



## Father Sam's Forum

**D**o you remember your baptism? For most of us the answer is “no.” Since we were baptized as infants we have no recollection of that sacred day. But some Catholics do remember. They came to the faith as adults and following the journey of instruction and prayer and reflection, were bathed in the waters of new birth.

As we complete the Christmas season today and place one step back into Ordinary Time, Paul's letter to Titus is set before us as our epistle reading. It is part of the same Scripture that was proclaimed at Mass at Midnight on Christmas. But this selection is longer. The second half tells us, *When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

That's it! We were given such a gift by the God who is pure love. It was God's loving kindness that brought us into relationship in a special way from the waters of our baptism. It wasn't because we earned it, or because we did anything on our own. This is complete and total gift, freely given by the One who made us.

This week, think about that gift. When you make the sign of the cross, when you see a crucifix, when you say the name of God, when you look at your own children or grandchildren, when you pass a church, think about it. Gift. Christmas is about gifts or so we think. But the true Christmas Gift is Christ. Sent by the Father, Jesus came for us and for our salvation, as we say in our Creed. Now that's priceless!

## Mass Intentions: Jan. 10—Jan. 17

### 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)

### Monday, January 11—Weekday

8:30a **Alex Wisniewski** (M/M Ed Wisniewski)

### Tuesday, January 12—Weekday

6:30a **Wilma Lokash** (Dee Petricca)  
8:30a **8:30am Mass Group**  
(Betty & Walt Mahouski)

### Wednesday, January 13—Weekday

6:30a **Richard Carasco** (Cliff & Rita Abbio)  
8:30a **Edward J. Puskarich, Sr.** (Ellie Puskarich)  
11:00a **McMurray Hills: Fred Henning**  
(Howard Gebhardt Family)

### Thursday, January 14—Weekday

6:30a **Marie Richards** (Mahla Family)  
8:30p **Denise Nobile** (Kathleen Young)

### Friday, January 15—Weekday

8:30a **Special Intention for Michael Murphy**  
(Uncle Mike & Aunt Mary)

### Saturday, January 16—Weekday

8:30a **Bill Meyers** (Bill & Kathy Wanninger)  
5:00p **Huesdash Family**  
(Ralston, Gielas & Grybel Families)

### Sunday, January 17—2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **George Berroth**  
(Ed & Donna Frizzell & Family)  
9:30a **Mrs. Harry Leonardi**  
(Don & Rochelle Hindman)  
11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week  
in memory of Elmo Checchi, requested by his  
sister and family.*

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

## Parish News...

- Members of our Parish Finance Council will address the parishioners at all Masses on January 23 and 24. This “State of the Parish” talk will be brief and council members will be available with handouts and also will greet you and take your questions following Mass—on Sunday at Abbey Coffee House in O'Brien Hall.
- We need help taking down the Christmas decorations this week. Any who can lend a hand are welcome to meet on Wednesday after confessions (7:00pm) to begin the process.
- Fr. Sam will make his annual retreat this week. Please keep him and his reflections in your prayers.
- Meetings for parents of our second grade students who are preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation will be held on Tuesday, January 19, at 6:00pm, and Saturday, January 23, 10:00am.
- The Pastor's Cabinet meets on Tuesday, January 26, 7:30pm.
- Did you know you can sign up to receive the bulletin on line? Check out our web site for all kinds of cool information! [www.stbenedicttheabbot.org](http://www.stbenedicttheabbot.org)



## 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 January 10

Sunday: Is 42:1-4,6-7/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16,21-22  
 Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8/Mk 1:14-20  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/Mk 1:21-28  
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10,19-20/Mk 1:29-39  
 Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Mk 1:40-45  
 Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7,10-22a/Mk 2:1-12  
 Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4,17-19;10:1a/Mk 2:13-17  
 Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

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

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend January 16—January 17

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** H & M Buzzatto **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey  
**EMHC:** Norton, Klinar, Satler, Pfeifer, Milavec, Mertens, P & G Adams, Getto **Servers:** Peterson, Curry, Hillen, Getto, Curran

**7:45am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Wanninger, Hollot **Greeters:** Barker, Turchick  
**EMHC:** Basile, Gavran, Berger, Puskarich, Joseph, Prado, J & S Brooks, Wanninger **Servers:** Severa, Shaw, Brooks

**9:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Ellsworth, Morosco **Greeters:** Verlato, Oberschelp  
**EMHC:** Bayer, Serrino, Orient, Schults, A & L Kelly, J Smith, MCGovern, Weaver **Servers:** S Weaver, P & M Ellsworth, Hilzendeger, Wisniewski

**11:30pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Hajzus, Ray **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Stein, Huffner, E & T Mauro, K, L & P Newmaster, Hayward, B Smith **Servers:** Toscano Children

## Eucharistic Adoration

The Holy Eucharist will be exposed following the 8:30am Mass on Saturday, 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 weekend before the March for Life, everyone is encouraged to pray for the success of the march and the reversal of Roe vs. Wade.

