



## Father Sam's Forum

Since I am away for vacation, today's column comes to you from our Parochial Vicar....

The priesthood of Jesus Christ is one of the most powerful and important mysteries of our catholic faith. Since the founding of the Church, Christ has willed that certain men should be called to receive from him the sacred offices of teaching, leading and sanctifying his holy people. Throughout the ages, men of every race and tongue have been called and ordained to offer sacrifice on behalf of the people of God and for the sanctification of the whole world. Each priest is ordained in the order of Christ, the High Priest, and stands at the core of the sacraments as an *alter Christus*, (another Christ). It is from the unworthy, yet consecrated hands of the priest, that the sinner is reconciled to God in Confession; the faithful are fed with the Eucharist at Mass, and the infirmed find strength in the Anointing of the Sick. The ministerial priesthood is simply indispensable in God's plan of salvation. It is for this reason that our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI declared on June 19, 2009 the "Year of the Priest." Throughout this year the universal church and each individual believer is to direct their thoughts and prayers toward the reality of the priesthood.

In these modern times it cannot be denied that the number of active priests in the United States, and even throughout the world, continues to decline. There are many factors that contribute to this reality, but as believers in God's infinite goodness, we must continue to pray for good and holy men to answer the call of God and become priests of Jesus Christ.

This week we are celebrating the memorial of Saint John Marie Vianney, a parish priest who served in the little town of Ars, France. On August 4, 2009 we celebrate the

150th anniversary of his passing into eternal life. When Saint John Vianney arrived at the sleepy town of Ars to be their parish priest he meet a small boy standing on the hill. He asked the boy where he could find the town. Immediately, the boy grasped his hand and told him that he would take him to the village.



Saint John Vianney pointed to the sky and said, "If you show me the way to Ars, I will show you the way to heaven." The remainder of this saint's life reflected that statement. He worked tirelessly to bring Christ to his people through prayer, charity, penance and the sacraments. Throughout his ministry, St. John Vianney welcomed tens of thousands to the sacrament of confession, sometimes hearing confessions for 12–15 hours a day. There is no wonder why he is the model of the diocesan priest.

Saint John Vianney, patron saint of priests, pray for us and beseech almighty God to call more priests to serve his flock, that they too may show the world the way to heaven.

### Mass Intentions: Aug. 2–Aug. 9

#### 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**

#### Monday, August 3–Weekday

- 8:30a **Edward McCloskey** (Amy Baumgartner)

#### Tuesday, August 4–John Mary Vianney, priest

- 6:30a **Harry Sites** (Matt & Kelly Hillebrand)  
 8:30a **Eric Scheuering** (Mom & Dad)

#### Wednesday, August 5–3rd anniversary of the dedication of our church

- 6:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Karen & Frank Yocca)  
 8:30a **Joseph Fisher** (Jean & Bill Callaghan)

#### Thursday, August 6–Transfiguration of the Lord

- 6:30a **Michael Yurkovich**  
 (Ralph & Barbara Ciccone)  
 8:30a **Elsie & Charles Fussenegger**  
 (Gail & Charles Fisher)

#### Friday, August 7–Weekday

- 8:30a **Dante & Mary Paluselli** (Jack & Marilyn)  
 1:45p **Manor Care: James C. Rocco**  
 (Leo & Lois Rosati)

#### Sat., August 8–Dominic, priest

- 8:30a **Steve Wojtkowski** (Racko Family)  
 3:00 **Wedding: Star Rinehart** (St. Benedict)  
**Daniel Zubritsky**  
 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

#### Sunday, August 9–19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30a **James Rocco** (7:30 Sunday Mass Group)  
 10:00a **Irene Kosowski** (Annette Karnash)  
 12:30p **Richard Doncals** (Valerie Voss)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of the Parents and Deceased Family Members, requested by Lois McCloskey, the Bread & Wine is in memory of Bruce Fussenegger, requested by Gail and Charles Fisher.*



## 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: August 8—August 9

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton  
**Lectors:** Hruby, Auer **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** Ligan, Femiani, Glod, Scheuring, G & P Adams, Specca, Getto, Mertens **Servers:** LaRosa, Getto, J, J & N Bianco

**7:30am**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lector:** Brugger **Greeters:** Boston, Turchick **EMHC:** Gavran, Fagioletti, Berger, E & R McMillan, J & S Brooks  
**Servers:** Traficante, Bowlin, Brugger

**10:00am**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lectors:** Wells, Mahla **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Fisher **EMHC:** Ruggieri, Faina, Orient, Gaudy, Davis, Fisher, T & E Mauro, Spinabelli **Servers:** Watson, D DeRienzo, L & J Spinabelli, Hilzendege

**12:30pm**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lector:** Sichi **Greeters:** Ragan, McDonnell **EMHC:** Hayward, Capozza, Huffner, Eckels, McGinnis, Slomiany, Baits  
**Servers:** Luzier, Graves, Taylor

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

### Readings for the Week of August 2

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4,12-15/Eph 4:17,20-24/Jn 6:24-35  
 Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Mt 14:13-21  
 Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Mt 14:22-36  
 Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-29a,34-35/Mt 15:21-28  
 Thursday: Dn 7:9-10,13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10  
 Friday: Dt 4:32-40/Mt 16:24-28  
 Saturday: Dt 6:4-13/Mt 17:14-20  
 Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Eph 4:30-5:2/Jn 6:41-51

## Building Fund Donations

In Honor of 50th Wedding Anniversary of  
**John (Kip) & Rita Milavec**

John & Nancy Mizia Nancy Huffner  
 Erm & JoDee Hartman  
 George, Mary Lou & Mary Ellen Frost

## New Mass Times

Following permission from the Vicar for Canonical Services, the Very Reverend Lawrence DiNardo, our Sunday Mass schedule will change on September 13, 2009. While the Saturday Vigil mass remains at 5:00 in the afternoon, Sunday Mass times will be 7:45, 9:30, and 11:30 in the morning.



