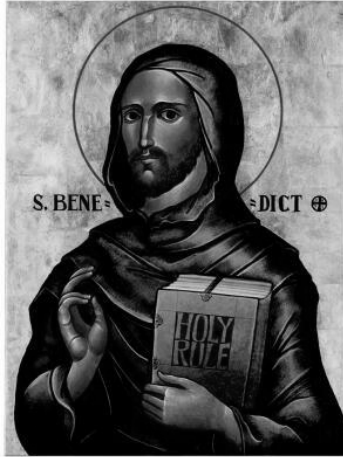




Father Sam's Forum

We have a special week ahead. On Monday, we welcome some of our youngest members for the annual Vacation Bible School. The kids bring life and energy to the parish campus and always have a great time learning about their Catholic faith in a setting that is just a little different from their regular catechetical instruction. We end on Friday with an event for parents as we showcase the kids.

Yesterday, Saturday, July 11, was the feast day of our patron, Saint Benedict. This year we will celebrate him on Sunday, today, as well, using the readings and Mass prayers for him. It will be good for us to reflect on the life and role of our patron saint and his place in the history of Christianity as we begin to shape our pastoral plan with its goals of becoming more welcoming, better communicators and more knowledgeable about our faith. Benedict was all about building community, and that's what we must be about as well.



Speaking of our goals and the pastoral plan, I hope you got to see the press we received in *The Pittsburgh Catholic*, our diocesan newspaper. The article about our plan was featured in the June 25 edition. You can go online to check it out. If you were away on Pentecost and missed the presentation, it is on our web site. Look for the "Pastoral Plan" link on the home page. If you do not currently receive the *Pittsburgh Catholic* at home but would like to, call the office. We encourage everyone to use this local resource.

There are many opportunities for us today to learn about and share our faith via the internet. One of these is a site called *flockNote*. If you sign on, you can register, and there are several feeds already from the parish with more to come. Another good site is *CatholicsComeHome.org*. And of course, again I refer you to Fr. Bob Barron's site, *wordonfire.org*. All of these, as well as many others, continue to promote and support our faith and offer suggestions for families and individuals to practice it more deeply.

In the fall, I will be teaching, leading, facilitating these formation sessions:

1. *The Bible as Theology*—a track for adults on four Tuesday evenings and for teens on five Wednesdays, beginning in September...come and explore the major themes of this book that is central to our faith.
2. *Cooking & the Council*—three Tuesdays monthly—September through November; a chance to discuss some topic, and then I'll share a recipe that's easy to make as well as healthy...we'll cook a little and eat as well as talk.

Watch the bulletin for more information and how to register for these sessions. Space will be limited.

Mass Intentions: July 12—July 19

Sunday, July 12—St. Benedict the Abbot, religious

- 7:30a **Mary McCurdy**
(AJ & Maureen & Friends at Big Picture Con)
- 10:00a **Wedding Anniversary: Art & Lois Kelly and Nick & Joan DeRosa**
- 12:30p **Irene Kosowski** (Gene & Rose Rockacy)

Monday, July 13—Weekday

- 8:30a **Jackie Villani** (Widows & Widowers)

Tuesday, July 14—Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

- 6:30a **Special Intention of Joseph Smith**
(M/M Joseph Smith)
- 8:30a **Frank & Clara Milavec** (John & Rita Milavec)

Wednesday, July 15—Bonaventure, bishop & doctor

- 6:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Amy Baumgartner)
- 8:30a **Ann Bononi** (Robert Bononi)

Thursday, July 16—Weekday

- 6:30a **Albert Hornfeck** (Bob & Susan Bradbury)
- 8:30a **Natalie & Peter Pitowski & Families**
(Gene & Margaret Pitowski)

Friday, July 17—Weekday

- 8:30a **Schweibinz & Meredith Families** (Claire)

Saturday, July 18—Weekday

- 8:30a **Mike & Lallie Lordi** (Children)
- 3:00p **Wedding: Carly DelCorso** (St. Benedict)
Timothy McCall
- 5:00p **James Patnesky** (Wife, Frances)

Sunday, July 19—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **For the People of the Parish**
- 10:00a **Sirianni, Matarazzo & Rullo Families**
(Mario & Rose Rullo)
- 12:30p **Garry Brenner** (Joanne Moss)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Edythe Massack, requested by Joseph Massack, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of John, Mary Catherine & Kathy Quarture, requested by Shirley, Jack & Pete.



Pastoral Staff

To reach a staff member, dial 724-941-9406, and then the extension number listed.

