



Father Sam's Forum

“**F**or God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” These words from the Gospel of John are often seen on placards that people bring to sporting events. Not actually the words, but the reference, John 3:16. It's not a bad idea to have a few Scripture verses memorized, and this is a good one to start with.

Catholics typically are not able to quote the bible. That's sad because the words of the sacred texts are meant to offer us insight into how we might live as followers of the Lord. So many folks seem to think they don't have to keep up in learning about their faith, and so having finished Catholic school or religious education they seem to be quite content. It's kind of silly to think that is sufficient for the rest of our lives. Confirmation is not graduation! Without expanding our minds and continuing to deepen our relationship with God how can we open ourselves to all He wants for us? We change as we age and our life experiences can bring us to a richer awareness of God and the mysteries of our faith.

God uses the most unlikely ways to get our attention. The first reading is about how a Persian king, Cyrus, was used by the Lord to bring the people back to the city of Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple there. For many, Jesus was an unlikely source of the divine. Because he was part of the everyday life around him, some could not bring themselves to accept that God would enter human history in this way. Even with the signs he worked there were those who wanted more or expected another kind of Messiah.

Might we be among those who are always seeking some sign from God instead of opening our eyes to the signs that are all around us? I get them all the time, and I bet you do too. When I am paying close attention, I see them. Otherwise, they go by without so much as a nod from me. Lent is a great time to focus on seeing— not just with our eyes, but with our hearts, with what is called “the eyes of faith.”

It's a different world from 1978 when I was ordained and certainly from the 1950's or 1960's when some of you grew up. Priests today face different kinds of tasks than they did several decades ago. Check our the “Lesson of the Week” on page 4. The high tech age we live in, as well as the necessity for compliance with diocesan regulations to prevent any kind of misuse of finances and proper celebration of the Sacraments, staff development, meetings with all the councils, interaction with parents who are preparing

their children for the sacraments, homilies based on the Scriptures assigned...are all aspects of priestly life today. While there may seem like he has less time for people, the truth is that in many instances the priest sees many more people outside of Mass on a weekly basis than he did fifty years ago.

The real call here though is about the laity doing their part. “God gave His Son,” the Gospel tells us. While the Church will always need priests, she also needs the laity to do their role. It isn't just for Father like it was decades ago. Everyone has their role to fulfill.

Mass Intentions: Mar. 22—Mar. 29

Sunday, March 22—Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:30a **Frank Wojtkowski** (Racko Family)

10:00a **For the People of the Parish**

12:30p **Dilla, Shoats & Zakseske Families**
(Gene & Margot Pitowski)

6:00p **Arthur Beck** (Nephew Jim & Niece Barbara)

Monday, March 23—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Joanne Kaye Barton** (Charlotte)

Tuesday, March 24—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **James Airey** (Susan Airey)

8:30a **Mary Cassidy** (Dan & Carolyn Buckley)

Wednesday, March 25—Annunciation of the Lord

6:30a **Pete Teodori** (Val & Beth Bianco)

8:30a **Thomas Devine** (Mary & James Stadler)

7:00p **Robert B. Miller** (Miller Family)

Thursday, March 26—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Joseph J. Klimek** (Joyce Ann Parks)

8:30a **David Blutas** (Wife)

Friday, March 27—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Elizabeth Puhl** (Jay & Colette Speca)

Saturday, March 28—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Garry Brenner** (Joanne Moss)

5:00p **Albert Wallo** (Jo Lentz)

Sunday, March 29—Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30a **Lee Allan** (Florence Allan & Family)

10:00a **Ronald A. DeBlasio** (The Sadler Family)

12:30p **For the People of the Parish**

6:00p **John Golec** (Son, John J. Golec & Family)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of John Wasieleski, requested by his Family.

The Parish Office will be closed on Sunday, March 29.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Mary Grace Bodnar**, mother of our parishioner Mary Grace Clark, and **Elizabeth J. Huffner**, daughter-in-law of our parishioner Nancy Huffner and sister-in law of our parishioner Diane Huffner Wickstrom, who died recently. + May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.



