



Father Michael's Forum

Last week I spoke to you about the power and mystery of the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ and the patron saint of the diocesan clergy, Saint John Vianney. In this year of the Priest the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in conjunction with the Apostolic Penitentiary has promulgated indulgences attached to the celebrations of this year. What exactly is an indulgence? Anytime this word surfaces, it seems to be associated as the catalyst that started the Protestant Reformation or those prayer books that were circulated in the 1950's that had "(300 days indulgence)" printed at the bottom of the prayer, litany, or devotion. Indulgences have had a bad rap recently in the Church because in order to understand their place and function, one must also incorporate a correct understanding of the powers of the Church, the reality of purgatory and the effects of sin; three topics that are constantly under scrutiny in these modern times.

Let's start at the beginning. When one commits a sin, either venial or mortal, the person is obliged to ask God for forgiveness. If the sin is venial, a simple act of contrition would suffice, but if it is mortal, Sacramental Confession is required. When an individual receives forgiveness from God, there is still the effect of sin on the soul that remains. The sinner is reconciled and salvation is promised, but the Christian must pay recompense for the temporal punishment due to sin. The divine justice of God requires an exact reparation for all the sins we have committed. Therefore, two things must happen. First we ask for forgiveness and secondly we make amends.

For an individual in the state of grace, salvation is won. After death a soul enters into the state of purgatory to pay recompense for the temporal punishment due to sin if the individual did not tend to this aspect of their spiritual lives on earth. Their salvation is granted, but they have not reached perfection in purity that is necessary to enter into the presence of God. Purgatory is not a place of pain, but rather a state of purification.

The power to grant indulgences was given by the Lord himself to the Church when he said to Peter, "You are rock, and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Whatsoever you bind on earth, will be bound in heaven, whatsoever you loose on earth, will be loosed in heaven." The Church has a "spiritual treasury" which is made up of the infinite merits of Jesus Christ through his passion and death which he has left to his bride the Church. The Church through the granting of indulgences remits the temporal punishment by applying to us from her spiritual treasury part of the infinite satisfaction of Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints. When the Church grants an indulgence, it does not really cancel any expiation due to God. It only supplies for our deficiencies by drawing on this spiritual treasury of the Church.

There are two kinds of indulgences that the Church provides her children. The partial indulgence makes satisfaction for only a portion of an individual's necessary recompense and may be acquired as often as the person chooses.

A plenary or full indulgence satisfies completely the temporal punishment due to sin and can be obtained only once per day. Indulgences can be applied to yourself or to a person who has gone before us marked with the sign of faith. Please find in this bulletin, an enclosed page that describes in detail the method of obtaining the indulgences granted during this year of the priest and the prayers for obtaining the indulgence.

Because of our baptism, we are all part of the common priesthood of Jesus Christ and thus can offer sacrifice through our prayers and good works. Never allow an opportunity to slip away without calling upon the spiritual treasury of the Church to obtain indulgences for yourself and for your deceased loved ones.

NOTE: On Saturday, August 15, 2009 we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption. This is **NOT** a holy day of obligation because it falls on a Saturday. According to the USCCB, "Whenever January 1, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, or August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption, or November 1, the solemnity of All Saints, falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, the precept to attend Mass is abrogated."

Mass Intentions: Aug. 9—Aug. 16

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)

Monday, August 10—Lawrence, deacon & martyr

8:30a **Bernard Leonard** (Sue & Jim Ralston)

Tuesday, August 11—Clare

6:30a **Jack McCloskey** (Lois McCloskey)
8:30a **William Lauth** (Women of St. Benedict)

Wednesday, August 12—Weekday

6:30a **Anita Krueger** (The Stroyne Family)
8:30a **Special Intention** (Joseph Valeri)
11:00a **McMurray Hills:**
(Deceased of the Hudak Family)

Thursday, August 13—Weekday

6:30a **Rita Wiegmann** (Wiegmann Family)
8:30a **Staff Sgt. Patrick Kutschbach** (Family)

