



Father Sam's Forum

The interruption in our cycle from the Gospel of Mark begins this Sunday with five weekends given over to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. Known as the “Bread of Life Discourse,” these readings from John ask us to consider several things.

First of all, we know about hunger in our world. As Jesus feeds the multitude with very little in the way of material resources, we might think about how we can reach out to others who hunger—not just for bread, but for companionship and affirmation. Each time we participate at Mass, we are sent forth to bring the light of the Gospel into the lives of those people.



Jesus not only feeds the people, but in the course of the next several weekends, we will hear his teaching. “Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man,” is a verse in the popular hymn, “I am the Bread of Life.” After giving the people bread for their stomachs, Jesus offers something

more, spiritual food for their souls. Catholics interpret this passage in reference to the Eucharist.

Recent polls indicate that there are a good number of Catholics who don't understand that the Eucharist is the “real presence” the actual Body and Blood of the Lord. While Orthodox Christians hold this same belief, other Christians understand Communion as symbolic, only pointing to the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, giving over his body and shedding his blood for us. We don't. We believe that in this sacrament we receive Christ, and in receiving we are called to become what we receive.

What is your attitude toward the Eucharist? In the manner we receive, we demonstrate how we reverence the Lord's Body and Blood. When the minister of Communion presents the consecrated elements, he or she says, “The Body of Christ,” “The Blood of Christ.” These ancient declarations not only identify the bread and wine that have changed but the realization that the one who receives is also a part of the Body of Christ. We are meant to become what we receive, to be broken and poured out for others. That's why we answer “Amen” to the minister. St. Augustine tells us that our “Amen” is the way we affirm the belief we hold as a Christian community.

Our Italian Pilgrimage is full! We have over forty persons who are traveling to the shrines of Saint Benedict in October. As spiritual director of the group, I am looking forward to preparing for the celebration of Masses in some truly wonderful places, such as the Lateran basilica in Rome and the Church of Saint Benedict in Norcia, his birthplace. Our next group meeting is set for Tuesday, August 11, 7:00pm in Room 204/206.

I have ordered a new festive altar cloth for the Chapel because of some damage—from candles—to the one we would normally use for those seasons. If anyone would like to memorialize this cloth, the price is \$375. Call Kathy or Shirley in the office.

Mass Intentions: July 26—August 2

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)

Monday, July 27—Weekday

8:30a **Marguerite Singer** (Amy Baumgartner)

Tuesday, July 28—Weekday

6:30a **Vincenzo Perrone** (Sue George & Daughters)
8:30a **Marguerite Singer** (Wedding Coordinators)

Wednesday, July 29—Martha

6:30a **Theresa Casilli** (Mary Clare Krusing)
8:30a **Frank Kiefer** (Loving Wife, JoAnn)

Thursday, July 30—Weekday

6:30a **Carol Seman** (Neil Seaman)
8:30a **Louis Tomshay** (Family)

Friday, July 31—Ignatius of Loyola, priest

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

Sat., Aug. 1—Alphonsus Liguori, bishop & doctor

8:30a **50th Wedding Anniversary**
Jay & Dolores Jarrell
5:00p **Special Intention** (Bob & Irene Gordon)

Sunday, August 2—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **Helen Hauck** (The Jozwiak & Ralicki Families)
10:00a **Geraldine Ehland**
(Moore-Boehm Enterprises)
12:30p **For the People of the Parish**

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Frank Kiefer, requested by JoAnn Kiefer; the Bread & Wine is in memory of Wilma Lokash, requested by Gerri Sopko; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Frank Kiefer, requested by JoAnn Kiefer.

The Parish Office is 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 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

Readings for the Week of July 26

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15
 Monday: Ex 32:15-24,30-34/Mt 13:31-35
 Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28/Mt 13:36-41
 Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35/Jn 11:19-27
 Thursday: Ex 40:16-21,34-38/Mt 13:47-53
 Friday: Lv 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37/Mt 13:54-58
 Saturday: Lv 25:1,8-17/Mt 14:1-12
 Next Sunday: Ex 16:2-4,12-15/Eph 4:17,20-24/Jn 6:24-35

Building Fund Donation

In Memory of Armella Stark

Mary Lou Marzina

In Memory of Gene Farney

Michael & Debra Meteney

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.

