



Father Sam's Forum

I am doing something new!" What will God do that is new in your life this Lent? Might you become more attentive to God's Word? How about giving over more time to daily prayer? Or what about taking that step to become an active volunteer in some charitable work?

This week Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is about turning away from sin and embracing the Good News, the Gospel. Our schedule for that day of penance is found on page 2. Since ashes are the sign that we intend to keep the discipline of the season, children under age 7 who are not able to do that should not receive this sacrament. Those about to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation are of the age sufficient according to the Church, to understand sin and the difference between right and wrong. They are able to do penance and follow the traditions that we associate with Lent. The ashes aren't a blessing as some may think, they are a challenge.

In the story of the paralytic today, Jesus pronounces that the man's sins are forgiven. Because the scribes contest this, he goes a step further and heals the man of his paralysis. What is missing and left to us to fill in is that sin is the real reason we are paralyzed. Sin, our choosing to turn away from God's love, causes us to remain stuck. God is always ready to forgive us and in the act of confessing our sins we return to the state of our baptismal innocence. Something new. New life in Christ.

Lent is the perfect time to celebrate the sacrament of Penance, to go to confession, to be reconciled. No matter what we call the sacrament, it is there for us. When was the last time you went? We hear confessions on Wednesdays at 6:30pm and Saturdays at 11:00am. This Lent our parish will welcome Bishop David Zubik as the leader of a communal reconciliation service on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00pm. Multiple confessors will be here to pronounce the words of forgiveness in the Name of God and His Church.

Stations of the Cross are prayed on the Fridays of Lent at 7:45, following the weekly Fish Fry. Based on the way Our Lord walked to His crucifixion, these meditations can draw us into the redemptive purpose of suffering.

Beginning Tuesday, March 3, and again on March 10 and March 24, I will offer three sessions that explore the Mass. We'll look at the history behind the ritual, take apart the Eucharistic Prayer of consecration, and talk about the upcoming changes in the texts.

If you have not yet taken your copy of *five minutes with the Word*, our Lenten daily prayer booklet, you may pick up a copy in the baskets in the narthex. Also, don't forget we will offer a 7:00pm Mass on Lenten Wednesdays.

To give everyone plenty of heads up time, I want to let you know that we will celebrate the 12:30pm Mass on Palm Sunday as the Church directs, with a real procession. This means worshippers will be asked to gather in O'Brien Hall for the introductory rites and the procession will make its way to the church from there. Our ushers will invite those coming to Mass to gather in the hall. Only those unable to ambulate should consider not being a part of this important aspect of the liturgy that leads us into Holy Week. All others should expect to be directed to O'Brien Hall.

Mass Intentions: Feb. 22—Mar. 1

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)

Monday, Feb. 23—Polycarp, bishop & martyr

- 8:30a **Joanne Isaac** (The Mack Family)

Tuesday, Feb. 24—Weekday

- 6:30a **Gerlinde Falce** (The Ciancarelli Family)
- 8:30a **Robert J. Koklich** (Paula Koerber)

Wednesday, Feb. 25—Ash Wednesday

- 6:30a **Elizabeth Riveroll** (Stacey Brogno)
- 8:30a **Special Intention for Michael Murphy**
(Uncle Mike & Aunt Mary)
- 12:00p **James Rocco** (M/M George Frost)
- 7:00p **Dolores M. Gross** (Judi Zondorak)

Thursday, Feb. 26—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Pearl Murtaugh** (Jay & Colette Specca)
- 8:30a **Norma Sheehan** (Bud & Maryanne Drake)

Friday, Feb. 27—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Jim & Doris Schauer** (Tom & Ann Hayes)

Saturday, Feb. 28—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Florence Crawley** (Melina Bandi)
- 5:00p **Margaret Lucas** (David & Barb Funk)

Sunday, Mar. 1—1st Sunday of Lent

- 7:30a **John Wasielewski** (Family)
- 10:00a **Eugene Lacatorto**
(Ken & Diane Woodard & Family)
- 12:30p **Fred Smith** (Jay & Colette Specca)
- 6:00p **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
in memory of Dakota Joseph Rolley, requested
by Sam & Edna Rolley.*

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



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
 Rachelle 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. 28—Mar. 1

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Gordon, Norton **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey
EMHC: Greenwald, Mertens, Milavec, Ligman, Norton, P & G
 Adams, Scheuering, LaCamera **Servers:** LaRosa, Hillen,
 Nobers, Curry, Curran

7:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lector: Rossin **Greeters:** Henger, Turchick, R & K Savoldi
EMHC: Hollot, Gavran, Puskarich, E & R McMillan, J & S
 Brooks **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Dembiczak, Mahla **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Fisher
EMHC: McGovern, Stein, Davis, Kail, Schultz, Gaudy, Fisher,
 Cushma, Spinabelli **Servers:** Cushma, L & J Spinabelli, Z & J
 Verner

