



Father Sam's Forum

For forty days Jesus was tempted, Noah rode out the flood waters, and we enter another Lent. Lent 2009. What will it mean for you? If it's just a prelude to Easter then we've missed its great lesson and opportunity. Always about our baptism, our incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church, Lent is our annual retreat. Who am I? What is my life about? Do I matter? Where can I find happiness that is lasting?

We begin this year with the familiar story of Noah and the sign of God's covenant love, a promise not to destroy the earth again so completely. But what of suffering? What of the natural disasters? Do these point, as some would insist, to our moral laxity? To a decline in value-based living? To a lessening of our dependence upon God?

There's nothing like a disaster or crisis to get people back to church some say. I remember the weekends following 9/11 and how full our Masses were. But soon enough the folks who had come looking for answers had dwindled away. Only the regulars kept coming. Why are there no answers? Where are we supposed to find them?

The epistle we have this first Lenten Sunday gives us the clues. It points us in the right direction. While we may never be satisfied with the reasoning, it does offer a connection between our personal suffering and our faith. *Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.* OK, so what does that mean?

Righteousness in biblical language means right relationship. To be deemed righteous is to be in the proper relationship not only with God but with one another. Because humans have been, since the beginning, flawed creatures, what can make us better? The doctrine of Original Sin that we shape from the story of the Fall in the Book of Genesis is not just about the pair in the Garden of Eden. Noah's tale continues that story of human disobedience.

The whole point is this: humanity stood outside the right relationship with God and with itself from the beginning because our egos got in the way—and still do—of our becoming what we were created to be. Only Jesus fully understood humanity as it was intended to be lived out. He was righteous. He maintained a right relationship with the Father and with other people. In laying down his life he showed the way to that right relationship. Sacrificial love.

When we imitate that selfless act of Christ, when we put ourselves last and consider others first, when we empty our egos and remember God is God then we can see why our choices have the consequences they do. In the story of the temptation of Jesus we can find the pull toward selfishness. This year's version from Mark is brief, but other evangelists detail those three selfish choices. When we boil them down they become self gratification through food (and other pleasures?), power, and wealth. We struggle with those all the time.

Forty days. That's not a lot of time. But it is enough to make a difference when we decide to let go of our own desires and look a little more intensely at what we are made for, what we are meant to be. What choices will we make this Lent? Lent 2009. What will it mean for you?

Mass Intentions: Mar. 1—Mar. 8

Sunday, March 1—First 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**

Monday, March 2—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Anna Marie Wiley** (Pete & Pat Orsini)

Tuesday, March 3—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Hubert Ueberschaer** (Wife, Dolores)
- 8:30a **Bob Daufenbach** (Christopher Norton Family)

Wednesday, March 4—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Charles Malloy** (Ann McRory)
- 8:30a **Andrew Palombo** (Jim & Gail Witeneske)
- 7:00p **Dr. Roger Entress** (Val & Beth Bianco)

Thursday, March 5—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **H. D. Taylor, Jr.** (Tim & Ann Curran)
- 8:30a **William P. Kohne, Sr.** (Wife, Doreen)

Friday, March 6—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Special Intention of Cathy Gimiliano**
(Pat & Pete Orsini)
- 1:45p **Manor Care Mass: Joseph J. Kane**
(John & Hilikka Fadgen)

Saturday, March 7—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Special Intention of Joan Yanosick**
(Tom & Carol Fallon)
- 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, March 8—Second Sunday of Lent

- 7:30a **Bruno Menozzi** (Rick & Michelle Menozzi)
- 10:00a **Priscilla Bayer**
(George, Mary Lou & Mary Ellen Frost)
- 12:30p **David John Sunseri** (Val & Beth Bianco)
- 6:00p **Aurora Nunez** (Dottie Capozza)

***The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
in memory of Andrew Palombo,
requested by Paula Palombo.***



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: Mar. 7—Mar. 8

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Smore, Buzzatto **Greeters:** Schardt, Reed **EMHC:** Glod, T & D Martin, Specca, Femiani, Sarra, Vandewater, C & R Satler **Servers:** A Weaver, Lioon, J, J & N Bianco

