



Father Sam's Forum

“Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?” These words begin our first reading this weekend, from the Book of Job, perhaps the oldest book of the Old Testament. Asking a question that is relevant no matter what era we live in, this piece of Scripture is timely for us as we face the new challenges of our age.

Taken in the context of the entire set of readings, the purpose of this selection is to make us consider the healing power of God's love. It's not about giving in to or going along with the culture of our times, which can get wrapped up in external appearance, power, competition, wealth and fame. It's about letting God call the shots, about handing over the control to the Master, and learning to see the blessings of life as they truly are. Stewardship!

That's what St. Paul calls the whole package. It's what we do with what we have been given. Not demanding or expecting, but accepting with gratitude. Job had been blessed far more than most of his time and when those outward blessings went away, his life fell apart, so much did his identity rest on them. As that book of the bible unfolds, Job comes to realize that God is the giver and all he can do is accept graciously whatever comes his way.

The drudgery of our daily lives can get in our way. We grow depressed by the repetition and the monotony. How do we remain excited about life when it always seems the same, work and bills, illness and problems, kids crying and spouses nagging, and our expectations not being met? For me, I have had to think about those expectations. Are they even realistic? Perhaps they are my desire to keep that control and live in the world that I would deem perfect.

Once I remember that it is God's plan, not mine, I can usually recapture that spark of energy to keep going. If I am living out my vocation, my call from God, then it matters not the circumstances that come across my path, whether it's a busted water heater or assessment of unpaid tax from the diocese, whether there are voices who think the parish vision and mission should be other than what the Council carefully considers and comes to by consensus. God continues to call each of us daily and if we listen we will hear that call renewed over and over again.

How do you live out your vocation when times are tough? Jesus prayed often. Do we?

Speaking of prayer, one of the “pillars” of Lent is prayer. The 40 days call us to enter a time of deeper prayer. Like last year, the parish will offer the booklet “*five minutes with the Word*” as a prayer help for parishioners. Be sure to pick up your copy from the baskets in the narthex before Ash Wednesday.

This Tuesday is the feast of St. Scholastica, the twin of our patron, Benedict. Why not join us at Mass if you can as we remember this holy woman and honor our patron by celebrating the life of his sister?

Mass Intentions: Feb. 8—Feb. 15

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)

Monday, Feb. 9—Weekday

- 8:30a **Patricia Trocano** (Keith & Mary Ellen Joseph)

Tuesday, Feb. 10—Scholastica, sister of St. Benedict

- 6:30a **Stanley J. Zary** (Wife, Elaine & Children)
- 8:30a **Stella H. Cook** (Herb and Evelyn & Family)

Wednesday, Feb. 11—Weekday

- 6:30a **June Gustie**
(Norman & Julia Elliot & Children)
- 8:30a **Deceased of the Kauffman & Bonura Families** (Kauffman Family)
- 11:00a **McMurray Hills:**
Deceased of the Hudak Family

Thursday, Feb. 12—Weekday

- 6:30a **Sheila Kosem** (Gary & Noreen Kosem)
- 8:30a **6:30 Mass Group** (Bernie & Pat Suchoza)

Friday, Feb. 13—Weekday

- 8:30a **Staff Sgt. Patrick Kutschbach** (Family)

Saturday, Feb. 14—Cyril & Methodius

- 8:30a **Angela Gargano** (Daughter & Family)
- 5:00p **Deceased of the Maskew & Sgro Families**
(Joe & Mary Jo Maskew)

Sunday, Feb. 15—6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **Andrew Palombo** (Jim & Gail Witeneske)
- 10:00a **For the People of the Parish**
- 12:30p **Geraldine Ehland** (the Glover Family)
- 6:00p **Intentions of the Sebastian Family**

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Deceased Family Members, requested by M/M John Brucker, and the Bread and Wine is in memory of Joseph F. Keenan, requested by his wife Eleanor.

The second collection next week will be for Special Parish Projects.



