



Father Sam's Forum

What astonishes you? As the Steelers prepare to play in Super Bowl XLIII today, some might say they were astonished to see the opposing team is not the Eagles, but the Cardinals. And some of us might be astonished by the outcome of today's game.

But that's just sports and nothing quite as serious as things eternal—although some may think so, and we all know those who act so. Mark tells us that the people “were astonished” at Jesus' teaching. Why do you suppose that was? What was so different about his teaching? Didn't the other teachers of the Law present the tradition?

I would expect they did. But as we learn from this gospel, it was his authority that made the case for his remarkable ability to heal and expel demons. He never doubted that he could do those things and that his mission was to do them because they pointed to the Kingdom. As God's mouthpiece, or prophet, Jesus didn't shy away from the truth or from telling it like it was.

We often can't handle the truth today. We take personal offense when another points out our faults or shortcomings, not to be critical, but just in a matter of fact way. Being critical just to be contrary is another thing...and I'll save that for another time. When we focus only on our feelings and the smallness of our world, we forget a bigger truth. God is not our personal deity, but for everyone, the people we like and those we don't.

That might astonish us. Hopefully, we have moved beyond that sense that everything revolves around us, that we are the center of the universe. Our identity has to be clear. Just as Jesus knew who he was we have to know who we are. We aren't God.

But we do share in the authority that Jesus used. That comes from our baptism. It isn't about wielding power over others; it's about serving others. The authority of the gospel is that God is love and in the love God bears for us we are invited to join the mission of Jesus, the One God sent to show us the way.

So while we might be astonished at someone who asks us to think about a fault or shortcoming we have, we should be more astonished that God continues to love us enough to entrust us with the message of Jesus and then asks us to share it!

Lent is just around the corner, and our parish will keep this sacred time with a number of special liturgies, programs and events. Watch for the **Lenten News** section in the bulletin next weekend.

Don't forget to get your tickets to our Parish Pasta Dinner that is being held next Saturday, February 7, between 3:30 and 7:30. Our Youth Council has done a great job in organizing this event which is intended to bring together the whole parish family in a social setting. Any proceeds from the dinner will help us to improve the Pope Benedict Activity Center and make it the multi-purpose space it was intended to be, with a special emphasis on a safe site for our young people to gather.

Mass Intentions: Feb. 1—Feb. 8

Sunday, Feb. 1—4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **Ronald Brooks** (Kristen Farrell)
- 10:00a **John & Mary Godzo** (Margaret Drapp)
- 12:30p **Robert J. Manion** (The Manion Family)
- 6:00p **Edward Novak**
(Peggy Ann Secunda & Will Podolak)

Monday, Feb. 2—Presentation of the Lord

- 8:30a **Theresa Casilli**
(Tootsie Jones Huffman & Family)

Tuesday, Feb. 3—Weekday

- 6:30a **Joseph Klimek** (Terri & Don Hastings)
- 8:30a **Butch Schultz** (Jerry Serrino)

Wednesday, Feb. 4—Weekday

- 6:30a **Agnes Puhala** (James Puhala)
- 8:30a **Donald E. Huffner, Sr.** (Wife)

Thursday, Feb. 5—Agatha, martyr

- 6:30a **Ann Maxwell** (Jennifer & Chris Feeney)
- 8:30a **Dena Yarussi** (M/M Eugene Aloe)

Friday, Feb. 6—Paul Miki & companions, martyrs

- 8:30a **Nicholas Volanski** (Pfeifer Family)
- 1:45p **ManorCare Mass: Edward McCloskey**
(John T. McCloskey)

Saturday, Feb. 7—Weekday

- 8:30a **Meghan Canterna** (Mickey & Bill Shanafelt)
- 5:00p **Ignatius Lenz** (Mary & Jim Sternweis)

Sunday, Feb. 8—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **For the People of the Parish**
- 10:00a **Bill Lauth** (Ben's Men)
- 12:30p **Gregory Smith, Sr.** (Carol Baits)
- 6:00p **David Paul Wenslovas** (Family)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of our Deceased Family & Friends, requested by Jim & Mary Sternweis.

