



## Father Sam's Forum

**E**ven though it is officially still summer, we enter the “Autumn Ordinary Time” season in our Church calendar today. With kids back in school and our many programs starting up, September is the time we traditionally count as beginning again. As well, the Scriptures we hear proclaimed at Mass begin to turn now as we prepare for the final Sundays of this liturgical year before Advent comes around on November 29.

Jesus has called his disciples and sent them out as Chapter 7 of Mark's Gospel finishes. In Chapter 8 we will get the first prediction of the Passion as Jesus makes his way toward Jerusalem and the climax of the Gospel with his death there. Today, we hear in the first reading a sweeping vision by Isaiah of the Messiah's coming. God will come among the people bringing healing and life as the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the lame will dance. The *Ephphatha* Jesus speaks to bring hearing back to the deaf man is used at baptisms as the deacon or priest touches the mouth and ears of the newly baptized asking that they soon can hear God's word and proclaim God's praises.

To me, these readings speak about hope and challenge. With our economic problems, the debate about health care, the continuing war, escalating violence in our region, and a myriad of other problems, we need hope. From Isaiah's offer of hope to people facing the destruction of Jerusalem and life as they know it, to James' letter about treating everyone without partiality, to Jesus' manifestation of his identity as the Messiah, all the readings today offer us this often misplaced virtue. But we are also challenged to live our faith in difficult times.

What do you hope for? Besides the obvious things mentioned above, what else do you hope for? Let me share my hopes with you. I hope for every member of our parish to accept what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. I hope that we never see the Church as apart from who we are by our baptism. I hope for each person here to feel welcomed and important and able to share some gift or talent with us all.

Recently, a member of the parish told me that she thought that, unless the priests spoke about everyone being welcoming to one another, it wouldn't happen. She related experiences of offering to help with some of the events and programs here and not being accepted. That disturbs me on several levels. Church is never about cliques or elite groups. It would be a good thing at every function or meeting

to begin by praying our Mission Statement which gives our reason for being Church. Unless we are ready to welcome one another and walk with people where they are, not where we expect them to be, we will never attract others to Christ. We look to his example.

Hearing the word of God and speaking God's praises are what is asked of the disciples. When we listen to God's word, we come to a deeper relationship with the Lord, who calls us into a more intense union with him. That is why studying the bible is so important. We have a number of bible study groups in the parish, and that includes a short one for our teens this fall. Think about how you can learn more about the word that gives life.

### **Mass Intentions: Sept. 6—13**

#### **Sunday, Sept. 6—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:30a **Donald F. Shipman** (Roberta Junker)  
10:00a **Rose Fonzo** (Frank & Mary Ellen Meola)  
12:30p **Thomas Devine** (Geraldine & Paul McKosky)

#### **Monday, September 7—Weekday**

9:00a **Anita Heidenreich** (Mary Smith)

#### **Tues., Sept. 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

6:30a **Charles Bononi** (Robert Bononi)  
8:30a **Edward L. Meehan** (McGovern Family)

#### **Wednesday, September 9—Peter Claver, priest**

6:30a **Wilma Lokash** (Jim & Nancy Vines)  
8:30a **Evelyn Brannen** (Janet & Lee Cleary)  
11:00a **McMurray Hills: Joseph Fisher**  
(Loretta Wolk)

#### **Thursday, September 10—Weekday**

6:30a **Bob Schmuff** (Pat Jaumott)  
8:30a **JoAnn Bork** (Ellie Puskarich)

#### **Friday, September 11—Weekday**

8:30a **Bill Kauffman** (Parents)

#### **Saturday, September 12—Weekday**

8:30a **Patricia Pastor** (Husband & Family)  
5:00p **M/M Peter Flanigan** (Family)

#### **Sunday, Sept. 13—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:45a **For the People of the Parish**  
9:30a **Mary Weidner Kendall** (Tony)  
11:30a **Stephen Gordon** (Bob & Irene Gordon)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Bill Kauffman, requested by his parents, and the Bread & Wine is in honor of the Living & Deceased of the Busch & Schweibinz Families, requested by Claire Meredith.*

*The Daily Mass on Monday, September 7, Labor Day, will be at 9:00am*

*The second collection next weekend is for the Bishop's Education Fund.*



## 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 September 6

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37  
 Monday: Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11  
 Tuesday: Mic 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Mt 1:1-16,18-23  
 Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26  
 Thursday: Col 3:12-17/Lk 6:27-38  
 Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2,12-14/Lk 6:39-42  
 Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49  
 Next Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35

## Pastoral Council News

With the resignation of Dr. Kathy Davis, who has accepted a new position in the eastern part of the state, we have an open position on council. Any parishioner who is interested in filling the vacancy should contact our council chair, Aimee Schmidt, at [aimee@createdinnersandmore.com](mailto:aimee@createdinnersandmore.com) or 724-941-7046 for more information. Our next council meeting is Tuesday, September 8, at 7:30pm.

