



## Father Sam's Forum

**“Y**ou have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given...for your benefit.” St. Paul often uses these kinds of phrases in his letters to call the people he has evangelized to be aware of the great and awesome saving power of the Gospel. What he wants to say to the Ephesian Christians is that God's invitation is open to all who will accept it.

This is a mysterious day for us as we ponder the arrival of those wise men from the east, as the prophet Isaiah speaks about strange peoples coming to Jerusalem to offer gifts because there is light shining from the holy city. That light we believe is the Christ, the one who scatters the darkness and calls us into community.

This stewardship of grace means that Paul has been given a special gift—to announce the Gospel to Gentiles as well as Jews—and so to spread the message of Jesus Christ. We have come to use that word “stewards” more often in the Church these days. Our bishop wrote a pastoral letter to all the Church of Pittsburgh about what it means to be stewards. And the Gospels often remind us about the stewardship of our gifts and talents.

So what kind of stewardship should we aim to claim? Are we keepers of God's grace like Paul? Maybe we volunteer with some special gift we have like cooking or sewing. Maybe we use our brawn to help around the parish campus or with special projects. Maybe we give witness by our acceptance of suffering for some greater good. The list could go on and on. But in regard to our faith, it means we hold a treasure, and that treasure is to be shared.

The Magi came to see the Christ Child because they followed a light. The star shining over the place where Jesus was led them to recognize him as the true light that dispels darkness. The stars hanging in our church should remind us that we can reflect the light of Jesus too. It should be evident to those who meet us that we have been filled with all that is good and true in every action and word of ours.

Being good stewards is our common call. Each time we share some gift, talent, ability or treasure with others, we can fulfill that call. Epiphany reminds us that the saving grace that God offers in Jesus is not limited to any one group. Through the birth of the Lord, God offers his salvation to the world.

## What a Crew!!!

When I saw all those who came together to adorn the church for Christmas, I was filled with joy. Through the efforts of so many—new faces and old ones—who gave their time and talents, we were able to transform our worship space into the beautiful and elegant place it became for this Christmas season. There were some very dedicated and hard working people who did so much in preparation of the actual decorating that I can't begin to offer enough gratitude for what they did. All those who came to help with the flowers on Christmas Eve morning are to be recognized as well. My deepest appreciation to all of you for a job splendidly done!

### Mass Intentions: Jan. 3—Jan. 10

#### Sunday, January 3—Epiphany of the Lord

7:45a **For the People of the Parish**  
 9:30a **Anna Rea** (Diana & Al Nizamoff)  
 11:30a **Thomas Laboon** (M/M Kenneth DeSibio)

#### Monday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Women of St. Benedict)

#### Tuesday, January 5—St. John Neumann

6:30a **Albert & Lucille Eustis**  
 (Merridy E. Greenlief)  
 8:30a **Andrew Palombo** (Walt & Sylvia Becker)

#### Wednesday, January 6—Christmas Weekday

6:30a **Frances Resignalo** (Terry Robinson)  
 8:30a **Verna Brooks** (Jeff & Susan Brooks)

#### Thursday, January 7—Christmas Weekday

6:30a **Helen Orcutt** (Jerry Serrino)  
 8:30p **John & Grace Manion** (Marilyn)

#### Friday, January 8—Christmas Weekday

8:30a **Special Intention of Cathy Gimiliano**  
 (Pat & Pete Orsini)  
 1:45p **Manor Care: Victoria Hucko**  
 (Rosalie, Shiela & Sharon)

#### Saturday, January 9—Christmas Weekday

8:30a **Lucille McGurk** (M/M Charlie Kramer)  
 5:00p **Jack & Mary Byrne** (Terence Byrne Family)

#### Sunday, January 10—The Baptism of the Lord

7:45a **Elmo Checchi** (Sister & Family)  
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 11:30a **Gene Farney** (Bunton Family)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of Katie Panasko, requested by Mom & Dad, the Bread & Wine are in memory of Leonard & Eleanor Wolf, requested by the Menozzi Family, and the Altar Flowers are in honor of Lindsay Kluglein, requested by Grandma Kluglein.*



## 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 January 9—January 10

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Norton, Reisz **Greeters:** Patnesky, Reed **EMHC:** Norton, Femiani, Specca, Scheuring, Sarra, Greenwald, Vandewater, Baumgartner, LaCamera **Servers:** Wiegmann, LaRosa, Figueroa, M & C Reisz

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Richardson-Gohring **Greeters:** Kalaski, Henger **EMHC:** Basile, J & S Christopher, Faina, Petricca, R & E McMillan, T & D Martin **Servers:** E, M & E Jozwiak

**9:30am**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Fitzgerald, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Stewart, Verlatto **EMHC:** Orient, Glod, Serrino, Bayer, Torres, T & E Mauro, Gaudy, Spinabelli **Servers:** C & A Mavrigh, Oberschelp, L & J Spinabelli

**11:30pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Zuk, Hrubby **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** Huffner, Stein, Slomiany, Bonadio, Capozza, McGinnis, Baits, Herald, Boyd **Servers:** Taylor, Wallach, Chaplin

## Eucharistic Adoration

The Holy Eucharist will be exposed following the 8:30am Mass on January 16 until 4:00pm in the chapel. All members of the parish are invited to spend some time with the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Because this is the week before the March for Life, everyone is encouraged to pray for the success of the march and the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.