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



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 Specca, 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: Feb. 7—Feb. 8

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Brugger, Hruby **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego
EMHC: Kail, Scheuering, T & D Martin, Specca, Femiani,
 Baumgartner, G & P Adams **Servers:** Meyers, J, J & N Bianco,
 Brugger

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Jung **Greeters:** Kalaski, Henger, K & R Savoldi
EMHC: Fagioletti, S & J Christopher, Petricca, R & E McMillan,
 Walnoha **Servers:** Traficante, Shaw, Bowlin

10:00am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Trapanotto, Ross **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Verlato
EMHC: McGinnis, Schultz, Gaudy, Serrino, Glover, Orient,
 Bayer, Black, Weaver **Servers:** Kelly, D, C & L Schratz, S
 Weaver

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lector: Luttner **Greeters:** Fink, McDonnell **EMHC:** Daley, S
 Locke, Capozza, Oldaker, Ruggieri, Smith, Huffner **Servers:**
 Chaplin, C & A Mavrich

6:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lector: A & C Schratz **EMHC:** G & T Mauro, Pfeifer, Slomiany
Servers: Pfeifer, Graves

Readings for the Week of February 1

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
 Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40
 Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43
 Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7,11-15/Mk 6:1-6
 Thursday: Heb 12:18-19,21-24/Mk 6:7-13
 Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29
 Saturday: Heb 13:15-17,20-21/Mk 6:30-34
 Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4,6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Italy Trip Meeting

All those who are interested in making the parish pilgrimage to Italy in October are invited to a meeting on Saturday, February 28, following the 5:00pm Mass. The meeting will be held in the Chapel. Ezio de Filippis, the travel agent responsible for the trip's details, will be present to answer any questions and offer suggestions for those who have already signed up for the trip. All are welcome to attend and learn more about the upcoming excursion which is set for October 20—30, 2009. Cost is \$3698, and includes all transportation, most meals, admissions and more.

Finance Council Meeting

Members of the parish Finance Council are reminded of the next meeting, Thursday, February 12, 7:30pm in the Rectory. If members have not received their financial packets in the mail, they should stop by the office to secure them before the meeting.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Margaret O'Neill**, mother of our parishioner Margaret Phillips, **Joyce Swart**, mother of our parishioner Tracy Fultz, **Catherine Pugh**, mother of our parishioners Dolores Ueberschaer & Barbara Burke, and **Ann Stancoven**, mother of our parishioner Mary Ann Evangelista, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Annual Men's Retreat

Ben's Men is sponsoring our annual Men's Retreat for all men of the parish over age 16. Held at the Spiritan Center in nearby Bethel Park, the retreat weekend begins on Friday, February 20, with registration at 5:00pm and concludes on Sunday, February 22, with lunch. The theme of the retreat is "Examining the Beauty of Our Catholic Traditions," and the weekend's main presenters are Fr. Michael and Fr. Sam. Registration costs \$120 and forms can be obtained in the office and in the church narthex.

Scout Sunday February 15th

Scout Sunday is a special opportunity to recognize those who participate in the wonderful tradition of Scouting. We will recognize all Cub and Boy Scouts on February 15 during the 12:30pm Mass with a reception in O'Brien Hall immediately afterwards. All scouts and cubs are welcome to participate, especially if you are in a troop/pack not sponsored by our parish. For more information, contact Blaise at 724-942-0748.



Question of the Week

Do priests get paid? Don't they take a vow of poverty?

Lesson of the Week

How can the Church grant annulments?

Many Catholics are confused and misinformed when it comes to knowing about or understanding the process of annulments. While the Church believes and teaches that the vows of marriage are sacred and meant to last forever, there are situations where a marriage is declared "null and void." Catholic marriage happens on both a sacramental and civil level. A Church annulment does not speak about the civil aspect of marriage. Some people have an objection to annulments because they believe that the Church says the marriage never existed. That is absolutely false. There is no danger of "illegitimizing" children of a marriage because an annulment is sought from the Church. On the civil level, a marriage existed. The bond that is declared annulled is the sacramental one. Last week the lesson in the bulletin talked about the sacramentality of marriage. A person has, according to Canon Law, the right to enter a sacramental marriage because that unique relationship is what best demonstrates the love Christ has for His Spouse, the Church, all of us. When something is missing and has never been present in the marriage that would allow this unique relationship to be expressed, for example, a couple married under duress because of a pregnancy, then the Church sees that it was not sacramental at its beginning because force and fear were present that could have interfered with the giving of consent freely. As we have grown in our understanding of the psychological aspects of relationships, the reasons permitted in the canons for the declaration of nullity have expanded. Another question that surfaces often is why an annulment is required of a non-Catholic who, previously married and divorced, wishes to marry a Catholic. In this instance we have to understand that since those who are not of our faith are not obligated to observe the canons of the Church regarding marriage, any marriage they enter, whether civil or religious, is considered valid unless, as in the case of two Catholics, there was something lacking in the bond from its beginning, according to the viewpoint of what constitutes a marriage in the teaching of the Church. If you have a previous marriage you think might be invalid as a sacrament, contact one of the priests. The Tribunal does charge a fee to cover the process since it involves secretarial support, but will waive the fee if there is financial hardship.

