



## Father Sam's Forum

“Come away...and rest a while.” Later this week I plan to take these words of Jesus very seriously as I begin my annual summer vacation. I leave late on Thursday, July 23, and will be back in the parish office on Friday, August 7.

Like sheep without a shepherd is how Mark described the crowds who were following Jesus, while the Prophet Jeremiah speaks a warning to the shepherds who mislead and scatter God's flock. In ancient biblical tradition, it is God who is the Shepherd of the people, but various humans such as the kings of Israel, prophets and other leaders assumed that role.

My favorite part of this reading comes at the end when there is a promise,

*Behold the days are coming...when I will raise up a righteous shoot...he shall reign and govern wisely...do what is just and right in the land.... “The Lord our justice.”*

These are Advent words. Christmas in July? Right. That *shoot* coming from the line of David is how we trace the lineage of Jesus. But tempted as we might be to relegate this as a promise that leads to the crib at Bethlehem, there is more here. The anticipation of a Messiah, of one who would bring about all that was just and right, was a constant hope for Israel.

In the Good Shepherd Jesus, we see God's care for each of us made real. This Sunday's Gospel is a set-up. Beginning next Sunday, we will leave Mark for five Sundays of John. These Johanne Sundays come from Chapter 6, the “Bread of Life” discourse as it is known. Jesus, who wants to feed the crowds who come seeking nourishment, those who desire to be filled with God, will offer what they seek.

Today's writing from St. Paul allows us a kind of synopsis of all this. Paul writes that Jesus came, *that he might create in himself one new person...thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross.* This is what humanity seeks: meaning and relationship. We hunger for these and often look in so many wrong places to find them.

We call this covenant love—God's desire to enter relationship with people. Wanting no one to be lost, our God always invites and encourages us to come home—to be family—to strengthen our bonds. This is why it is so important to be a welcoming community.

**Parish news:** In my desire to increase our cadre of liturgical ministers, I'd like to personally invite all high school students to consider sharing your talents with us. Those who might be open to exploring the ministry of lector, usher, greeter, cantor should give me a yell. And anyone who can identify a teen you think might be a good minister please do the same.

The priests of our vicariate will meet this week for the first time with Fr. Fred Cain, our new vicar. Please keep us in your prayers as we come together to take a hard look at how we can be the Church Alive!

### Mass Intentions: July 19—July 26

#### 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)

#### Monday, July 20—Weekday

8:30a **Virginia Regina** (Richard & Monica Mahla)

#### Tuesday, July 21—Weekday

6:30a **Arthur Muenckler** (Bud & Maryanne Drake)

8:30a **Kluglein & Schwerman Families**  
(Carolyn Kluglein)

#### Wednesday, July 22—Mary Magdalene

6:30a **Walter Janulewicz** (Dee Petricca)

8:30a **John Schano** (Jerry Serrino)

#### Thursday, July 23—Weekday

6:30a **James C. Rocco** (Ron & Marion Selva)

8:30a **Irene Kosowski** (Jo Lentz)

#### Friday, July 24—Weekday

8:30a **Mary Jayne Capannelli**  
(Mary {Judy} Stewart)

#### Saturday, July 25—James, apostle

8:30a **Doris Patnesky** (Rochelle Hindman)

3:00p **Wedding: Jenn Molseed**  
**David Gallaher**

5:00p **50th Wedding Anniversary**  
(Kip & Rita Milavec)

#### Sunday, July 26—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **Joseph Fisher** (Tom & Diana Fisher)

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

12:30p **Sal Palmisano** (Joanne Moss)

***The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Dr. Robert Williams, requested by Shirley, and the Altar Flowers are in honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of John & Rita Milavec, requested by Children & Grandchildren.***

***Beginning next Sunday, July 26, the Parish Office will be closed on Sundays until September.***



## 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 Specia, Director of Faith Formation— 205  
 Jay Specia, 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 25—July 26

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Buzzatto, Benya **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** Klinar Mertens, C & R Satler, Getto, Specia, P & G Adams, Scheuering **Servers:** Getto, LaRosa, Traficante, Curry, Peterson

**7:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** Mamros **Greeters:** Barker, Kalaski **EMHC:** Boston, R & E McMillan, Berger, Fagioletti, Gavran, Kail **Servers:** E, M, E & J Jozwiak

