



Father Sam's Forum

The “Messianic Secret” has long been a topic of discussion for those studying Mark’s Gospel. That Jesus did not want anyone to know his identity or his whereabouts figures into the entire scope of the Gospel which centers on the suffering and death of the Lord. As our passage begins today, Mark tells us that, on the journey through Galilee, Jesus did not want anyone to know about his movement through the region.

One of the great secrets of our Catholic faith is our social teaching. While we often hear about, read about, or work for the respect all human life is owed from the time of birth to natural death, the average layperson knows little of the other pieces of this component of our Catholic identity. In the Gospel today Jesus says that whoever welcomes a child in his name, welcomes him. In seeing Christ in the least ones of society we minister to him as we care for them.

Today’s Lesson of the Week centers on our Social Teaching. Look at page 4 for it. As Pittsburgh welcomes those who are participating in the G-20, Bishop Zubik has asked us to pray for the success of the Summit. He says, “As a diocese, in our parishes and Catholic institutions, the G-20 Summit provides the perfect time to remind ourselves of the principles of Catholic social teaching.”

Coming on the heels of the latest encyclical letter of our Holy Father, the connection of justice with peace has long been proclaimed in Catholic teaching. Just societies recognize that every person deserves respect and dignity, and that no one nor any nation can be selfish in hoarding resources which are gifts from God in the first place. Often we hear from Americans who believe we should “take care of our own” and not expand our care and compassion to those who are not of our country. Catholics themselves have voiced this to me on occasion. That attitude is completely against what we believe and teach. Just read the Pope’s letter and hear what he has to say about how we treat others.

Continuing from last week, one of the aspects of the social teaching is the dignity of human life, and so when we speak about end-of-life care we have to be understanding of the value of human life but also consider that eternal life is our ultimate goal. Making the hard decisions about care at the end of life means we understand the Church’s teachings and that we consider all the factors in every situation. What, for example, are your wishes for

treatment that might be extraordinary? Do you want physicians to use what results in futile care knowing that, while this may extend your life several days or weeks, it will not change the end result? We hear about the outrageous expenses that come in the last weeks of a person’s life because medical professionals see death as defeat. We use far too little palliative care which addresses what should be the total dignity afforded a person in their final weeks and days. There are Catholic versions of the advanced directives for end of life care. You can find one at the National Catholic Bioethics Center, www.ncbcenter.org. Look under publications, and see the end-of-life guide.

**** Because Fr. Michael is away this week and Fr. Sam has a schedule conflict, there will be no confessions this Wednesday.***

Mass Intentions: Sept. 20–27

Sunday, Sept. 20–25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Francis McCaffrey** (Wife, Pat)
9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
11:30a **59th Wedding Anniversary:**
Dick & Reene Gawronski

Monday, September 21—Matthew, apostle & evangelist

8:30a **Betty Lou Zary** (Zary Family)

Tuesday, September 22—Weekday

6:30a **Marie Liberatore** (Birthday Club)
8:30a **Dan Maciejewski** (Dan & Joyce Majestic)

Wednesday, Sept. 23—Pio of Pietrelcina, priest

6:30a **Edward McCloskey** (John T. McCloskey)
8:30a **Paul Klempay** (Loving Wife, Jo Klempay)

Thursday, September 24—Weekday

6:30a **Linda Lee Joseph** (Family)
8:30a **Joseph & Ann Smith** (M/M Louis Palatis)

Friday, September 25—Weekday

8:30a **Jack Clark** (Joan Clark)

Saturday, September 26—Cosmas & St. Damian, martyrs

8:30a **Salvatore & Angela Basile** (Family)
5:00p **Dauk & Labriola Families** (Alberta Labriola)

Sunday, Sept. 27—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Deceased of the Mikos & Rodal Families**
(Dennis & Maryann Rodal)
9:30a **John E. McGovern, Sr.** (McGovern Family)
11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Francis McCaffrey, requested by Patricia McCaffrey.

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



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
 Marcia Snowden, Catechetical Assistant—208
 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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: September 26—September 27

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Gordon, Ellsworth **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky
EMHC: Specca, Klinar, Oldaker, Greenwald, Vandewater,
 Milavec, Sarra, Norton, Scheuering **Servers:** Peterson,
 Traficante, Meyers, P & M Ellsworth

7:45am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lector: Balash **Greeters:** Boston, Turchick **EMHC:** R & E
 McMillan, Glod, Kail, S & J Christopher, Gavran **Servers:** E, M
 & E Jozwiak

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Glover, Smore **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:** L
 & A Kelly, Stein, McGovern, Serrino, Schultz, Cushma, Glover,
 Weaver **Servers:** D, C & L Schratz

11:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Hajzus **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** Hayward, B
 Smith, Black, P Newmaster, Boyd, Baits, Herald **Servers:**
 Hillen, Watson, Oberschelp

Catechetical Sunday

Today marks the annual national celebration of Catechetical Sunday in recognition of catechists and parents across the United States who hand on the faith. We are proud to honor this ministry whose work is vital to the life of the Church and our parish. Please pray for them as they begin a new catechetical year of study, reflection and faith enrichment. Families are invited to pick up a prayer card in the Narthex.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioner **Fred Henning; George Berroth**, brother of our parishioner Donna Frizzell and uncle of Ed & Tim Frizzell; **David Webb**, brother of our parishioner Priscilla Jarasiewicz; and our parishioner **Gene Ann Witkowski**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Final Italian Trip Meeting

The last meeting of those making the parish trip to Italy is this Friday, September 25, 7:00pm at the



Rectory. It is an *optional* meeting for those who want a short lesson in Italian to prepare them for the pilgrimage. Fr. Sam will offer some hints in understanding the language and getting around on your free time.