Youth Ministry News

Theology of the Body

February 2 is the first night of our new Theology of The Body course. We explore the true meaning of love, why God created male and female, the purpose of marriage and celibacy, how our bodies reflect God's image, etc. Due to the nature of the course and size of the room, we must limit the number of teens, so please make your reservation NOW! We will meet Monday evenings for 12 weeks from 7:00-8:30pm and the fee for materials and food is \$25. Don't be left out! We got rave reviews from the last class and have many interesting sessions planned for this class.

PARENTS: We highly recommend that you attend a two night conference at St. Paul's Seminary on February 6 and 20 from 7:00-10:00pm to learn about this beautiful Church teaching so that you will be able to discuss it with your teens. There will be outstanding speakers, a CD set, and a catered dinner for \$15 per person per night. More information on this conference will be sent out in the weekly e-mail (make sure we have your e-mail address) or call the Youth Ministry Office for more information.

Summer Planning Meeting

Mark your calendars now for February 11 at 7:30pm for a teen/parent meeting night. This night will decide the fate of our mission trip, as well as all other activities over the summer, including camping and leadership retreats, road trips, and service projects. Everyone is needed.

Pasta Dinner Volunteers Needed

The Youth Council is hosting a pasta dinner on February 7 from 3:30-7:30pm. Our WORD teens are in charge of the games for the evening and volunteers are needed to help plan, organize, and execute all the fun in the Pope Benedict Center. All proceeds go toward improvements for the Center, so this benefits all of us. Call Janet at 724-941-9587 if you can help.

Youth Ministry Calendar *Feb. 1—Feb. 8*

Feb. 1, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Feb. 2, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
Feb. 3, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
Feb. 7, 3:30-7:30pm (OBH & PBAC) Spaghetti Dinner
Feb. 8, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night



Youth Council Pasta Dinner

Tickets for our pasta and meatball dinner on Saturday, February 7, are being sold after all Masses this weekend. Pre-sale price is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children 10 and under. A limited number of tickets will be 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. **To get this family price you must buy your tickets during the pre-sale weekend.** Our menu includes ziti and meatballs, salad and rolls, beverages and dessert. Our purpose for having the dinner is to create a time where the parish family can mingle and strengthen the bonds of community. The proceeds from this event will help toward the improvements planned for the Pope Benedict Activity Center. Our dream is to create a youth friendly space there with up to date technology, recreational areas, and refreshment capabilities. The dinner is open to everyone, and service is from 3:30 to 7:30pm. Activities for kids will be available in the PBAC during the dinner.

Ben's Men—Ladies Night

Ben's Men will be hosting Ladies Night on February 9 beginning with a social at 6:30 and dinner at 7:15. Frank Esposito and the Barbequers will be preparing Chicken Florentine for our guests, and Dave Salera will be here to entertain everyone with his tribute to Frank Sinatra. Dave was born in Pittsburgh and has been singing the music of "Ol Blue Eyes" since high school. He has spent countless hours studying the mannerisms and characteristics of Frank Sinatra. His performances include *New York, New York* at Heinz Hall, *Dean Martin & Friends* in New Orleans and Las Vegas, and *Rat Pack Tribute* in Branson and Palm Springs. You will think Frank is back! This event is limited to active members of Ben's Men only.

Parish Directory Update

Our parish directory is soon to be ready for publication. Some final photos are being taken for the booklet and Fr. Sam is busy writing the introductory letter and parish history for the publication. Once the final pages are laid out and sent to Busson, it will take approximately 6-8 weeks to print the directories and deliver them to us. We are hoping to have them by late Spring.

