



Father Sam's Forum

When we consider the liturgical celebration today, *the Baptism of Jesus*, we should never have that scene far from our minds since it dominates our worship space in the unique stained glass window that captures symbolically this pivotal event of the gospels.

Created by local artist Dennis Roberto, the portrayal of the baptism features the Blessed Trinity. The figure of Christ, of course, is at the center of the scene, with arms outstretched, bringing to mind the crucifixion. John the Baptist, looking a bit like the wild man Scripture tells us he was, is intent on doing what Jesus has commanded him to do. Resistant to performing this ritual, John nonetheless fulfills the request of the Lord.

At the top of the scene are two angels holding the inscription, "Behold My beloved Son," which gives the words of God the Father according to the gospel accounts of the baptism. The dove, symbol of the Holy Spirit, is present too, since the same accounts tell us that the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the form of a dove. In the window we have several other figures. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, stands at the left. While not accounted for in the texts of the baptism, Mary is present because she represents the Church, which continues the mission of Jesus. It is our baptism that calls us to this mission. On the right is the image of our patron, Benedict, looking on to witness this event. We know that historically this was not so, yet our saint is there because he represents the continuity of faith through the ages down to us today. The Jewish priests, one of them blowing the shofar, stand in the background, to show the fulfillment in Christ of the law and the prophets.

For us, baptism is the most significant sacrament. Without it, no other sacrament exists. Our incorporation into Christ in those waters of new birth mark us for ever as God's own. This ritual cannot be treated lightly. Some would believe that it happens without any ramifications, almost like magic. Priests get requests from people who want *something* from the Church: a child baptized or a form saying they are eligible to be a godparent, and yet these same people rarely enter the building, contribute poorly or not at all, and aren't involved in any ministry or activity of the parish. They don't see that they are an essential part of Church. There is no connection with living out baptism as a link to the ministry of Jesus that transforms.

Theologian Nathan Mitchell wrote, "We are urged to move quickly beyond the intimate scene of Jesus' birth toward the more challenging vision of his baptism. In short, we are asked to move in the direction of life itself: from concern for intimacy to concern for community. A Christian parish becomes its best self when it accepts the challenge of community."

Our goal is to become the best parish we can be—to see ourselves as community as a result of our common baptism, and to move from the spectator to the participant role. Not just for some, but for all, this goal is what being Christian is all about! We are Church. How do we live it?

Mass Intentions: Jan. 11—Jan. 18

Sunday, January 11—Baptism of the Lord

- 7:30a **Carmen & Margaret Lachina**
(Joanna Lachina & Children)
10:00a **For the People of the Parish**
12:30p **Mildred Kampert** (Husband, Philip)
6:00p **John Krapp** (M/M Richard Schlieper)

Monday, January 12—Weekday

- 8:30a **Special Intention—Martin Valeri**

Tuesday, January 13—Weekday

- 6:30a **Edward J. Puskarich, Sr.** (Ellie)
8:30a **Joseph Knoll**
(George, Mary Lou & Mary Ellen Frost)

Wednesday, January 14—Weekday

- 6:30a **Nestler Family** (Janet & Lee)
8:30a **Parents of Joe & Jackie Walsh**
(Joe & Jackie Walsh)

Thursday, January 15—Weekday

- 6:30a **Louise O'Rourke** (Children)
8:30a **Irene Gano** (Jeff & Sandy Mertens)

Friday, January 16—Weekday

- 8:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Margo & Gene Pitowski)

Saturday, January 17—Anthony, abbot

- 8:30a **Deceased of the Serrino & Nicolosi Families** (Jerry & Barbara Serrino)
5:00p **Harry Watters** (Audrey Hrehocik)

Sunday, January 18—2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **Elmo Checchi** (Sister & Family)
10:00a **Barbara Conforti** (Dan & Janice Rowsick)
12:30p **For the People of the Parish**
6:00p **Trina Lopez** (Greg & Patty Adams)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for Lindsay Kluglein, requested by Carolyn Kluglein.

