



Father Sam's Forum

The King we celebrate today is one who rules, not through privilege or force, but through service and love. That's the great lesson Jesus tried to impart to his original followers, and here we are centuries later and the message still hasn't sunk in much.

Divine power in Jesus looks like love. If we look at our Mission Statement we see the words faith, hope and charity, what we call the theological virtues. We strive to grow in these, our statement of purpose says. Virtue increases with God's grace, that fuels our own practices that are consistent with the virtue.

Written during the persecution of the Emperor Domitian (81–96 AD), the book of Revelation offered hope to early Christians. Telling them not to lose faith, even when faced with martyrdom, this final book of our bible screams with the exaltation of the triumph of Jesus Christ over all evil, including death. He is "the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth."

As our Church year closes this week a good reflection would be to examine how faith, hope, and charity have been working in our lives this past year. How can we draw on the power of Christ for some good purpose? The new year begins next weekend as Advent comes once again. The cycle starts all over with the first season of our Church calendar. As this time of waiting and darkness invite us to embrace it, the shorter days and longer nights thrust us into a reflection on what it means to live as followers of Jesus when the world around us seems not to want to hear his message of unselfish service—laying down his life for others, showing to what extent love will go.



Thanksgiving Day is this week. Note that the Mass on Thanksgiving Day begins at 10:00am. It will be concelebrated and is the only Mass that day. What a great opportunity to gather as a faith community and return thanks to God for every blessing we have been given. As always, you are invited to bring something for the local Food Bank with you to the Mass. Food Bank volunteers will be on hand to collect the offerings. Any canned goods or boxed items are especially helpful and appreciated. **N.B. The parish offices close at Noon on Wednesday and reopen on Monday, November 30.**

Pastor's Cabinet Meeting

All members of the Pastor's Cabinet are invited to gather with Fr. Sam and some members of the parish staff on Thursday, December 3, at 7:30pm in room 210. Our agenda includes getting updates about each group's projects and happenings in the parish and, from the pastor and staff, updates on the projects, events and programs they are planning, as well as ideas to facilitate communication. If your name is on the inside back cover of the bulletin, you should plan to attend this meeting.

Finance Council members are reminded of the next meeting, Monday, November 30, 7:00pm

Mass Intentions: Nov. 22—Nov. 29

Sunday, Nov. 22—Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

7:45a **Craig Sipp** (Don & Sherre, Parents)

9:30a **Barbara Matthews** (Beth & Brad Ruth)

11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

Monday, November 23—Weekday

8:30a **Josephine Wasserman** (Denise DeFelice)

Tuesday, November 24—Andrew Dung-Lac

6:30a **Regis Dunn** (Larry & Margaret Scola)

8:30a **Dolores M. Gross** (Children, Karen Boni, Bob Gross & Jean DeAngelo)

Wednesday, November 25—Weekday

6:30a **Marie Regan & Family**
(Regina & Dennis Urso)

8:30a **61st Wedding Anniversary of Paul & Pauline Fidel**

Thursday, November 26—Weekday

10:00a **Jim Boston** (Janet Boston)

50th Anniversary of Josephine & Paul Groff

Friday, November 27—Weekday

8:30a **Donald Shipman** (Roberta Junker)

Saturday, November 28—Weekday

8:30a **Jack Manion** (Wife)

5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, November 29—First Sunday of Advent

7:45a **Joseph Fisher** (Tom & Dianna Fisher)

9:30a **Gene Farney** (Jerry & Barbara Serrino)

11:30a **Mary Matviko** (Joanne Barton)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of the Kline Family, requested by Margaret K. Owsiany, and the Altar Bread & Wine are in memory of the living and deceased members of the Busch & Schweibinz Family, requested 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

Readings for the Week of November 22

Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37
 Monday: Dn 1:1-6,8-20/Lk 21:1-4
 Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Lk 21:5-11
 Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6,13-14,16-17,23-28/Lk 21:12-19
 Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28
 Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33
 Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
 Next Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28,34-36

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: November 28—November 29

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: M & H Buzzatto **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey
EMHC: Vandewater, Greenwald, Sarra, Scheuering, Specca,
 Femiani, LaCamera, Getto **Servers:** Getto, Curran, J, J & N
 Bianco

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Hollot, Jung **Greeters:** Barker, Barton **EMHC:**
 Kail, Gavran, E & R McMillan, Petricca, Berger, Fagioletti
Servers: J, M, A & B Lyle

9:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton (Baptism at Mass)

Lectors: Fitzgerald, Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Stewart,
 Becker **EMHC:** Orient, Walnoha, Glod, Torres, Bayer, Serrino,
 McGovern, Cushma, Spinabelli **Servers:** Cushma, A & E Ross,
 L & J Spinabelli

11:30pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Balash, Luttner **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:**
 Capozza, McGinnis, Hayward, Baits, Black, Oldaker, Herald
Servers: F & M Meola, Graves

Christmas Cards



This year we are offering a photo Christmas card of the inside of our church taken last year at Christmas. Boxes include 25 cards and envelopes for \$15.00. You can see a sample in the narthex on the bulletin board and if you would like to purchase a box or boxes, they are available in the parish office. We have ordered a limited number so first come first served until the cards are gone.

