



Father Sam's Forum

Stewardship continues to be an operative word for us as Catholics. Returning back to the *Catholic Social Teachings* I wrote about several weeks ago, our concern for the poor and for our earth are two very important considerations when we make decisions about the use of material resources. As a sign of stewardship we have two widows in the Scriptures today.

In the reading from the First Book of Kings, the story is recounted how a widow, hardly having enough to survive, shares what she has with the prophet Elijah. Jesus acknowledges a widow he observes putting some coins in the offering at the treasury. Instead of giving from surplus wealth, she gives from her livelihood. It reminds us of a saying of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "give until it hurts."

All of us have heard the television evangelists who connect God's blessings with offerings people make to fund their endeavors. From a theological perspective they have correctly connected bounty with God's blessings, but have mistaken prosperity with faith. The more one believes and trusts, the more one enjoys material gain.

The poor woman of the Gospel account has very little in the way of material goods, but has much faith. She trusts God completely. That's our example. No matter what we have in the way of material goods, our faith is based on trusting that God will bring about what is good for us spiritually. And stewardship means we return to God with increase what we have received from God. So, if we are talking about sharing our talents, then we do what we should to make them better. If we are talking about our material possessions, we distribute them to those who are lacking in them. If we are talking about caring for the earth, we don't act like we are the only ones on the planet but are careful to preserve and nourish all our natural resources.



Speaking of gifts, yesterday 163 of our young parishioners were confirmed in their faith by Bishop Zubik. In the completion of their Christian Initiation they received the fullness of God's Spirit. Pray for them

that they might use all the Spirit's gifts to make the world better, and to lead holy lives that are centered in Christ.

The last "Cooking & the Council" is Tuesday, November 10. If you haven't attended the first two but want to join us for this week's lesson and meal, call Jay in Adult Formation. Our topic for the final session is "Evangelization: the call of every Christian," and our menu will be paella.

"Bible as Theology" resumes on Tuesday, November 17 and concludes on November 24. If you plan to attend please read over the Gospel of Luke. Bring your bible and a friend. Even if you haven't attended the previous sessions you are welcome to attend these two on the New Testament.

Mass Intentions: Nov. 8—Nov. 15

Sunday, Nov. 8—32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
9:30a **James C. Rocco** (The Klinar Family)
11:30a **Elizabeth Huffner** (Stoessel Family)

Monday, November 9—St. John Lateran

8:30a **Tim Ellwood Smith**
(Don & Mary Ellen Solberg)

Tuesday, November 10—Leo the Great, pope & doctor

6:30a **Patricia Trocano** (Donna Trocano)
8:30a **Elsie & Charles Fussenegger**
(Gail & Charles Fisher)

Wednesday, November 11—Martin of Tours, bishop

6:30a **Priscilla Bayer**
(The Christopher Norton Family)
8:30a **Living & Deceased Vietnam Navy Vets**
(Dan McPoyle)
11:00a **McMurray Hills: Helen Hauck**
(Terry & Sharyn Jackson)

Thursday, November 12—Josaphat, bishop & martyr

6:30a **Ann K. Dohner** (Eleanor K. Bangs)
8:30a **Cindy A. Bruce** (Darcy Sefer)

Friday, November 13—Frances Cabrini

8:30a **Elwood "Tim" Smith** (Barbara Smith)

Saturday, November 14—Weekday

8:30a **George DiNardo** (Jeanne)
5:00p **Helen Orcutt** (Vic & Mary Ann Vandewater)

Sunday, Nov. 15—33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Patricia Pastor** (JoAnn Kiefer)
9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
11:30a **Gene Farney** (Women of St. Benedict)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Patricia Trocano, requested by Robert Trocano, and the Bread and Wine is in memory of Bruce Fussenegger, requested by Gail & Charles Fisher.



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

Readings for the Week of November 8

Sunday: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44
 Monday: Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12/1 Cor 3:9c-11,16-17/Jn 2:13-22
 Tuesday: Wis 2:23-3:9/Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Wis 7:22-8:1/Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: Wis 18:14-16;19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8
 Next Sunday: Dn 12:1-3/Heb 10:11-14,18/Mk 13:24-32

Winter Ministers' Schedule

It is time to schedule ministers for Masses in January, February and March. All Greeters, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and Mass schedule changes to Jay Specca at jspecca@hotmail.com. . . put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line. . . or call 724-941-9587, Ext. 114. He will be running the schedule the first week of December, so please have your information to him before November 30.