The Second collection next week will benefit St. Anthony School and Sensory Handicapped Children.



Pastoral Staff

Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Michael Benya, Business & Facilities Manager—Ext. 201
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music & Liturgy—Ext. 304
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate—Ext. 206
 Janet Roberto, Youth Ministry Director—Ext. 234
 Colette Specia, Director of Religious Education—Ext. 205

Parish Staff

Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—Ext. 200
 Rachele Buynak, Religious Ed. Secretary—Ext. 208
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Shirley Jacobs, Administrative Assistant—Ext. 202
 Beverly Jurcic, Director

St. Benedict's Preschool—724-731-0222

Cathy Malencia, Formation Coordinator—Ext. 209
 Elaine Motyl, Youth Ministry Assistant—Ext. 234
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kathy Pfeifer, Communications—Ext. 200
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance—Ext. 200
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor—Ext. 200

* Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

Serving the Parish Next Weekend:

Jan. 17—Jan. 18

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Pustay, Norton **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey
EMHC: Sarra, Vandewater, C & R Satler, Norton, Ligman,
 Milavec, Mertens, Baumgartner **Servers:** Peterson, Lioon, A
 Weaver, Meyers, LaRosa

7:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lector: DiBartola **Greeters:** Barker, R & K Savoldi, Turchick
EMHC: Puskarich, Faina, Gavran, Hollot, Basile, Joseph, Prado
Servers: Traficante, W & D DiBartola

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Mahala, Dembiczak **Greeters:** Verlato, Oberschelp
EMHC: Klinar, Black, McGinnis, Smith, A & L Kelly, Davis,
 Stein, McGovern **Servers:** A & E Ross, Z & J Verner, Watson

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Balash **Greeters:** Irwin, McDonnell **EMHC:** Torres,
 Daley, Herald, P Newmaster, Baits, Hayward, S Locke **Servers:**
 Toscano Children

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Wiegman, Shope **EMHC:** J & S Brooks, G & P Adams
Servers: Mullan, Byrne

Readings for the Week of January 11

Sunday: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11
 Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
 Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
 Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
 Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
 Friday: Heb 4:1-5,11/Mk 2:1-12
 Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
 Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10,19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a,17-20/Jn 1:35-42

A Word About Baptisms

Parents expecting a child are reminded that there are no baptisms celebrated during Lent. Our next parent preparation session is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 7:30pm. We welcome these infants recently baptized to our faith community: **Raylee Lynn**, daughter of David & Sharon Wilcox Lacey, **Aliza Rae**, daughter of Jeffrey & Melissa Hruby, **Peter Chauncey**, son of Keith & Christine Seidling, **Liam Alexander**, son of Brian & Christine Wilson, **Sara Rose**, daughter of Christopher & Kerri Dzinglski, **Landon Geoffrey**, son of Terry & Michelle Latkovic, and **Crocifisso John**, son of Shawn & Beth Swaney. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

Church History Class

Fr. Sam's class, "The History of the Catholic Church" that was offered in the fall will be repeated on six Tuesdays beginning this week, January 13, at 10:00am. The class lasts two hours and runs for six consecutive Tuesday mornings. Call the Religious Education Office to register.

Teaching Mass Coming

On Sunday, January 25, Fr. Sam will celebrate the 12:30pm Mass with extended commentary that explains each aspect of our worship. This is a great chance to learn all about the ritual we claim as central to our Catholic faith. Plan to bring your children and see what Mass means. This will be repeated during Lent, on Wednesday, March 18, 7:00pm.

Pasta Dinner

Our newly formed Youth Council will sponsor a pasta and meatball dinner on Saturday, February 7, with service from 3:30—7:30pm. Tickets for the event will be on sale beginning January 24/25, after all Masses. Pre-sale price is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 and under. There will be some tickets sold at the door and the cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 10. A special family rate of \$27.00 is being offered for those with larger families.

Frank Runyeon Live!

