



Father Sam's Forum

Archbishop Timothy Dolan, New York, made the statement this summer that the real *vocation crisis* in the Church today is not the lack of men and women entering the priesthood and religious life, but marriage. “We have a vocation crisis to life-long, life-giving, loving, faithful marriage. If we take care of that one, we’ll have all the priests and nuns we need for the Church.”

Like Jesus, this man of the Church has challenged the culture of his time. Our Gospel account today presents the Lord in action. Jesus teaches a lesson, answering his critics who want to hold him to the law and culture. Wives were nothing more than property and Jesus says that is not to be. They should not be dismissed—it was very easy to divorce your wife in Jesus’ day—and neither should children be dismissed. Both were among those who had no standing in society.

What Jesus calls us to in the Gospel is responsibility and dignity. Women and children, as well as men are created with a basic dignity and have importance. We are equal in God’s sight. For Jesus, the measure of what is right and wrong is not law, but love.

What about divorce? We all know that just a few decades ago Catholics were behind the trend in our country when it came to divorce but today we are right in there with the mix. Is it because we have bought the false notions about what really matters: success, personal happiness, self-fulfillment? Is it because we live in an age where everything is disposable? If something displeases us we just go in another direction. We don’t get marriage as vocation. I am not saying that someone stay in a marriage that is abusive. That’s different.

For those called to the vocation of marriage, love is never about feelings. We have been sold a false bill of goods. If we don’t feel happy or satisfied we make the mistake to look somewhere else because we believe we should have those feelings. But who owns our happiness? Is it found outside ourselves or does it come from within? When we really believe we are important in God’s eyes and our self worth is not based on what we do, how much we make, where we live or where our kids go to school, then we know that loving another means serving, caring, sharing with, and sacrificing for. In marriage, spouses imitate Jesus, the bridegroom who loves his body, the Church, even to the point of giving his life for his bride.

Correction: The September 20th **Forum** had the phrase “the respect all human life is owed *from the time of birth* to natural death,” and should have read *from the time of conception*. Working from various notes in writing it, I failed to catch the error.

Today is *Respect Life Sunday*. We celebrate with all who come to be anointed at the 11:30 Mass, we had our parish picnic yesterday as an affirmation of life, and we continue to seek ways to uphold and teach the dignity of every person in all our programs and groups. From our attempts to build strong families to youth ministry efforts to care for those in our nursing homes, our parish is dedicated to demonstrating respect for all life *from the time of conception to natural death*.

Mass Intentions: Oct. 4—Oct. 11

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)

Monday, October 5—Weekday

- 8:30a **Joseph Fisher** (Tom & Dianna Fisher)

Tuesday, October 6—Weekday

- 6:30a **Andrew Palombo** (Ann Marie Natishan)
8:30a **Patricia Gamble** (Wiegmann Family)

Wednesday, October 7—Our Lady of the Rosary

- 6:30a **Charles Bononi** (Robert Bononi)
8:30a **Patrick & Louise O’Rourke** (Children)

Thursday, October 8—Weekday

- 6:30a **Cletus & Clara Wine** (Marks Family)
8:30a **Jean Gerthoffer** (Rose & Dave Trunzo)

Friday, October 9—Weekday

- 8:30a **Bob Fonzo** (Frank & May Ellen Meola)

Saturday, October 10—Weekday

- 8:30a **Edna Mae Knorr**
(The Wall & Soeder Families)
3:00p **Wedding Mass: Kristin Dayka**
Kevin Hospodar
5:00p **Angela Cavaliere** (M/M Lorenzo Cicala)

Sunday, October 11—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
9:30a **Deceased of the Mendola & Catalano**
Families (Jerry & Barbara Serrino)
11:30a **George A. Corbo, Sr.**
(Beverly & Randy Richert)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of the deceased members of the Mikos & Rodal Families, requested by Dennis & Maryan Rodal. Bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist this week is given by Valerie Voss in memory of Urania Lier.

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 10 — October 11

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: H & M Buzzato **Greeters:** Patnesky, Reed **EMHC:** G & P Adams, Getto, Greenwald, Milavec, Norton, Sarra, Scheuring, Vandewater **Servers:** Byrne, Getto, Hillen, Nobers, Peterson

7:45am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: DiCello, Brugger **Greeters:** R & J Jackson **EMHC:** Boston, J & S Brooks, Fagioletti, Gavran, R & E McMillan **Servers:** Brooks, N & V DeRienzo

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Gohrin, Fitzgerald **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Stewart **EMHC:** Glod, A & L Kelly, Klinar, T & E Mauro, Schultz, Stein, Walnoha **Servers:** Luzier, Mackay, Mullan, Z & J Verner

11:30pm— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Auer, Ross **Greeters:** Ragan, Fisher **EMHC:** Bench, Boyd, Capozza, Eckels, Fisher, P Newmaster, Smith **Servers:** K & C Bench, Taylor

Adult Faith Formation, #1

The next “Bible as Theology” session with Fr. Sam is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 7:30pm. Those attending should read the 1 & 2 Kings, and look over Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezra. Bring a bible to class...and a friend.