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 Speca, 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. 14—Feb. 15

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Satler, Ellsworth **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Sarra, Vandewater, Norton, Ligman, Milavec, Mertens, Klinar, Greenwald, Satler **Servers:** Nobers, Hillen, LaRosa, P & M Ellsworth

7:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lector: Mamros **Greeters:** Turchick, R & J Jackson, Barton **EMHC:** Puskarich, Faina, Gavran, Hollot, Basile, Vines, Berger **Servers:** E, M & E Jozwiak

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Ott, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Irwin **EMHC:** Gaudy, Schultz, Walnoha, Kail, Smith, Davis, Stein, McGovern, Torres **Servers:** Wisniewski, N & V DeRienzo, D DeRienzo, Maher

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Hajzus **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** McGinnis, Boyd, L, K & P Newmaster, Baits, Hayward **Servers:** F & M Meola, Rhoads

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Flanigan, Ross **EMHC:** J & S Brooks, Corbett, Phelan **Servers:** Mullan, Corbett

Readings for the Week of February 8

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4,6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23/Mk 1:29-39
 Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn 1:20-2:4a/Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9,15-17/Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Mk 8:1-10
 Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2,44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

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.

IHN Thank You

St. Ben's hosted two families last week; Jennifer & Devon and Amanda & Sean had a good stay. They enjoyed the sled riding, ping pong, and all the wonderful meals and hospitality! Thank you to all the volunteers who make this ministry run so smoothly! We will host again February 15-22, and if you can help make a meal, dessert, drive or sleep over (like camping indoors with plumbing), please call Mary at 724-942-2478.

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. Forms are available in the narthex and the office and the cost of \$120 covers the room and board for the weekend.

Spring Ministers Schedule

It's time to schedule ministers for Masses in April, May and June. All Greeters, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and Altar Servers should submit any away dates or schedule changes to kmpfeifer1@comcast.net or call Kathy Pfeifer at 724-941-6541. She will run the schedule the first week of March, so please have all your information to her before February 28.

Lectors, Altar Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers are still needed for the 7:00pm Wednesday Mass during Lent. We also need Altar Servers for Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. If you are able to help on either of these evenings, please contact Kathy at the above e-mail address and phone number or at the Church Office.

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



Question of the Week

What's the difference between the Pastoral Council and Parish Council?

Lesson of the Week

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

As tax time rolls around, Fathers Sam and Michael have been busy collecting all their receipts to get their returns prepared. Just like everyone else, priests who are not members of a religious order are required to pay taxes on the salary they receive from their assignments as well as the stipends they get in the performance of their ministry. Diocesan priests, that is, priests who have been ordained for service to a local church, in our case, the Diocese of Pittsburgh, take a promise of obedience to the bishop of the diocese and to his successors. They also, before being ordained deacons, take a promise of celibacy. They are permitted to earn money, own things, and are expected to pay their own way from what they earn.

Religious order priests are those who follow a "rule" that comes from the founder of that particular community, for example, the Benedictine monks, or the Franciscan friars. These men take vows, not promises, of poverty, chastity and obedience. As part of an order, anything they earn is given to that community, just like Sisters. Their needs are taken care of by the community who provides for them the necessary things to live and do their ministry such as spending money, a car, housing, meals, and clothing. They don't pay income tax, and are not permitted to own a car or a house.

Diocesan priests are responsible for purchasing their own cars and paying the insurance on them. Since they are considered self employed, they pay their own social security and the costs for life insurance, cell phones and buy their clergy apparel, their own vestments, and books. In this diocese they receive a salary based on years of service, not job title. So Fr. Michael, in his first year of service earns \$1755 a month, while Fr. Sam, ordained thirty years, earns \$1855 a month. The parish contributes \$500 toward the cost of their annual retreat and continuing education every year. Housing and meals are also provided along with health insurance and regular contribution to a retirement fund. Depending on the financial picture of the parish, some priests might have a housekeeper and/or a cook while others would not. Here at St. Benedict we have someone who works four days a week to provide one hot meal, do laundry and keep house.

Youth Ministry News

Girl's Night

Girl's Night originally scheduled for February 15 has been cancelled due to the snow make up day on February 16. There will be a Teen Night as usual after the 6:00pm Mass. Girl's Night will be rescheduled at a later date.

Youth Ministry Calendar *Feb. 8—Feb. 15*

Feb. 8, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Feb. 9, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
Feb. 10, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
Feb. 11, 7:30 (PBAC)-Summer Planning Meeting
Feb. 15, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night

Divorce Recovery Speaker Series Continues February 23

Our parish will host a speaker series for separated and divorced Catholics on February 23 and March 30 from 7:30-9:00pm in Room 204/206. The February speaker will be Stephanie Anderson, a family practice lawyer and a member of the Allegheny County Bar Association where she is a member of the Family Law Section. Ms. Anderson will address separation and divorce issues as they relate to PA State laws. On March 30, Fr. Brian Welding, Assistant Director for the Department of Canon and Civil Law Services for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will discuss annulments and the process for getting one. There is no fee to attend; however pre-registration is appreciated. Please call our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406 Ext. 206 for more information or to register.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Empty baby bottles will be available to pick up every Sunday in February after every Mass. Please consider filling one (or more!) with your loose change to benefit the Pregnancy Resource Center, a non-profit, Pro-Life organization in Bethel Park. For more information on the center go to www.prcsh.org, or call Tara Curry at 724-942-7539. Checks are also gratefully accepted! Beginning March 1, filled baby bottles can be returned and placed in baskets in the Narthex of the Church.



