



## Father Sam's Forum

**I**f it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve....” The words spoken by Joshua as the Israelite tribes were ready to cross into the Promised Land were of great importance. So often during their sojourn in the wilderness, these people had forsaken the God who led them from slavery to freedom and turned away to return to the practice of idolatry that was common in Egypt. Moses was always getting complaints by the people who nagged him with their many and constant problems instead of trusting that the Lord was guiding them with Moses as their leader.

We who are their spiritual heirs are not much different. We find ourselves looking for God but not trusting that the Lord guides us just as surely as those ancients were guided. Like them, we can forget our promise to serve the Lord and not the idols that come before us. For us today, it isn't the pagan gods of old, but rather the things we can place importance on in life that in the end don't matter all that much.

John's *Bread of Life* discourse ends in the Gospel today with the question, "Who can accept it?" Some who heard Jesus were not ready or able to accept the teaching he proclaimed. They left. But Peter told Jesus, "to whom shall we go?" We all know former Catholics who have left for all kinds of reasons, but for what end? While some might claim to be happier outside the faith community, we suffer their loss and pray for their return. If Christ has the words of eternal life, and if the Eucharist is the presence of Christ that nourishes and sustains on life's journey, then how can we go away?

Among the reactions to our changed Mass schedule and subsequent change in the times of faith formation sessions for children on Sundays, there have surfaced some complaints because the new schedule requires parents to decide what time their participation at Mass will be in light of the time of the session they select. When there was no overlap every time was available—but it is no secret that we still had the "drop-offs" - those kids whose parents didn't come to Mass but brought them to religious instruction without the connection to liturgy.

"Decide today whom you will serve." The words of the Scripture seem to apply here. It shouldn't be an either/or decision—if we go to Mass we can't go to formation classes—but how can we include both? The liturgy is also formative. Don't miss it.

**Parish news:** Last Thursday I began a five week course to the men who are in formation to be ordained deacons of our diocese. Having taught the deacon candidates *Church History* in the past, now I have been asked to present a course on *Pastoral Care and Practice*, drawing from my years in health care ministry. Please keep the 47 men who will be ordained to the diaconate in January 2011 in your prayers.

Fr. Michael is on vacation this week. Fr. Don Chortos will again help us with daily Mass. We are grateful to Fr. Chortos who is always willing to come to our parish when we need assistance. Fr. Michael will be back for Masses next Sunday.

### Mass Intentions: Aug. 23—Aug. 30

#### Sunday, August 23—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **Theodore Homol** (David & Michele Hvizdos)  
10:00a **For the People of the Parish**  
12:30p **Mildred Teodori** (Wasioleski Family)

#### Monday, August 24—Bartholomew, apostle

8:30a **Stella & Pete Marraccini**  
(Ruthann & Gary Seraly)

#### Tuesday, August 25—Weekday

6:30a **Myrtle Jones** (John & Sue Brandstatter)  
8:30a **Special Intention of Leanne Kostic & Family** (M/M Joseph Smith)

#### Wednesday, August 26—Weekday

6:30a **Ruth Golding** (Shanafelt Family)  
8:30a **Antionette Strnisa** (Kay & Dave Stutts)

#### Thursday, August 27—Monica

6:30a **Lucille Hughes Kramer**  
(Dan & Joyce Majestic)  
8:30a **Michael Yurkovich** (Carolyn)

#### Friday, Aug. 28—Augustine, bishop & doctor

8:30a **Mary McCurdy**  
(AJ & Maureen & Friends at Big Picture Con)

#### Sat., Aug. 29—Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist

8:30a **Brian Zimick** (Monica Mahala)  
3:00p **Wedding Mass:**  
**Brian Brill and**  
**Sherry Brown** (St. Benedict)  
5:00p **John P. Maimone** (JoAnn Moore)

#### Sunday, August 30—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30a **Dr. Frank J. Draus** (Kathy Davis)  
10:00a **Patsy Lachina** (Lachina Family)  
12:30p **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for the Merone-Spiotti-Ambrosini Family, requested by M/M R. Ambrosini, and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Edward H. Greenwald, Sr., requested by wife, Charlotte.*



## 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

### 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 23

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a,15-17,18b/Eph 5:21-32  
 Monday: Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51  
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8/Mt 23:23-26  
 Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13/Mt 23:27-32a  
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51  
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Mt 25:1-13  
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11/Mk 6:17-29  
 Next Sunday: Dt 4:1-2,6-8/Jas 1:17-18,21b-22,27/Mk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Mary Meola**, mother of our parishioner Frank Meola, **Joyce Oehmler**, mother of our parishioner Mary McCloskey, and our parishioner **Regis Dunn**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

## Baptisms

We have scheduled these times for the celebration of the sacrament of baptism in the weeks ahead:  
 Sunday, September 6, after the 12:30pm Mass;  
 Sunday, September 13, during the 9:30am Mass;  
 Sunday, September 20, after the 11:30am Mass;  
 Sunday, September 27, during the 11:30am Mass;  
 Sunday, October 4, after the 11:30am Mass;  
 Saturday, October 10, during the 5:00pm Mass;  
 Sunday, October 18, after the 11:30am Mass; and  
 Sunday, October 25, during the 9:30am Mass.