Pastoral Life & Worship

Rachelle Buynak, Formation Office Coordinator— 208
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries- 304
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 206
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 209
 Elaine Motyl, Young Adult Coordinator— 234
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 234
 Colette Specca, Director of Faith Formation— 205
 Jay Specca, Coordinator Adult Formation & Liturgy— 201

Pastoral Administration

Michael Benya, Parish Campus Manager
 Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—200
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance— 200
 Shirley Jacobs, Bookkeeper— 202
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 216
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 200
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager — 200
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance— 200
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor— 200

- Formation Offices: Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

St. Benedict Pre-School

Beverly Jurcic, Director —724-731-0222

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: July 18—July 19

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Ellsworth, Gordon **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt
EMHC: Mertens, Klinar, Glod, Sarra, Milavec, Vandewater,
 Greenwald, Ligman, Femiani **Servers:** Curran, A Weaver,
 Wiegmann, P & M Ellsworth

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Jung **Greeters:** J & R Jackson **EMHC:** S & J
 Christopher, Vines, Prado, Joseph, S & J Brooks **Servers:** J, M,
 A & B Lyle

10:00am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Richardson-Gohring, Ott **Greeters:** Verlatto, Fisher
EMHC: Schultz, A & L Kelly, Serrino, McGovern, Stein,
 Walnoha, Torres, Fisher **Servers:** F & M Meola, A & E Ross,
 Mackay

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lector: Luttner **Greeters:** McDonnell, Bartoli **EMHC:**
 Ruggieri, Eckels, Huffner, Black, B Smith, Hayward, McGinnis
Servers: D, C & L Schratz

A Call for Servers

Interested in helping the priest at Mass? Any child of the parish who will be attending fourth grade or higher in September and is interested in becoming an altar server for the parish may contact the church office at 724-941-9406 and have their name placed on the list. We will begin training toward the end of summer. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Readings for the Week of July 12

Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Eph 1:3-14
 Monday: Ex 1:8-14,22/Mt 10:34-11:1
 Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a/Mt 11:20-24
 Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6,9-12/Mt 11:25-27
 Thursday: Ex 3:13-20/Mt 11:28-30
 Friday: Ex 11:10-12:14/Mt 12:1-8
 Saturday: Ex 12:37-42/Mt 12:14-21
 Next Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is planning its annual Golden Wedding Celebration for couples who have been married for 50 years in 2009. The celebration will begin with Mass at St. Paul Cathedral on November 8, at 3:00pm with Bishop Zubik as the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall at the Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 50th anniversary any time during 2009 and would be interested in attending this joyous event, please call the Parish Office no later than Sunday, September 6. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.

Parish Life Manager

Fr. Sam is pleased to announce that Kathy Pfeifer, formerly our Bulletin Editor and Communications Coordinator, has been hired as the Parish Life Manager. Kathy began her new duties on July 1 and will be assisting the pastor in all the daily aspects of parish office administration. Any regular parish business or office duties and scheduling of parish events, including our own groups and ministries, will be under Kathy's umbrella.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Armella Stark

John & Rita Milavec M/M William Gullborg
 Jay & Dolores Jarrell

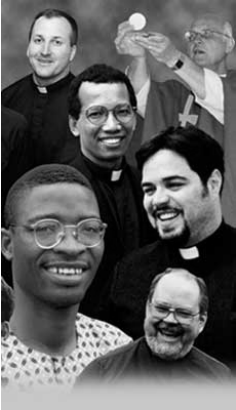
In Memory of Gene Farney

Judith & Richard Hooper John & Rita Milavec
 Virginia & Bill Oberschelp Jay & Dolores Jarrell

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



Church Vocations from Our Parish



This summer, two of our parishioners will profess vows in their religious communities. On July 28, Sr. Maria Francesca (Katie) Wiley, OP, makes her first profession with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia in Nashville, TN. To send a congratulatory note or make a donation to the community, write Sister at *Saint Cecilia Convent, 801 Dominican Drive, Nashville, TN 37228*. On August 15, Br. Travis Stoops, SJ,

will profess his perpetual vows with the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in DeWitt, NY. Congratulations and donations to the formation program of the Province may be sent to *Saint Andrew Hall, 420 Demong Drive, Syracuse, NY 13214*. Because both of these young novices are vowed to poverty they are unable to accept personal gifts.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioner **Victoria Hucko** and **Margaret DiGiorgio**, mother of our parishioner Robert DiGiorgio, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Catholic Scripture Study

Please join us in September when we will begin an in-depth study of the *Book of Genesis*. Genesis sets the stage for God's plan of redemption and plants the seeds of many important doctrines and Christian teachings that unfold in the rest of the Bible. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, and a children's program is available. If you have any questions, please call Tara Curry at 724-942-7539 or Ed Corbett at 724-942-6429.

