



Father Sam's Forum

“**W**hat do you want me to do for you?” Asking that kind of question can be dangerous. We really don't know what will be asked of us if we ask that question. It could be something very simple or something seemingly impossible like the request that Bartimaeus made of Jesus. But what if we were to consider that Jesus is asking us what it is that we want him to do for us, what would we say? What would we ask?

Throughout the country today, Catholics are asked to think about their priests. The priest is a man who gets asked for lots of things. If, like Jesus, your pastor were to ask you, “What do you want me to do for you?” it could place him in a dangerous spot. If you were to answer, “I want you to change the teachings of the Church because I disagree with some of them,” he would be unable to grant your request, and you might think that he really doesn't care about you. If you were to ask him to change something about the parish, like the geographical boundaries, or the design of the building, or how the cars park in the lot, he most likely wouldn't be able to easily fulfill your request either. Again, same feeling of no follow through. But if you asked him to pray with you, to visit you when you are sick, to speak with you when you are having a spiritual struggle, to prepare you for marriage, to listen to your confession, or to teach you more about your faith, these are the things he is meant to do. Not impossible any longer, but what is a part of who he is as a priest.

In another twist on this same question, consider that Jesus has asked it of every priest. “What do you want *me* to do for *you*?” What answers do you suppose the priests you know would give? Would some ask that the parish have sufficient financial resources for its programs and ministries? Would others ask that more people show up for Mass? Would a few make the request that every Catholic in their parish understand and take seriously their faith? Like the wishes expressed by the people who would want their pastor to work magic or do the impossible, so God would be expected in these instances to become a magician instead of a Shepherd-King whose primary concern is to care for people and free them from the things that hold them in bondage.

When God asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” could we answer like Bartimaeus, “Lord, I want to see!” This is the sight of faith, seeing that

helps us to believe and that comes from our belief. Knowing the identity of Jesus as the Son of David, the promised and anointed one, we also see him as our great high priest. Even though not a member of the priestly clan of Levi, Jesus was chosen by God and set apart for a special work. Through the Church he founded, Jesus handed on that priesthood to those who are set apart as shepherds of his people.

It is at the altar, gathered in worship with our priests, that we return to God thanksgiving and praise for these wonderful deeds. What do we want from God? As we place the bread and wine to become for us nourishment for the journey, we ask to be transformed as well. With the grace and love of God, all of us who are God's holy people will be what we are meant to be and can shout for joy in a song of praise to the Lord who sets us free.

Mass Intentions: Oct. 25—Nov. 1

Sunday, Oct. 25—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Living and Deceased of Schweibinz & Busch Families** (Claire Meredith)
 9:30a **Living & Deceased Members** (Ben's Men)
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

Monday, October 26—Weekday

- 8:30a **Joseph J. Klimek** (William Klimek)

Tuesday, October 27—Weekday

- 6:30a **Thomas Laboon**
(Bill & Mickey Shanafelt)
 8:30a **Frank Kiefer** (Loving Wife, JoAnn)

Wednesday, October 28—Simon & Jude, Apostles

- 6:30a **Armella Stark** (Women of St. Benedict)
 8:30a **Mildred Teodori** (M/M Frank Casilli)

Thursday, October 29—Weekday

- 6:30a **Elizabeth Huffner** (Huffner Family)
 8:30a **Dolores M. Gross**
(Husband, Stephen Gross)

Friday, October 30—Weekday

- 8:30a **Mildred & Walter Shample**
(Daughter, Annette Karnash)

Saturday, October 31—Weekday

- 8:30a **John Rogers** (Wife and Family)
 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, November 1—All Saints

- 7:45a **Frances Resignalo** (St. Vincent de Paul)
 9:30a **Vanessa Dulak** (M/M Lowery Stoops)
 11:30a **Norman Doerschner** (Janet & Lee)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Betty Lou Zary, requested by the Zary Family, and the Bread and Wine is for the Living and Deceased of Busch & Schweibinz Families, by Claire Meredith.



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 Preschool

Beverly Jurcic, Director— 724-731-0222

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: October 31—November 1

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Reisz, Pustay **Greeters:** Reed, Schardt **EMHC:** Klinar, Specca, Femiani, Ligman, T & D Martin, LaCamera, Norton, Mertens **Servers:** J, J & N Bianco, C & M Reisz

7:45am— Fr. Keane

Lectors: Mamros, DiCello **Greeters:** Boston, Henger **EMHC:** J & S Christopher, Faina, Puskarich, Basile, Fagioletti, Kail **Servers:** E, M & E Jozwiak

9:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Ellsworth, Mahla **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Schultz, Torres, Bayer, Walnoha, Glod, Serrino, McGovern, Orient, Weaver **Servers:** Oberschelp, Watson, Weaver, P & M Ellsworth

11:30pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Hajzus, Balash **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** T & E Mauro, Hayward, Baitis, Black, Oldaker, McGinnis **Servers:** D, C & L Schratz

Rest in Peace

We remember in prayer and extend our sympathy to our parishioner **Fred Peelor and Viola Jarasiewicz**, mother of our parishioner, Mitchell Jarasiewicz. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Workshop

There will be workshops for all Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist on November 1, at 2:00pm and November 11, 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, along with the liturgical changes. It is necessary for all ministers to attend. Contact Jay Specca at ext. 114 with any questions.

