



Father Sam's Forum

Just returning from my annual retreat, I arrived back home on Friday, January 15, feeling tired. I wondered why, after four days away, with a bit more sleep than I normally get, I felt this way. Then it dawned on me that I had spent lots of energy in meeting with my Spiritual Director, Sister Dolores, during my time away, and also that I had used the time to think and pray about my own leadership in light of the skills learned through the program I am part of—*Good Leaders, Good Shepherds*. All that thinking was exhausting! Does that mean I used my brain in new ways? I wonder.

Our homework from the *Good Leaders* program that is due in February is an assignment about writing goals for us in our roles as pastors, chaplains, parochial vicars, etc. Some of the priests have finished and mine is almost completed, but the more I consider, the more I tend to adjust and amend.

When we consider Luke's Gospel passage before us today, we may recognize this event as one of the more familiar ones, Jesus returns to his hometown and goes to the synagogue there. He is asked to give the reading and using the Prophet Isaiah, proclaims his mission: *to bring glad tidings to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free....*

This is our mission as well. We do it uniquely as a parish community, sometimes better than others. We can't not use our brains in fulfilling our mission. We are called to bring forth the gifts God has given to us and use them to build up the kingdom, the Body of Christ here on earth. No matter how tired or frustrating it may be at times, we have to stay the course!

Mass Intentions: Jan. 24—Jan. 31

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)

Monday, January 25—Conversion of St. Paul

8:30a **Patricia McDonald**
 (Ronald & Frances Haradzin)

Tuesday, January 26—St. Timothy & St. Titus

6:30a **George J. Wagner, Sr.**
 (Donald & Arlene Wagner)
 8:30a **Kathy Quarture** (Sister & Brothers)

Wednesday, January 27—Weekday

6:30a **Fortunata Stracci** (Ripepi Family)
 8:30a **Meghan Canterna** (Shanafelt Family)

Thursday, January 28—St. Thomas Aquinas

6:30a **Elizabeth Jackson** (Bill & Kathy Wanninger)
 8:30a **Special Intentions for Kasey Eckels**
 (LaRosa Family)

Friday, January 29—Weekday

8:30a **Andrew Sedmak** (Wife & Children)

Saturday, January 30—Weekday

8:30a **SSGT Peter A. Scalise**
 (Wedding Coordinators)
 5:00p **Irene Scott** (Women of St. Benedict)

Sunday, January 31—4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **For The People of the Parish**
 9:30a **Josephine Wisniewski** (The Sadler Family)
 11:30a **Joseph Yatchum** (Jean Cason)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Dakota Joseph Rolley, requested by Sam & Ed Rolley, Grandparents, and the Bread & Wine are in memory of Bob & Rose Fonzo, requested by M/M Frank Meola.

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

Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- Our parish passion play is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 26 & 27. We had an initial meeting of those interested and the rehearsal schedule will be published in next week's bulletin. Come help us!
- Don't forget the Pastor's Cabinet meets this Tuesday, January 26, 7:30pm in Room 210. Every group and organization and ministry should have a rep present.
- Youth Council is sponsoring a Senior Brunch on Saturday, February 6. Get your reservations in soon if you haven't already.
- Throat Blessing for the feast of St. Blaise will be held on Wednesday, February 3, during both morning Masses (6:30 & 8:30), and also at a prayer service at 6:30 in the evening in the Chapel. There will be no confessions that Wednesday.
- Pastoral Council meets Tuesday, February 9, 7:45pm. We welcome our new members: Dave Bowlin, Mark Kimes, Chris Norton, and Ellie Puskarich. Minutes of the last council meeting are found on page 3 of the bulletin.



