



Father Sam's Forum

Where does sin come from? The readings today focus on what causes us to sin and tell us to pray for the strength to avoid sin. Jesus' admonition in the Gospel is meant for all of us. If we cause another person to sin by giving bad example of living our faith, we can be held responsible. Whoa! Does that mean every time we bad mouth someone we are leading others to join in and sin? How about when we use foul language in front of our kids? Or what about when we use racial or ethnic or religious stereotypes?

If we want to understand the teaching of Jesus we have to remember that he was facing a resistant audience. Commentators tells us they were still petty and possessive. Bound up in competition with others and trying to make it in a world dominated by Roman selfishness and aggression, it was easy to think of oneself first.

So to hear the Lord say, "cut your hand off," if it is the cause of your sin, really shocked people. Jesus did not intend for people to maim themselves. What he was really saying was that it isn't our hands or feet or eyes that cause us to sin. We could remove them all and still sin. The thing that has to change is our hearts. We have to undergo a change of heart!

Again, James speaks to us today. So many times we are conflicted because our faith tells us one thing but our lives seem to want to go in a different direction. Having riches themselves is not evil, but it is sinful when we hoard what we have, when we believe that what we have is the result of our own doing and not God's blessings, when we fail to see that all the resources of the earth are meant to be shared.

St. Paul's theology of the Church as the Body of Christ reminds us that when one member suffers, the whole body suffers. That's why we invite missionaries to address us, that's why we teach about the connection between justice and peace, that's why believe we are responsible for one another—our sisters' and brothers' keepers. There are some around who don't get it. They think that being Christian means only a private moral behavior without the connection to public life. But Jesus is very clear about how we will be judged. It's in how we treat *others*—and others is not those who act like us, think like us, dress like us. Others means everyone! As a favorite poster of mine says, "All God's children got a place in the Choir."

Parish News: Remember to check out a site called flockNote.com and see our news threads there. If you haven't seen the updated parish web site, check that out as well. It is very interactive—you can ask a question there, complete various forms, and even sign up for electronic giving that takes the hassle out of remembering your envelopes for Mass. I'm always looking for questions for the "Lesson of the Week" so don't be afraid to submit yours. With adult formation an important part of our pastoral plan, one of the ways we can help adults to know their faith is through clarification of our teachings. One subgroup of the Adult Formation Committee is working on *40 things you should know as a Catholic*. Sounds interesting.

Mass Intentions: Sept. 27—Oct. 4

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**

Monday, September 28—Weekday

- 8:30a **Jerry Sternweis** (Jim & Mary Sternweis)

Tuesday, September 29—Archangels: Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael

- 6:30a **Rita Elseth** (Dee Petricca)
8:30a **Fred & Tess Velan** (Art & Lois Kelly)

Wednesday, September 30—Jerome

- 6:30a **Kaleb Sanford** (Fran & Jernigan Hall)
8:30a **31st Anniversary of Priestly Ordination of Rev. Samuel J. Esposito**
(M/M Joseph Smith)

Thursday, October 1—Therese of the Child Jesus

- 6:30a **Albert & Clark Families** (Joan Clark)
8:30a **Joseph Maffei** (Joe & Gussie Maffei)

Friday, October 2—Guardian Angels

- 8:30a **Bill Kauffman** (Parents)
1:45p **Manor Care : Deceased of the Hudak Family**

Saturday, October 3—Weekday

- 8:30a **Anna Rea** (Al & Diana Nizamoff)
5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, October 4—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Philomena & Stanislas Serraglia**
(Ruthann & Garry Seraly)
9:30a **Joseph & Cecilia Klimek** (Children)
11:30a **Mike & Lallie Lordi** (Children)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Helen Barbieri, requested by M/M Ted Turchick, and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Joseph Knoll, requested by Joan Knoll.

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— 107
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries— 108
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 109
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 110
 Elaine Motyl, Young Adult Coordinator— 111
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 112
 Marcia Snowden, Catechetical Assistant—107
 Colette Specca, Director of Faith Formation— 113
 Jay Specca, Coordinator Adult Formation & Liturgy—114

Pastoral Administration

Michael Benya, Parish Campus Manager—105
 Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—100
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance— 100
 Shirley Jacobs, Bookkeeper— 100
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 131
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 100
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager — 106
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance— 100
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor— 100

- Formation Offices: Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

St. Benedict Pre-School

Beverly Jurcic, Director —724-731-0222

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: October 3 – October 4

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Benya, Tallon **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Klinar, Specca, Femiani, Ligman, Mertens, Satler, T & D Martin, LaCamera **Servers:** Curry, A Weaver, LaRosa, Curran, Tallon

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lector: Trapanotto **Greeters:** Barker, Henger **EMHC:** Glod, Faina, Walnoha, Puskarich, Basile, Berger, Petricca **Servers:** Wiegman, Kelly, Shaw

9:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Ross, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Stewart **EMHC:** Schultz, Serrino, McGovern, Kail, Gaudy, Orient, Bayer, Torres, Capozza **Servers:** J, J & N Bianco, Pampena, Severa

11:30pm— Fr. Esposito, Fr. Ruffalo (Anointing of the Sick)

Lector: Luttner **Greeters:** Bartoli, Becker **EMHC:** Hayward, Herald, Baits, Black, Oldaker, Slomiany, Huffner **Servers:** Toscano Children

Pastoral Council Position

With the resignation of Dr. Kathy Davis, we have an open position on our Pastoral Council. Those interested will be invited to attend the November council meeting to begin the discernment process. For more information or to submit your name, contact Aimee Schmidt at 724-941-7046.

