



Father Sam's Forum

Lent is just around the corner. The gospel today depicts an encounter between Jesus and a leper. St. Paul speaks about trying to please everyone. There are many directions I can take in writing this column this week. Where shall I begin?

Let me start with the last one. Trying to please everyone, Paul never succeeded. The small bible group I am a part of here in the parish is reading the *Acts of the Apostles*. Poor Paul! It seems that no matter where he went he got into trouble. As he made his way from town to town, he began his ministry by speaking in the synagogues. But that almost always resulted in people being offended. They found his message more than they could bear. And so he was driven out from some places, but that didn't stop him from his mission to make Jesus known.

How do we do that? Since this is the Year of Saint Paul, how can we honor this great saint in a way that continues his ministry? Making Jesus known is the work of every baptized person. Like the leprosy that is spoken of in both the first reading and the gospel, faith is contagious. When we are on fire with the love of God, it catches. People notice and lives change.

The man healed by Jesus in the gospel story today goes away and Mark tells us that he "began to publicize the whole matter." Do we publicize our faith? As a whole, American Catholics have tended to be very private in the way they practice their faith. It can seem that there isn't much connection between what is believed and what is lived. If our faith is an important piece of who we are, then why can't we, or why don't we, demonstrate that more?

Sometimes it may be that we are hesitant to speak about our faith because we don't want to offend anyone. But without being offensive, living that faith and not being ashamed of it is done easily. Do you say grace when you eat in public? Or is making the Sign of the Cross too demonstrative? With Lent coming, will you skip the hamburger on the Friday menu and choose the tuna? And when asked, will you explain why? When someone is ill, will you let them know that your prayers will include them? Do you ever consider sharing something from a homily you heard with others—at work perhaps?

It's so easy for us to gripe and complain and look at everything we think is wrong, but when did you last give a compliment or word of praise? We all get

frustrated, but why not respond by saying, "with God's grace, this will be well," instead of "nothing ever goes my way!"

Lent is a season of conversion—changing hearts and minds! On Wednesday, February 25, those who are ready to accept the discipline of Lent and keep the 40 days of penance through prayer, fasting and works of charity, will come forward to be marked with a sign of mortality. The ashes that we receive are a public witness that we intend to be open to conversion, to better control our tongues that speak ill of one another, and our attitudes of judgment. We agree to take on something more in this season to help us focus on our identity as the baptized who are in need of healing. Will we heed the words of Jesus? "Be made clean!"

Mass Intentions: Feb. 15—Feb. 22

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

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

Monday, Feb. 16—Weekday

8:30a **Special Intention** (Bob & Irene Gordon)

Tuesday, Feb. 17—Weekday

6:30a **Frank Colosimo** (Bill & Mickey Shanafelt)
 8:30a **Michael Yurkovich** (Joseph Fischer)

Wednesday, Feb. 18—Weekday

6:30a **Charles Israel** (Virginia Cawley)
 8:30a **Deceased Members of the Suchan & Vandewater Families** (Vic & Mary Ann)

Thursday, Feb. 19—Weekday

6:30a **Alice Ann Rudzinski** (Carol Bobro & Family)
 8:30a **Michael & Vern Danko**
 (Mary Beth Bokelberg)

Friday, Feb. 20—Weekday

8:30a **Ray Veri and Family** (Friends)

Saturday, Feb. 21—Weekday

8:30a **Living and Deceased Members** (Ben's Men)
 5:00p **Anna Kraffa** (Alger Family)

Sunday, Feb. 22—7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **Joseph C. Smith** (Steve & Mary Smith)
 10:00a **Agnes & Harry McPoyle** (Son, Dan McPoyle)
 12:30p **For the People of the Parish**
 6:00p **Edward McCloskey** (M/M Ralph Ateseci)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Stanley J. Zary, requested by his Wife and Children, the Bread and Wine is in memory of Mary Lou Maestro, requested by Tom & Nancy Gannon, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of George DiNardo, requested by Jeanne.