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: August 1—August 2

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Knab

Lectors: DiBartolo, Norton **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Femiani, Ligan, Greenwald, Vandewater, Milavec, Sarra, Norton, T & D Martin **Servers:** A Weaver, Curran, Meyers, W & D DiBartola

7:30am— Fr. Knab, Deacon, Layton

Lector: Rossin **Greeters:** Barton, Henger **EMHC:** Walnoha, Vines, J & S Christopher, Petricca, Puskarich, Basile **Servers:** M & A Severa, Kelly

10:00am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: McKenzie, Dembiczak **Greeters:** Verlato, Stewart **EMHC:** Kail, Klinar, McGinnis, Torres, Stein, McGovern, Serrino, Schultz, Bayer **Servers:** Mullan, Oberschelp, N & V DeRienzo, Chaplin

12:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: McPoyle **Greeters:** Becker, Bartoli **EMHC:** Eckels, Huffner, Capozza, Hayward, B Smith, Black, P Newmaster **Servers:** Toscano Children

Guest Speaker Next Weekend

Next weekend, please welcome Rev. George Knab O.M.I. who will be with us to celebrate Masses and tell us about the work of Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. CFCA is a lay Catholic sponsorship ministry that helps children and elderly in 24 developing countries. To learn more, call 800-875-6564 or visit CFCA online at www.cfcausa.org.

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 wrote to Fr. DiNardo with the results and requested 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 according to the church building’s seating capacity as well as the number of priests. 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.



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.

Summer Projects *in our parish*

This summer we have a number of improvement projects happening around our parish campus. If you remember last summer we were working to spiff up O'Brien Hall with new paint and lighting, and we have most of the sheers in place for the windows there. This summer we need to touch up the paint because of wear and tear, but have a few other projects. A major project is to consolidate all our telecom and datacom networks so we are up to date with the technology we use for such things as our voice mail, being able to have expanded connectivity to the church and Rectory, the ability for wireless connections to the internet in every classroom, digital phones in all our offices, and a central location for the controls. It's a big job and we expect the cost to be around \$35,000. Because this is far more than we can take from ordinary operating expenses, we may have to ask the diocese for a loan to complete the project, and that amount would be added to our capital loan that we are paying monthly from the debt reduction offerings. Our Finance Council will advise Fr. Sam about the viability of going forward with this project. Secondly, we plan to paint all the classrooms in August, and we are trying to get our design together for the improvements that we have to make in the Pope Benedict Activity Center. We have met with some folks who gave great advice. Now we need to determine what are the first steps we should take on the project which looks to improve sound and lighting in that space and make it user-friendly for a number of events and groups, especially our teens who will gather there for middle school and young adult ministry. It also has potential for fund raising programs. Stay tuned.

Youth Ministry News

Prayers for Mission Trip

Please keep the teens and adults who will be in Louisa, Kentucky this week in your thoughts and prayers. They will be helping the Appalachia community by doing warehouse work, home repair and general community outreach.

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.

Alive Again!

An Event of Hope, September 12

Join us for *Alive Again* 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. ***The 5:00pm Mass will be celebrated by the bishop with music by the Christian rock band.***

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

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



Ask Father Sam

What is Cooking and the Council?

Lesson of the Week

What changes in the Mass are coming?

Some of you may have heard about the revision of the texts we use at Mass (the prayers) that will be coming in the future as a result of a new edition of the Roman Missal. Why, you might ask, is this important? What are they doing messing with the prayers we have become familiar with over many years? As best I understand, here's the scoop.

In 1969, following the Second Vatican Council's call to update the liturgy according to the earliest texts and form, we received our current Mass prayers. Introduced in Advent 1969, these replaced the temporary English prayers we had from the end of the council in 1965. If you can recall those, you may still remember responding, "And with your spirit," when the priest said, "The Lord be with you."