### Readings for the Week of January 3

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a,5-6/Mt 2:1-12  
 Monday: 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17,23-25  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22a  
 Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30  
 Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16,21-22

**Children's Envelopes for 2010 are available for pick up in the narthex of the Church and in the Formation Office.**

## IHN Hosting Jan. 17-24

Interfaith Hospitality will be hosting January 17 to 24. It takes many hands to make this ministry work. We need drivers, meal providers, dessert & hospitality hosts, and overnight hosts. Please call Mary at 724-942-2478 or pchefmary@hotmail.com if you can help serve the homeless families in our community through St. Benedict's sheltering ministry.

## Mark these dates!

Look now what's coming in 2010:

- Parish Lenten Mission, March 21, 22, 23 with Frank Runyeon, star of stage and screen
- Lenten Penance Service, March 24, with multiple confessors
- The Passion Play, March 26, 27—be a part of this production as a singer, actor, stage hand, etc.

## Italy Pilgrimage Reunion

Those who traveled to Italy in October with Fr. Sam are invited to gather on Saturday, January 23, at the home of Peter & Mary Bonadio, 104 Homestead Drive, Venetia, at 6:30pm. If you know other members of the group who are not parishioners, please inform them of the event. Call Mary Bonadio at 724-942-4618 if you need directions.

**Check out this great Catholic web site:  
[www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)**



## Youth Ministry News

### Theology of the Body for Teens & Adults

Based on teachings of Venerable Pope John Paul II, we are inviting all teens and their parents (any adults) to attend a 12-week course at St. Louise de Marillac beginning Tuesday, January 12, 7:00pm to 9:00pm and continuing every Tuesday evening through March 30. There will be two simultaneous sessions, one for teens and one for adults. There is a team approach to these classes, and topics include love vs. lust, remaining pure in an oversexed culture, and the beauty of our creation. The cost is \$20 per person, or \$30 per teen plus one adult. It is not required to attend every week; we know schedules are hectic. Call Janet at 724-941-9587 to register.

### The Silver Ring Thing

The Silver Ring Thing is a high-tech, high-energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage and the dangers of promiscuous behavior. On January 15, the Silver Ring Thing will be held at Seton LaSalle High School from 6:30pm until 9:30pm, and all teenagers, parents, and youth workers are invited to attend. With dramas, videos, special effects, and speakers, teenagers will be motivated in a unique and personal way to choose to commit to both God and their future spouse to remain chaste until marriage. For further information please contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

### Angel Tree Program

Thank you to all parishioners who participated in our Parish Angel Tree program. The response was very generous with over 600 gifts chosen, bought, wrapped, collected, and distributed. The program this year provided gifts to eight different groups/agencies and benefited children, men and women in nursing homes, disadvantaged mothers and their children, plus many, many more. Gifts were sent to: Sisters Place, Inc.; United Way of Washington County; Lifeline of Southwest PA; Welcome Little Ones; Manor Care Nursing Home; McMurray Hills Manor Nursing Home; Children's Therapy Center; and St. Vincent de Paul & local families in need. Many thanks and Happy New Year.

### March for Life

This year teens are encouraged to attend an overnight trip to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life. We will be leaving from St. Louise de Marillac on Thursday, January 21 at 4:00pm and staying the night at Catholic University. We will celebrate Mass in the morning, tour D.C., and participate in the March for Life. Once we are done, the bus will bring us back to St. Louise on Friday, January 22 around 11:00pm. The cost is \$30 per person, plus meal money. Call Janet at 724-941-9587 with questions or to register. Parents are welcomed to chaperone.

### WORD returns to Sunday Night

Starting Sunday, January 10, the youth group will be meeting every other Sunday from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in Pope Benedict Center. We will be starting the semester with 6:30pm Mass in the Chapel, followed by "Mystery Revealed," a night on God's revelation to Man. All teens are welcome to come and bring friends.

***We are no longer sending out mailers through the Post Office. We will be using electronic media such as email, the website, and facebook to send out information. If parents and/or teens would like to get connected, please send your contact information to [stbeneyouth@yahoo.com](mailto:stbeneyouth@yahoo.com).***

### Ben's Men January Meeting Rosary at 6:15pm—Social at 6:30pm

This year's first meeting will be on January 11 beginning with Chuck Rauch's traditional January Jambalaya Dinner followed by a dessert surprise. Our speaker will be one of the most noted photographers in the Peters Twp. area, Joe Unitas. This should be an entertaining and enlightening talk with a video on the life of a very famous sports figure, Johnny Unitas. All men of the parish are invited. If possible, please arrive at 6:15pm to pray the Rosary with Fr. Michael.