Readings for the Week of September 20

Sunday: Wis 2:12,17-20/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
 Monday: Eph 4:1-7,11-13/Mt 9:9-13
 Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8,12b,14-20/Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-9,14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45
 Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:39-43,45,47-48

Wall Hangings Update

During the summer, Fr. Sam announced that we had received renderings of several wall hangings that were meant to help us with spoken prayer in our hard surfaced church, as well as add color to the walls flanking the sanctuary. Some people thought these hangings were not suitable and in the attempt to listen and consider other alternatives, Nick Parrendo, a local artist from Hunt Studios, came to visit the church to see what these might be. One consideration is that we want to be able to use the walls for video presentations like the one at Pentecost, so we have to be able to do that no matter what kind of art or panels are placed in this space. As more information is received, Fr. Sam will share it with the whole parish.



Thank You

The St. Benedict the Abbot Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank everyone for their contributions during the second collection the weekend of August 29-30. Because of your generosity, our conference will be able to continue to affect the lives of many individuals and families in our community in need with temporary setbacks. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month at 7:45pm in Room 206. New members are always welcome.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Frances Schultz

Betty Ann & John Buchino

In Memory of Jack Manion

Tom & Joan Roehm

In Memory of Irene Scott

Toni Sulkowski

Diocese Launches New Program for Priests

This October, our diocese will initiate a new training and support program that has moved around our nation, *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds*. At the invitation of Bishop Zubik, Fr. Sam will be among the first group of Pittsburgh priests to participate in it. The program comes from Catholic Leadership Institute, an organization founded by laity that seeks to build authentic Catholic leaders. Using Jesus as the ultimate model for leadership, the group has developed modules for both lay and priestly leadership in the Church. The curriculum was specifically designed to help Catholic priests overcome the challenges today of a diminishing number of clergy and more complex circumstances for priestly ministry. The goal is to minimize the frustration and energy spent on their administrative roles and maximize the joy and time spent on the pastoral duties for which they were uniquely ordained. The impact will be more holy, healthy, and happy shepherds of vibrant parish communities, leading more people to a deeper relationship with Christ. Composed of six modules over a period of two and a half years, the priests who participate will be expected to be away from their parochial assignments for several days each quarter as part of this training. They also participate in half day sessions monthly in between the multi-day ones for follow-up workshops.

Sharing Our Treasure & Capital Campaign News

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>Parish Share</u>
August 2	\$19,731	\$3,683	\$1,818
August 9	\$22,134	\$2,947	\$4,073
August 16	\$21,949	\$2,021	\$1,130
August 23	\$19,790	\$1,223	\$5,583
August 30	\$20,870	\$1,093	\$585
Monthly Totals	\$104,474	\$10,967	\$13,189
Weekly Average	\$20,894.80		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		

August has come and gone and the numbers from the month remind us that many of our regulars were away enjoying vacations and family visits. While we were only a little below our budgeted financials for income, the expenses remained high for things like air conditioning and other utilities. Now that we are back to normal with routines and school has begun, we are hoping to get back on track with our budget. By early October we will have our 2008-09 fiscal year report for your consideration.

We have been working hard to have a complete picture of the pledges made over the course of the campaign in its several phases. Sadly, accurate records were not always kept from the first campaign. In a short time we will post the list we have and invite your corrections or comments as we move to the recognition phase with our narthex memorial tree.

Entertainment/Enjoy Books

The Knights of Columbus, South Hills Council #3084, is selling Entertainment and Enjoy Books before and after each mass on September 26 and 27 in O'Brien Hall. The cost of the Enjoy Book is \$27, and the cost of the Entertainment Book is \$20. Proceeds will benefit both the St. Benedict charities and the various charitable activities of the Knights of Columbus, South Hills Council. For additional information or to reserve a book, contact Jack Craig at 724-941-4931 or Bernie Singer at 724-941-9324.



Ask Father Sam

Why do born again Christians believe you have to be re-baptized?

Lesson of the Week

What is the basis for Catholic Social Teaching?

There are ten themes of our tradition which connects our faith with our citizenship. We hold that being a believer means being an active citizen and helping to shape a world more respectful of the life and dignity of every person—especially the unborn, the poor and the vulnerable. The basis of these themes is the bible and Jesus’ own example, along with the writings of Paul and others from the first centuries of Christian faith. Christians were known in the Roman Empire as those who cared for others better than any other group.