# Youth Ministry News

## Alive Again

On September 12 St. Benedict Church will be hosting "Alive Again," an event for teens and young adults from 2:00pm to 10:00pm. The day will include dynamic speakers, Mass with the Bishop, dinner, and an outdoor concert by Matt Maher. We are anticipating over 800 people attending from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. We need your help with this amazing event!! The following items are needed for the day:



- Approximately 900 ft. of construction fencing to secure the upper field near the street (will be returned)
- 4 stack/construction lighting to light up the field for the night (will be returned)
- Food donations to help offset the cost of feeding 800+ for dinner (food, paper supplies, or gift cards)
- Volunteers for set-up, clean up, break down, security, etc.

If you are able to assist in any of these areas, or know of someone who can, please call Janet at 724-941-9587.

## Movie Night Under the Stars—August 14

If you missed our first one in June, come to our second Movie Night Under the Stars! Bring the whole family to enjoy an evening of games and a movie on the Rectory lawn. The evening begins at 7:30pm with games and free play, and show time for the movie, "Mr. Troop Mom," rated G, is 9:15pm. Snacks and drinks will be for sale, but feel free to bring your own and a blanket or chairs to sit on. Children under 13 must be accompanied by a parent. If there is rain in the forecast that evening, the event will be moved into Pope Benedict Activity Center. If you have any questions, please email them to [youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org).

## VBS Thank You

A very special thank you to all of the following high school counselors and parents who so generously gave of their time and talent in making this year's 5th and 6th grade Vacation Bible School program a huge success:

### Counselors:

Jimmy Brucker  
Daner Schratz  
Susan Relich  
Lizzie Fitzgerald  
Caitlin Relich  
Katie Foglia  
Christian Ranallo  
Dylan Small  
Stephen Tupta  
Christian Schratz

Colin Mullett  
Aly Schratz  
Alex Ross  
Alex Gardner  
Matt Mullan  
Tony Lages  
Connor O'Brien  
Zach Verner  
Nicole Burkhardt  
Alexis Gardner

### Parent Volunteers:

Debbie Casilli  
Susan DiBartolo  
Mary Ranallo  
Christine Gudenburr  
Anne Parisi  
Denise Amelia  
Laura Chabrier  
Wayne DiBartolo  
Matt Junker

Tonilynn Parks  
Jodi Hannah  
Karen Bovalina  
Andrea Michalski  
Lauren Pukansky  
Jay Heisinger  
Nicole Kreyling  
Brianna Welsh

Special thanks to Erin Dowdall and Michelle Husa who so lovingly made and delivered our snacks daily.

## 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.

***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

*Is it still a sin to miss Sunday Mass?*

### Lesson of the Week

***What is Cooking and the Council?***

As one of our parish goals for the new pastoral plan, adult faith formation is receiving a lot of attention. The US Catholic bishops' document on formation, *Are Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us?* contains this quote from the General Directory for Catechesis, "The manifestation of the Christian life requires that it be cultivated in all its dimensions: knowledge of the faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to community, missionary spirit. When catechesis omits one of these elements, the Christian faith does not attain full development."



We are seeking to offer as a parish ways to touch on every dimension that is enumerated above. Our adult formation offerings should overlap in that they can touch a number of these

dimensions in the same program. That is the goal of **Cooking and the Council**. It's name comes from the Second Vatican Council, a defining moment in the life of the modern Church.

Taking my own love of cooking and combining it with theology, this informal gathering will be limited to fifteen people so that our discussion can be lively and food preparation go quickly. Registration details are at the end of this article. On Tuesday September 8, October 13, and November 10, our group will meet for a topic that comes from one of the documents of Vatican II. With some time to think about the topic, we can explore it and then move on to the sharing of a recipe I have created that is related to the topic. Hands on kitchen time will follow and during the meal preparation the topic can continue to unfold in our discussion which ends with lunch.

The topic for September 8, addresses the document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, the Church in the Modern World. The menu for the first session includes *polenta potatoes* and *martini chicken*. Sessions begin at 11:00am in O'Brien Hall. **To register:** Contact Jay Specca, coordinator of adult formation, 724-941-9587, beginning tomorrow, August 3.

## Faith Formation News

### 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](mailto:stbeneccd@yahoo.com).

### First Eucharist DVD

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

### 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.

### 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. A children's program is available. If you have any questions or to register, please call Tara Curry at 724-942-7539 or Ed Corbett at 724-942-6429.



## Ben's Men Raffle

*American Cancer Society*

Our parishioner, Frances Hall, won the Décor Cabana Designer Tent raffled off by Ben's Men to benefit the American Cancer Society. Her ticket matched the Pennsylvania Midday Lottery of May 30th.

## 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 many 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](http://www.magnificatpittsburgh.org).

## 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.

## 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).

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, August 2

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

### Monday, August 3

7:00p      Aerobics      (PBAC)

### Wednesday, August 5

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

### Thursday, August 6

12:00p      NA      (206)  
4:00p      Eucharistic Adoration Begins      (Chapel)  
6:00p      Aerobics      (PBAC)  
7:30p      Troop 1313      (PBAC)

### Friday, August 7

4:00p      Closing of Adoration      (Chapel)

### Saturday, August 8

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

### Sunday, August 9

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

11:00a      Baptism Class      (210)

## 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.



## 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