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



## Ask Father Sam

*What is grace, part II?*

### Lesson of the Week

*We talk about grace a lot.*

*How would you explain what grace is?*

Catholics use the term **grace** all the time. It is in our prayers and liturgy. It is a basic part of what we believe as far as how God relates to us. What exactly is grace?

The easiest way to describe grace is to say that it is God's life within us. We receive it as a gift from God. One kind of grace is called *sanctifying*, which means that which makes us holy, or set apart. Its purpose is to allow us to share in God's divine nature and to inherit eternal life as God's children.

We receive sanctifying grace through the sacraments. We put on Christ in baptism, something we symbolize in the ritual of that sacrament by being clothed in white. By putting on Christ, we mean to live as Christ, to have Christ's life within us. There are certain powers or capabilities that come with sanctifying grace. We call these powers virtues.

A virtue is a habit of doing good. Just like a skilled pilot can easily handle ordinary situations when flying an airplane, so a person of virtue can easily do what is good. Sanctifying grace gives us the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. These virtues offer what we need to have a relationship with the Holy Trinity, God as Father, Son and Spirit.

In addition, sanctifying grace can strengthen and help us further develop the human virtues, which are also called moral virtues. These are grouped around four key virtues known as the Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. This grace also brings with it the Gifts of the Holy Spirit which we speak of especially when someone is confirmed: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

Those who possess sanctifying grace also are able to act according to the Fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.

*...to be continued next week*

## Preschool News

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year will begin January 13 for parishioners and January 19 for those who are not parishioners. If you have a child who is preschool age and would like to enroll them in our preschool, registration forms will be available in the church office, the preschool office, and on the web site after the first of the year. Please call Bev Jurcic at 724-731-0222 if you would like to schedule a tour of the school or if you have any questions.

## Spring Fling

There will be an organizational meeting on January 7 in Room 213 at 7:30pm in the Family Life Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, please contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686 or e-mail [ecpuskar9@yahoo.com](mailto:ecpuskar9@yahoo.com). New faces are always welcome.

## March For Life

The annual March for Life will be held on January 22 in Washington D.C. The bus will leave St. Benedict's parking lot at 6:00am. Donuts and beverages will be provided; however, you should bring a lunch. There is a restroom on the bus with one comfort stop along the way. After the March, the bus will depart Washington D.C. at 4:00pm for our return home. There will be a stop for dinner at your own expense. We will arrive back at St. Benedict's parking lot at approximately 11:00pm. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact Ken or Theresa Ross at 724-916-4864.

### March For Life Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

How many are students: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost for the trip is \$15 per person, \$30 maximum per family—Teens are free.

Make checks payable to St. Benedict the Abbot

Return this form with payment to the Parish Office.

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



## Centering Prayer in January

*Just "BE" in the Silence*

Even if you were unable to take part in the December seminar, there's still an opportunity to experience centering prayer. During the Mondays of January, a prayer session and video instruction will take place from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in Room 204. For more information or if you have questions, please call our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.

## Health Ministry Update

Several people gathered in early December to share ideas and talk about starting a health ministry program here at St. Benedict. We've looked at what other parishes are trying in the area and reviewed some of the information from the Mercy Hospital Parish Nurse Symposium held in November. We'll be meeting again on January 5 at 7:45pm in Room 204. Whether you're a health professional or not, if you are interested in helping us get this program started, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis at 724-941-9406, ext. 109.

## Capital Campaign Lists

Everyone who donated \$1000 or more to the campaign to build the new church should check the listings we have posted in the narthex. Advise Kathy in the office for accuracy of spellings, etc. The memorial plaque or another kind of memorial listing is being determined and we want to have the correct information when it is made and installed.

## Pre-Cana Classes

St. Louise de Marillac will be offering Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Classes on January 18 and 25, February 1, 8 and 15. The classes will be held each Monday evening in the Bishop Leonard Room from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The cost is \$60. Please contact St. Louise de Marillac Parish at 412-833-1010 with any questions or to register.

## Retrouvaille

Stress in your marriage? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on Friday, January 8 please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434, or go to [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com) for more information.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, January 3

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
10:30a	WORD	(YM)
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
7:30p	Xavier University Concert	(Church)

### Monday, January 4

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 5	(Rm.A)
7:00p	CSS	(208)
7:00p	Contemplative Outreach	(204)

### Tuesday, January 5

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	CSS	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Health Ministry Meeting	(204)

### Wednesday, January 6

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

### Thursday, January 7

8:30a	WOSB Bridge	(OBH)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Baptism Preparation	(210)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 2	(Rm.A)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Spring Fling Meeting	(213)

### Friday, January 8

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Ch Nur & Br Rm)
6:00p	Boy Scout Gamers Night	(204/206)

### Saturday, January 9

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
6:00p	Epiphany Party	(OBH)

### Sunday, January 10

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

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

**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!**



## 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