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Hornack **Greeters:** Kolling, Kalaski, J & R Jackson **EMHC:** Fagioletti, Petricca, Walnoha, Berger, Barton, Vines, Basile **Servers:** Kelly, Bowlin, Shaw

10:00am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: McKenzie, McCabe **Greeters:** Verlato, Irwin **EMHC:** Glover, Orient, Bayer, Daley, Klinar, Faina, McGinnis, L & A Kelly **Servers:** M & A Severa, Mullan, Mackay, Hilzendeger

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lector: Sichi **Greeters:** Fink, Bartoli **EMHC:** S Locke, Oldaker, Smith, Huffner, Torres, P Newmaster, Bench **Servers:** Chaplin, K & C Bench

6:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lector: Shope, Meyer **EMHC:** Phelan, Corbett, Slomiany, Munsick **Servers:** Pfeifer, Corbett

Readings for the Week of March 1

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
 Monday: Lv 19:1-2,11-18/Mt 25:31-46
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
 Thursday: Est C: 12,14-16,23-25/Mt 7:7-12
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
 Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18/Rom 8:31b-34/
 Mk 9:2-10

Parish Lenten Mission

Mark your calendars now to join Father Patrick Collins for his series of spiritual concerts at 7:00pm on Monday, March 30 through Thursday, April 2. Our Lenten Mission revolves around the theme "The Many Faces of Love," which looks at how we see Christ in ourselves, others, and our world. Fr. Collins will also host a coffee talk session during the week, preach at the 8:30am Masses and at the 7:00pm Wednesday Lenten Mass. Tell your friends and neighbors. Invite them to join us.

This Week's Lenten Activities

Tues, 3/3—"The Roots of the Mass" - 7:30pm, 204
 Wed, 3/4—Confessions—6:30pm, church
 Wed, 3/4—Lenten Mass—7:00pm, chapel
 Thurs, 3/5—Eucharistic Adoration begins, 4:00pm
 Fri, 3/6—Fish Fry—serving lunch and dinner, OBH
 Fri, 3/6—Stations of the Cross—7:45pm, church
 Sat, 3/7—Confessions—11:00am, church

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

Parish Share Program 2009

"It's that time of year," begins a popular Christmas carol. For Catholics in the Diocese of Pittsburgh "it's that time of year" as Lent begins. Our diocesan appeal, known as *Parish Share*, commences this weekend and lasts the next twelve months. Every parishioner should have received a letter from Fr. Sam explaining our goal this year—the correct amount is \$202,000, and not \$190,000, as stated in the letter. Also, a pamphlet from Bishop Zubik was mailed detailing the programs that benefit from our support. What does your money do? Your gift to PSP supports the formation of our diocesan seminarians along with continuing spiritual and educational formation of diocesan clergy. It cares for those who are retired and ill. PSP helps you play a vital role in Catholic education in fidelity to the teachings of Christ and His Church through parish-based religious education programs and Catholic schools. Your generosity will help our parish meet its assessment without having to use ordinary operating funds.

"Unpacking the Mass"

Fr. Sam is offering a three Tuesday Lenten adult formation program that takes a look at the Mass. March 3, it's "Where did Mass come from?" March 10, "Dissecting the Eucharistic Prayer" and March 24, "Putting it all together". Join him at 7:30 on those evenings in Room 204. 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. All are welcome, especially parents of our 2nd grade students.



Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Mary Yurkovich**, mother-in-law of our parishioner Carolyn Yurkovich, and our parishioner **Mildred Teodori**, who died recently. + May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

Also remember in your prayers Lillian Cotugno, mother of our parishioner Bruce Cotugno. We apologize for the error in last week's bulletin.

Eucharistic Adoration

This week is our monthly 24-hour adoration which begins Thursday at 4:00pm and concludes Friday at 4:00pm. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

Every month at St. Benedict we have Eucharistic Adoration for a 24 hour period. This humble, yet powerful devotion, takes place from 4:00pm the Thursday before First Friday to 4:00pm First Friday. If you can commit to one hour of adoration at the beginning of each month, call Mary Ann Campbell at 724-942-4297 or Diane & John Slagle at 724-941-2885. If you can't commit to a specific time, please come whenever you can, but come!