**10:00am**— Fr. Chortos, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Morosco, Wanninger **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Glod, Capozza, T. Mauro, Davis, Gaudy, Orient, Faina, Cushma, Wanninger **Servers:** Byrne, Cushma, Carrington, Pampena, Shaw

**12:30pm**— Fr. Keane

**Lector:** Zuk **Greeters:** McDonnell, Ragan **EMHC:** Huffner, Eckels, Ruggieri, Baits, Slomiany, Herald, Bench **Servers:** Hillen, K & C Bench

## Welcome to Life



Join us Saturday, September 12, 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](http://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 another time.**

### Readings for the Week of July 19

Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34  
 Monday: Ex 14:5-18/Mt 12:38-42  
 Tuesday: Ex 14:21-15:1/Mt 12:46-50  
 Wednesday: Ex 16:1-5,9-15/Jn 20:1-2,11-18  
 Thursday: Ex 19:1-2,9-11,16-20b/Mt 13:10-17  
 Friday: Ex 20:1-17/Mt 13:18-23  
 Saturday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28  
 Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

## Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family these newly baptized: **Leo Aaron**, son of Frank & Michelle Hunter; **Mason Richard**, son of Richard & Chelsey Miller; **MacKenzie Anne**, daughter of Patrick & Kelly Walsh; **Caroline Grace**, daughter of Richard & Amanda Pistner; **Harry Michael**, son of Harry & Kristan Marchewka, Jr.; **Camryn Rose**, daughter of Nathan & Leah Gambill; and **Nikolas Christos & Dominic Michael**, sons of Moises & Marian Morales. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

**The second collection next weekend will be for Special Parish Projects: Pope Benedict Center Renovation.**



## 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.

## 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 Committee Meetings

Thanks to all who responded to our call to get involved in parish life. The upcoming July meeting dates for two of the committees are: **Adult Faith Formation, Monday, July 20, 7:30pm;** and **Welcoming, Wednesday, July 22, 7:00pm.** Both meetings will be held in Room 210 of the Education and Family Life Center. For more information, call Aimee Schmidt, 724-941-7046, or Jane, 724-746-6798.

## 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. Benedicts. God bless all the volunteers who helped with their stay!

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Kaleb Sanford**, infant nephew of our parishioners Jenny & Jerry Barney, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

## Anniversary Masses

Any couples who will mark 25th or 50th wedding anniversaries in 2010 should submit your requests for Masses for those occasions to Kathy Pfeifer now. Before the 2010 Mass Book opens in the fall, we want to be able to offer the dates you want to honor your marriage. Just drop Kathy a note—in person or via mail or email—and give the date and time you'd like. She will confirm with you in August.

## 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 names placed on the list. We will begin training toward the end of summer. Watch the bulletin for more information.

## Bye, Bye Birdies

The Bye, Bye Birdies of St. Benedict is hosting the fourth annual Ladies Golf Scramble to benefit the Washington City Mission on September 15, 2009 at Fort Cherry Golf Club. Registration is \$75 which includes coffee and donuts, 18 holes of golf, lunch buffet, and team and skill prizes. Sponsorships start at \$10. For details call Debbie at 724-969-0873 or the Washington Mission at 724-228-9240.

## Steeler Raffle Tickets

Ben's Men will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win Steeler tickets after all Masses this weekend in O'Brien Hall.

## 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.



## Ask Father Sam

*What changes in the Mass are coming?*

### Lesson of the Week

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

Those of you who have relatives or friends in our neighboring diocese, Greensburg, may note that children there celebrate the sacrament of confirmation around the same time as their First Eucharist. It seems strange, doesn't it? Especially because we have become used to seeing our young members confirmed in the 8th or 9th grade in our own diocese.

Considering the rationale behind this change which has been in effect for a number of years in the Greensburg Diocese, it does make sense. That sense comes from history. Confirmation for the first Christians was not a separate sacrament, but a part of baptism. Over time, in the West—by *the West* I mean the Roman Catholic Church—as more and more people became Christian, it was difficult for the bishop to baptize them all. So, in order to keep the connection between the bishop and those who were baptized, the second anointing, *chrismation*, which means the anointing with the sacred oil known as chrism, was separated from the baptismal ritual. The rite became its own and known over time as confirmation, with the bishop coming to administer this.

This did not happen in the East—by *the East* I mean the Orthodox Churches, and then those churches that were reunited to Rome and are known as Byzantine (Eastern Rite) Catholic. For these, baptism confirmation and Eucharist are considered as one sacrament of initiation and administered together. While some of the eastern rites have taken to not administering Eucharist at the same time but at a later age as we do in the West, initiation by and large is seen as one entity.