Readings for the Week of October 4

Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16
 Monday: Jon 1:1–2:1,11/Lk 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Lk 11:1-4
 Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13
 Friday: Jl 1:13-15;2:1-2/Lk 11:15-26
 Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28
 Next Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30

Confirmation



Our young parishioners in grade 9 are getting ready to complete their Christian Initiation in the sacrament of confirmation. Bishop Zubik will be here on Saturday, November 7, to administer the sacrament. As the final part of their preparation these candidates are meeting for

retreat days on Sunday afternoons this fall at the Spiritan Center, Bethel Park. Let us keep these young men and women in our prayers.

Baptism Dates

Here are the upcoming dates and times for the sacrament of baptism at our parish. Parents are reminded that they are expected to attend the faith formation sessions for each child (a change in our former practice). These sessions are schedule the first Sunday or first Thursday of the month. Check the bulletin or our web site for the exact dates.

- Sunday, October 18, after the 11:30am Mass
- Sunday, October 25, during the 9:30am Mass
- Sunday, November 1, after the 11:30am Mass
- Sunday, November 8, during the 11:30am Mass
- Sunday, November 15, after the 11:30am Mass
- Saturday, November 21, during the 5:00pm Mass
- Sunday, November 29, during the 9:30am Mass
- Sunday, December 6, after the 11:30am Mass
- Sunday, December 13, during the 11:30am Mass
- Sunday, December 20, after the 11:30am Mass
- Saturday, December 26, during the 5:00pm Mass



2010 Mass Requests

The 2010 Mass Book will open October 18 to take your intentions. Since we can only accommodate the intentions we can fulfill in the coming year, we must limit the number we accept. We have about 110 unfulfilled intentions in our Mass book now and we will schedule those first. With 3 intentions per weekend (one Mass has to be scheduled “for the people of the parish”), and 9 intentions during the week, that gives us about 600 intentions we can accept in one year. Subtract the unfulfilled intentions and we have about 500 open spaces for your requests. In scheduling we want to be fair to everyone. So, **only registered parishioners may request intentions, and we will only take 2 Mass intentions per household.** 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). Also, you may also memorialize the bread and wine used for Mass, and the flowers. The form will include instructions and details. If we have space for Masses after, an announcement will be made in the bulletin.

Abbey Players Forming!



Calling all performers of any kind! St. Benedict the Abbot Parish would like to introduce our NEW parish theatre troupe—“Abbey Players”. Anyone in grades 7 through 12 is welcome to join. The Abbey Players will meet bi-weekly on Sunday afternoons from 3:30–5:00 in the Pope Benedict Activity Center for lessons in theatre,

singing, dancing, improvisation games, demonstrations, and more. This is a great way for our young parishioners to get involved and share their talents. Membership is \$50 annually and includes a free audition for any show produced by the troupe, admission to all club meetings, and a troupe t-shirt. Please join us for our informational meeting on **Sunday, October 11, 1:00pm** in the PBAC. At the meeting there will be time to complete some paperwork and sign up for the troupe. There is no obligation to join if you attend the meeting. For more information, or to sign up, please call the office.

Middle School Ministry

The annual Faith Rally for Middle School students is set for Friday, November 6, beginning at 7:00pm At Bishop Canevin High School, Crafton. The event is designed for young people in grades 6–8 and their parents. Come and join others from across the diocese in this fun and exciting evening of music, laughter, and dancing. The event features Anna Scally, president of Cornerstone Media, Inc. with music our young people listen to everyday promoting Catholic values and healthy relationships. All this for \$10 and parents are free! Registration deadline is October 30. For more information contact Cathy Malencia, 724-941-9587.

Little Bethlehem Christians Returning

The Little Bethlehem Christians, a group that represents 170 Christian families who live in the town of Bethlehem, making their living as olive wood carvers, will return on October 17-18 to display their carved items in O'Brien Hall after all weekend Masses.

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.