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 30—January 31

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Satler, Benya **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** LaCamera, G & P Adams, Mertens, Milavec, Pfeifer, Norton, Corbett, Satler **Servers:** Figueroa, LaRosa, Corbett, Waigand Quinn

7:45am— Fr. Esposito

Lectors: Jung, Hornack **Greeters:** R & J Jackson **EMHC:** Petricca, R & E McMillan, D & T Martin, Puskarich, Berger, Gavran, Basile **Servers:** Peterson, Wiegmann, Bowlin

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo

Lectors: Mahla, Smore **Greeters:** Verlatto **EMHC:** Serrino, Orient, Schultz, McGovern, Kail, Glod, T & E Mauro, J Smith **Servers:** D & M DeRienzo, Maher, Z & J Verner

11:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

Lectors: Auer, Luttner **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Stein, Huffner, Hayward, Capozza, McGinnis, B Smith, P, L & K Newmaster **Servers:** Luzier, A & E Ross

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.

Readings for the Week of January 24

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a,5-6,8-10/1 Cor 12:12-30/Lk 1:1-4;4:14-21
 Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk 16:15-18
 Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8/Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17/Mk 4:1-20
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19,24-29/Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a,5-10a,13-17/Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a,10-17/Mk 4:35-41
 Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5,17-19/1 Cor 12:31-13:13/ Lk 4:21-30

Baby Bottle Campaign

This Sunday is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. 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.

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.

Thanks Much!

Ginny and John Lackovic want to thank everyone who offered assistance when John fell during the Epiphany Party on January 9. He is home and doing well. The prayers and support were very much appreciated.

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



Pastoral Council Minutes

The St. Benedict the Abbott Pastoral Parish Council met on November 18, 2009. Members and parish staff began the meeting at 7:30pm in Room 204 of the Family Life & Education Center. The meeting opened with prayer led by Jane Sarra.

Membership: we have an open position because of the resignation of Kathy Davis, who moved out of the area to take another job. Members of the Parish were solicited and asked to respond if they were interested in becoming part of the Council. Five individuals expressed an interest. The interested candidates for the Council included: David Bowlin, Clem Ferri, Mark Kimes, Chris Norton, and Ellie Puskarich. To discern, each of the interested candidates was sent questions for consideration on their vision and leadership role as a member of the Council. They presented their background and interest and the current members asked questions of each prospective member. Aimee Schmidt informed Council that David Bowlin was not available to attend this meeting even though he was still interested in becoming a member. Discussion regarding the issue of member replacement and recruitment followed. Currently, there will be (3) members who will complete their second three year terms by the end of 2010. There are seven members on the Council who began their first 3 yr term in September 2008. The concern became that within the next 6 years all (7) Council members may need to be replaced. This would present a problem with continuity on the Council since greater than 50% of the membership will need to be replaced in 2014.

Fr. Sam informed the Council that new Pastoral Council guidelines should soon replace the interim guidelines developed by the Diocese. Until these final guidelines are received, the Council unanimously approved the (4) new candidates (i.e. C. Norton, E. Puskarich, D. Bowlin, & M. Kimes). The fifth candidate declined after participating in the interview process during the meeting. Members recommended there should be some type of policy within the guidelines that would suggest a certain percentage of members to be replaced on an annual basis. The discussion on this was tabled until the next meeting and after the Parish receives the new Pastoral Council guidelines.

Reports followed from the three committees that were formed to develop our Pastoral Plan. Next week's bulletin will give the updates for these groups. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

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
- *Baptistry 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.

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Leo Kaylor, Sr.

Mr. Leo Kaylor, Jr.

In Memory of Donald Ligan

M/M Joseph W. Smith Sandy & Jeff Mertens
Bernie & Pat Suchoza M/M E. Szatkowski
Bradley & Susan Hanson
Judge & Mrs. Gustave Diamond

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



Ask Father Sam

Can you explain something about the colors of the vestments worn by the clergy?