Ministers Needed for Lenten Services

As part of our Lenten observance, we are offering a 7:00pm Mass on Wednesdays this year. Ministers for the Mass are needed. Can you help by serving as a lector or Communion Minister? Altar Server? Also, we need Altar Servers for our Friday evening Stations of the Cross. Stations will be held every Lenten Friday at 7:45pm. Call Kathy Pfeifer at the parish office to sign up for serving.

A Word About Donations

Everyone will begin to prepare their 2008 tax returns soon, and the parish sends out statements that indicate your contributions to the parish. Please note that only contributions made **to the parish** are recorded at the office. If you made a contribution to another charity, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society, or one promoted by a visiting priest, even though you may have used an envelope from your packet, these are not parish donations. Those funds go directly to those organizations, and we do not keep records of them.

Catholic Men's Fellowship

Catholic Men's Fellowship (CMF), associated with the National Men's Fellowship, is about equipping men in today's world to live their faith despite the pulls that might make it tempting to disregard its teachings. The CMF of St. Benedict offers Catholic men (fathers, husbands and single men) the opportunity to share their faith and love for Christ as Catholic Christian men through prayer and fellowship. We meet every Saturday from 7:30am to 9:00am in Room 204/206. Those interested should contact Ed Corbett at 724-942-6429 or email at Eccorbett@comcast.net.

The 4th annual CMF Conference of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will take place on April 18, at the AJ Palumbo Center, Duquesne University. There is a line-up of outstanding and dynamic speakers who will enlighten men on how to "be transformed" with God in their daily lives. Tickets are just \$30 for adults and \$10 for students if ordered before February 1, and include bus transportation and lunch. For further information, contact Ed Corbett.

**Relevant Radio is an all-Catholic Radio Station.
It can be found at 1590am—WZUM**



Marriage Encounter Weekend

Why not make a commitment to do something to improve your marriage? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held February 13-15 at the Tofftrees Resort, State College, PA. For more information or to register, contact Mary & Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at www.wwme-pittsburgh.org.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Series

We invite you to join us for a presentation by Colleen Carroll Campbell entitled *"Have No Contempt for Their Youth: The Story of Today's New Faithful"* on February 5 at 7:30pm at St. Paul's Seminary Auditorium. Mrs. Campbell is an author, columnist, television and radio host, and former White House speechwriter. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons, and catechists. The lecture is free and all are welcome to attend.

Women's Retreat

The Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities are offering a Women's Retreat, *"Franciscan Solitude,"* at Mount Alvernia on February 7, from 9:00am until 8:00pm. The cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch and supper. There will also be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Reconciliation and Sunday's Liturgy. Contact 412-215-7708 or e-mail guidance@nauticom.net with any questions or to register.

St. Valentine Card Party

St. Valentine Christian Mothers will hold their 54th annual card party/luncheon on February 14 in Frawley Hall. Doors open at 10:00am and lunch is at noon. Bring your family and friends and remember you don't have to play cards. Enjoy a great lunch and enter to win one of the Chinese Auction groupings, the Lottery Money Tree or the "Share the Wealth" raffle. To make reservations contact Dee at 412-833-4476 or Jane at 412-835-1393.

Caregiver Needed

One of our parishioners who lives in Peters Township is looking for a part time caregiver to get her two children off to school in the mornings Monday through Friday. Help may also be needed in the afternoons after school. If interested, please call Kathy at 724-288-1300 or 412-762-8948.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, February 1

**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, February 2

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Theology of the Body	(PBAC)

Tuesday, February 3

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(202)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(210-213)
10:00a	Church History Class	(204-206)
3:00p	Youth Ministry—Busted Halo	(PBAC)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, February 4

12:00p	AA	(208)
12:30p	Staff Meeting	(204)
	Parish Office Closed until 3:00p	
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, February 5

9:30a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(213)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Pre-Baptism Session for Parents	(208)
7:00p	Women, Inc.	(210)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, February 6

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Prayer and Share Group	(Cry Rm)

Saturday, February 7

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:00a	First Eucharist Parents Meeting	(Chapel)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
3:30p	Spaghetti Dinner	(OBH)

Sunday, February 8

**Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass**

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

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



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

Military Support

Jamie Christopher
724-747-9396

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