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. 21—Feb. 22

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Pustay, Reisz **Greeters:** Tatman, Patnesky **EMHC:** Vandewater, Sarra, Baumgartner, Femiani, Specca, D & T Martin, Getto, Howell **Servers:** Lioon, A Weaver, Getto, Byrne, Reisz

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lector: Balash **Greeters:** Henger, Kalaski, Kolling, Barker **EMHC:** Petricca, J & S Christopher, Fagioletti, Glod, Boston, Joseph **Servers:** Meyers, Peterson, Wiegmann

10:00am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Morosco, Yurkovich **Greeters:** Irwin, Verlato **EMHC:** Faina, Klinar, Ruggieri, Capozza, Daley, Bayer, Orient, Glover Serrino **Servers:** Watson, A & E Ross, Carrington, Pampena

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito

Lector: Zuk **Greeters:** Fink, Black **EMHC:** P Newmaster, Boyd, Torres, Huffner, Smith, Oldaker, S Locke **Servers:** Toscano Children

6:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lector: MacKey, Rovito **EMHC:** G & P Adams, Norton, M Locke **Servers:** Schratz, Curran

Readings for the Week of February 15

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2,44-46/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45
 Monday: Gn 4:1-15,25/Mk 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8;7:1-5,10/Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13,20-22/Mk 8:22-26
 Thursday: Gn 9:1-13/Mk 8:27-33
 Friday: Gn 11:1-9/Mk 8:34-9:1
 Saturday: Heb 11:1-7/Mk 9:2-13
 Next Sunday: Is 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them...

Please remember in your prayers **Wilma Lokash**, sister of our parishioner Joanne Barton. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

"five minutes with the Word"

Get your copy of the Lenten devotional in the baskets that are in the narthex.

WOSB Presentation

The Women of Benedict are inviting the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) for an enlightening presentation on February 26, 9:30am in O'Brien Hall. The NOCC is dedicated to raising awareness and promoting education about ovarian cancer. Their staff is committed to improving the survival rate and quality of life for women with ovarian cancer. All members of the parish are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. For babysitting, call Maria Streno at 724-942-5570.

Lenten News

Ash Wednesday Schedule: Masses at 6:30, 8:30, 12:00Noon, and 7:00pm; Prayer Service at 4:00pm.

Confessions are regularly heard on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 11:00am. In addition, we have Bishop Zubik coming to lead our Lenten Penance Service on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00pm.

Stations of the Cross are prayed communally every Friday at 7:45pm.

Wednesday Evening Mass is another option for those who want to do something extra for Lent. Celebrated at 7:00pm in the Chapel, we will welcome some guest priests to this time of worship.

Fasting & Abstinence are required of Catholics during Lent. Fasting obliges those 18-59 and means limiting ourselves to one full meal and two lighter meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Everyone 14 and over is to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Parish Mission begins March 28 and lasts through April 2. Fr. Patrick Collins will address "The Many Faces of Love: We Are the Church."

Lenten Penance Service with Bishop Zubik

As part of our spiritual renewal during the season of Lent, Bishop Zubik will lead a special liturgy of Reconciliation for our region of the diocese here at St. Benedict on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00pm.



Question of the Week

Can we ever alter the Church calendar for convenience?

Lesson of the Week

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

Over recent years, many parishes in our diocese have changed from having a **Parish Council** to what is known as a **Pastoral Council**. In 1983, Pope John Paul II implemented a revision in the Church's body of law, known as *Canon Law*, calling for a group that advises and assists in fostering the pastoral mission.

Those who remember parish councils following the Second Vatican Council will call to mind that these bodies were broken into four areas, worship, education, temporalities and apostolate. In each of the committees or groups, a charge to care for these aspects of parish life were given. For example, those who were to oversee education would connect with the school principal and/or the director of religious education to determine the specifics of how this piece of parish life was unfolding. The parish councils saw that parking lots were maintained, that roofs were fixed, that Mass schedules were adjusted, that service projects were implemented. In other words, they were the doers who took on the responsibility for much of parish life. The members of the parish council were elected, so in almost every instance, those well known in the parish were those chosen to be the leaders.

Now, with the new Code of Canon Law, under the heading *The Hierarchical Constitution of the Church*, comes a chapter on *The Pastoral Council*. Canons 511-514 require the establishment of such a body to "study and weigh those matters which concern the pastoral works in the diocese." The first model then, is for a diocesan pastoral council. Under the norms for pastors, Canon 536 addresses the establishment of the council in the parish. "In this council, which is presided over by the parish priest, Christ's faithful, together with those who by virtue of their office are engaged in pastoral care in the parish, give their help in fostering pastoral action." Consultative to the pastor, the purpose of the council then, is to work with the parish staff and others who serve the parish to see that goals are created that help the parish fulfill its mission and remain true to it.

Canon 537 calls for a finance council in every parish. Replacing the temporalities committee of the parish council, this group works with the parish to develop and oversee the parish budget.