Readings for the Week of October 25

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52
 Monday: Rom 8:12-17/Lk 13:10-17
 Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25/Lk 13:18-21
 Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Lk 6:12-16
 Thursday: Rom 8:31b-39/Lk 13:31-35
 Friday: Rom 9:1-5/Lk 14:1-6
 Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a,11-12,25-29/Lk 14:1,7-11
 Next Sunday: Rv 7:2-4,9-14/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Fifth and Sixth grade students will be collecting donations after all Masses today for the CROP Hunger Walk.

Parish Directory Update

Our parish directory pages were completed and sent to Busson for publication this past June. Unfortunately, after that time Busson Directories was sold to Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits, Inc., and all of our materials were turned over to them. They have just begun to process our materials, and we are working with them to try to complete the directories as soon as possible. At this time they have not given us any indication as to when the directories will be complete. We will keep you updated on their progress. Please watch the bulletin for any further updates.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Jack Manion

Gail Fisher

In Memory of Josephine Wisniewski

Walter & Virginia Jones The Joe Mangini Family
 Gina & Thomas Samosky

In Memory of Joseph Yatchum

Howard Gebhardt

In Honor of the Wedding of Kay & Dan Bayer

Julius & Frances Hall



Introduction to “Centering Prayer” Workshop

Do you seek the small, still voice of God? Are you interested in discovering a more intimate prayer life? Then come to a workshop here at St. Benedict’s on Saturday, December 5 from 9:00am—3:00pm that will help you find the God within and hear with the “ear of the heart.” At this introduction to Centering Prayer, you will learn about “prayer as relationship”, the simple method of Centering Prayer, how to deal with thoughts and distractions, and how the fruits of prayer are manifest in your life. This workshop is being presented by the Contemplative Outreach of Pittsburgh. Suggested donation is \$20 which includes the workshop and six follow-up sessions that will be held on Monday evenings. Refreshments will be provided, but please bring along a bag lunch. For more information, contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406.

All Souls Mass

Our annual parish Mass of Remembrance to pray for those who have died in the past year will be celebrated on All Souls Day, November 2, at 7:00pm. For anyone in the parish who may have experienced the death of a family member this year, your loved one’s name will be read and a candle will be lit in their memory. We will once again feature a photo display in the church during the month of November, a time when we traditionally pray for and remember the dead. If you have lost a loved one during the past 12 months and want to include them in this display, please bring any size photo (color or black/white) to the church office before October 28. Be sure to include the name of the deceased on the back of the photo and a contact person to whom we can return the photo.

Candle Reservation for Mass for the Deceased
Monday, November 2, 7:00pm
Please reserve a candle in memory of

(Name of Deceased)

Your name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Will you be attending the Mass? yes no

Youth Ministry News

World Youth Day Cruise

Get your tickets now for the “Fun Boat” on November 1 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. We will leave from St. Benedicts at 4:45pm to head down to Station Square where we will board the Gateway Clipper for an evening of dinner, dancing, and hanging out with over 800 teens from throughout the Diocese. The cost is \$30 and includes transportation. We will be returning to St. Benedicts at 11:00pm.

Fall Retreat

“The Ride of Your Life” at Camp Allegheny on November 20-22 will take you on an exciting ride through the Mass on the Thunderbolt, the Paratrooper, the Pittsburgh Plunge, and more! Your old favorites become new again as we journey through time into the beauty and relevance of the Mass. If you’ve never been on retreat, it’s a great time to be with friends while being renewed with terrific speakers, music, food and fun. Get your friends and register before November 1 as space is limited. The cost is \$85. Hold onto the bar, this is “The Ride of Your Life!”

In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

Thanks to St. Benedict’s Military Support Group, we now have a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

Blood Drive

St. Benedict will be hosting their bi-annual blood drive on November 22 in O’Brien Hall. Hours of donation will be from 8:00am until 1:00pm. Please call Blaise at 724-942-0748 if you have any questions.



Ask Father Sam

What is the meaning of the logo in the floor at the church entrance?

Lesson of the Week

In Vitro Fertilization, Part II

Continuing last week's discussion of the reasons why the Church teaches that IVF is morally illicit, the third reason is inspired by John Paul II's "theology of the body," specifically his notion of the "language of the body." According to this line of reasoning, IVF not only fails to acknowledge but also violates the full significance of the marital act as an instance of the personal gift of husband and wife to each other.

But what of the couples who are so eager to be parents? By the time Catholics have been to a fertility specialist, it may be too late for church teaching to play any role in their decision making. A document that comes from the Vatican might not be enough to discourage them from moving forward. So how do we reach out to couples who experience infertility? As a faith community we have outreach to many in various areas; what about in this case?

The discussion has to start in pre-Cana so that couples begin to think about what they would do in case of infertility long before they reach the doctor's office. Helping a couple talk about the "what if" before they marry brings the teaching of the Church in this regard to light. The use of embryonic stem cells is connected to this teaching because when IVF is spoken about there has to be the connection with what happens to the unused embryos. Catholic couples who forego IVF would help reduce the number of embryos created.