Don't forget to join us this Wednesday, January 14, 7:00pm in church to hear TV and film star Frank Runyeon speak about *Hollywood versus Faith*, his witness to keeping Christian values in a world that struggles for meaning. Runyeon is best known as Meg Ryan's husband in *As the World Turns*. We especially encourage parents of teenagers to attend this entertaining event and find help in keeping your kids connected to their faith.



Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Theresa Wiegman**, mother of our parishioner Dave Wiegman, and **Hilda Roth**, mother of our parishioner Josephine Groff, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Question of the Week

**Why should parishioners use envelopes?
Why should they be registered?**

Lesson of the Week

What are the “precepts” of the Church? There are seven responsibilities that are expected of every adult Catholic. We call these the “precepts” or “laws” of the Church. These expectations flow from our baptism and demonstrate that we take our faith seriously and understand that faith demands a response from us to God’s gracious gift. They are: **1. To attend Mass on Sundays and holydays and refrain from unnecessary work on those days. 2. To observe the days appointed for fasting and abstinence. 3. To confess our sins to a priest at least once a year. 4. To receive Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist at least once a year, during the Easter season. 5. To contribute to the support of the Church. 6. To observe the laws of the Church regarding marriage. 7. To help in the missionary work of the Church.** What do these mean? Most are self explanatory. Attending Mass on Sundays is about our identity as the Body of Christ and our recognition that God deserves our worship as a community. Fasting and abstaining from meat on the days appointed means we understand that doing penance is part of being Christian. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist are about conversion and nourishment—we are called to conversion, we need to be nourished. Supporting the work of the Church means we share our gifts to build up the Body of Christ, both by financial assistance to the work of our parish and other good works, and by using the talents God gave us to help others and spread the gospel. Assisting with the mission of the Church is similar. Each baptized Catholic is called to share their faith through whatever means available in normal life. Sometimes it is by volunteering; sometimes by donations; sometimes by simple witness.

Need confidential assistance? Companionship and understanding for a difficult time? Stephen Ministers are here to help you. Call 724-941-5026.

WOSB Annual Teaching Dolls Workshop

Join the Women of St. Benedict for the annual Teaching Dolls Workshop on January 22 at 9:30am in O’Brien Hall. Every year the WOSB make these dolls for the doctors at Children’s Hospital. They in turn use them to explain procedures to their little patients. This has been a wonderful endeavor by the women and is conducted by our very own Ann Kruppa. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to reach out to the little ones of our community. Our hostesses will have some delicious refreshments on hand, so come hungry. For babysitting or to lend a sewing machine for the workshop, call Maria Streno at 724-042-5570.

Eucharistic Adoration

The Holy Eucharist will be exposed in the chapel following the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, January 17, until 4:00pm. All members of the parish are invited to spend some time with the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Because this is the weekend before the March for Life, everyone is encouraged to pray for the success of the March and respect for all human life.

Christmas Thanks from Fr. Sam

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Christmas at St. Benedict so special. We had a great group who came to decorate the church and help with flowers. Our staff, volunteers, ministers and musicians were outstanding in all their efforts, preparations, and performance. The 4:30pm Vigil Mass was able to accommodate everyone who came because we televised in O’Brien Hall, and 200 people found seats there instead of standing in the narthex. The Midnight Mass was heavenly, and we filled the church for the celebration.

Another thank you to all who sent cards, baked goods, and other edible and potable gifts. Your thoughtfulness was absolutely touching, and I am extremely grateful for your generosity. It is a blessing to serve you here, and I look forward to many more opportunities to share the good news of Jesus Christ with you in this new year.

**Hotline for Victims of Sexual Abuse
412-456-3060 or 1-888-808-1235**



March For Life

The annual March for Life will be held on **Thursday, January 22**, in Washington, DC. St. Benedict the Abbot will charter two buses. The buses will leave from St. Benedict's at 6:00am. Donuts and beverages will be provided; however, you should bring a lunch. There are restrooms on the buses with one comfort stop along the way. The trip to Washington, DC takes about 5 hours.