The Roman Missal was updated in 2002, and every conference of bishops around the world was asked to check the translation of their vernacular texts to see that they were faithful to the Latin texts. It became apparent that our 1969 edition was not. Those who worked on the 1969 version, a group known as ICEL, the *International Committee on English in the Liturgy*, had taken the approach of a more poetic translation when rendering the Latin prayers into English. Since the 2002 edition of the missal, those in charge of the liturgy have asked bishops to be more precise in the prayer texts.

We expect the new translation to be in our hands for Advent 2011, more than two years from now. In addition to containing expanded prayers, like those for saints canonized since 1969, there are expected changes in the *Glory to God, Creed*, and a few other familiar prayers. We already have the GIRM, that is, the General Instruction for the Roman Missal, which is the directives about how we celebrate liturgy. We have followed those already in such things like the way we distribute the Eucharist and care for the sacred vessels and how we do the Triduum.

Change can be difficult to accept or understand for some of us, but these changes are just a part of our expanding spiritual life as we try to form our lives to Christ and see that we live out our journey of faith as part of Christ's Body, the Church. As we receive more information I will be sure to share it with you via the bulletin and other forums.

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.

Registration 2009/2010

Registration for Faith Formation classes has been mailed to families for grades K-8. Please return the registration forms to the Faith Formation Office as soon as possible along with your registration fee. This fee helps to support our many formation programs that serve over 1300 children. Families are reminded that due to the size of our programs, requests for placement in classes will not be honored. Those parents who choose to home-school still must register their children and will be charged an adjusted fee.

Hopefully the new Mass schedule and the adjusted Faith Formation class schedule will alleviate some of the parking lot traffic concerns. The schedule for the first session of classes on Sunday morning will run from 9:00-10:10am; the second session will run from 11:00am-12:10pm. The Tuesday evening session remains the same time at 6:00-7:15pm. Seventh and eighth grades will meet every Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:30pm in a different format. If you have any questions, contact the Faith Formation Office at 724-941-9587 or stbeneccd@yahoo.com.

Thinking of Becoming Catholic?

We're on a search for all those folks in our area who have ever thought about becoming Catholic. Maybe your spouse is Catholic, you come to Mass with them, and yet you haven't ever felt a part of our faith community because you aren't able to receive the sacraments. The RCIA—*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*—begins again in a few weeks. We are looking for young adults and older ones, too, who are considering what it might be like to be part of the Church. A get acquainted picnic is being planned for Wednesday, August 19. Anyone interested can come. If you need more information, or have any questions, contact Jay Specca, our adult formation coordinator, at 724-941-9587.



Magnificat Pittsburgh

Ladies, Magnificat Pittsburgh is honored to present Bishop David A Zubik as the speaker at our joy-filled Prayer Breakfast on August 22 from 9:00am until noon at the Sheraton Four Points in Cranberry Township. Born in Sewickley, he grew up in Ambridge and is the fifth native son to lead the Diocese of Pittsburgh. A man of many accomplishments, he was named by Pope Benedict XVI as the 12th Bishop of Pittsburgh in 2007. He will talk about his roots and the presence of God throughout His life, especially in his call to the priesthood. Hear also about Bishop Zubik's special devotion to the Blessed Mother whose discipleship inspires him in his obedience to the Will of God. The cost of the breakfast is \$18, and the registration deadline is August 14. For more information, call Kay at 724-772-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906 or see www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.

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.

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.

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.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 27

7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

Wednesday, July 29

12:00p AA (208)
6:30p Confessions (Church)
7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

Thursday, July 30

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

Saturday, August 1

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

Sunday, August 2

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

Electronic Giving



Forget your envelopes when trying to get ready for Mass? We have begun to offer you online giving! Visit the parish website to sign up for online giving and begin making your donations to the parish from the convenience of your own home. Utilize the internet for the

good of the parish through this secure and easy 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. And 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 and check out the link for *Online Giving*.



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