It might be a worthy ministry of the parish or a cluster of parishes to model a kind of support for infertile couples using something already in existence, similar to the Project Rachel program that offers post-abortion ministry. This model uses trained counselors and clergy to give psychological and spiritual care. What if older couples who have lived with infertility were to become counselors for younger ones? What if the options such as adoption and foster care were not only encouraged but also recognized within the faith community?

Finally, there are a growing number of physicians who have been trained by the Pope Paul VI Institute in Omaha, Nebraska, who treat infertility in harmony with the teachings of the Church. The Family Life Office of the diocese should offer referrals to them.

Faith Formation News

eConnect Workshop

Parents and catechists are invited to attend an "eConnect Workshop" to be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. Lee Miles, our Harcourt Sales Representative, will demonstrate this network system that enhances and expands our textbooks series, "Call to Faith."

eConnect offers a state of the art Catholic network for families that is easily accessed and provides games, activities, conversation starters, podcasts, etc. If you would like more information, or to register, contact Colette Specca in the Faith Formation Office at 724-941-9587, ext 113.

Family Faith Day Rescheduled

Join us for "Celebrating the Saints" on November 1 from 12:30pm—2:00pm in O'Brien Hall. Pizza and salad will be provided, please bring a dessert to share. Children are invited to dress as their favorite saint, and activities will include a saint parade, "find your saint," games, prizes and, of course, snacks. Please RSVP to Cathy in the Faith Formation Office at 724-941-9587, ext. 110

Youth Council Meeting

Our next youth council meeting will be October 27 at 6:15pm in the Library (area between O'Brien Hall and Pope Benedict Center). The focus of this meeting will be service projects for the youth of our parish. We will present our suggestions, and would love to hear from all of you as well. If you can't attend the meeting, please feel free to email us your ideas at youthcouncil@stbenedicttheabbot.org so we can discuss them with the group.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We've once again started our Liturgy of the Word for our preschool children at the 9:30am Mass. We would like to expand this program to include ministry at the 11:30 Mass as well, but are in need of more people to help. We will train you and provide the necessary resources you need. If you would like to help, please contact Colette or Marcia in the Faith Formation Office, Teresa Buzard at 724-941-6051, or Dennis, our pastoral associate, at 724-941-9406.



St. Benedict Library

Did you know St. Benedict had a sister? Did you know she was also a saint? Her name was St. Scholastica, and they are buried in the same grave. In honor of All Saints Day, the St. Benedict Library will be featuring books on the lives of the saints. Please stop by and learn about your favorites. We have selections for children and adults. The Library is located through the doors at the far end of O'Brien Hall (the old Church vestibule).

The Spirituality of Caregiving

St. Joseph Spirituality Center, Baden, will sponsor The Spirituality of Caregiving on October 31 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This program offers input, reflection and sharing for those who are engaged in providing care for the terminally or chronically ill in their own homes or in other facilities. This is a unique opportunity to look at caregiving as a ministry and to share with others the joys, sorrows, and frustrations experienced and to find God at the center of these. The presenter, Sister Catherine Higgins, a licensed social worker, has had personal experience as a caregiver for family members and has ministered in hospice ministry. A fee of \$20 includes lunch. To register, call 724-869-6587.

Musical Theatre Classes

Calling all kids K-6th grade in the South Hills and surrounding areas. Creative Experiences, a "unique non-competitive" musical theatre class, is now accepting students for every other Sunday classes at St. Benedict the Abbot Church starting Sunday, November 8.

K-3 "The Wizard of Oz" 2:00-3:15pm
3-6 "Camp Rock" musical revue 3:15pm-4:30pm

Call Marcia Lenzi for registration information at 724-941-5501. Part of the registration fee benefits St. Benedict the Abbot student stage renovation project.

Volunteers Needed

Canonsburg General Hospital is in need of volunteers for the **Senior Volunteer Group**. Duties are mostly clerical. If you can help, please contact Acacia Svonavec, Director of Volunteer Services at 724-873-5835.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, October 25

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

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

Monday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 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 28

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|----------|
| 12:00p | AA | (208) |
| 6:00p | Faith Formation Session | |
| 6:30p | Confessions | (Church) |
| 7:45p | Tae Kwon Do | (OBH) |
| 7:45p | St. Vincent de Paul | (206) |

Thursday, October 29

| | | |
|--------|----------------------|---------|
| 9:30a | Light Weigh | (210) |
| 12:00p | NA | (206) |
| 6:00p | Aerobics | (PBAC) |
| 7:00p | Cub Scouts Den 2 | (OBH) |
| 7:00p | RCIA | (204) |
| 7:30p | Boy Scout Troop 1313 | (PBAC) |
| 7:30p | Adult Choir | (Choir) |

Friday, October 30

| | | |
|--------|----------------|------------------|
| 10:00a | Prayer & Share | (ChNur & Br. Rm) |
|--------|----------------|------------------|

Saturday, October 31

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

Sunday, November 1

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

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

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

**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