## 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. *We are not doing "Make Us Believers" this year. Instead, we have a new script and will be using new music. Watch for the schedule and join us!*

## Our Church Interior: Adding Color & Artwork

When the plan for wall hangings was presented last summer from a company in Canada, there were some who thought we should have a different kind of art to add color and provide us with additional soundproofing inside the church. Fr. Sam took these comments seriously and asked local artist Nick Parrendo of Hunt Stained Glass Studios, Inc. to come up with a design on the concept of adding artwork and color to the baptismal font area and to the two front walls adjacent to the sanctuary. Mr. Parrendo recently submitted his design and Fr. Sam will post the display in the bulletin case in the narthex next to the Bride's Room. Next week's bulletin will include a description of the designs for each area and the costs associated with each. As the parish celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012, the goal is to have the artwork finished for that celebration, if we can raise the funds. Those who donated to the original hangings can apply their donations to the new work if they choose.



## 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.

## WOSB Yoga

The Women of St. Benedict Yoga classes will resume on Monday, January 11 at 10:00am in O'Brien Hall. For further information, please contact Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805.

## Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family **Austin James**, son of Brian & Chelsey Smith. May he grow in wisdom, age, and grace.

## Building Fund Donations

### In Memory of Don Ligman

Rory & Ann McRory	Erma Grego
Charlotte Greenwald	Joanne Barton
Donna, Jamie & Jerry Mattys	Jay & Dolores Jarrell

### In Memory of Fred G. Kluglein

Carolyn  
Cathryn Kluglein Newcombs

### In Memory of Joe Yatchum

Widows & Widowers of St. Benedict

### In Memory of Leo Kaylor, Sr.

Leo Kaylor, Jr.

## Table & Chair Rental

We had many inquiries this past Thanksgiving and Christmas regarding the rental of our tables and chairs for private use. Please remember that as of July 1, 2009 it was announced we would no longer rent out the tables and chairs. (*May 24, 2009 Bulletin*).

## 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 (or any adults) to attend a 12-week course at St. Louise de Marillac beginning Tuesday, January 12 from 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.

### 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.

### Sunday Night WORD is Back

Starting tonight, Youth Ministry for high school will meet every other Sunday from 7:00 to 8:30pm in Pope Benedict Center. Tonight we are starting the semester with Mass at 6:30 in the Chapel, and then we look at "Mystery Revealed" a night on God's revelation to Man. All teens are welcome to come and bring their 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).***



## Ask Father Sam

**What are the holydays of obligation and why do they change?**

### Lesson of the Week

**What is grace, part II?**

Last week's lesson talked about sanctifying grace and how it is connected to the sacraments, to living a life of virtue, practicing good, having a relationship with the Holy Trinity, and the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.

We use the term *actual grace*, for the gift of God that allows us to perform some specific action and is present only for the completion of the action itself. It is not connected to the state of holiness that would be caused by the presence of sanctifying grace, but the presence of actual grace may help us or strengthen us in a way that we grow in sanctifying grace.

For example, God gives Penelope the actual grace that strengthens her will to attend daily Mass. Now, think about what happens when she goes to Mass. She receives the Eucharist, right? That's a sacrament and what do the sacraments give us? Sanctifying grace. So the more she goes to daily Mass and receives the Eucharist, the more she is open to God's gift of sanctifying grace.



Because we have a free will and can choose or cooperate with God's plan for us, actual grace with which we freely consent is called efficacious grace, that is, it accomplishes

God's purpose in granting it to us. The actual grace that we receive from God, but with which we do not cooperate because we choose not to, is called sufficient grace. It is enough for the accomplishing of God's purpose.

So, to review, grace is the presence of God's life in us. We were meant to share this divinity from creation but original sin brought the deprivation of original holiness and justice which we call sanctifying grace. We receive grace as a gift from God, who bestows it upon us to help us live as we are meant because of our baptismal identity as God's sons and daughters.

## 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](mailto:pchefmary@hotmail.com) if you can help serve the homeless families in our community through St. Benedict's sheltering ministry.

## Lector Workshop

There will be workshops for all Lectors on January 20 at 7:30pm and January 30 at 12:00pm 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 any liturgical changes. It is necessary for all ministers to attend. Contact Jay Specca at ext. 114 with any questions.

## 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**



## Capital Campaign Lists

Everyone who donated \$1000 or more to the campaign to build the new church should check the listings we have available in the parish office. Advise Kathy 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.

## Widows & Widowers

The Widows and Widowers of St. Benedict will meet for dinner on Thursday, January 21 at Grande's at 6:00pm, followed by a movie night in Room 210 to watch *The Proposal*. New faces are always welcome. For further information, please contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686.

## 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.

## 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.

## Catholic Schools Week

In celebration of Catholic Schools Week, beginning January 31, the Pittsburgh Catholic will publish a special supplement on Catholic Schools to be included in the January 28 issue. The supplement will include photos, information and features on student achievements in Catholic schools throughout the six county Diocese.

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

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, January 10

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	WORD	(PBAC)

### Monday, January 11

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
6:15p	Ben's Men Rosary	(213)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	Ben's Men	(OBH)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 6	(A & B)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Contemplative Outreach	(204)

### Tuesday, January 12

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Cub Scouts Den 4	(Rm A)

### Wednesday, January 13

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
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, January 14

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 3	(Rm.A)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

### Friday, January 15

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Ch Nur & Br Rm)
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### Saturday, January 16

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

### Sunday, January 17

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
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