Each bus has a Captain, who will provide information and leadership throughout the trip. They circulate sign-up sheets for Marchers, give directions to Lobbyists who elect to visit the House and Senate offices, provide instructions for Shrine visitors, collect letters to legislators, and inform marchers about our white crosses.

The buses drop the Marchers off close to the National Mall around 11:00am. Some proceed to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception where those who cannot march may spend several hours visiting and meditating. This is a beautiful Basilica with an 11:00am Mass and many chapels representing the various ethnic groups who make up our country. There is also a cafeteria at the Shrine. Others visit the Capitol Building to lobby our State Representatives.

The March begins with a rally at the National Mall and continues up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court Building—a distance of about 2 miles. We will carry fifty white crosses and the St. Benedict and Ben's Men banners. The March for Life is a peaceful demonstration packed with thousands of people from all over America, including many teenagers. Let's show our politicians and judges that we detest the killing of defenseless babies.

After the March, we meet at Union Station where the bus will depart at 4:00pm. There is a stop for dinner, at your own expense, on the way home. We will arrive at St Benedict's parking lot at approximately 11:00pm.

The teens ride for free and have an excused absence from school. Absence request forms for students are available from Janet Roberto.

For bus reservations and additional information, call Ken and Theresa Ross at 724-745-064.

MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ Students? Yes/No

Cost for the trip is \$15/person, \$30 maximum per family—TEENS ARE FREE!

Make Checks payable to St. Benedict the Abbot.

Return this form with payment to the Parish Office.

Christmas Flower Donations—In Memory of..

Bruno Menozzi & Leonard & Eleanor Wolf by
M/M Richard Menozzi

Robert & Mary Ann Kolson by Ray & Kathy
Harrington

Lachman & Goughler Families by M/M Russell
Lachman

John & Martha Gruden by M/M Richard Fincham

Vincent & Esther Antonovich & Karl Staud by M/M
Thomas Antonovich

Norma & George Ostronic by M/M William Burt

Joe & Mary Otvos by M/M Gerald Kochinski

Linda Lee Joseph & Ruth Flecker by M/M Robert
Joseph

Jack McCloskey by Wife, Lois

Frank Neubert & Zuara Benedetti by M/M Charles
Minton

Deceased Members of Ambrosini, Berriola,

Merone, Riccio, & Spiotti Families by M/M Robert
Ambrosini

Our Parents by M/M Robert Gordon



Flower Donations—Cont.

Michael & Helen Baloh & Joseph & Mary Juliane
by Sheila Juliane

Parents Anthony & Frances Hudak by Antoinette Bednar

Francis McCaffrey by Wife, Pat

Ed Kosarich by M/M Michael Berardino

Dick Stewart by Wife, Mary

Patrick & Margaret Dolan by Patricia Reed

Oddi & Boggs Family by M/M Charles Boggs

Parents, Anna & John Milinski by Robert Milinski

Robert Manion by Sandra Manion

Helen Ligman by Donald Ligman

Meier & Suchoza Families by Bernard & Patricia Suchoza

Buettner & Sopko Families by M/M Albert Sopko

Alice Ann Rudzinsky & Frank Bobro Sr. by M/M David Bobro

M/M Cornelius Coleman by M/M Charles Jarema

Anna Jakubscik & Len Walnoha Family by M/M Leonard Walnoha

Father, Louis Gayarski by Michele Mistoffelees

The Sarra & Sawitti Families by Jane Sarra

Deceased Family Members & Friends by M/M Michael Gima

Henry Hofbauer by M/M John Curran

Our deceased parents by John & Rita Milavec

Joseph & Ann Smith & John & Mary Godzo by M/M Joseph Smith

Elmo Checchi by Sister & Family

Peter & Stella Marraccini & Stanislaw & Philomena Serraglia by M/M Gary Seraly

Mary & Joseph Otvos by Dr. Eric J. Berger

Massof & Gennaro Families by M/M Bruce Massof

Earl Williams by Wife Mary Williams

Joseph M. Jasek, Sr. by Gertrude Jasek

Mary Ann Snyder by John Snyder

Franz & Perry Families by Barbara Franz

Deceased Members of the Danowski & Fagioletti Families by Dr. & Mrs. Robert Fagioletti