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo
Lector: Tallon **Greeters:** Ragan, McDonnell **EMHC:**
 Capozza, Ruggieri, Hayward, Baits, K & L Newmaster, Herald
Servers: Traficante, Taylor, Tallon

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo
Lector: Lundquist, Weigman **EMHC:** Roberto, Quinn, Eckels,
 Benya **Servers:** Graves, Eckels

The Many Faces of Love Our Lenten Retreat

Plan to join the parish family this Lent for our retreat the week of March 29. Father Patrick Collins, a retired priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, will lead us in a series of evening “concerts” that explore our connection with the call to be God’s holy people. Monday, March 30, “The Meaning of Human Love: the faces of family and friends”; Tuesday, March 31, “Loving the World: the faces of strangers”; and Thursday, April 2, “The Spirituality of Thomas Merton: loving our own faces”.

Fr. Collins will preach at all the Masses on the weekend of March 28 and 29, to invite and encourage your attendance during the week. The retreat includes him celebrating and preaching the 8:30am Mass, Monday through Thursday, with homilies on the theme: “The Body of Christ and Baptism”, and a 10:30am daytime discussion session, “Where do we fit in?” on Tuesday, March 31, a chance for anyone who wishes to sit with Father and ask questions about living out their faith. He will also preach at the Wednesday evening Lenten Mass on April 1.

Fr. Patrick W. Collins, Ph.D., is an author, preacher, musician and university professor. He senses that his principal vocation is to contemplative living—out of which his various ministries flow. In addition to numerous books and articles, Fr. Collins has produced forty-five TV programs, and a number of videos, among them Thomas Merton: Man, Monk, Myth with Music. Fr. Collins presents what he calls “spiritual concerts” which combine texts and tunes for spiritual insight and growth.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

Wednesday, February 25, is the first day of Lent. It is a day of fast and abstinence, which obliges all those 18—59 to limit food intake to one full meal and two lighter meals, and those 14 and older to refrain from eating meat. Masses are scheduled for 6:30am, 8:30am, 12:00Noon, and 7:00pm. A prayer service will be held at 4:00pm. **Only those who fully intend to follow the discipline of Lent and heed the call to conversion should present themselves for ashes.**

“Unpacking the Mass”

Ever wonder about where the elements that make up our worship have their roots? Fr. Sam is offering a 3 session Lenten adult formation program featuring a look at the Mass. On Tuesdays, March 3, March 10, and March 24, at 7:30pm, join him to explore the meaning behind the ritual. As part of the series he’ll celebrate a “teaching Mass” on Wednesday, March 18, 7:00pm in the Chapel. Call the Religious Education Office to register for the series.

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.



Readings for the Week of February 22

Sunday: Is 43:18-19,21-22,24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12
 Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Mk 9:14-29
 Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Mk 9:30-37
 Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6,16-18
 Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
 Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
 Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Youth Ministry News

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 week and drop them off in the Parish Office by March 2.

Pray With The Refugees!

St. Benedict's own Jesuit Novice, Travis Stoops, is currently working with the Jesuit Refugee Service stationed in Washington, D.C. One of Travis's assignments is a portion of the website called "Praying With the Refugees." We ask our parish to please visit the website at www.jrsusa.org. Here you can click on the link "Praying With the Refugees" and post your reflections after reading Travis's monthly writings and prayers.

Youth Ministry Calendar Feb. 22—Mar. 1

Feb. 22, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
 Feb. 23, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
 Feb. 24, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
 Feb. 24, 6:30p (Church/OBH/PBAC) - Mardi Gras
 Mar. 1, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Lillian Cotugno**, father of our parishioner, Bruce Cotugno, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

New Image for Narthex

Our parish has received an image of Jesus with children, "Let the little children come to me," as a memorial to the late Joseph Femiani from his family. The new image will be placed in our narthex across from the image of St. Scholastica (Benedict's twin). Joe was the founder of the *Watchful Shepherd* program, a way to apply practical solutions to family violence and the abuse of children. He used his talents to establish the means to create a safe environment for children. Jesus welcoming the children is a fitting reflection of Joe's work.

Baptism Preparation Session March 1

Our next parish gathering for parents who are asking for the sacrament of Baptism for their children is set for Sunday, March 1, following the 10:00am Mass. We'll meet in the Library, the space between O'Brien Hall and the Pope Benedict Center. No baptisms are scheduled for the Lenten season, but parents expecting a child are encouraged to attend the pre-baptismal session now. During April and May our regular schedule for the sacrament will be altered because of the celebration of First Eucharist.

Protecting God's Children

A training session for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children", has been scheduled for Monday, February 23 from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. Please call Colette in Religious Education at 724-941-9587 to register for the class.

Children's Envelopes

Envelopes are still available for children who wish to have them. Parents should pick them up in the Narthex of the Church, the Church Office, or outside the Religious Education Office.

St. Vincent de Paul News

Special thanks go out to the teens of our parish youth group for collecting donations for the needy during "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The group collected \$1,272.50 for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul! Congratulations on a job well done.

