



## Father Sam's Forum

It's always hard to speak about money, at least for me. Pastors have a responsibility though, to give the parishioners the facts when it comes to parish finances. Whether we like the news or not, the data has to be presented. It is what it is, as they say.

Last weekend, two members of our Finance Council did a splendid job of offering the "State of the Parish 2010," a kind of financial snapshot of where we are as we finish the first half of the current fiscal year. On page 3 you can see the December numbers and read about the poor weekend we had when the weather turned nasty December 14, and then, the lower than last year (2008) Christmas collection. Combined with our income for the first five months of 2009-10, these two things raise a red flag for me.

While I believe in my deepest self that we are about so much more than money and finances and all that, I also have to appreciate that it takes the stuff for us to operate, and without it we can't achieve what we'd like or believe we should. Many people here are generous. That's a fact. We have a great parish as far as people who want to be involved and who are willing to step forward and help. I think about the new faces that made our recent parish picnic a hit. I think about the new families and old who came to help with decorating the church for Christmas. I think about our Youth Council parents who want to give an example to their kids about making faith a real part of everyday life.

All of this is connected to the greatest spiritual gift, *love*, as Paul tells us in the second reading today. It has to be at the core of who we are and what we do. We give—time, energy, talent and treasure—because God loved us first and we love in return.

## Mass Intentions: Jan. 31—Feb. 7

### 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)

### Monday, February 1—Weekday

8:30a **Agnes Puhala** (James Puhala)

### Tuesday, February 2—Presentation of the Lord

6:30a **Mr. Gisleson** (Terri O'Brien)  
 8:30a **Pitowski & Wasziewicz Families**  
 (Gene & Margot Pitowski)

### Wednesday, February 3—St. Blaise

6:30a **Casimir Koza, Sr.** (Richard Koza Family)  
 8:30a **Armella Stark** (8:30 Mass Group)

### Thursday, February 4—Weekday

6:30a **M/M Paul Stryker** (Bill & Kathy Wanninger)  
 8:30a **Sgt. Ryan Lane** (Ed & Donna Frizzel & Family)

### Friday, February 5—St. Agatha

8:30a **Elizabeth Huffner** (Wedding Coordinators)  
 1:45p **Manor Care: Priscilla Bayer**  
 (Charlotte Greenwald)

### Saturday, February 6—St. Paul Miki & Companions

8:30a **Raymond A. Seemiller**  
 (Robert & Kathryn Marino)  
 5:00p **Jim Volanski** (Mark & Kim Jackson & Family)

### Sunday, February 7—5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Charles A. Westhoven**  
 (Wife, Children & Grandchildren)  
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 11:30a **David Wenslovas** (Wenslovas Family)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week  
 in memory of the Fonzo & Meola family members,  
 requested by M/M Frank Meola.*

*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!*

## Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- As promised, the 2010 Mass Book is ready to re-open. We have scheduled all the requested Masses submitted last autumn and also had the time to fill in those intentions we still had from the previous year. So, you are invited to come forward if you wish to schedule more Masses in this current year.
- Our parish passion play, WE ARE WITNESSES, is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 26 & 27. We had an initial meeting of those interested, and the rehearsal schedule is on page 3. Come help us!
- Throat Blessing for the feast of St. Blaise will be held this 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 this Wednesday.
- Youth Council is sponsoring a Senior Brunch on Saturday, February 6. Get your reservations in soon if you haven't already.
- Our Parish Eucharistic Day is set for Sunday, March 21. It's a wonderful way to spend a Lenten Sunday—coming to pray in the presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Mark it on your calendar now.



## 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 31

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5,17-19/1 Cor 12:31-13:13/ Lk 4:21-30  
 Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14,30,16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20  
 Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40  
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2,9-17/Mk 6:1-6  
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4,10-12/Mk 6:7-13  
 Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29  
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34  
 Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a,3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8,11/Lk 5:1-11

## Eucharistic Adoration

This week is our monthly 24-hour adoration which begins Thursday at 4:00pm and concludes Friday at 4:00pm in the Chapel. We believe that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. When you spend time with Him, you will feel His love. Eucharistic Adoration is every month beginning the Thursday before the First Friday at 4:00pm and ending on Friday at 4:00pm. Please take the time to commit to only one hour a month before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There will be sign-up tables in the narthex after all Masses next weekend. Contact Diane Slagle at 724-941-2885 if you have any questions.

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend February 6—February 7

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Specca, Tallon **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego **EMHC:** Klinar, Femiani, Specca, Scheuering, Sarra, Greenwald, Getto, Vandewater, Baumgartner **Servers:** Curran, Getto, Hillen, Curry Tallon

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Rossin, Mamros **Greeters:** Barker, Henger **EMHC:** Berger, Puskarich, E & R McMillan, Petricca, Barton, J & S Christopher, Faina **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

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

**Lectors:** Trapanotto, Wells **Greeters:** Stewart, Oberschelp **EMHC:** Kail, McGovern, Schultz, Orient, Serrino, Torres, Gaudy, Bayer, Cushma **Servers:** Kimes, Mackay, Cushma, A & D Wells

**11:30am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Zuk, Balash **Greeters:** Ragan, Fisher **EMHC:** E & T Mauro, Slomiany, Bonadio, Baits, Herald, Boyd, Fisher, Oldaker **Servers:** Oberschelp, F & M Meola

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners **Elizabeth A. McDonnell, Kathy Mellot and Eric Leech**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

## 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.

## Blessing of Throats

This Wednesday, February 3, we will celebrate the feast of St. Blaise with an evening prayer service that includes the traditional throat blessing at 6:30pm in the Chapel. Throats will also be blessed at the two morning Masses, 6:30 & 8:30. **No confessions this Wednesday because of the service.**





## Parish News...

### Passion Play Rehearsals

Join us for this year's Passion Play! Rehearsals have been scheduled for these dates:

- 7:30pm Tuesdays—February 2, 23, March 16
- 7:45pm Wednesdays—February 3, 10, March 3, 10, 17, and 24
- 7:30pm Thursday—February 18
- 1:00pm Saturdays—February 20, 27, March 20

All rehearsals will be in the Pope Benedict Activity Center. The Passion Play will be performed on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27, at 7:30pm in the Pope Benedict Center.