Friday, Aug. 14—Maximilian Kolbe, priest & martyr

8:30a **Gene Trunzo** (The Lang Family)

Sat., Aug. 15—Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30a **Joanne Isaac** (The Mack Family)
5:00p **Grego Family** (Erma Grego)

Sunday, August 16—20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **For the People of the Parish**
10:00a **Michael Costello** (Barbara Costello)
12:30p **Mary Lou Fuchs** (The Sadler Family)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of Morgan Reisz, requested by Carla Reisz, the Bread & Wine is in memory of Robert Williams, requested by Shirley, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Linda Lee Joseph, requested by the Family.



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 August 9

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Eph 4:30-5:2/Jn 6:41-51
 Monday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Jn 12:24-26
 Tuesday: Dt 31:1-8/Mt 18:1-5,10,12-14
 Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Mt 18:15-20
 Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a,11,13-17/Mt 18:21-19:1
 Friday: Jos 24:1-13/Mt 19:3-12
 Saturday: Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/
 Lk 1:39-56
 Next Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Leona Meyers**, mother of our parishioner Ken Meyers, and our former parishioner **Frances Schultz**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

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.

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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: August 15—August 16

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: Ellsworth, Smore **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego
EMHC: Klinar, Norton, Sarra, Milavec, Vandewater,
 Greenwald, B & R Jordon **Servers:** Byrne, Peterson, Curry, P &
 M Ellsworth

7:30am— Fr. Ruffalo
Lector: Trapanotto **Greeters:** Kalaski, Barker **EMHC:**
 Petricca, S & J Christopher, Vines, Joseph, Prado, Hollot
Servers: Meyers, Shaw, Wiegmann

10:00am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Balash, Glover **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:**
 Bayer, Schultz, Serrino, McGovern, Stein, Torres, Walnoha,
 Weaver, Glover **Servers:** A & E Ross, Wisniewski, Maher, S
 Weaver

12:30pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton
Lector: Hajzus **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Capozza,
 Hayward, T Mauro, Ruggieri, P Newmaster, Black, B Smith
Servers: Hillen, F & M Meola

Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family these newly baptized: **Justin Daniel & Ryan Christopher**, sons of Christopher & Nadine Sloan; **Jack William**, son of Aaron & Michelle Kubistek; **Bria Marie**, daughter of James & Tina Burnett; **Ashlyn Elizabeth**, daughter of Bryan & Colleen Morreale; **Rachel Grace**, daughter of Daniel & Erin Tomley. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

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.

Building Fund Donations

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

Teri & Carl Valeri

In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of
Jay & Dolores Jarrell

Robert Stern



Fall Ministers' Schedule

It is time to schedule ministers for Masses in October, November and December. Please keep in mind that the Mass schedule will have changed in September. All Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and Mass schedule changes to Jay Specca at jspecca@hotmail.com. . . put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line. . . or call 724-941-9587. He will be running the schedule the first week of September, so please have your information in before August 31.

In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict's Military Support Group, we now have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



Ask Father Sam

Is it still necessary to fast one hour before receiving communion?

Lesson of the Week

Is it still a sin to miss Sunday Mass?

The question as to missing Mass on Sundays seems to surface more readily during the summer months when people are away from their parishes on vacation. More often than not, Catholics throughout the United States are tempted to take a vacation from their religious practices while heading to their destinations of leisure. People will spend hours on the computer to find the right condo, where to eat, how to travel and countless other details about their trip to the sunny shores but forget to check where the Catholic Church is located and what Masses are scheduled on Sunday.