All those gone before us by M/M Steven Christopher

Kalaskie & Balawajder Families by M/M William Kalaskie

Parents Charles & Margaret Schreibeis by Ellen Schreibeis

Catherine & Joseph Jurcic & Guy Fazzoni by Bev & Jim Jurcic

Fedor Salva, Ivan Salva & George & Elizabeth Glorvick by M/M Fedor Salva

Ernest Skvartz & Stephen Kushner by Florence Skvartz

Jack & Mary Byrne by M/M Terence Byrne

Deceased Members of the Cortese & Onderko Families by M/M Jerome Cortese

Dolly Bowler by James Bowler

Derby & Wilkinson Family by M/M Bill Kinavey

Albert & Pauline Rodino & Robert & Pauline Hooper by M/M Richard Hooper

Father Donatelli by Dr. & Mrs. Edward Dainesi

Raymond Danko by Mary Beth Bokelberg

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, January 11

Abbey Coffee House Open after 7:30 & 10:00 Masses

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night	(PBAC)

Monday, January 12

6:00p	Ben's Men Rosary	(208)
6:30p	Ben's Men Meeting	(OBH)
7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)

Tuesday, January 13

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
10:00a	Church History Class	(210)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, January 14

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Frank Runyeon Live!	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:30p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

Thursday, January 15

9:30a	WOSB Board Meeting	(204)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(213)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Cub Scout Meeting	(208)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, January 16

9:30a	Prayer and Share Group	(Cry Rm)
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Saturday, January 17

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	(Chapel)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
4:00p	Closing of Adoration	(Chapel)

Sunday, January 18

Abbey Coffee House Open after 7:30 & 10:00 Masses

No Religious Education Sessions

Felix & Rose Flasco & Dominic & Anna Rivelle by M/M Thomas Stout

My Family by Barbara Costello

Albert C. Calfo, Sr. & George J. Wagner, Sr. by M/M Donald Wagner

Deceased Members of Cyprowski Family & Sam & Edna Rolley by Samuel & Edna Rolley

John & Michael Meehan & Olga & Arnold Windmueller by M/M David Windmueller

Joseph Lubas by Virginia Lubas



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL...

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Altar Servers

Kathleen Bench
724-942-0338

Ben's Men

Ernie Sichi
724-916-4595

Boy Scouts

Kevin Dolinar
724-942-0388

Cantors, Choirs,

Bell Ringers

Greg Fincham
724-941-9406

Catholic Men's Fellowship

Ed Corbett
724-942-6429

Catholic Scripture Study

Tara Curry
724-942-7539

Elijah Cup

Carlotta Zuback
724-941-5758

Engaged Couples Program IHN

Ed & Mary Lou Fraticelli
724-941-4230

Eucharistic Adoration

Mary Ann Campbell
724-941-4297

Eucharistic Ministers

Jack McGinnis
724-941-4213

Finance Council

Jeff Lioon
724-941-4908

Food Bank

Susan Brooks
724-942-4287

Funeral Repast

Mary Kay Schaner
724-941-5147

Funeral Server

Dick Gawronski
724-873-7911

Greeters

Erma Grego
724-941-6956

Mary Spinabelli
724-942-2478

Lectors

Dawn Pustay
724-942-2451

Library

Ellen Mavrich
724-941-2446

Liturgical Environment

Emma Diamond
724-941-8315

Ministry to the Sick

Barb Scheuering
724-941-9104

MOMS

Kathleen Chaudhari
724-941-8546

Pastoral Council

Amy Schmidt
724-942-0338

Respect Life

Beth Quinn
724-942-1057

Stephen Ministry

Jay Jarrell
724-941-5026

St. Benedict Gardeners

Linda Maydak
724-941-3123

St. Vincent de Paul

Please call parish office
724-941-9406

Ushers

Don Ligman
724-941-5938

Vocations Council

Bill Barker
724-941-1359

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805