Lesson of the Week

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

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (GIRM) offer specific guidelines that we are bound to follow in the celebration of Mass. Number 69 says, *In the Prayer of the faithful, the people respond in a certain way to the word of God which they have welcomed in faith and, exercising the office of their baptismal priesthood, offer prayers to God for the salvation of all. It is fitting that such a prayer be included, as a rule, in Masses celebrated with a congregation, so that petitions will be offered for the holy Church, for civil authorities, for those weighed down by various needs, for all men and women, and for the salvation of the whole world.*

Then, number 70 gives the order, *As a rule, the series of intentions is to be (a) for the needs of the Church; (b) for public authorities and the salvation of the whole world; (c) for those burdened by any kind of difficulty; (d) for the local community.*

What do we learn from this? First, that no matter where you attend Mass, this order is supposed to be followed. But, there is permission and even support for other considerations. Let's say a couple were celebrating a wedding anniversary. They could be included in the intentions. Or, children making their First Eucharist at that Mass or in that parish would fittingly be prayed for by the whole assembly.

Some have asked why we can't include specific petitions for certain things like "an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life," or "an end to abortion." While we are encouraged to pray for these things as well as many others, when we include only these we miss the larger scope of the universal prayer of the Church. Every one of us has our own special intentions. We bring those to the altar at Mass, but we give voice to them in our hearts. There are certain Sundays when the above mentioned intercessions are prayed publicly, and especially on weekdays we find these among the petitions with some regularity. But the pattern we have from the instruction is what we follow. As a Church that hopes for and intercedes for the salvation of the world, we can see that there has to be a broad scope to our intercessions.

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!

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

In the Spirit of Service and Sacrifice...

St. Benedict's Military Support Group now has a display case in the narthex of the church. The purpose of the case is twofold: to post parish announcements; and to serve in tribute and as a call to prayer for the members of our parish who are serving in the military. If you have a family member serving in the armed forces, please send a photo, along with name, rank/rate and branch of service to the parish office c/o Jami Christopher. The names will be posted on the board as we receive them. Please pray for these men and women who have made the commitment to serve our country in this way. If you have any questions, you may contact Jami at 724-747-9396.

Magnificat Pittsburgh

Ladies, join Magnificat Pittsburgh for an uplifting prayer breakfast on February 20 from 9:00am until noon at the Sheraton Four Points in Cranberry Township. Hear speaker Gail Buckley, the founder and president of Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), tell the story of her conversion to the Catholic faith. The cost of the breakfast is \$18. Registration deadline is February 12. To register, call Kay at 724-772-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906 or download a registration form at www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.



Eucharistic Ministers for the Sick and Homebound

If you are interested in bringing the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, or to one of the nursing homes, there will be a meeting on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:45pm in room 204. For further information, contact Jay Speca at Ext. 114.

St. Joan of Arc School Registration

Registration will begin for the 2010-2011 school year on February 3 from 8:30am to 2:30pm in the preschool playroom at St. Joan of Arc. The following items are needed to register your child: original birth certificate, Baptismal certificate, Social Security Card and up-to-date immunization information. For further information or to arrange a private tour of the school please call 412/833-2433. You can also find information at mysjaschool.org.

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

Lenten Scripture Study at St. Louise

St. Louise de Marillac in Upper St. Clair is offering a six week Lenten Bible study entitled *Gensis to Jesus*. This study was developed by St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology and presents a comprehensive review of the major themes of the Bible. Classes will be held consecutive Monday evenings from 7:30pm until 9:00pm beginning February 22 and ending March 29. Fr. Dan Langa and Ximena DeBroeck will be the presenters. Diocesan Enrichment Credit is available. Cost of the class is \$20 for materials. Please register with Lyn Lachut at 412-835-1155 or llachut@stlouisedemarillac.org.

Home Bible Study

Interested in participating in a home bible study? Contact Clem Ferri at 724-344-1576 or email at clem@ferricont.com. The study will be held twice a month in private homes. The sessions will consist of reading and discussing scripture and how it plays a part in our lives today. An initial meeting will be held on February 4 at 614 Robinhood Lane. Call the above number for the time of the meeting.

This Week In Our Parish

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)

Monday, January 25

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(PBAC)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Contemplative Outreach	(204)

Tuesday, January 26

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Pastor's Cabinet	(210)

Wednesday, January 27

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 28

9:30a	WOSB General Meeting	(OBH)
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	Communications Committee	(210)

Friday, January 29

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Ch Nur & Br Rm)
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Saturday, January 30

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

Sunday, January 31

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