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend: August 29—August 30

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo  
**Lectors:** Benya, Buzzatto **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** Baumgartner, R & B Jordon, Greenwald, Vandewater, Milavec, Sarra, Norton, Getto **Servers:** Meyers, Curry, Peterson, Getto, Nobers

**7:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton  
**Lector:** Hornack **Greeters:** Barker, Kalaski **EMHC:** Vines, Petricca, Boston, R & E McMillan, Berger, Fagioletti **Servers:** E, M, & E Jozwiak

**10:00am**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lectors:** Ott, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:** Kail, Glod, Ruggieri, Stein, McGovern, Serrino, Schultz, Bayer, Oldaker **Servers:** Kelly, M & A Severa, Pampena, Carrington

**12:30pm**— Fr. Esposito  
**Lector:** Luttner **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Capozza, Hayward, B Smith, Black, P Newmaster, Bench, Herald **Servers:** Watson, K & C Bench

## Liturgy of the Word for Children

Celebrating a separate Liturgy of the Word with children ages 3—5 provides an opportunity for them to get to know the stories of the bible and become familiar with our sacred tradition. With the new Mass schedule, we want to offer two opportunities for this, at both the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses on Sunday mornings. Using language they can understand as they begin to appreciate the richness of our liturgy, the little ones will come to know our ritual and be ready to participate at Mass when they enter the formal catechetical program in first grade. Some of you may be familiar with this aspect of the liturgy from the 10:00 Mass in past years. The children go with several adults to the Chapel for the celebration of the Word and return to the church to be with their parents after the homily. In order to do this well we need help from parents, teens and any other parish members who might feel called to share their talents with our kids in this way. This is a good chance for a family ministry or for a mother-daughter, mother-son, husband-wife team to interact with the children and share faith. If you are concerned about not knowing enough to share your faith, we will get you started and offer support along the way. Call Colette in the Faith Formation Office, 724.941.9587, for more information or to ask about how you can help. This is another way we welcome — “let the little children come to me,” says the Lord.

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

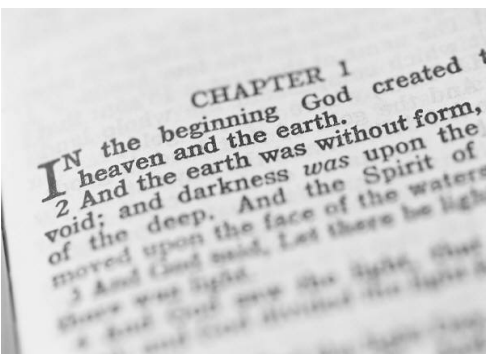


## Youth Ministry News

### The Bible as Theology

#### Three Sessions to Explore It

PTHS is offering a class this year called “The Bible as Literature,” which will explore the various kinds of



literature that make up this sacred book. Fr. Sam is offering teens a chance to explore the bible from another point of view. Anyone in grades 10–12 can sign up for this three

session course which will meet on three Wednesdays, September 16, 30, and October 14—every other week so there’s time in between for reading the texts. The time of the class is 5:30–7:30 and a light supper will be included. If you’ve ever wondered about the bible and what it means, this is your chance to come find out! We’ll see how the timeline of the Scriptures stands against history and look for the themes that are so important to our Catholic faith like prophecy, kingdom and salvation. Call Janet or Elaine in Young Adult Ministry to register. You’ll need a bible for the class.

### “Alive Again” Sept. 12

This is going to be a phenomenal day!! We have the Bishop’s representative for Mass, great speakers, wonderful food, and an outdoor concert with a chart topping Christian Artist. All teens are encouraged to come spend the day here at St. Benedicts as hundreds of teens from the Diocese invade our church for this event. The day starts at 2:00pm and ends around 10:00pm. Tickets are \$15 and includes everything. Call Janet at 724-941-9587 to register. The concert is open to parishioners, but you must reserve your tickets as well.

### High School Ministry

This year our format includes some new venues—a once a month big event like the September *Alive Again* concert, a monthly service project, and a bi-weekly drop in time. In addition there will be special programs like Fr. Sam’s “Bible as Theology” series. All high school students are encouraged to participate as often as you can to stay connected.

### Back To School Pool Party

Let’s end the summer right and start off the school year with fun! The Schratzes have graciously opened their home for all high school students to spend the evening on August 26 from 7-10pm hanging out at their house. For more information, directions, or to sign up, call Janet at 724-941-9587.