Youth Ministry News

Steelers Not the Only Winners

Thank you to all who donated on Super Bowl Sunday for the Youth Group collection to help St. Vincent de Paul. We raised close to \$1,300 that will be used to help people in the Pittsburgh area buy food, pay for utilities, and much more. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Supplies Needed

We have our craft ideas worked out for the Fish Fry, but we need your help gathering some of the materials. We need large empty coffee containers and empty toilet paper rolls. Please collect all of the items you can in the next three weeks and drop them off in the Parish Office by March 2.

Youth Ministry Calendar *Feb. 15—Feb. 22*

Feb. 15, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Feb. 17, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
Feb. 17, 7:30pm (Rm. 204) - Youth Council
Feb. 22, 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.

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



Protecting God's Children

Two training sessions for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children", have been scheduled for Friday, February 20 from 10:00am to 1:00pm in Rooms 204 and 206, and Monday, February 23 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Please call Colette in Religious Education at 724-941-9587 to register for either class.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Empty Baby Bottles will be available for 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.

Our Offertory for January

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt Reduction</u>	<u>Parish Share</u>
Jan. 4	\$27,004	\$6,831	\$1,836
Jan. 11	\$22,179	\$1,447	\$3,205
Jan. 18	\$17,630	\$2,797	\$465
Jan. 25	\$22,338	\$2,309	\$1,679
Monthly Totals	\$89,151	\$13,384	\$7,185
Weekly Average	\$22,287.75		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		

We are extremely grateful to the late Irene and Zane Kosowski, who remembered the parish in their will. Through the generosity of these faith filled parishioners, we were able to meet much of the outstanding balance of our 2008 PSP assessment. God looks for our response to the bountiful blessings that we all receive. Are we ready to share what we have been given? In every way, through our time and talents, as well as our treasure, we can return to God what is rightfully His.

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

Decorators Wanted!

Father Sam is looking for a few helpers to get the church ready for Lent. If you can join him on Tuesday, February 24, at 1:30pm, it would be greatly appreciated. The task should take about an hour and includes placement of fabrics, plants, the Lenten cross, and dried arrangements. We'll be working in the church and the chapel.

Ben's Men Friday Fish Fry

It's time for the annual *Ben's Men* Fish Frys on Fridays during Lent (except Good Friday), from 4:00pm to 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. The menu includes our delicious fish dinners (Adult \$7.50/Child \$5.00), fish sandwiches (\$5.50), Fr. Sam's famous Italian pizza (\$6.00/pie or \$1.00/slice), and Benny's New England Clam Chowder (\$2.50). Crafts and movies for the kids too. Bring the whole family; tell your neighbors and friends. Eat-in or take-out!

On those same Fridays we will offer lunch, which includes a fried fish sandwich, coleslaw, and French fries for \$6.50. Lunch can be eat-in or take-out and will be served from 11:00am-1:00pm.

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.

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.



Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Priscilla Bayer
M/M Charles Fisher

In Memory of Irene Kosowski
M/M Charles Fisher

In Memory of James Rocco
M/M Louis Zegarelli
Ron & Marion Selva

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.

Annual Men's Retreat

Ben's Men is sponsoring our annual Men's Retreat for all men of the parish over age 18. 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 \$120 fee covers the room and board for the weekend.

Women in the Workplace

St. Joseph Spirituality Center in Baden, PA will sponsor *Women in the Workspace*, a retreat for all women involved in work outside the home, on March 7, from 9:30am-8:00pm. The retreat is led by Sisters Mary Catherine Cudnik, Marguerite Kropinak, Diane McCalley, and Jeanne Scott. A fee of \$50 includes meals. (Those who wish may extend the retreat through Sunday morning for an additional \$15.) To register, contact Sister Marian Mills at 724-869-2151 ext. 6609.

Monte Carlo Night

The PTHS Diamond Backers Baseball Boosters invite you to attend the annual "Monte Carlo Night" fundraiser on February 28, at 6:00pm in O'Brien Hall. The evening includes buffet dinner by DeLallo's, libations, DJ, games, giveaways, auctions, and Wheel of Prizes. Tickets are \$30/adult and can be ordered by calling Andrea O'Laughlin at 724-348-8050. Proceeds benefit the high school baseball program.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, February 15

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

No Religious Education

Monday, February 16

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, February 17

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)
7:30p	Youth Council	(204)

Wednesday, February 18

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Cub Scouts	(213)

Thursday, February 19

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

Friday, February 20

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
10:00a	Protecting God's Children	(204/206)
9:30a	Prayer and Share Group	(Cry Rm)
5:00p	Men's Retreat Begins	(Spiritan)

Saturday, February 21

9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, February 22

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

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
1:00p	Men's Retreat Ends	(Spiritan)
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night	(PBAC)

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.



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