Parish Picnic News

Ellie Puskarich and Jim Dayka have agreed to chair the annual parish picnic. Our date is Saturday, October 3. Every parish group will be asked to participate and should expect the chairs to contact them in the near future. We need everyone's cooperation to make this year's event a huge success. Watch for more information in the next few weeks, and get involved by helping with this event.

IHN Volunteers Needed

We will be hosting homeless families July 26 to August 1. Volunteers are needed to help with meals (5:30-6:30pm), dessert and hospitality (6:30-8:30pm), overnight (8:30pm-6:30am), and drivers (4:30pm & 6:30am). If you can help or need community service hours, please call Mary at 724-942-2478. We hosted two Moms and their boys in May who enjoyed their stay here at St. Benedict's. God bless all the volunteers who helped with their stay!

Welcome to Life

An Event of Hope, September 12

Join us for *Welcome to Life*, an event of hope for teens and young adults. Special tracks for students in grades 8-9, 10-12, and young adults begin at 2:00pm that day with speakers like Fr. Joe Freedy, Holly Joy Penzanstadler, Marie Milburn, Fr. Kim Schrek, and Fr. Tom Sparacino. Bishop David Zubik will be on hand to celebrate Mass at 5:00, followed by dinner and a chance to meet men and women from a variety of religious orders, a chance to win free stuff, and time to hang out with your friends. Matt Maher and his band will be here in concert at 7:45pm. For tickets, call Janet in Young Adult Ministry, 724-941-9587. Check out the web page at www.stvals.org/pulse/mattmaher. ***N.B. Because the 5:00pm Mass will be celebrated by the bishop with music by the Christian rock band and a large crowd of teens, we want to give a heads up to those who usually attend this Mass. You may want to attend a different Mass that weekend.***

Italian Pilgrimage Meetings

Everyone who has registered for our parish pilgrimage in October is invited to a gathering on Monday, July 13, 6:30pm, at the home of Peter and Mary Bonadio, 104 Homestead Drive, Venetia. Fr. Sam will provide some tips for travel, and we'll discuss the itinerary as well as get acquainted with all who are making the trip. Homestead Drive is located in McMurray Highlands, just past the BP Station on McMurray Road. We'll also have a second meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 7:00pm in Room 210 of the Education & Family Life Center. Some Italian Lessons will be featured along with a show and tell for packing by veteran travelers. *We still have a few openings for those considering this wonderful opportunity to spend time in beautiful Italy and visit the shrines of St. Benedict, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Rita.* Call the parish office for details.



Ask Father Sam

Why does the Diocese of Greensburg confirm students at such a young age?

Lesson of the Week

What about using retired priests to help in light of the fewer number of priests?

Some people have wondered about using our retired clergy to help with the declining numbers of priests who are available for assignments in parishes. This is and has been something that has been done in our diocese for years now. I can remember as a younger priest trying to find a replacement to cover when I went on vacation and often would turn to the list of retired priests. While the priests who are able are often willing to assist in covering in this way, few of them want a regular assignment, or they would not have retired. The fees they receive from this work — yes, we have to pay any priest who comes to celebrate Mass here, the Mass stipend, \$10, that the donor gives, as well as the diocesan regulated offering paid by the parish, \$50 per Sunday Mass or \$35 per weekday Mass, plus mileage — enhance their pensions and social security benefits.

We have in the past months called on some retired priests to cover in the interim period when one pastor leaves and a new one is appointed. This happened, for instance, at St. Bernard. But for the most part, once they are free from the duties of administration, most priests don't want to take those on again. To ask them to do so would be like asking someone who has retired and deserves to enjoy himself to go back to work because they can't find anyone to take his job. It's not really fair.

Just like everyone else, priests are a mixed bag when it comes to who wants to have a regular place to go on Sundays for Mass, and who wants to be able to say yes or no to those kinds of requests. The freedom to travel, to spend time with family and friends, is far more desirable to some than being tied to one place.

As our diocese continues to examine ways to provide pastoral service, there may be new ways to utilize our retired clergy. But we can't expect those who have given many years to continue to expend their efforts just because we don't have sufficient priests for every parish. Having experienced the glut of priests in the 1930's through the 1970's, we were in a kind of bubble in history. Our numbers now will be more reflective of what our country knew in the early 1900's. Mass will always be celebrated. It just may be at a time or place that is not what we have known. So we continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Faith Formation News

Spirit Days

Students who will be in 9th grade this fall and are preparing for confirmation have been scheduled for their "Spirit Days" throughout the summer. Parents of these teens are asked to volunteer as chaperones and to help drive to and from their service sites. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 724-941-9587 if you can help out.