## Bible as Theology

Fr. Sam's five session series on the meaning of the bible and its connection to our Catholic faith begins next Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30pm. Call Jay Specca in the Formation Office to register if you would like to attend. Bring a bible to class with you...and bring a friend.

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend: September 12—September 13

### Sat. 5:00pm— Special Mass for “Alive Again”

**Lectors:** Auer, Hrubby **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Capozza, Glod, Norton, Sarra, Milavec, Vandewater, Greenwald, B & R Jordan **Servers:** Peterson, Curry, A Weaver, Curran, LaRosa

### 7:45am— Fr. Esposito

**Lector:** Mamros **Greeters:** R & J Jackson **EMHC:** E & R McMillan, Petricca, Vines, Hollot, S & J Brooks **Servers:** Kelly, Wiegman, Bowlin

### 9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Dembiczak, McKenzie **Greeters:** Velato, Fisher **EMHC:** Schultz, Serrino, McGovern, Stein, Ruggieri, A & L Kelly, Spinabelli, Fisher **Servers:** L & J Spinabelli, D DeRienzo, N & V DeRienzo

### 11:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lector:** McPoyle **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** Boyd, T Mauro, P Newmaster, Black, B Smith, Hayward, Oldaker **Servers:** Taylor, Graves, Luzier

## 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.

## Italian Tour Meeting Time Change

The final pre-tour meeting is set to take place on Friday, September 18, at **6:00pm** in the home of Barbara Gigliotti, 341 Snowberry Cir. Venetia, in the Country Brook development. Call 724-941-2908 if you need directions. Ezio, the owner of Renaissance Travel, will be with us to present the travel documents, and Fr. Sam will give every traveler a packet of information and final details that will be helpful for the pilgrimage.

## 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.”



## Thank You!

- Lifeline of Southwest Pennsylvania would like to thank the Respect Life Committee and all those who donated to the collection of baby clothes and other baby items in response to the Spiritual Adoption program. Their clients appreciate your generosity.
- The Christian Foundation for Children and Aging is very grateful to St. Benedict the Abbot Parish for having welcomed Fr. George Knab to speak on their behalf the weekend of August 1-2. A total of 82 persons were sponsored—2 over goal! More sponsors are still needed. For information call 1-800-875-6564 or contact [www.cfcausa.org](http://www.cfcausa.org). You may also contact Elaine Motyl, a CFCA sponsor and advocate at 724-941-9587.
- Monsignor Ralph W. Beiting would like to thank the wonderful group of adults and teenagers who spent a week with them at the end of July. They helped with painting & repairs, cleaned up the thrift stores, visited homes, and attended daily Mass. Their efforts were deeply appreciated.
- The Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary wish to thank you for your generous response to their appeal. Your interest and concern is a real source of encouragement to them and their various missionary endeavors. Please be assured of a continuous remembrance in the prayers of all of them.

## Building Fund Donations

### In Memory of Frances Schultz

Mary Lou Walker

### In Memory of Deacon Jack Manion

8:30 Mass Group                      Art & Lois Kelly  
 Louis & Harry Dilisio              Anthony & Patricia Frick  
 Carl & Judith Schlenke            Margaret & Don Hocever  
 The Oberschelp Family            Fred & Betty Abrew  
    Giant Oaks Garden Club  
    Employees of Don's Appliance  
 Miriam Hurley, Melinda Andrews & Susan Deakin

### In Memory of Elizabeth Jackson

Joanne Barton

### In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Tom & Carole Burrows

Mary Ann Tharp

### In Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ed & Jean Kolling

Joanne Barton

## Youth Ministry News

### “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. Benedict's as hundreds of teens from the Diocese invade our parish 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 we ask you to 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.

## 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.

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



## Ask Father Sam

*What are the rules for the reception of Holy Communion if one is not married in the Catholic Church?*

### Lesson of the Week

*Why is the Catholic Church opposed to stem cell use? (Part II)*

Continuing our topic from last week, the question becomes “what comparison is there between the three classes of stem cells?” There seems to be serious safety issues raised by human embryonic stem cells such as fatal tumors. These stem cells also convert into cancer cells. In theory then, just by maturing these stem cells it would seem to solve these issues. But in testing this has proven very difficult. With over a quarter century of research, the challenge of coaxing embryonic cells to form clinically safe cells has not been overcome.

In contrast, adult stem cells have been used in clinics for decades. They come from mature tissue—present at birth or later—and do not cause tumors or convert to cancer. The reprogrammed stem cells have some of the advantages of adult stem cells but like the embryonic stem cells they cause tumors. Just as for the embryonic stem cells, it remains difficult to mature these cells into stable, functional cell types.