- *Life & Dignity of the Human Person*—The foundation of a moral vision for society. Every person is precious, people are more important than things, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances human life and dignity.
- *Call to Family & Community*—In a culture driven by excessive individualism, Catholic teaching reminds us that how we organize our society directly affects human dignity and the capacity of people to grow in community...we especially support marriage and family life in this regard.
- *Rights and Responsibilities*—Our tradition teaches that while every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency, these rights bring duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.
- *Option for the Poor and Vulnerable*—The basic moral test of a society is how it treats its most vulnerable members. The “option for the poor” is not an adversarial slogan. Instead, it recognizes that the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community.
- *The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers*—We believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected—the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property and to economic initiative.
- *Solidarity*—Our teaching proclaims that we are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological

Continued in the next column

“Lesson of the Week” continued...

- differences. “Loving our neighbor” has global dimensions in an interdependent world.
- *Care for God’s Creation*—Catholic tradition insists that how we treat the environment is a measure of our stewardship and a sign of our respect for the Creator. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all God’s creation. *P.S. This is so much a part of the heritage of Benedict and his monks—to care for the earth—that our Garden Group looks to connect heaven and earth in care for the land on which our parish sits.*
- *Participation*—All people have a right to participate in the economic, political, and cultural life of society and must be assured a minimum level of community participation. It is wrong to unfairly exclude anyone.
- *Role of Government and Subsidiarity*—The state has a positive moral function as an instrument to promote human dignity, protect human rights, and build the common good. The “principle of subsidiarity” holds that the functions of government should be performed at the lowest level possible, as long as they can be performed adequately.
- *Promotion of Peace*—Catholic teaching promotes peace as a positive, action-oriented concept. There is a close relationship in Catholic teaching between peace and justice. Peace is the fruit of justice and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

In his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth), Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that while “the poor of the world continue knocking on the doors of the rich, the world of affluence runs the risk of no longer hearing those knocks on account of a conscience that can no longer distinguish what is human.” As Catholics, we want always to hear the cries of the poor and to work with others to build a better world. The Gospel of Christ is our guide.

Faith Formation News

Middle School Faith Formation Open Houses

Faith Formation for our Middle School Children in 7th and 8th grade starts on September 23 with an “Open House” for parents and students.

- 6:00—7:00pm:** 7th Graders and their parents
- 7:00—8:00pm:** 8th Graders and their parents

This schedule is also available on line.



Healthcare Forum

As noted in the insert in last weekend's bulletin, the open meeting sponsored by an independent group, not by our parish, that was scheduled for this Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00pm, in the PBAC was cancelled because we have our students here at that time. The event has been moved to a different location. Please refer to <http://www.meetup.com/pittsburghsouth912-com/> for further information on the location and time. For the Catholic viewpoint on health care reform, check out the United States Catholic Bishops' Conference website, or the insert from the bulletin last Sunday.

Retreat for Grieving Singles

The loss of a spouse through death, separation or divorce is one of life's most traumatic experiences. The *Beginning Experience* program is presented by a team of people who have suffered the loss of a spouse and are willing to share their own experience to help others. The next weekend will be held October 2-4 at the Gilmory Center in Moon Township. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life, 412-456-3160, familylife@diopitt.org, or call Susan Ackerman at 724-334-0118.

Marriage Encounter

Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and give your marriage a tune-up. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held September 23-25 at Seven Springs Resort in Champion, PA. An additional weekend is scheduled for November 20-22 at Bishop Connaire Center in Greensburg. For more information or to register, contact Mary & Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at wwme-pittsburgh.org.

Anointing of the Sick at Mass

Our parish will celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on Sunday, October 4, at the 11:30am Mass. The previous week, September 26, at 10:30am, St. Louise de Marillac Parish will celebrate the sacrament. All those who are ill, elderly, or frail should avail themselves of this sacrament. For September 26, call Nancy Hartwig at 412-833-6945. To register for our anointing on October 4, call Dennis Gehrlein, 724-941-9406, ext206.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, September 20

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:45 & 9:30 Mass*

9:00a Faith Formation Open House
11:00a Faith Formation Open House

Monday, September 21

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)
6:30p Aerobics (PBAC)
7:00p Welcoming Committee (213)
7:30p Neighborhood Ministry (208)

Tuesday, September 22

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)
6:00p Faith Formation Open House
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)
7:30p Bible as Theology (204/206)

Wednesday, September 23

9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)
12:00p AA (208)
6:00p Seventh Grade Open House
6:30p **No Confessions Today**
7:00p Eighth Grade Open House
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)
7:45p St. Vincent de Paul (206)

Thursday, September 24

9:30a Light Weigh (213)
12:00p NA (206)
7:00p RCIA (204)
7:30p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)
7:30p Communication Committee (208)

Friday, September 25

9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)
7:00p Italian Trip Meeting (Rectory)

Saturday, September 26

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

Sunday, September 27

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:45 & 9:30 Mass*

9:00a Faith Formation Session
11:00a Faith Formation Session

**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

Cub Scouts

Steve Ridge
724-941-9816

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 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