Online giving is in full operation! Visit the parish website and click on the link to sign up to begin donating to the parish automatically today. It's easy and convenient!

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: November 14—November 15

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Morrow, Oliverio **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky
EMHC: LaCamera, Ligman, Femiani, Specca, Pfeifer, Scheuering, Sarra, Greenwald, Vandewater **Servers:** Peterson, Byrne, Nobers, Wiegmann, Figueroa

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Rossin, DiBartola **Greeters:** Barker, Kalaski
EMHC: Faina, S & J Christopher, D & T Martin, S & J Brooks
Servers: Brooks, N & V DeRienzo

9:30am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Benya, Glover **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp
EMHC: Klinar, E & T Mauro, Orient, McGovern, Serrino, Bayer, Torres, Glover **Servers:** Z & J Verner, Mullan, Severa, Pampena

11:30pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Luttner, Auer **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Boyd, Capozza, Herald, Oldaker, Black, Baits, Hayward
Servers: Toscano Children

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioner **Ferne Curran** who died recently. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Deacon Jack Manion

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Flanigan

In Memory of Ferne Curran

George & Mary Lou Frost

Parish Dinner Meeting



Attention anyone who has supported St. Benedict Church as a cook or worker in the kitchen or has coordinated events like the Fish Frys, Parish Picnic, or if you are interested in doing this type of activity. As part of our efforts to establish ongoing

Parish Dinners at St. Benedict Church, we would like to review with you how we planned our Parish Dinner coming up on November 14 and get your feedback for future dinners. We will have an informational meeting on November 16 at 7:00pm in room 204. If you would like to help at the upcoming Parish Dinner on November 14, please call Mary Benya at 724-942-0843.



Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Meeting

The second workshop for all Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will be on November 11, at 7:30pm in the church. Please plan to attend if you did not attend the previous workshop so we can discuss the history, the importance, and the role of this ministry, along with some procedural changes we would like to implement. It is necessary for all ministers to attend. Contact Jay Specca at ext. 114 with any questions.

WOSB Welcomes Rose Hart

Did you ever wonder why the Women of St. Benedict collect travel sized items from the parish during the busy vacation season? Why we collect and wrap shoe boxes throughout the month of October? Join us on November 19 at 7:00pm in O'Brien Hall and discover the ministry involving Appalachian Outreach, Inc. of West Virginia. Executive Director, Rose Hart will discuss the many programs and project of AOI, a non-profit organization that provides relief to the poverty stricken in the Appalachians of West Virginia (www.appalachianoutreaching.org). As always, our wonderful hostesses will have a selection of refreshments. Call Maria Streno at 724-942-5570 with any questions.

Feast of Christ the King

All members of *Ben's Men* are invited to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King by joining the procession at the 5:00pm Mass on Saturday, November 21. The club will sit as a group in church. Please dress for the occasion with a jacket and tie, and meet 15 minutes prior to the start of Mass in the narthex of the Church. Let us give praise to Jesus Christ our King and Savior with our attendance and participation at this Mass.

Military Christmas Packages

The Parish Military Support Committee would like to send Christmas packages to military personnel who are stationed overseas and are family members of our parishioners. Please contact Jami Christopher jamilynn4@comcast.net or 724-942-0264 with the name and address, and we will be sure that they know they are in our thoughts and prayers. We will also add their name to the prayer list posted in the narthex of the church.

Youth Ministry News

Leftover Halloween Candy

If you have any leftover Halloween candy sitting around at home, we could put it to good use in the Youth Ministry Office. We're always trying to keep our candy stash in good supply, so all donations would be most appreciated.

WORD Steeler Party

Join us November 15 in Pope Benedict Center as we check out our favorite football team. All teens are encouraged to come to this Steeler bash after the 11:30 Mass and bring your favorite tailgate snack.

There will be no Sunday morning WORD on November 15 because of the Steeler Party and on November 22 because of retreat.

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!"

Pre-Thanksgiving Eve Bash for Young Adults

Get the word out now for all college students and young adults (ages 21-27) that we're getting together at Al's Café on Wednesday, November 25 from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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



Ask Father Sam

Since there are so many requests for Masses, why can't there be two intentions for the same Mass?

Lesson of the Week

What do we mean by the Communion of Saints?

In the Creed we recite each Sunday at Mass, we profess belief in "the Communion of saints." Since November is the month to remember all those who have gone before us in death, to pray with the saints in heaven and for the souls in Purgatory, it seems fitting to recall what exactly this doctrine means.