Anointing Mass

Our annual Mass with the celebration of the sacrament of *anointing of the sick* is set for next Sunday at 11:30am. All those who are elderly, chronically ill, or have any serious condition can present themselves for this sacrament. Experience the power of Christ's healing and the prayers of the community as we come together for this ritual.

2010 Mass Requests

The 2010 Mass Book will soon be open to take your intentions. Because we can only accommodate those intentions we can reasonably fulfill in the coming year, we must limit the number we accept. **Only registered parishioners may request intentions.** No exceptions this year. The forms will be included in the bulletin for October 18, and requests will be handled in the order they are received. Because of volume, expect to have your requested dates confirmed as we are able over the following five weeks. In addition to Mass intentions, parishioners may request one candle (the sanctuary candle that burns weekly before the Blessed Sacrament). In addition, you may also memorialize the bread and wine used for Mass, and the flowers. The form will include instructions and details.

Readings for the Week of September 27

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:39-43,45,47-48
 Monday: Zec 8:1-8/Lk 9:46-50
 Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10,13-14 or Rv 12: 7-12ab/Jn 1:47-51
 Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Lk 9:57-62
 Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a,5-6,7b-12/Lk 10:1-12
 Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Mt 18:1-5,10
 Saturday: Bar 4:5-12,27-29/Lk 10:17-24
 Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

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.



Pastoral Council Minutes

The SBA Pastoral Council met on Tuesday, September 8. Members in attendance: A. Schmidt, chair; E. Corbett, E. Guna, E. Mertens, G. McGurl, A. Pampana, B. Pfeifer, Fr. S. Esposito

Members absent: D. Buttgerreit, J. Sarra

Staff present: J. Layton, M. Benya, G. Fincham, D. Gehrlein, K. Pfeifer, J. Roberto, C. Specca, J. Specca

J. Specca led the group in prayer using the *lectio divina* approach. Fr. Sam noted that a more significant amount of time should be devoted to prayer at each meeting according to the guidelines.

Because of the resignation of K. Davis, there is an open position on council. The process to fill the position will be to announce it through the bulletin and allow those interested to begin the discernment phase at the November meeting. The new member will fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. Davis.

New Sunday Mass times begin on September 13, according to the results of the summer survey. The council moved to act on this change because of safety concerns for the children attending formation classes, parking lot issues, and to ease the large attendance at the 10:00 Mass.

Aimee reminded members to use the flockNote.com site as a tool for communication. This site is open to all parishioners who can register securely and follow parish news threads.

Staff present gave updates on a number of programs including Faith Formation for children and adults and Youth Ministry. Greg Fincham announced that the Teen Band would provide music for some Masses and that our parish will host the Xavier University Choir on January 3, 2010. Housing for the students is needed for an overnight stay.

Dennis Gehrlein is working on outreach programs for disconnected and alienated parishioners, support for separated and divorced Catholics, and an introduction to contemplative prayer.

The three committees formed from the pastoral plan have met and are in the process of reviewing ideas for action. In other business, Fr. Sam announced that our Regional Vicar, Fr. Fred Cain, will be installed on November 3, at 7:00pm at St. Thomas More Church.

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 7:30pm.

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.

Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them

Please remember in your prayers **Joseph Krzynowek**, brother-in-law of our parishioner Nancy Huffner and our parishioner **Elizabeth (Lil) Nalitz**, who died recently. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Grief/Bereavement Support Group

Grieving the death of someone we love can often seem overwhelming at times, so, once again, our parish will host a grief/bereavement support group program on Saturdays from 9:30am to 11:00am beginning October 17. This 5-week series is modeled after the Diocese's Emmaus Journey program and is open to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information or to register, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406, ext. 109.

Blessing of Pets



We have typically offered a blessing of pets near the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4. This year the blessing takes place on Saturday, October 3, 10:00am outside the church. Gather with your beloved pets in that area and Fr. Sam will happily bless them.

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

My friend comes to Mass sometimes, but also attends services at a non-denominational church. What's the difference?

Lesson of the Week

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

The phrase being "born again" is seen differently by various Christian groups. The phrase itself comes from John's Gospel, where we hear these words, "Unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God." (John 3:5) This is spiritual rebirth as commanded by Christ. At the time John's Gospel was written, the Church was baptizing adults, but not children. It took a few hundred years for the baptism of children to become the normal practice. So this expression "born again" was a second birth, a spiritual birth for the converts.