Safe Environment Program

In the aftermath of 2002 and the promulgation of the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People," by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Diocese of Pittsburgh instituted a *Safe Environment Program* that mandates all adults who work with children and young people in any way, as an employee or volunteer, to meet the following requirements: register on the diocesan database, obtain a Pennsylvania State Police Clearance and Child Welfare Clearance, attend a Protecting God's Children Workshop, and read and sign the Diocesan Code of Pastoral Conduct. Failure to comply with these directives renders one ineligible to work with children and young people in any capacity.

One year ago, Saint Benedict the Abbot Parish was audited which revealed that we still had some work to do to become fully compliant with the policy. While work has been done over the past year it is not yet completed.

Volunteers who are not in compliance with the diocesan policy on safe environments must work to be compliant immediately. Our coordinator, John Turek, is setting a goal of having all staff, all volunteers associated with formation and youth ministry, and anyone serving in any of the liturgical ministries (Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, lectors, wedding coordinators, cantors, adult choir members, contemporary choir members, sacristans) to have these clearances completed by Epiphany Sunday, January 3, 2010. Regrettably, we can no longer allow any individual who is not compliant by this date to continue in these ministries. One may resume their ministry once all clearances have been completed. If you need assistance, please contact John Turek by phone at (724) 942-1138 or by email at stbenepsa@yahoo.com or Colette Specca in the Formation Office.



Advent at SBA

At the *Advent Family Day* today, all those present will be invited to create a star with a prayer petition on it to use in decorating the church for Advent. If you aren't planning to attend the day, you may also make a star with your prayer and drop it at the office so we can use it as part of our prayer intentions in Advent. Advent is a time when we proclaim that light will overcome the darkness. Prayers and songs of the season announce that Christ is the light we await. The Advent Wreath, our large circle representing the continuity of life, adorned with candles for each of the four weeks of Advent, as well as the prayer stars, will stand in the entry of the church welcoming all who come to worship to pass under it and be caught up in the mystery of Jesus' coming among us.

To make a prayer star use any design you like and create a five-pointed, six-pointed, or multi-pointed star. It may even be three dimensional. Write your prayer request for Advent on the star and cover it with foil or paint it with metallic paint. The colors for the stars can be silver, gold, copper, platinum, bronze, etc.

Stars may be submitted to the parish office, but must be dropped off before the First Sunday of Advent. With the offices closed for Thanksgiving, this means we need them before Noon on Wednesday, November 25. This is a great project for the whole family, or a way to include those who are sick in our Advent prayer intentions. You might even have a "star party" at home some evening to think about your Advent prayer intentions.

Rest In Peace

Please pray for our parishioner **Donald L. Ligman**, and **Julia Cushma**, mother of our parishioner John Cushma, who died recently. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

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 Speca at jspeca@hotmail.com. . . put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line. . . or call 724-941-9587, Ext. 114. The schedule is made at the beginning of December, so please have your information to Jay before Monday, November 30.

Advent Calendar Sale

The Youth Council will be selling Advent Calendars in O'Brien Hall after the Sunday morning Masses today. Nativity, Magi, and Santa scenes are available at \$6 each. They are a great gift for children and grandchildren to follow the Advent Season. Call Beth Quinn with any questions at 724-942-1057. Thank you for your support!

WOSB Thank You

We salute all of the very generous folks who purchased and returned so many useful items for our Military. Your spirit of giving will touch many of our service people all over the world and the Women of St. Benedict are deeply grateful for your participation. Thank you!

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the "Shoe Box Santas" Project. Through Appalachian Outreach, Inc. your generosity will make less fortunate men, women and children experience a bit of joy this Christmas Season. 500 shoe boxes were filled and wrapped!

Angel Tree 2009

As we prepare for Christmas, our parish once again has the opportunity to practice reaching out to those in need in our community through the Angel Tree Program. Take a tag or tags from the trees that are in the narthex this weekend and next, and purchase the gifts indicated and then return them to the church.

All gifts must be returned before December 6, no exceptions because they must be sorted before the agency reps come for them on December 7. If you bring a gift after December 6, it will not be given to the person intended simply because we cannot include it in the sorting. So please be considerate and bring the gifts in the allotted time period. Remember to tape the angel tags or ornaments to the top of the gift. Thank you for your generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Chaudhari at 724-941-8546.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to Religious Institutes in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's second collection.



Ask Father Sam

How does a parish select Eucharistic Ministers?

Lesson of the Week

Who is Bishop Zubik's boss?

What is the chain of authority and leadership from St. Benedict's to the Holy See?