So where does that leave us as Catholics? What are the ethical ramifications of this? The production of human embryonic stem cells requires the destruction of nascent human life. Some would claim that the potential benefits from this justifies this research. Yet, if we believe that embryos are human beings, the destruction of any life that is small and immature to benefit someone larger and mature is an unethical line of reasoning. The critical question becomes “are human embryos mere collections of human cells or are they developing human beings? The scientific evidence points us to the second conclusion. Embryos are developing human beings and not tumors or mere collections of cells. They are small as all of us once were, but nonetheless they are human beings. The destruction of these embryos, then, is not a morally neutral act but is intrinsically evil.

Because Catholics see the protection of human life as part of our social teaching, we not only refuse to condone this but give our voice in opposition to it. In a few weeks, I will address the themes of Catholic Social Teaching as our city prepares for the G-20 Summit. Bishop Zubik has sent us material for this reflection, and it’s a good time to review what we affirm.

## Faith Formation News

### Spirit Days Thank You

The Faith Formation Office would like to express their gratitude to those parents and other adults who took the time to drive our Confirmation candidates to “Try Again Homes” and “Sisters Place” for an afternoon of service on “Spirit Days.” Feedback has been very positive from both the service sites, and from our young people. Please know that your time was well spent.

### Faith Formation Registration

Registration for fall sessions is underway. Forms were mailed out and are also available on our parish website under the faith formation link. Families are reminded again that due to the size of our programs, class requests are not able to be honored. In addition, registrations **will not be accepted** on the first day of classes.

### Formation Open Houses

To begin our new Catechetical year, we are hosting an “Open House” for all parents on “Catechetical Sunday,” September 20, and on the following Tuesday, September 22. Check the time of your child’s session and come to the Open House that begins at that time. The schedule is also available on our website:

#### Sunday 9:00-10:10 Session:

##### **9:00am:**

**Grades K-3** Parents and children report directly to the classroom

**Grades 4-6** Parents report to Pope Benedict Center (the old church); children report to their classroom

#### Sunday 11:00-12:10 Session

##### **11:00am:**

**Grades K-3** Parents and children report directly to the classroom

**Grades 4-6** Parents report to Pope Benedict Center (the old church); children report to their classroom

#### Tuesday Session—6:00pm-7:15pm:

##### **6:00pm:**

**Grades K-3** Parents and children report directly to the classroom

**Grades 4-6** Parents report to Pope Benedict Center (the old church); children report to their classroom



## Fall Flower Bulb Sale

This is the last week for the St. Benedict Gardeners fall flower bulb sale to benefit the design and renovation of the church grounds. Six beautiful Holland bulb selections are being offered and pick-up is scheduled for early October. If you aren't a gardener, consider purchasing bulbs and donating them back to the church to be planted on the church grounds. See the display in the Narthex for details and order forms.

## WOSB Annual Garage Sale

The Women of St. Benedict will have their annual garage sale fund raiser 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. Profits benefit St. Benedict Church and its ministries. Unsold items are donated to various charities.

**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.

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, September 6

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

### Monday, September 7

*Labor Day  
Parish Offices Closed*

### Tuesday, September 8

11:00a	Cooking & the Council	(OBH)
7:30p	Pastoral Council	(204/206)

### Wednesday, September 9

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:30p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
8:00p	St. Vincent de Paul	(204/206)

### Thursday, September 10

9:30a	Light Weigh	(213)
12:00p	NA	(206)
5:00p	Troop 1313 Court of Honor	(OBH)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)

### Friday, September 11

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
-------	------------------------	-------

### Saturday, September 12

7:30a	CMF	(206)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
2:00p	"Alive Again"	

### Sunday, September 13

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

## Raffle Ticket Sales

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh is conducting a raffle to raise money to benefit their child mentoring programs. BBBS is all about preventing problems among youth early, before destructive behaviors can take root. A positive supportive mentor can have a lasting effect on a child's life. Prizes include an autographed Ben Roethlisberger jersey, 2 tickets to the Steelers vs. Raiders game on 12-6-09, and a \$100 Visa Gift Card. Raffle tickets are \$20 each and will be on sale next weekend after all Masses in O'Brien Hall. Only 2000 tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held on October 16, or the day after the last ticket is sold. Show your Steeler pride while supporting a great cause! If you have any questions, please contact Pam at 724-942-0677.

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



## 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

**Bowling League**

Blaise Hollot  
724-942-0748

**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**

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

**IHN**

Mary Spinabelli  
724-942-2478

**Lectors**

Dawn Pustay  
724-942-2451

**Library**

Ellen Mavrach  
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