Personally, I agree with history. I would like to see confirmation put back where it was historically. But that's my opinion. Others would certainly disagree. If that were to happen, we would eliminate this wrong notion that confirmation means “graduation” from learning about faith. Because we never stop learning, because faith formation is life-long, and because faith is caught not taught, we have to see the bigger picture when considering the age for the celebration of the sacraments. Not pit stops along the journey, but moments of grace that enhance it.

## Mass Survey Results

The results of our parish survey for the new Mass times will give us this schedule: *Saturday Vigil—5:00PM (no change); Sunday 7:45, 9:30, 11:30.* Fr. Sam will write to Fr. DiNardo with the results and request the adjustment in the schedule. It will most likely begin in September, following Labor Day, which is the weekend of September 12/13. Watch the bulletin for definite details after the permission is received. The numbers for each choice were: 4:30 (Sat) **437**; 5:00 (Sat) **705**; 5:30 (Sat) **473**; Sunday option 1, 7:45—9:30—11:30 **858**; Sunday option 2, 8:00—9:45—11:45 **763**. Some people wrote comments on their survey forms including “bring back 6:00pm Sunday” but these were few in number, less than ten. We all have to understand the reality of fewer priests and diocesan guidelines for scheduling Masses. When the 6:00pm Sunday Mass began here, there were four priests living in the Rectory. Now we have two, and in a few years there will be one.

## Building Fund Donations

### In Memory of Armella Stark

Paul & Joan Owens	Alberta Labriola
John & Patricia Neurohr	Paul & Sandra Stark
Donald & Marjorie Stark	Jean Crowley
Judy & Marty Beichner, Jr.	
Antoinette & Margaret Graupe	

## 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.

## 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.



## 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](http://www.stbenedicttheabbot.org).

## 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. Set up days are September 13-17. The proceeds from this sale allow the WOSB to support many charities. As in the past, please save good, clean items for the sale; i.e. small appliances, furniture, kitchenware, clothing, etc. If you have any questions 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.

## Honor Roll Project

The VFW Post 8308 in Lawrence is in the process of adding and updating the names on the honor roll monument. If you or any family member's names are missing from the honor roll, please call Gerry Graziotto at 724-941-3455 or Sandy Snyder at 724-941-7218. Anyone who served during any conflict and lived in Lawrence is eligible. Please get in touch with us so that we can honor those veterans.

## Attention Singles, 21 & Over

Looking for a new way to meet people, make friends, and share good times with others? Check out the Catholic Alumni Club. The group offers tennis, parties, picnics, dances, hiking, volleyball, dinners, scripture study, trips, and many other great events. For more information or an application, go to their website: [www.cacpittsburgh.org](http://www.cacpittsburgh.org), or call at 412-341-4070.

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

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, July 19

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

### Monday, July 20

7:00p      Aerobics      (PBAC)  
7:30p      Adult Faith Formation Mtg.      (210)

### Tuesday, July 21

8:30a      Special Needs Children      (210)  
7:00p      Finance Council Meeting      (Rectory)

### Wednesday, July 22

9:00a      Spirit Day      (204/206)  
12:00p      AA      (208)  
6:30p      Confessions      (Church)  
7:30p      Tae Kwon Do      (OBH)  
7:30p      St. Vincent de Paul      (206)  
7:30p      Welcoming Committee Mtg.      (210)

### Thursday, July 23

12:00p      NA      (206)  
6:00p      Aerobics      (PBAC)  
7:30p      Troop 1313      (PBAC)

### Friday, July 24

8:30p      Special Needs Children      (210)

### Saturday, July 25

7:30a      CMF      (206)  
9:00a      Aerobics      (PBAC)  
11:00a      Confessions      (Church)

### Sunday, July 26

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

## Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard, a weekend retreat designed to heal the emotional and spiritual wounds of abortion, will be held August 21-23 at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. In a confidential and supportive atmosphere, Rachel's Vineyard demonstrates God's love, forgiveness, and compassion to women and men struggling with abortion's aftermath. The weekend is sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. To register or for more information, call Ann Depner or Karen LaFrance at 412-456-6999, or call Toni Jester at 412-352-5348 before August 14. Registration information is also available at [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org).

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



## 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