David Allen Zubik is the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh since its founding in 1843. As a successor to the apostles, a bishop is part of the college of bishops, in union with the successor to Peter, the Holy Father. This collegiality as it is known, means that all the bishops together are part of the teaching authority of the Church. Each bishop has jurisdiction in his own diocese and makes the policies and laws that govern that area. While a bishop cannot change any doctrine or teaching of our Catholic faith, he can determine within the confines of his diocese how that faith is lived out through liturgical practices and through the emphasis placed by the clergy at his direction on various aspects of that faith.

To speak of the bishop's boss, one would normally just say, "the Pope," except that, while the bishops have to remain in union with the bishop of Rome, they are his equal by their ordination. So the Pope is no more a bishop than any other bishop. As the "first among equals," the Holy Father holds a special place by our Tradition and belief that Christ left the care of the community of the faithful to Peter as leader of the apostles. So it falls upon the Pope to gather the bishops when there is any dispute as was done in past times when a council was convened to work out some aspect of the beliefs of Christianity.

Also, the bishops, as linked to Peter through the Pope, present themselves to him every five years to give an accounting of their shepherding in their dioceses. This *ad limina* visit offers them a chance to speak about the joys and struggles in their own churches.

As the bishop's man, the pastor who is appointed by him to lead a particular parish, represents him in that community. At his installation, the pastor promises to uphold the policies of the diocese as part of the obedience and respect promised to the bishop at his ordination. He renews those promises to lead the parish with careful attention to liturgical laws and to see that the parishioners are taught the authentic Catholic faith and not some derivation of it. Given a term of six years, the bishop only removes a pastor before a term is completed if there is some problem in governance or the pastor agrees to resign to take another assignment.

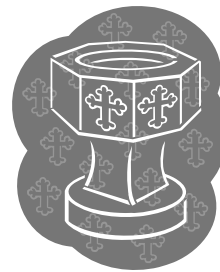
Faith Formation News

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.

Baptism Information



Parents who are expecting are encouraged to join us for the pre-baptism sessions we offer monthly. All parents are required to attend a session before scheduling a baptism for their child. The upcoming sessions are set for Sunday, December 6, after the 9:30 Mass, Thursday, January 7, 7:00pm,

Sunday, February 7, after the 9:30 Mass, and Thursday, March 4, 7:00pm. Baptisms will be celebrated Sunday, December 6, after the 11:30 Mass; Sunday, December 13, during the 11:30 Mass; Sunday, December 20, after the 11:30 Mass; Sunday, January 3, after the 11:30 Mass; Saturday, January 9, during the 5:00 Mass; Sunday, January 17, after the 11:30 Mass; and Sunday, January 24, during the 9:30 Mass.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Marguerite Singer & Fr. Philip Donatelli

Daniel McPoyle

In Memory of Fred Peelor

M/M Ed Wisniewski

In Memory of Joseph Capozza

Dottie Capozza & Family

Hotline for Victims of Sexual Abuse
412-456-3060 or 1-888-808-1235



Centering Prayer Workshop

“Be still and know that I am God.” Let your heart discover what this phrase from Psalm 46 might mean in your life with a *Centering Prayer Workshop* that takes place at St. Benedict on Saturday, December 5, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. Sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Pittsburgh, this workshop will feature four speakers and conferences that will help you work on a deeper relationship with God. Suggested donation is \$20 which includes all materials as well as six optional follow-up sessions that take place Monday evenings in December and January. Refreshments will be provided on December 5, but please bring along a bag lunch. For registration or more information, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, ext. 109.

Health Care Ministry Update

As our parish family continues to grow, many of our long-time parishioners are faced with a variety of health issues and concerns. Several weeks ago we placed a notice here in the bulletin about creating a more active health ministry program here at St. Benedict. Several people have already expressed an interest. We are hoping to schedule a couple of brainstorming meetings in the next few weeks to see how we might begin this ministry and what direction it might take. If you feel like you have some ideas to contribute or would like to be part of our initial meetings, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Seals

Next Sunday the Knights of Columbus Christmas Seals will be available at all Masses. The Seals benefit the developmentally disabled children of McGuire Home in New Brighton and those enrolled at the St. Anthony School Program. Please use the Seals on your holiday correspondence and be as generous as you can to this appeal.

Volunteer Thank You Epiphany Party

Once again all parish volunteers will be honored at our annual Epiphany Party, held this year on Saturday, January 9, 2010, following the 5:00pm Mass. Anyone who serves in any kind of volunteer capacity for the parish is invited to join us for this celebration. RSVP to the office before January 5, 2010.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, November 22

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

8:00a	Blood Drive	(OBH)
9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
12:30a	Family Advent Day	(PBAC)

Monday, November 23

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, November 24

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(204/206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Bible as Theology	(204/206)

Wednesday, November 25

Parish Offices Close at 12:00pm

No Faith Formation Classes Tonight

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

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving Day Parish Offices Closed

Friday, November 27

Parish Offices Closed

Saturday, November 28

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

Sunday, November 29

Parish Offices Closed

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

No Faith Formation Classes Today

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!

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



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

Mike Silvestri
724-941-5238

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431