life so as to be united with Jesus in eternal life."

So, take advantage of these 'lazy, hazy days of summer' to spend some relaxed time with Jesus. And, add one more RSVP to your

list of summer parties. Respond 'yes' to Kelly's – or, more precisely, to God's – invitation to rediscover Jesus. Just don't forget the sunscreen.

~ Lisa Barbadora

## Update on Construction of Onsite Residence for Priests

Can you believe that it has already been more than a year since the decision to move forward with the construction of an onsite residence for priests was first announced to our parishioners through the parish bulletin and the parish website? A great deal has happened since Easter of 2015!

The new residence for priests is located in the same area of the parish property as initially delineated in the land development plan; that is, in the southeast corner of the property, opposite the lower parking lot and children's playground. This building completes the original design of campus facilities developed and approved in 2003.

The new facility is called a residence for priests rather than a rectory, since it does not include office space for everyday parish operations, which will continue to be conducted in the parish ministry center. While the initial schematic design prepared by the KCBA architects envisioned a rectory of 7,500 square feet, the new residence is just over 3,900 square feet – much smaller than a more typical rectory where both parish offices and priests' living quarters are combined.

Upon Archdiocesan review and approval of the project design and budget, the construction contract was awarded to Southdown Homes of Downingtown. After considering several standard housing models, the project team chose the Bellingham Farmhouse model as the one most



*A view of the residence and parish school playground. Questions about this project may be directed to Fr. Mullin at the parish office (610-321-1200).*

readily adaptable at reasonable expense to accommodate the needs of a residence for priests.

For those who are interested, a frontal elevation and floor plans are on display in the church narthex. In its final design, the facility includes second floor suites (sitting room, bedroom, and bath) for two full-time resident priests; two guest rooms, one on the first floor and another on the second floor; a small study for critical pastoral appointments outside normal office hours; a full, un-finished basement and a residential elevator. The wide-open kitchen/breakfast room/dining room area and an outdoor patio behind the house provide a setting for social gatherings.

Construction has been moving ahead in a steady and timely manner, with the roofing, windows and siding, mechanical, plumbing, heating and electrical work all near completion.

Throughout the month of June, exterior site grading and landscaping, along with interior finishes (flooring and cabinet work, painting and installation of appliances) will continue under the coordination of Robert Melvin, the onsite project manager for Southdown Homes. We now anticipate moving into the new facility in the first half of July.

**Project Cost & Funding:** The construction contract with Southdown Homes totals \$632,583, including a 5% construction contingency of about \$29,500. Related soft costs for architectural and engineering fees, township inspections and the installation of site utilities (gas, water, sewer and communication lines) are expected to total about \$88,500 (including a 5% owner's contingency of about \$34,000). Untapped contingency funds will be used for furnishings.

*(continues on page 7)*

## Residence *cont'd*

The primary funding source for this construction project is the Bring It Home one-time gift appeal conducted at the end of 2015. Through the great generosity of nearly 600 parishioners and friends, the appeal has raised more than \$627,000 in one-time gifts, all but \$1,000 of which has already been received. Special thanks to all who have supported the Bring It Home appeal.

**Sale of Existing Rectory:** We are happy to announce that an agreement of sale for the purchase of the existing rectory on Fox Ridge Road in Glenmoore has now been finalized with Deacon Barry & Karen Midwood. They hope to make settlement and move into their new home by the end of July. Following the recommendation of the three parish councils, proceeds from the sale will be used to supplement the Bring It Home appeal funding, with the remaining proceeds directed to advanced payments on the existing parish debt.

~ Father Tom Mullin

## Stewards of Service



*An April snow couldn't dampen the spirits of our Stewardship Day of Service volunteers, who performed service projects all throughout our community on April 9.*



*Congratulations to Saint Elizabeth Parish School's Class of 2016!*

### "The Spirit" Staff

*Editor-in-Chief*

Lisa Barbadora

*Pastoral Associate*

Deacon Barry Midwood

*Contributors*

Lisa Barbadora  
Rhonda Jones  
Julie Krumenacker  
Father Mullin  
Elisa Sheronas

*Photos*

Mary Damian

*Graphics*

Amy Giampietro

*Other Staff*

Sue Morgan  
Kem Odike

## Check out Saint Elizabeth Parish on Facebook!



Do you recognize this icon? Well, Saint Elizabeth Parish has "officially" joined Facebook! Whether you have a Facebook account or not, you can find us at <http://bit.ly/Saint-Elizabeth-Parish>. If you have a Facebook account, please "like" our parish Facebook page.



Check out our Facebook page for up-to-date information about sacramental celebrations, parish ministry groups, opportunities to get involved in stewardship service and upcoming parish activities. The page also provides photos and videos to keep you in touch, even on your mobile device!

Rev. Thomas M. Mullin, Pastor  
P.O. Box 695  
Uwchlan, PA 19480-0695  
Phone: 610-321-1200  
Fax: 610-646-6513  
E-mail: [steuucc@stelizabethparish.org](mailto:steuucc@stelizabethparish.org)  
Web site: [stelizabethparish.org](http://stelizabethparish.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.



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