It is 2008 income tax time and as such, those of you who itemize deductions (Schedule A Form 1040) rather than taking the standard deduction will need to check your bank statements for donations to SVdP on the weekends of March 30, June 22, August 31 and November 30. A computer glitch prevented the reporting of your contributions for 2008. A database is currently in place to track and report your contributions for 2009. Thank you for your understanding and your continued support to help those who are less fortunate.

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



Question of the Week

How did the season of Lent develop?

Lesson of the Week

Can we ever alter the Church calendar?

To answer this question it's good to understand how the Church classifies the celebrations of seasons and feasts. **The season of Easter always comes first.** Easter is the central celebration of the Christian year. The Triduum (Holy Thursday—Easter Sunday), then Sundays of Easter, and then, every Sunday, which is seen as a mini-Easter, receive the most attention in our liturgical celebrations. The season of Christmas follows in importance, then Holy Week, Lent and Advent. *Solemnities*, major celebrations of the universal Church such as All Saints and the other holydays of obligation, and some other major feasts like St. Joseph (March 19), Annunciation (March 25), the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24), and SS. Peter & Paul (June 29), take first preference. Two of those feasts, St. Joseph and Annunciation, fall during Lent, so there is a chance they could fall in Holy Week or Easter Week like they did in 2008. If they do, because of their importance and not wanting to skip them, the Church moves them to the next available date for their celebration. The feast of a parish patron is a Solemnity in that parish, so for us, July 11, the feast of St. Benedict, is celebrated as a Solemnity. Mass that day includes the Gloria and Creed, like a Sunday. Next comes *feasts*, which are those celebrations of importance for the whole Church, such as the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the mother church of Christianity (Nov. 9), some celebrations of the Virgin Mary (Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dec. 12), and feasts of the apostles like St. Matthew (September 21). After that comes *obligatory memorials*, those celebrations we must observe no matter where we live because they have universal importance. An example of this would be the feast of St. Justin (June 1), because of his role in the early Church, and St. Therese of the Child Jesus (Oct. 1), whose intercession is sought by people the world over. Finally come *optional memorials*, saints who may be celebrated depending on local circumstances. The celebrations of feasts and memorials are never moved. If they fall on Sundays they are skipped, except for the most important like the Nov. 9 Lateran Basilica and Nov. 2 All Souls' observances. Any ritual or sacramental that is connected to a particular observance, *i.e.* the blessing of the fire at the *Easter Vigil*, the giving of ashes on *Ash Wednesday*, the blessing of throats for the *feast of St. Blaise*, cannot be celebrated apart from the day intended. So neither for convenience nor to make something available to more people does any priest have authority to change the calendar.

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 2:00pm**, 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. **Note the time change from last week's bulletin.**

Ben's Men Friday Fish Fry

Mark Your Calendar! 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 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.

Collection for Genesis of Pittsburgh

The Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a collection for Genesis of Pittsburgh who is in desperate need of all baby items to help those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Please bring any items you can donate to Pope Benedict Activity Center and place them in the marked collection box before March 8. Items needed include diapers, formula and toiletries, and all new or gently used baby equipment (cribs, strollers, playpens, etc.) and clothing. Contact Beth Quinn at 724-942-1057.

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.



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.

Divorce Recovery Speaker Series

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. 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.

Grow Closer to God This Lent

The Mothers' Prayer & Share group is opening membership to anyone in the parish this Lent. Our purpose is to pray for God's blessings in our lives, to educate ourselves about our faith, and to support each other in our shared values. These goals are of great benefit not only to mothers, but all Catholics, so all are welcome! Please come and join us Friday mornings during Lent at 9:45am in the Nursery of the Church. Babysitting is available and refreshments are provided. Registration is free, but you must call ahead. For more information or to register call Alaina Amorose at 724-825-6562.

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.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, February 22

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

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

Monday, February 23

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Protecting God's Children	
7:00p	Cub Scouts	(213)
7:30p	Divorce Recovery Series	(204/206)

Tuesday, February 24

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
1:30p	Church Decorating	(Church)
3:00p	Youth Ministry—Busted Halo	(PBAC)
	No Religious Education	
6:30p	Mardi Gras	(OBH)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, February 25

12:00p	AA	(208)
4:00p	Ash Wednesday Prayer Service	(Church)
	No Religious Education	
	No confessions because of 7:00pm Mass	
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:30p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

Thursday, February 26

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
9:30a	WOSB General Meeting	(OBH)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	First Reconciliation	(Church)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, February 27

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:30a	Prayer and Share Group	(Cry Rm)
	Lenten Fish Fry 11:00am-1 pm & 4:00pm-7:30pm	
7:45p	Stations of the Cross	(Church)

Saturday, February 28

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:00a	First Reconciliation	(Church)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
6:00p	Italy Trip Meeting	(Chapel)

Sunday, March 1

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

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:00a	Parents' Baptism Preparation	(OBH)
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Youth Ministry Teen Night	(PBAC)



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