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:

Mar. 28—Mar. 29

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Collins

Lectors: Satler, Gordon **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Sarra, Vandewater, Klinar, Greenwald, Mertens, Milavec, Ligman, Scheuring, Satler **Servers:** Peterson, Lioon, Curran, A Weaver, Curry

7:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lector: Mamros **Greeters:** Turchick, R & J Jackson, Barton **EMHC:** Glod, Boston, Hollot, Gavran, Puskarich, Kail, Basile **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

10:00am— Fr. Collins, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Ott, Ross **Greeters:** Black, Stewart **EMHC:** Torres, Daley, Serrino, McGovern, Stein, Davis, Schultz, Gaudy, Capozza **Servers:** A & E Ross, Maher, N & V DeRienzo

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Hajzus **Greeters:** McDonnell, Bartoli **EMHC:** Baits, K, L & P Newmaster, Ruggieri, Hayward, Herald **Servers:** Toscano Children

6:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Ross, MacKay **EMHC:** G & P Adams, Norton, Pfeifer **Servers:** Mullan, Rhoads

Readings for the Week of March 22

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16,19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9,12/Jn 5:1-16
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14;8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
 Friday: Wis 2:1a,12-22/Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
 Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Divorce Recovery Series

Our parish will host the final program in this year's series for Catholics who are separated or divorced on March 30 from 7:30-9:00pm in Rooms 204/206. Fr. Brian Welding, JCD, STL, the Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will speak about annulments. There is no fee to attend; however, pre-registration is appreciated. Please call our pastoral associate, Dennis Gehrlein, at 724-941-9406, for more information or to register.

Lenten Confession Times

One of the best practices we can observe during Lent is to celebrate the sacrament of Penance, to go to confession. Our regular Wednesday 6:30—7:00pm confessions **will not** be heard on April 1 because of the Parish Mission or on April 8 because of rehearsal for the Triduum liturgies. Our regular Saturday 11:00—11:30am confessions will be held every week in Lent. We are also hearing confessions on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 7, from 3:00—4:00 in the afternoon. Go to confession early and avoid the rush.

Holy Week Ministry Sign-Up

Please return this completed form before March 25 to offer your services for the listed liturgies; ushers are scheduled directly with Don Ligman.

Palm Sunday: ___ 5:00pm ___ 7:30 ___ 10:00 ___ 12:30
 ___ Lector ___ Greeter ___ EMHC ___ Altar Server

There is no 6:00pm Mass on Palm Sunday

Holy Thursday, 7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
 ___ Lector ___ Greeter ___ EMHC ___ Altar Server

Good Friday, 1:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
 ___ Lector ___ Greeter ___ EMHC ___ Altar Server

Holy Saturday, 8:30pm The Great Vigil of Easter
 ___ Lector ___ Greeter ___ EMHC ___ Altar Server

Easter Sunday: ___ 7:30 ___ 10:00 ___ 12:30
 ___ Lector ___ Greeter ___ EMHC ___ Altar Server

There is no 6:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday

Name(s) _____

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



Lector Meetings

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.

Holy Week in Our Parish

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Masses at 5:00pm Saturday, and at 7:30 & 10:00am, and 12:30pm. The 12:30pm Mass begins in O'Brien Hall with the proclamation of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The procession with palms then makes its way to the church. All who are able should plan to gather in the hall for the beginning of the liturgy.

There is no 6:00pm Mass today.

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday of Holy Week

You are invited to attend morning Mass these days... Monday at 8:30; Tuesday and Wednesday at 6:30 & 8:30. We also have Mass on Wednesday at 7:00pm.

Holy Thursday

The Chrism Mass at St. Paul Cathedral is open to all who want to attend. Bishop Zubik will bless the holy oils used in the celebration of the sacraments at this 10:00am liturgy. The **Mass of the Lord's Supper** begins at 7:00pm and includes the washing of feet of twelve members of the parish who represent various ministries and a parish family. The Holy Eucharist is carried in procession to the Chapel for private prayer which ends with Night Prayer at 11:45pm.

Good Friday

Morning Prayer (in the Chapel), 9:00am; Stations of the Cross, Noon; The Seven Last Words, 12:45pm; and **The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion, 1:30pm**. Tenebrae, the service of shadows, begins at 7:00pm.

Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer (in the Chapel), 9:00am, followed by Church Decorating, 9:30am, and the Blessing of the Foods of Easter, 12:30pm. **The Great Vigil of Easter, 8:30pm**, includes the Blessing of the Fire, Easter Proclamation, Liturgy of the Word, Initiation of New Catholics, and Celebration of the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday

Masses will be celebrated at 7:30 & 10:00am, and 12:30pm. *There is no 6:00pm Mass today.*

Youth Ministry News

Girls Only Twilight Day

We know you love the movie, so we're going to make a day out of it. The youth minister at St. Valentine and Janet Roberto have planned a day on April 4 for high school girls to watch and interpret *Twilight* through the eyes of faith. There will be food, fun, and a lot of sharing. We will leave from St. Benedict's for St. Val's at 11:30am and return around 5:00. Anyone interested should contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

Lead Retreat

This retreat is an overnight leadership experience for 7-8th graders at Camp Guyasuta in Sharpsburg from 10:00am on April 18 through 3:00pm Mass on April 19. The retreat explores how to deal with peer pressure, decision making and Christian leadership. The cost is \$75 per person and includes accommodations, meals, t-shirt, and access to challenge course games, high/low course elements, and climbing/rappelling tower. Registration is required before April 6. Contact Janet Roberto for more information at 724-941-9587.

Summer Mission Trip

Registration is now open for the Youth Ministry mission trip to Louisa, Kentucky from July 26 to August 1 to help Fr. Beiting in his missionary work to the Appalachian people. All high school students going into 10th grade and up are encouraged to reserve their spot now with a \$50 deposit. There will be an informational meeting on April 7 at 7:00pm in the Youth Ministry Office for all parents and teens who are going on the trip. For more information or questions, call Janet at 724-941-9587.

Youth Ministry Calendar *Mar. 22—Mar. 29*

Mar. 22, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night
Mar. 23, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Theology of the Body
Mar. 24, 3:00-4:00pm (PBAC) - Busted Halo
Mar. 29, 7:00pm (PBAC) - Youth Teen Night

Widow & Widowers' Group

The Widow & Widowers' Group will meet for dinner at DeLallos on March 25 at 6:00pm. Please call Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686 for further information. New faces are always welcome.



Question of the Week

What is that music we sing during Lent after the Sign of Peace?

Lesson of the Week

What does a priest do all day?

Fr. Sam remembers that one of the Sisters at his first parish assignment asked the children to think about what the day of a priest was like. One young boy's answer went like this: *get up, pray, brush your teeth, pray, say Mass, pray, eat breakfast, pray....* The entire day was filled with prayer and not much else except Mass and meals. There was no time for visiting the sick, teaching in the school, working on the Sunday homily, or even going to the bathroom. Fr. Sam's own father even remarked once, "you only work on Sunday." That was during his days as chaplain at Scott Regional Center of Kane Hospital and at St. Clair Hospital too. Mr. Esposito then went with his son for the day and saw the variety in a priest's life.

Some Catholics may still be in the dark about what it is exactly that a priest does all week. Administration takes so much of a pastor's day. Adhering to all the required policies of the diocese regarding finances and the paperwork that goes with every aspect of parish life from completing reports to helping with annulments to preparing couples for marriage takes time. Here, in addition to celebrating Mass, having funerals, and the other sacraments such as Penance and Anointing of the Sick, our priests make monthly visits to the two nursing homes in our boundaries, taking Holy Communion to all the Catholic residents there. They anoint those who should be anointed because of their age and condition. Meetings take a lot of the priest's time. A pastor is required to have both a Finance Council and a Pastoral Council, and these bodies have regular meetings as well as meetings to prepare for the regular meetings. Visits to the children's formation programs, from pre-school to high school, takes another piece of the priest's time. Teaching adults about the faith is another part of the priest's week, whether through the bulletin, a formal class, or speaking at a meeting. Staff meetings, diocesan events and gatherings, time for personal study, homily and bulletin preparation make up the rest of the priest's week.

Finally, there are personal appointments. Here the priest acts to listen and sometimes give counsel. This includes everything from marital problems to those who want to offer some advice or promote a new or particular program. Answering phone messages and e-mails, opening mail, signing checks to pay the parish bills. That's the priest's week.