January Baptisms

Please welcome to our faith family **Addison Grace**, daughter of Chad & Jennifer Lehman, **Alexa Ray**, daughter of Glenn & Julie Mauder, **Zachary Leonard**, son of Kevin & Mary Beth Moore, **Jack Daniel**, son of Mark & Clare Rollinson, **Gabriella Nicole**, daughter of Carl & Judith Luisi, **Caroline Margaret**, daughter of Stephen & Leslie Krueger, **Joseph Andrew**, son of Joshua & Cynthia Peterson, **Lauren Elizabeth**, daughter of David & Jill Ann Capra and **Emily Ann and Brianna Kathleen**, daughters of Megan Ferri. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

WOSB Spring Fling

Mark your calendars! The Women of St. Benedict are sponsoring a Spring Fling Arts, Crafts and Antiques Sale on April 18, from 9:00-4:00pm. Vendors and crafters may reserve space by calling Betty Abrew at 724-941-4696, Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686, Ernie McMillan at 724-941-4503 or Judy Risher at 724-942-0604. Volunteers are always welcome to assist in WOSB project/programs.

In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict's Military Support Group, we now have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

Ben's Men Annual Friday Fish Fry

Mark Your Calendar! The annual Ben's Men Friday Fish Frys are almost here. The dates for the Fish Frys are February 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 from 4:00pm-7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. We will be serving our Friday Fish Fry Lunch from 11:00am-1:00pm in O'Brien Hall. If you worked the Fish Fry last year or want to work and can help this year, please call Jack Curran at 724-743-3963 to reserve your spot.

Lent 2009

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25, this year. Ashes—a sign of our intention to keep the discipline of Lent—will be distributed at the four Masses that are scheduled for that day: 6:30 and 8:30 in the morning; 12:00 Noon (in response to requests by those working in our area); and at 7:00pm. A Liturgy of the Word with distribution of ashes will be held at 4:00 in the afternoon.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence and the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence means refraining from eating meat and obliges everyone 14 and older. Fasting, the limiting of oneself to one full meal and two lighter meals obliges all those 18—59 years of age. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from fasting you should perform some other act of penance or charity in its place.

Because the Lenten penance we undertake is meant for those old enough to understand and fulfill these acts, ashes are not imposed on infants or young children. Those preparing to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation are the youngest who should come forward for the ashes.

During Lent this year, in addition to the regular times for the sacrament of reconciliation, we have the honor of welcoming Bishop David Zubik, who will lead our **Lenten Penance Service** on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00pm. Along with multiple priests, confessions will be heard by the bishop at this service. We also have scheduled two additional times for confessions before Easter, on Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week from 3:00—4:00 in the afternoon.

New this year is a 7:00pm Mass on the Wednesdays of Lent. At some of these liturgies, a visiting priest will offer reflections for the season during the homily. These Masses will be celebrated in our Chapel, except for Ash Wednesday and March 31, the Mass during our Parish Mission. The **Lenten Mission** begins March 28/29 with Fr. Patrick Collins preaching at all the weekend Masses and continues through April 2.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. Like Easter Sunday, **the regular 6:00pm Mass will be cancelled that Sunday**. This year we are looking to follow the liturgical directives and have a real procession from one site to the church at the 12:30pm Mass. Details about Holy Week will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.



Widow & Widowers Group

The Widow and Widowers Group will meet for dinner at Mitchell's on February 19 at 6:00pm. Please call Ellie Puskarich at 724-94-4686 for further information. New faces are always welcome.

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 and 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.

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.

Catholic Men's Fellowship

The Catholic Men's Fellowship 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@verizon.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 \$30 for adults and \$10 for students, and includes bus transportation and lunch. For further information, contact Ed Corbett.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, February 8

*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 9

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

Tuesday, February 10

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 11

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

Thursday, February 12

9:30a	Light Weigh	(213)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Girl Scout Meeting	(210)
7:30p	Finance Council	(Rectory)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, February 13

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

Saturday, February 14

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, February 15

*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)

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



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