The word communion is used in a number of ways when we speak of our Catholic faith. Most often, we use the term to represent the elements of bread and wine that are consecrated at Mass and become the Body and Blood of Christ. *I received Communion*, we often say. But this word has its roots in our notion of **community**. As a gathering of the faithful we form a Christian community. Each parish stands united to the entire church, not as some separate entity existing on its own or for its own purposes. This community is linked to all those who have held the same faith over the centuries since the time of the apostles.

The Letter to the Hebrews speaks about a "cloud of witnesses" in describing those who are believers. The first Christians were known because so many of them gave their lives for their faith. They were called *martyrs*, the Greek word for witnesses. These holy ones, or saints, were simply members of the Church. As time passed, the title "holy" was used in a more restricted sense. It was not for the Church at large, but for those who had died and were officially recognized as having lived lives of virtue that were worthy of imitation. We know this process today as canonization.

So our profession in "the communion of saints" is a statement that we believe we are joined to all those in heaven by virtue of our baptism. As we celebrated on All Saints' Day, this includes not only those canonized but every man and woman who has been received into the glory of heaven. It is our connection with these Christian heroes that we rely upon when we ask their intercession. They have run the race and received the crown. While we are still in the race we turn to them for guidance and support. As those who see God face to face they can make intercession for us just as we do for those dead who have not yet attained that glory.

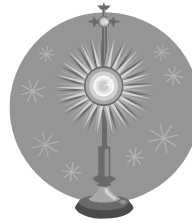
Faith Formation News

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 Specia in the Faith Formation Office at 724-941-9587, ext 113.

Eucharistic Adoration



Beginning Tuesday, November 10, St. Louise de Marillac will offer all day Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday following the 9:00am Mass and concluding at 8:00pm with Novena Prayers to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Benediction. Confessions will be heard each Tuesday from 7:00pm until 8:00pm. Many of the local churches in our area offer Eucharistic Adoration on various days and times throughout the week. Look for the insert in this bulletin for a complete schedule.

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.

The Parish Office is no longer collecting old glasses. They can be dropped off at the Washington Federal Office on Valleybrook Road or Advanced Vision Care on McMurray Road. Please do not leave them in the office.



Marriage Encounter Weekend

Fall is a beautiful season, full of color and crisp fresh air. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is like autumn because it's a weekend full of fresh air, new beginnings and a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage and family. It's a great time to rekindle communication and enjoy a weekend away. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held November 20-22 at the Bishop William G. Connare Center in Greensburg. For more information or to register, contact Mary and Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at wwwme-pittsburgh.org.

Finding God in Sustainability

The Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph will sponsor Finding God in Sustainability on November 21 from 9:00am to 3:00pm at the Motherhouse of the Sister of St. Joseph in Baden. This day of prayer offers reflections by Sister Lyn Szymkiewicz, Director of Eco Projects for the Sisters of St. Joseph. A fee of \$25 includes lunch; scholarships are available. For further information, contact Carol Brown at 724-334-0648.

St. Agnes Parish Mission

You are invited to participate in a parish mission at St. Agnes church in Richeyville on November 15-18. Fr. Michael B. Semana will lead the mission and preach at all Masses on Sunday, November 15 and lead an evening of hope and music beginning at 6:00pm and ending with Benediction. November 16 will have Mass at 8:30am followed by adoration all day until the talk and Benediction begins at 7:00pm. On November 17 Mass will be at 8:30am and a Penance service at 7:00pm. The mission will conclude on November 18 with Mass of the Holy Spirit at 7:00pm. Fr. Semana has been a priest for 30 years and has written books on prayer and healing and produced music CD's. He is involved in ministry with the poor and works for the Mission Co-Op in the United States for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith for his diocese in the Philippines.

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, November 8

**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, November 9

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:00p	Ben's Men Monthly Meeting	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Cub Scout Den 6	(Rm A)

Tuesday, November 10

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204/206)
11:00a	Cooking & The Council	(OBH)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Adult Faith Formation	(204)
7:45p	Cub Scout Den 4	(Rm A)

Wednesday, November 11

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

Thursday, November 12

9:30a	Light Weigh	(210)
9:30a	WOSB Board Meeting	(204)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(204)
7:00p	Cub Scout Den 3	(Rm A)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, November 13

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(ChNur & Br. Rm)
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Saturday, November 14

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
4:30p	Family Spaghetti Dinner	(OBH)

Sunday, November 15

**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