Children's Choir

This year the Children's Choir will sing at the 10:00am Easter morning Mass. Rehearsals will be on the following Thursdays from 4:30-5:30pm in the Choir Room: March 26, April 2 & 9. The Children's Choir is open to those in the 2nd grade or older. Please call Greg Fincham at 724-941-9406 Ext. 304 if you need more information.

Youth Handbell Choir

The Youth Handbell Choir will be ringing at the 10:00am Easter morning Mass. Rehearsals will be on the following Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:00am in the Choir Room: March 28, and April 4 & 11. Those interested must be in the 5th grade or older and be able to read music. There are a limited number of positions to be filled. Previous members are given preference, and others are added in the order in which they contacted the Music Director. Please call Greg at 724-941-9406 Ext. 304 for more information or to express interest.

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.

Volunteers Needed

The Women of St. Benedict will once again be hostesses for the Jesus Day Retreat. We are looking for volunteers to help with serving breakfast and lunch on March 28 from 9:00am until 12:00 noon and from 1:00pm until 4:00pm. Please contact Maria Streno at 724-94-5570 or thestrenos@comcast.net if interested.

WOSB Host "Sutch Sounds"

The Women of St. Benedict will host the Celtic band Sutch Sounds on March 26, at 7:00pm in O'Brien Hall. Sutch Sounds features Adam Sutch, a senior at California High School, who joins six of his family members to create the beautiful Celtic sounds known to the band. For more information about this family, visit adamsutch.tripod.com. All parishioners are invited to a wonderful evening of Irish music and refreshments.



Lenten Fish Fry

Ben's Men invites you to the fifth Friday Fish Fry from 4:00pm to 7:30pm. We are serving our delicious fish dinners (Adult \$7.50/Child \$5.00), 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). Eat in or take out. 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 is eat-in or take-out and is served from 11:00am-1:00pm.

CMF Conference

Join 1700 men of our Diocese at the 2009 Gathering of Catholic Men on April 18, at the AJ Palumbo Center, Duquesne University. There is a line-up of outstanding and dynamic speakers, including Bishop Zubik, TV and radio personalities Mike Clark and Larry Richert, and many others, 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. Tickets will be available after all Masses this weekend in O'Brien Hall.

Parish Trip to Italy

We still have room to take a few more travelers on our parish pilgrimage to the shrines of St. Benedict and a visit to the Tuscan countryside in October. Fr. Sam will serve as spiritual guide for this trip which includes round trip airfare from Pittsburgh on Delta, accommodations for four nights at a Tuscan villa in Montepulciano, outside of Siena, four nights at the Hotel Cicerone near the Vatican in Rome, and one night in Norcia, the hometown of St. Benedict. A tour escort will be provided for the entire trip and Mass will be celebrated in various churches and shrines along the way. In addition to a buffet breakfast daily, one other large meal is included as well as local guides, entrances to museums, wine tastings, and tips at restaurants and hotels. The cost of the trip is \$3698, not including tax and fuel surcharge. A deposit of \$500 made out to "The Renaissance Group" will hold your reservation. Day trips along the way include the cities of Siena, Lucca, Florence, Perugia, and Cascia. The group will attend the papal audience on Wednesday, October 28, and a visit to the Abbey of Montecassino where St. Benedict lived as abbot is also part of the pilgrimage. Dates of the trip are Tuesday, October 20, returning Friday, October 30. More information including a brochure is available at the parish office.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, March 22

*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, March 23

7:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
7:00p	Theology of the Body	(YM)

Tuesday, March 24

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(213)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204-208)
3:00p	Youth Ministry—Busted Halo	(PBAC)
6:00p	Religious Education Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Adult Lenten Class	(204)

Wednesday, March 25

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, March 26

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
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, March 27

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

Saturday, March 28

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

Parish Mission Begins at 5:00pm Mass

Sunday, March 29

*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.

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



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

Extraordinary Ministers

Jack McGinnis
724-941-4213

Finance Council

chair vacant

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

Aimee Schmidt
724-941-7046

Respect Life Committee

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

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431