Thank You from WOSB

A huge thanks to the wonderful turn out of helpers for our annual Garage Sale! Those who were first timers had to be amazed at the quantity and quality of so many items. Hundreds of people came through our doors. God gave us beautiful weather and with the cooperation of so many we knew all the work was well worth it. To all who provided food for the workers, helped with clean up, and worked the floor, we say “thank you” and “God bless you!” The sale was a success because of you.



Ask Father Sam

What is a “cafeteria Catholic”?

Lesson of the Week

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

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our Catholic identity. It is what shapes us as people of God, conforms us to Christ who gave himself up to death for our salvation, and draws us into the mystery of his dying and rising. This has been our tradition for more than 2000 years. We can see it in the Scriptures in the writings of St. Paul and the *Acts of the Apostles*. We can hear about its importance in the earliest writings from Clement of Rome, around the year 80 A.D., the *Didache*, 90 A.D., and Ignatius of Antioch, who lived at the turn of the first century.

Ignatius wrote about some splinter groups, *They refrain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins, and which the Father of his goodness raised up. Let that Eucharist alone be considered valid which is celebrated in the presence of the bishop, or of him to whom he shall have entrusted it. Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.*

What this means is made clear in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, where we learn, *At Mass, we offer Christ, our Passover sacrifice, to God, and we offer ourselves along with him. We then receive the risen Lord, our bread of life, in Holy Communion. In so doing, we enter into the very core of the paschal mystery of our salvation—the death and Resurrection of Christ.*

So, a Catholic who alternates worship between Mass and the services at another church is missing out on—or doesn’t understand—what we believe as foundational, namely that the Eucharist is the true presence of Christ. We are the Church of the apostles, linked to those commissioned by Jesus himself, and present at the Last Supper. Some folks feel Mass is boring, repetitious or not relevant to their lives, and that’s where adult formation comes in. Once we know the story, understand the bible and how it connects with our faith, Mass becomes the worship of God it is meant to be, with everyone participating and not just being spectators. When we invest ourselves, we get more than we need in return!

Rest in Peace

We remember in prayer and extend our sympathy to Laura Norton on the death of her mother, Virginia Patton, and to Kathy Pfeifer, on the death of her brother, Jim Volanski. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Our Capital Campaign

Some people may have received a letter from our envelope company that indicates we don’t have a record that you made a pledge or gift to the capital campaign for the new church when in fact, you did. Please excuse the error. The records are not always exact and we are trying to clean them up—with your help. Look for a posting of donors to be placed in the narthex as we prepare for the memorial tree.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Alice Jackson

Amy Baumgartner

In Memory of Fred Henning

John & Ferne Curran

In Memory of Josephine Wisniewski

M/M William Gullborg M/M Paul Hook
Mary Kay & Thomas Chaffee McMurray Rotary Club

In Memory of Irene Scott

Jay & Dolores Jarrell

Animal Blessing Today

In case you missed our pet blessing yesterday here, Bishop Lawrence Brandt, Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese, will bless animals today at our neighboring parish, Saint Francis of Assisi, Finleyville, at 2:30pm. All are welcome to bring their pets.

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.



Shoe Box Outreach

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.

Calling All Decorators



Advent and Christmas will be here before you know it. Fr. Sam would like to meet with anyone who wants to help in decorating the church for these two seasons. An open meeting will be held on Sunday, October 18, after the 9:30am Mass. Come to the

Chapel and let's hear your ideas and suggestions.

Magnificat Breakfast

All women of the parish are invited to join Magnificat Pittsburgh for an uplifting prayer breakfast on Saturday, October 24, from 9:00am to Noon at the Radisson, Green Tree. Susan Polvin is the leader of Living Praise Worship Team, an all women's music ministry. Susan has found God's love and learned to trust him in the struggles and joy of four adopted children and the heartache and hope of a drug addicted son. Cost of the breakfast is \$18. Registration deadline is October 16. Call Kay, 724-772-6749, or Dorothy, 412-364-6532 or see www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.

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, 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	

Monday, October 5

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Welcoming Committee	(210)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, October 6

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:30a	WOSB Shoe Box packing	(PBAC)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204/206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, October 7

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

Thursday, October 8

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(204)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Saturday, October 10

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

Sunday, October 11

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
10:30a	WORD	(YM)
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	

Adult Faith Formation, #2

The second “Cooking & the Council” meets October 13, 11:00am in O'Brien Hall. Call Jay Specca, ext 114 to register. Fr. Sam will discuss “The Structure of the Liturgy: bringing yourself to Mass.” The menu for the session is *Panis Angelicus* focaccia and *In Vino Veritas* tuna salad. Space is limited.

**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