### Communication: Staying Current with Technology

Have you checked out our web site? It’s improved and updated. Go to [stbenedicttheabbot.org](http://stbenedicttheabbot.org). What about [flockNote.com](http://flockNote.com)? Here are some of the NEW features we will be rolling out this Fall on [flockNote.com](http://flockNote.com):

**1)** Direct messages (private messages to individual members) **2)** Scheduled Notes **3)** Networks (allowing better organization of not only parishes and dioceses, but of Catholic organizations) **4)** Note Types (Events, RSVPs, polls, and more) **5)** Twitter/Ping integration—watch for Fr. Sam’s twitter coming soon! Follow him throughout the day **6)** Improved Search **7)** Tags (so you can better organize and sort through your feeds and notes) **8)** Fully functional Facebook App (no need to leave Facebook) **9)** iPhone App and flockNote on your mobile browser **10)** flockNote API and widgets for your website.

### Italian Pilgrimage

There are three available spots left on the parish pilgrimage to the shrines of St. Benedict in October. If you are interested in information, please contact Fr. Sam this week. The trip departs Tuesday, October 20 and returns on Friday, October 30. Cost is \$3698 for double occupancy.

### Building Fund Donations

#### In Memory of Frances Schultz

Paul & Pauline Fidel

Barbara Emery

Janet & Tim Sullivan

#### In Memory of Leona Meyers

Chris & Laura Norton



## Ask Father Sam

*Why is the Catholic Church opposed to stem cell use?*

### Lesson of the Week

*Can you hold a "Catholic" funeral for someone who is not Catholic?*

Our rites and rituals are part of the expression of our Catholic faith, so while it is probably not ordinary to celebrate a Catholic funeral for someone who is not a Catholic, it can be done. One example of this would be for the spouse of a Catholic who has no real connection to the religion of his or her upbringing. My cousin, for example, is a practicing Catholic who is married to a man who was baptized and raised in the Lutheran faith. But he rarely darkens the doors of any church, and when he does, it is with his wife. If he were to die before I do, it would be no surprise to have a blessing service for him, according to our rite. While it wouldn't make much sense for us to have Mass since he was not a regular part of the worshipping community of any church, nonetheless he was baptized and we could offer the prayers for the dead that are part of the Catholic funeral rite.

In another instance, you might have a spouse who did come to Mass with the Catholic wife or husband and even though this person never formally became a Catholic, was identified with the Church since this was the only faith the person observed. There is no reason not to have a Mass of Christian Burial for that person. We are not prohibited from doing that, and it makes sense for the Catholic spouse whose faith was so important.

Speaking of funerals, it is important to note that anyone can offer the prayers that are part of the funeral liturgy apart from Mass. Not only a deacon, but a layperson as well can conduct the Vigil Service which we sometimes call a wake and the committal at the graveside or cemetery chapel. These prayers are not reserved to the ordained. Sometimes people feel like they are less if a priest doesn't lead them, but in reality all of us who are baptized are priestly people who should know and be comfortable with leading prayer. In future years, as the number of priests gets smaller, there will no doubt be times when a priest or even a deacon may not be able to go to the cemetery after a funeral. Families should not be alarmed or feel slighted if that occurs. In fact, a wonderful thing would be for a family member himself or herself to lead these prayers in the absence of a clergyman. That would be a great sign of our Christian faith!

## 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 must still 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.

### Ushers & Greeters Workshop

There will be workshops for all ushers, greeters, and anyone who would like to serve as a Minister of Hospitality on Sunday, September 6 at 2:00pm and Wednesday, September 16 at 7:30pm in the church. Please plan to attend one of these workshops so we can discuss the history, the importance, and the role of this ministry. Invite a friend to join in ministry with you. . . all are welcome. Remember St. Benedict wanted his monasteries to be known for the virtue of "hospitality."

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



## Fall Ministers' Schedule

It is time to schedule ministers for Masses in October, November and December. Please keep in mind that the Mass schedule changes in September, so indicate if you are able to serve at the 7:45, 9:30 or 11:30 Sunday Masses. All Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and Mass schedule changes to Jay Speca at jspeca@hotmail.com. . . put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line. . . or call 724-941-9587. The new schedule runs the first week of September, so please have your information in before August 31.

## WOSB Annual Garage Sale

There are just a few weeks until 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.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, August 23

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

### Monday, August 24

7:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

### Tuesday, August 25

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)

7:00p Pre-School Board Meeting (Rectory)

### Wednesday, August 26

12:00p AA (208)

6:30p Confessions (Church)

7:30p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

7:30p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

### Thursday, August 27

12:00p NA (206)

6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)

7:30p Troop 1313 (PBAC)

### Friday, August 28

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)

6:00p Troop 1313 Gamers Night (204/206)

### Saturday, August 29

7:30a CMF (206)

9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)

11:00a Confessions (Church)

### Sunday, August 30

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

## Catholic Scripture Study

Please join us on either Monday evenings or Tuesday mornings in September when we will begin an in-depth study of the *Book of Genesis*. You can register online under "News" or "Ministries" and the deadline to register is September 14. Classes begin September 28th and September 29. 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.

## 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