First Eucharist DVD

If you ordered a First Eucharist DVD, they are available for pick up in the Faith Formation Office.

Youth Ministry Mulch Sale

St. Benedict teens are again selling mulch this Summer. This fundraising event helps the Youth Ministry program reduce the cost of summer programs and retreats. Please pick up an order form and price list in the narthex of the Church or in the Church Office.

Electronic Giving

We are ready to begin offering you online giving! Visit the parish website to sign up for online giving and begin donating to the parish automatically. Utilize the internet for the good of the parish through this secure and convenient process. Track parish giving along with your other finances by signing up today. Online giving can be effectively used on its own or in cooperation with regular offering envelopes. If you would still like to receive envelope packets but also want to give online, you have the option to do so. For a list of FAQ's or for more information, go to the parish website at www.stbenedicttheabbot.org.

Library Committee Thanks!

The Library Committee would like to sincerely thank all parishioners who donated the many books for the previous book sale and the Library. Not only was the sale a success, but the Christian-based books will prove wonderful additions to the Library. We will keep the donation boxes in the Library if you should have books you would like to donate in the future. Thank you again for your generosity and kindness. May God Bless.



New Envelope System

By now everyone who has been on the mailing list for parish envelopes should have received the letter about the new company with the choices about how you might want to use them—weekly, monthly, or electronic giving instead of envelopes. In order to save the cost of mailings to households who do not use the envelopes for their contributions, we will stop sending them to those who have not used them for the last two years.

Parish Committee Meetings

Thanks to all who responded to our call to get involved in parish life. The upcoming July meeting dates for the three committees are:

Communication, Thursday, July 16, 7:30pm;
Adult Faith Formation, Monday, July 20, 7:30pm; and **Welcoming, Wednesday, July 22, 7:00pm.** All three meetings will be held in Room 210 of the Education and Family Life Center. For more information, call Aimee Schmidt, 724-941-7406, or Jane, 724-746-6798.

WOSB Garage Sale

The Women of St. Benedict are hosting their annual garage sale on September 18 from 9:00am to 7:00pm and September 19 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The proceeds from this sale allow the WOSB to support many charities. Please begin to put aside those items appropriate for a sale of this nature; i.e. small appliances, furniture, kitchenware, clothing, etc. If you have any questions/pickup, etc., please contact Jackie Buck, at 724-941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805. Please **DO NOT** bring items to O'Brien Hall at this time. Days and times for drop off will be announced at a later date.

Garden Committee Members Needed

A fall bulb sale is in the planning stages for this year to raise funds for the design and renovation of St. Benedict's church grounds. We have a beautiful new structure with soothing and restful interior spaces for our celebrations and prayers. Now our goal is to transform the exterior landscaping to reflect the spirituality of God's creation and provide areas that foster quiet contemplation and repose. If you would like to volunteer in the organizing and execution of the fall bulb sale, please contact Karen Colaianni at 724-942-0868 or email at kcolaianni@verizon.net.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, July 12

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

Monday, July 13

*Vacation Bible School today through Friday
8:45am—12:15pm*

7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

Wednesday, July 15

12:00p AA (UR)

6:30p Confessions (Church)

7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

Thursday, July 16

12:00p NA (UR)

6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

7:30p Troop 1313 (PBAC)

7:30p Communications Mtg. (210)

Friday, July 17

6:00p VBS Picnic (OBH)

7:00p VBS Closing Program (PBAC)

Saturday, July 18

7:30a CMF (206)

9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)

11:00a Confessions (Church)

Sunday, July 19

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

Genesis Thank You

Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc. wishes to extend thanks for your generous contributions in our recent Tag Day Appeal. Your donation will help provide vital programs and services for those living in our community and facing an unexpected pregnancy as well as families with young children in need. We wish you our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

Shoe Box Santas

The Women of St. Benedict are collecting soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc. for families in Appalachia. Please save any hotel samples you get for us. Your cooperation over the past years is greatly appreciated. Last year we packed 433 shoe boxes, and we hope to pack more this year. There will be a collection box in O'Brien Hall.

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



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL . . .

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Altar Servers

Kathleen Bench
724-942-0338

Ben's Men

Jeff Mertens
724-941-6484

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

Fred Abrew
724-941-4696

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