Catholic Christians understand this as what happens at baptism. The term "born again" to us is the spiritual change worked by divine grace by which a person, from having been conceived and born in sin (Original Sin), is regenerated into a new creature, a child of God and heir of heaven.

In some Protestant circles the expression refers to a new experiential knowledge in Christ that comes about after a conversion from sin to service of God. So a "born again" Christian would be someone who, although already baptized earlier in life, only as an adult comes to "know" Christ. Because of that belief, some would hold that the first baptism doesn't matter since it was not chosen by the person.

We do not re-baptize. Baptism is a once-for-all sacrament. No matter if a person is baptized as an infant or an adult, it is not repeated. So long as the Trinitarian formula is used, "I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," along with water poured, or the person immersed in water, Catholics hold this to be a valid baptism.

Those baptized in another faith who are part of the RCIA process to become Catholic are not re-baptized. Years ago the Church practiced what we call *conditional baptism* when there was some suspicion that the person's baptism might not have been done according to the formula. But today, if we have proof that a baptism occurred with water and using the words required, it counts.

Support Group for Separated & Divorced

Those who are separated or divorced are invited to a weekly Divorce Care Program which is being held Thursdays at 7:30pm through December 17 at the Fontenay Center at St. Bernard's Church in Mt. Lebanon. Divorce Care is a 13-week series and includes topics ranging from loneliness and depression to anger and forgiveness. For more information, call Mary Ann at St. Bernard's at 412-561-3300 or our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Jack Manion

M/M Jonathan Clark Amy Baumgartner
Robert Kosir & Frank Kosir, Jr.

In Memory of Joseph Knoll

Mrs. Joan Knoll

Parish Picnic

The parish picnic is this coming Saturday, October 3. Please register, if you have not already done so. You may bring a dessert anytime after 9:00am to O'Brien Hall, and we will also accept a food can, paper products, etc. to be distributed by the Food Bank. We hope to see all of you at the picnic.

Parents' Baptism Meetings

Upcoming dates for the parents' preparation session before baptism are Sunday, October 4, 10:30am; Thursday, November 5, 7:00pm; and Sunday, December 6, 10:30am. You do not have to register to attend—and participation is mandatory as part of our adult formation program. A good idea is to attend during pregnancy as part of your spiritual preparation to welcome a new life into your home.

Se-Jong Tae Kwon Do

This is a non-contact school of martial arts offering free classes to interested participants. Classes meet on Wednesday nights from 7:45pm to 8:45pm in O'Brien Hall and includes Tae Kwon Do, Aikido and self-defense techniques. Anyone interested in learning this Korean martial art is invited to stop by and talk to the instructor or call Steve Pfeifer at 724-941-6541. New students will be accepted September 30 and October 7, 14, & 21.



WOSB Shoe Boxes

The Women of St. Benedict will pack and wrap the “shoe boxes” for families in Appalachia starting Tuesday, October 6 at 9:30am in Pope Benedict Activity Center. We will continue to pack and wrap each Tuesday morning until all the boxes are wrapped. If you have any question, call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955.

Fall Bulb Sale

The St. Benedict Garden Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Fall Flower Bulb Sale to benefit the renovation of the church grounds. Due to the overwhelming generosity of the “Garden Angels”, the Garden Committee is looking for “helping hands” to assist in planting the bulbs on the church grounds in mid-October. Watch the website and future bulletins for further details.

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 Twp. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 412-456-3160, or familylife@diopitt.org, or call Susan Ackerman at 724-334-0118.

Caritas in Veritate Catholic Social Teaching in the Current Economic Crisis

Pope Benedict XVI’s latest encyclical, *Charity in Truth*, is the most recent contribution to Catholic Social Teaching. Sister Marguerite Kropinak, CSJ, Director of the St. Joseph Spirituality Center, Baden, will offer a review of the letter and what it means for Catholics. Her class will explore major principles of our social teaching, relevant Scriptural texts, historical review of social teaching, and the major points of the new letter. The fee is \$20 and classes are at SS. Simon and Jude, Greentree, on Thursday, October 15 and 29, from 7:00–9:00pm. This class offers four elective credits for catechists and religion teachers in the diocese, but everyone is welcome to attend. Phone 724-869-6587 for more information.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, September 27

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
10:30a	WORD	(YM)
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
1:00p	Confirmation Retreat Day	(offsite)

Monday, September 28

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
6:00p	Cub Scouts	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(213)

Tuesday, September 29

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204/206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:00p	Finance Council	(Rectory)

Wednesday, September 30

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, October 1

9:00a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
9:30a	Light Weigh	(213)
12:00p	NA	(206)
4:00p	Eucharistic Adoration Begins	(Chapel)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Women of SW PA	(213)
7:00p	Picnic Volunteer Mtg.	(OBH)
7:30p	Adult Faith Formation Mtg.	(208)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, October 2

9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
4:00p	Closing of Adoration	(Chapel)

Saturday, October 3

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:00a	Blessing of Pets	(outside)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Parish Picnic—2:00—9:00pm

Sunday, October 4

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
10:30a	WORD	(YM)
10:30a	Parents’ Baptism Prep	(Library)
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