It seems to me that that this understanding of "optional" attendance at Mass has infiltrated the Church through the secular-religious understanding of a "personal" relationship with God that doesn't concern the community. In a time of new age theology, moral relativism and a weak understanding of individualism, it is no wonder that this question is asked so often. The discipline of attending Mass on Sunday was never changed during the Second Vatican Council and the knowledgeable and willful neglect of one coming to Church to give God due praise and worship falls into the category of a sin. The reason the Church requires the attendance at Mass is because we are a community of believers. Christ himself knew that man, by his very nature, was to be in communion with each other. Without companionship, friendship, and relationship mankind cannot fully reach his created potential. One look at the writings of St. Paul in the Bible can show how he valued the "Body of Christ" made up of many parts. The parts are not disjoined or dismembered but united under its head, who is Christ. The body of Christ is not an autonomous collective, (ie. each man for himself but all in the same boat). Rather, the Body of Christ is truly united in sign and reality when joined together with one heart and one mind worshiping God in spirit and truth at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

There are circumstances however, that could keep one away from the common celebration of the Lord's life, death and resurrection at Mass. These circumstances can range from illness to old age to inclement weather. If the individual is elderly and cannot find a way to church, that person need not attend. If a mother or father must stay home because a child is very sick, that is not a sin. Anything beyond your control that keeps you from Mass cannot be held against you as a sin. It is always good to mention to the priest in Confession that you didn't make it to Mass, but also mention the circumstances that surrounded your absents. This helps the priest differentiate between a legitimate reason and one that may be rationalized.

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.

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.

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 Annual Garage Sale

The Women of St. Benedict will have 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 will be September 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Volunteers are needed to sort, price and display items, receive donations in the evening, provide lunch for workers during the week, customer service during the sale and clean-up on Saturday afternoon after the sale.

Please help by donating items you no longer want or need. Items may be dropped off in O'Brien Hall starting September 13th. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS BEFORE THAT DATE.**

ITEMS WANTED: clean baby & children's clothing & toys; jewelry; kitchen items such as dishes, glassware, silverware, pots & pans; small working electrical appliances; knickknacks; paperback books; VHS tapes; audio tapes; DVD's; Halloween costumes; holiday decorations; pictures & picture frames; artificial flowers; baskets, craft & sewing items; small tables & chairs; working lawn mowers; garden tools; working hand & electrical tools; clothing, linens & bedding items that are in good condition and not soiled or torn; healthy house plants.

Please keep in mind when donating items—**WE DO NOT WANT JUNK**—we have a reputation for having "quality" items at our garage sale and would like to continue this tradition.

ITEMS NOT WANTED: automobile tires; stoves & refrigerators; large furniture; computers; old & used sporting equipment; bowling balls; treadmills; encyclopedias & old books, old purses, and clothing that is torn or out-of-date.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Jackie Buck at 724/941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724/941-6805.

Resource Specialist

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh is looking for a Parish Resource Specialist to work out of the Pittsburgh Office. You must have a college degree, understand social ministry at the parish level, and possess strong communication and computer skills. In this position, you will link pastors and parishes to all Catholic Charities services. Bilingual skills are a plus. A PA Driver's license, car and Act 33 clearances are required. Send resume by August 23 to: Director of Human Resources, Catholic Charities, 212 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Or e-mail to patd@ccpgh.org.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, August 9

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

11:00a Baptism Class (210)

Monday, August 10

10:00a Servers Camp (Chapel)
7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

Tuesday, August 11

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)
7:00p Italy Pilgrimage Meeting (204/206)

Wednesday, August 12

12:00p AA (208)
6:30p Confessions (Church)
7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)
7:30p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

Thursday, August 13

9:30a Spirit Day (204/206)
12:00p NA (208)
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
7:30p Troop 1313 (PBAC)

Friday, August 14

6:30p Movie Night (Rectory
Lawn)

Saturday, August 15

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

Sunday, August 16

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

Diocesan Choir Auditions

Auditions for the 2009-2010 Diocesan Choir season will be held. The Choir, under the direction of Fr. Jim Chepponis, Music Director for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, sings for the major Diocesan events at St. Paul's Cathedral throughout the year. Currently there are openings in the soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections. In addition to being good singers, potential members must be capable sight-readers due to a limited rehearsal schedule, and at least 18 years of age. Rehearsals are held at St. John Capistran Church in Upper St. Clair. Audition times may be scheduled by calling Doris Anne in the Diocesan Music Office at 412-456-3042 before August 25.

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