Ben's Men Lenten Fish Fry

It's a Family Night Out! Ben's Men invites you to our second Friday Fish Fry from 4:00pm to 7:30pm. We will be serving 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 Clam Chowder (\$2.50). Eat in or take out. Crafts and movies for the kids too!

Once again, we will have our Friday Fish Fry Lunch, which includes a fried fish sandwich, coleslaw, and french fries for \$6.50. Our lunch will be eat-in or take-out and will be served from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Prices are the same as last year, so bring the whole family!

Rite of Sending & Scrutinies

Our RCIA catechumen and candidates will participate in the *Rite of Sending* at the 5:00pm Mass on March 7. This is our parish ritual that prays for them as they meet Bishop Zubik on Sunday, March 8, at St. Paul Cathedral for the *Rite of Election and the Call to Continuing Conversion*. At three Lenten Sunday Masses, those preparing for the Easter sacraments will undergo the *Scrutinies*, a series of three rites that are connected with preparation for baptism. These rites will be celebrated on March 14, 5:00pm, March 22, 12:30pm, and March 29, 7:30am.

Youth Ministry Calendar Mar. 1—Mar. 8

Mar. 1 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Mar. 2, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
Mar. 3, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
Mar. 8, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night

Lenten Breakfast

Through the generosity of Ben's Men, we're inviting you to a Lenten breakfast and discussion on Friday, March 20, following the 8:30am Mass. Fr. Sam will speak about some of the aspects of Holy Week and the Triduum and field questions about the customs and traditions surrounding this sacred time. We'll enjoy a simple breakfast in O'Brien Hall, courtesy of the men's group. **RSVP to the office by March 13 to reserve your spot!**

This Week's Lenten Ministers

March 4: Wednesday's 7:00pm Mass ministers are **Lector**—Mary Liz LaRosa; **EMHC**—Dottie Capozza & Kathy Oldaker; **Servers**—Joey & Anna Lyle
March 6: Stations of the Cross servers are Catherine and Angela Maverich, Marisa Brugger.

CMF Conference

The annual *Catholic Men's Fellowship* 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 \$35 for adults and \$10 for students, and includes bus transportation from SBA and lunch. Contact Ed Corbett, 724-942-6429 or Eccorbett@verizon.net.

Respect Life Collection

The SBA 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. Call Beth Quinn at 724-942-1057 for info.



Question of the Week

How are Mass Intentions handled?

Lesson of the Week

How did the season of Lent develop?

Lent traces its origin to the catechumenate, those who were preparing to become Christian, in the Roman era. As Easter was the major focus for the early Church, the triumph of Jesus over sin and death led others to seek becoming part of this community of believers. In order to become part of the community, there was a period of preparation and instruction. Following the Second Vatican Council, the Church restored this process which we know as the RCIA—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This year in our parish we will have adults to be baptized as well as those already baptized in another Christian faith who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil and celebrate the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist.

As time passed, the practice of baptizing infants became the norm, and so the community began to see Lent in another light. Easter was the time to renew the promises of baptism, and Lent became a journey back to the font. The spiritual practices that came about were because the whole Church began to use these 40 days as a time of renewal and retreat. The three disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving have marked the season for centuries.

Liturgical author Gabe Huck writes this: *Can there be a church at prayer in Lent when there is not a church that is fasting? Can the words and gestures—ashes, stories of wilderness and transfiguration and Lazarus, hymns and chants—find any place when life is already full?* Isn't that the truth! Our lives get so full of other stuff that we hardly have time for all we have to do. But this is a season that says, "slow down, think and reflect, change your routine." When we look at prayer we are called to deepen it. So, how about praying Morning and Evening Prayer? Coming to Stations of the Cross? Reading a passage from the Gospel of John? Check out Fr. Bob Barron's web site at wordonfire.org if you want a current and thought-provoking site about living your Catholic faith today.

