



Father Sam's Forum

“There was a wedding....” We might not think about people in biblical times having the same kinds of celebrations that we do today, but most likely, even though the way they celebrated was somewhat different, there were still those basic milestones of human life that got recognized. Births and deaths, marriages and religious events like circumcisions and bar mitzvahs all enjoyed gatherings of people to help those at the center of these mark the occasion.

Jesus' presence at the famous Cana wedding is only told in John's Gospel, but we might imagine him attending other weddings as well, especially as a boy in Nazareth where the whole village would have celebrated these kinds of events. John, the Gospel writer, tells us this story, and like everything about John, there are many layers we have to uncover to seek the deepest meanings contained in the story.

First, a wedding itself is a great symbol since God's relationship with Israel was often compared to that of spouses. Secondly, this is the scene of Jesus' first miracle, or what John calls “signs.” In this “aha!” moment of transformation of water to wine, there is disclosure of Jesus' identity.

What are the “aha!” moments in your life? Have you had one recently? What happens when you have one? How do you receive them, and do they invite you into a deeper faith relationship or friendship with Jesus? John's Gospel has *seven signs* for us to recognize the Lord. In some way, they point to the relationship between God and his people. The goal is to be in “right relationship” not only with God but with one another. As we strengthen our relationships with people, we will strengthen ours with God.

Mass Intentions: Jan. 17—Jan. 24

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**

Monday, January 18—Weekday

- 8:30a **Catherine Pugh**
(Barbara Burke & Dolores Ueberschaer)

Tuesday, January 19—Weekday

- 6:30a **Karen Rossetti** (Pat Reed)
8:30a **Jack Manion** (Marilyn Manion)

Wednesday, January 20—Weekday

- 6:30a **Jim Gagorik** (Chris Morus)
8:30a **Devassy Chakola** (Maliackel Family)

Thursday, January 21—Weekday

- 6:30a **Living & Deceased Members of the Busch & Schweinbinz Families** (Claire Meredith)
8:30a **Alice McArdle** (Bob & Fran Olenik)

Friday, January 22—Weekday

- 8:30a **Andy Palombo** (Paula Palombo)

Saturday, January 23—Weekday

- 8:30a **Charles Basile & Marie Maestri**
(Josephine Basile)
5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, January 24—3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Deceased Members of Lyle & Hoffman Families** (Jim & Nancy Lyle)
9:30a **Thomas Dornetto** (Bill & Mickey Shanafelt)
11:30a **Regis J. Dunn** (Lois McCloskey)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Mary Ann Kolson, requested by her daughter, Kathy Harrington.

The Second Collection this weekend will benefit St. Anthony School Programs and DePaul School for Hearing and Speech.

Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- Parents of our second grade students who are preparing for the reception of First Eucharist are invited to a mandatory meeting to discuss the sacrament of Reconciliation. We have two parent sessions (you only have to attend one session): Tuesday, January 19; and Saturday, January 23. First Reconciliation is scheduled for February 20, 22, and 24.
- The Pastor's Cabinet meets on Tuesday, January 26. Every group should have ready their annual report to present. Meeting begins at 7:30pm in Room 210.
- Youth Council will sponsor a Senior Brunch on Saturday, February 6, in recognition of our older members. Watch for more details in upcoming bulletins.
- Parish Pastoral Council has invited four new members to become part of this body. The council had a vacancy to fill to make up the 10 member complement but after some discussion proposed that we also invite three others who expressed interest to come on board as observers so that when those whose terms will expire in 2011 leave the council, these three members can step in to fill those positions. Minutes of the meeting will be forthcoming.



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 23—January 24

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Gordon, Pustay **Greeters:** Mitchell, Schardt
EMHC: D & T Martin, LaCamera, Vandewater, Greenwald, Sarra, Scheuering, Specca, Femiani **Servers:** Nobers, J, J & N Bianco, Byrne

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: DiCello, Brugger **Greeters:** Kalaski, Barton
EMHC: McGinnis, Glod, E & R McMillan, Petricca, Faina, S & J Christopher, Kail **Servers:** N & V DeRienzo, Brugger

9:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: McKenzie, Ott **Greeters:** Verlato, Stewart **EMHC:** McGovern, Schultz, Orient, Serrino, Bayer, Klinar, Capozza, Gaudy, Torres **Servers:** Kelly, Pampena, D, C & L Schratz

11:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Oliverio, Gehrlein **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** Hayward, Huffner, Stein, Boyd, Herald, Baits, Bonadio, Slomiany, Bench **Servers:** K & C Bench, Graves

Passion Play Initial Meeting

The first meeting for our 2010 Passion Play will take place in O'Brien Hall on **Thursday, January 28, at 7:30pm**. We need your help! Even if you have never performed before, this is a chance to meet a great group of people and lend a hand in the production of something that makes Lent very special. Stage hands, costumers, prop crew, singers, dancers, and of course actors are all needed.

Readings for the Week of January 17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
 Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Mk 2:18-22
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Mk 2:23-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33,37,40-51/Mk 3:1-6
 Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9;19:1-7/Mk 3:7-12
 Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Mk 3:13-19
 Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4,11-12,19,23-27/Mk 3:20-21
 Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30

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

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 and to RSVP. **N.B. Peter & Mary are serving dinner so come hungry!**

Finance Council Talk next weekend



Representatives from our parish Finance Council will offer remarks next weekend at all Masses. This "State of the Parish" talk will give parishioners a snapshot of our fiscal health and the future challenges we face in maintaining our buildings and property. Council members will greet you in the narthex after Mass to answer any questions you may have. A handout with more detailed information about parish finances will be available as well. Beginning in February, you can speak with a member of the Finance Council at Abbey Coffee House the first Sunday of every month through May 2010.



Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week our parishioner, **James C. Hendrie, Jr.**, who died recently. Eternal life grant unto him, O Lord.

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 you can check the bulletin case in the narthex next to the Bride's Room to see the preliminary sketches. As the parish celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2012, Fr. Sam's 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. Here is the breakdown of the cost according to these first sketches:

- *Sanctuary*: labor and materials for design, fabrication and installation of 2 archangel murals (Michael and Raphael) with Alpha & Omega symbols on base of each sound system speaker. Groupings of Benedictine saints on three canvas tapestries per side, mounted on wall areas, \$9800 per angel and \$5000 per tapestry
- *Baptistery area*: labor and materials for design, fabrication and installation of sculpted Holy Spirit (orb), crown and triangle frame suspended from ceiling above the font; two painted murals of welcoming angels on wall with flowing fabric from crown, orb, and frame that forms a canopy over the font, in the three colors of the holy oils, gold, green and purple.

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

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.

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.

Faith Formation Office Coordinator

St. Benedict the Abbot Faith Formation Office is seeking to fill an office coordinator/secretarial position. Qualifications are the understanding of standard office procedures, PC skills (including Word, Excel, PDS), excellent organizational skills, good verbal and written communication abilities, and one to three years of responsible secretarial experience. Applicants should also be familiar with budgets. Resumes should be sent to Colette Specca, St. Benedict the Abbot Faith Formation Office, 120 Abington Drive, McMurray, PA 15317, or email at stbeneccd@yahoo.com.

In case of inclement weather, please watch WPXI (Channel 11) or go to WPXI.com for cancellations and delays.

Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation classes will be Sunday, February 7, after the 9:30 Mass and Thursday, March 4, at 7:00pm. Remember that we do not celebrate the sacrament of baptism during Lent. Our remaining times for baptisms before Easter are January 31 at the 11:30 Mass, after the 11:30 Mass on February 7, and during the 9:30 Mass on February 14.



Ask Father Sam

How are the Prayers of the Faithful determined? Shouldn't we be praying each week for...?

Lesson of the Week

What are the holy days of obligation, and why do they change?

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2041, "The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor."

The very next article tells us that we are required to participate at Mass on all Sundays and holy days of obligation, or what we call "days of precept." How do we determine when those days are? Some of us remember when holy days were always observed, while those who are younger might not because the obligation to participate at Mass has been changed.

While the catechism specifies that these are the holy days: the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Epiphany, the Ascension of Christ, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, the feast of Mary the Mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her Assumption, the feast of Saint Joseph, the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and the feast of All Saints, it also makes note that "the conference of bishops can abolish certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday...."

That is exactly what has happened over the years. We now celebrate Epiphany on the Sunday after January 1, and the Body and Blood of the Lord two Sundays after Pentecost. But for some holy days, the US bishops made a decision that if they should fall on Saturday or Monday, the day before or after the faithful are expected to be at Mass, the obligation is removed. The only exceptions to this are Christmas and the feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception. In some US dioceses the bishops have moved Ascension from the Thursday that is 40 days after Easter Sunday to the 7th Sunday of Easter. Here we still observe it on the Thursday.

So, Christmas 2010 falls on Saturday. It remains a holy day when everyone is expected to be at Mass, even though the next day is Sunday.

WOSB Annual Teaching Doll Workshop

The Women of St. Benedict will hold their annual teaching doll workshop on January 28 at 10:00am in O'Brien Hall. Every year the WOSB gather to make these little dolls for Children's Hospital where the doctors use them to explain to the children what will occur during medical procedures. The workshop will be run again by our very own Ann Kruppa. Help us make this workshop a success by donating a couple hours of your time and talents. If you have a sewing machine you can lend to us (or bring it along for your own use), please contact Maria Streno at 724-942-5570. As always, our wonderful hostesses will be sure to keep your tummies happy while you sew and stuff away!

March For Life

The annual March for Life will be held on January 22 in Washington D.C. The bus leaves 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.

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!



Lector Meetings

There will be meetings for all Lectors on Wednesday, January 20 at 7:30pm and Saturday, 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 Speca at ext. 114 with any questions.

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.

Check out this great Catholic web site: www.wordonfire.org

Baby Bottle Campaign

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 24. Please consider taking home a baby bottle to fill with your loose change or dollar bills and pray for the ministry of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the South Hills (PRC). Your change provides abortion-minded women facing unplanned pregnancies free ultrasounds. Ninety percent of abortion minded women who receive a free ultrasound change their minds and choose LIFE! Your support also ensures that the PRC is able to provide ongoing support to our clients throughout their pregnancy. Please return the bottles to the church within three weeks. Thank you for helping these women.

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 17

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

No Faith Formation Classes Today

Monday, January 18

Parish Offices Closed Today

6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Contemplative Outreach	(204)

Tuesday, January 19

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
6:00p	1st Reconciliation Meeting	(OBH)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:45p	Cub Scout Pack 1313	(OBH)

Wednesday, January 20

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:30p	Lector Meeting	(Church)

Thursday, January 21

9:30a	WOSB Board Meeting	(204)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Widows & Widowers	(210)

Friday, January 22

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Ch Nur & Br Rm)
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Saturday, January 23

7:00a	Cub Scout Pack 1313	(PBAC)
7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:00a	1st Reconciliation Meeting	(OBH)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, January 24

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

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

**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

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