Fasting means going without—and that's not just food. That's why we suspend baptisms. It's not business as usual. The absence of what is normal should draw us to hunger for more than the candy and other goodies we give up. Almsgiving is how we share. Bishop Zubik's latest pastoral letter *The Church Sharing!* is a good start to think about our sacrificial giving. Our works of charity, volunteerism and tithing fulfill what is being asked of us.

Calling All Lectors

As part of our Lenten Mission, Fr. Patrick Collins has asked to meet with those who serve in the ministry of reader. The proclamation of the Word of God is such a vital part of every worship service that the Church asks those who perform this ministry to continue in their ongoing formation. Father Collins has two times he can meet with our lectors. There is only need to attend one of the two sessions. The first is Saturday, March 28, following the 5:00pm Mass and the second is Sunday, March 29, following the 12:30pm Mass.

A Day for Women

All women of the parish are invited to a Recollection Day on Thursday, March 12, beginning with Mass at 10:00am in the Chapel with Fr. Donald Chortos, a retired priest of our diocese, celebrating. Father Chortos will be available for the sacrament of reconciliation after the Mass. A hot buffet lunch provided by Gretchen's Good Eats, Inc. will follow, along with a presentation by Fr. Chortos on the Shroud of Turin. Child care will be provided so all stay-at-home moms can enjoy this Lenten opportunity. Reservations are required for the lunch. You are asked to reserve your spot before Friday, March 6. The cost is \$8.95 and forms can be found in the church narthex. The forms and your check made out to *Women of St. Benedict* can be returned to the parish office. Call Kaye Ott at 724-745-9020 if you have any questions about the day.

Library Book Sale Donations

The Library Committee is now accepting used book donations for the upcoming book sale this spring. Marked boxes have been placed in the Library (vestibule of the old church) for collection. Any Christian-based books will also be accepted at this time. The date of the sale will be forthcoming. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated.

Girl Scout Sunday

All girls who participate in the wonderful tradition of scouting will be recognized on March 8 during the 12:30 Mass, followed by a reception in O'Brien Hall immediately afterwards. Girl Scouts in grades K through 12 are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Deborah at 724-941-4864 or Amy at 724-941-6060.

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



St. Vincent de Paul News

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.

Vocation Weekend

Have you been thinking about life as a Priest, Sister or Religious Brother? The Pittsburgh Religious Vocation Council and the Serra Clubs of the Pittsburgh Diocese are sponsoring a Vocation Awareness Weekend at the Martina Spirituality Center, 5244 Clarwin Avenue, West View. The event begins March 27, at 6:30pm and ends March 29, at 12:30pm. The weekend is open to Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 55. There is no charge. For more information or to register call the Dept. for Consecrated Life at 412-456-3068.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Series

Dr. Anthony Esolen will give a presentation about the Pauline passage of 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith," on March 4, at 7:30pm in the St. Paul Seminary Auditorium. Continuing education credit is available for priests, deacons and catechists. The lecture is free, and all are welcome to attend.

Evening of Reflection for Separated or Divorced

The semi-annual Evening of Reflection for those who are Separated or Divorced, sponsored by the Office of Family Life and Catechesis of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will be offered on March 25, from 7-9pm at St. Paul Seminary (Domenec Hall), Crafton. The presenter will be Fr. Eugene Lauer, a priest in the Pittsburgh Diocese, and the topic will be "Unanswered Prayers: An Ongoing Christian Mystery." There is no charge, but a free will offering will be accepted. For further information call 412-456-3160 or www.familylife@diopitt.org.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, March 1

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

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

Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Pastoral Council	(204)

Thursday, March 5

9:30a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	NA	(206)
4:00p	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	(Chapel)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Boy Scouts Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, March 6

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

Saturday, March 7

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
1:00p	Pre-Marriage Class	(210)
5:00p	Rite of Sending	(Church)

Daylight Saving Time Begins Turn Your Clock ahead 1 hour

Sunday, March 8

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

8:40a	Religious Education Session	
11:10a	Religious Education Session	
1:00p	Pre-Marriage Class	(210)
5:30p	RCIA Dinner	(OBH)
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