### Committee Updates

The three committees that formed after the presentation of our parish's pastoral plan have been meeting since summer and updates were given. Here they are.

**Adult Faith Formation:** Aimee Schmidt reported that this committee has had several meetings and that a chairperson for the group has been selected. Chair is Kathleen Chaudari. The group came up with a number of topics that every Catholic should understand as part of their Catholic faith. There are four goals: to offer an 8 week bible primer course; begin a monthly live Q & A Sundays after the 9:30 Mass; use E-connect; and "Growing Faith."

**Communication:** Some of the progress reported by the committee included looking at geographic locations of parishioners within Peters Township and the location of each family by street name. Dolores Jarrell and Lou Ann Scarton from this group had taken the initiative to move forward. Consideration is being given to having this group join with a sub-group of the Welcoming Committee since the activities in the smaller communities may include welcoming new and existing members within the Parish. An email distribution list was generated and parish members can receive news blasts bi-monthly to alert them to special events. Work completed to date by this committee includes access to the Parish bulletin online and updates to the Parish web site. All parishioners have also been invited to participate in Flock Notes which is accessible from the Parish web site.

**Welcome:** The committee divided into three sub-groups and has had two meetings. It will meet in January again to follow up on work outlined in the previous meetings.

## Sharing Our Treasure

Date	Offertory	Debt	Parish Share
Dec. 6	\$22,270	\$4,904	\$665
Dec. 13	\$14,753	\$4,603	\$2,441
Dec. 20	\$25,827	\$7,479	\$9,614
Dec. 27	\$23,064	\$13,602	\$9,224
On-Line Giving	\$7,370	\$1,910	\$700
Monthly Totals	\$93,284	\$32,498	\$22,644
Weekly Average	\$21,479		
Weekly Budgeted	\$22,000		
Christmas	\$52,312		

Looking at our December financials, we took a hit the wintry weekend of December 14 when the ice kept many from being able to come to Mass. Our 2009 Christmas collection was about \$14,000 under what we expected when the budget was done. These two things indicate we are looking more seriously at our spending and ways to control better what it costs to operate our large parish, including some reduction in staffing. Fr. Sam will be in consultation with members of the Finance Council and Pastoral Council in February to address these concerns.

### Lenten Mission 2010

Frank Runyeon, known to many as co-star with Meg Ryan on *As the World Turns*, will be with us March 21—23, 7:00pm each evening. His three presentations include: MARK (what God has done in Jesus), followed by MATTHEW's SERMON ON THE MOUNT (the role Jesus calls us to play in this story), followed by JAMES (but what are we really doing?). Looking at these three Scriptures will help us see ourselves as disciples today.

**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 information, contact Jay Speca at Ext. 114.**

**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 papal infallibility? Does it mean the pope cannot make a mistake?***

### Lesson of the Week

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

Recently, a child who had come in with her grandmother to the sacristy before Mass wanted to know why I had to wear a white garment under the outer vestments I wear for Mass, the stole and chasuble. I asked the little girl whether she had ever worn a white gown. Coached by the grandmother, she said she had, when she was baptized.

The *alb* is the basic garment or vestment that belongs to all the baptized because it is a reminder of the white robe of baptism. It is always white or cream colored. Our servers wear albs, the deacon and priests wear them. In some parishes, other ministers wear them as well. Because we want to show that ministry is called forth from those who are baptized, only our servers, who remain in the sanctuary for the entire liturgy, wear albs. The deacon also wears a dalmatic and stole, while the priest and bishop wear the chasuble and stole for the celebration of Mass.

The other liturgical colors have developed over the centuries: green, red, purple, rose, gold, and black, for Catholics in the Latin Rite. Gold may be used in place of any color when the solemnity of an occasion calls for it. We usually see it used to replace white on feasts like Christmas or Easter or the parish saint's day.

White is normally worn for saints who were not martyrs, for the feasts of the Virgin Mary, and for feasts of Christ that are not associated with His Passion. Green is the color of life and we wear it for Ordinary Time, that counted time outside the special seasons of Advent-Christmas, and Lent-Easter. Red is the color associated with fire and blood and is worn for the feasts of the Holy Spirit like Pentecost, for those saints who were martyrs, and for the Passion of Christ, as on Palm Sunday and Good Friday.

Finally, purple, the color of waiting and of penance, is used for Advent and Lent (with rose on the third Sunday of Advent and fourth Sunday of Lent as optional). Advent purple is a bluer tone while the Lenten purple has more of a red tone. It signifies the waiting and expectation of Advent and the contrition and sorrow of Lent.

## 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 [stbenccd@yahoo.com](mailto:stbenccd@yahoo.com).

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

## Ben's Men "Ladies Night" February 8

The barbequers will be preparing a special meal for our ladies including salad bar and dessert. The evening begins with a wine bar social at 6:30pm and dinner will be served at 7:15pm. Our guest speaker will be our own George Frost who will present history and lore of the sinking of the RMS Titanic almost 100 years ago, including information on the unsung hero of the sinking, a Catholic priest. You must RSVP through our phone tree by February 3. This event is limited to active members of Ben's Men only.

## Why would you? Join the Choir

In an effort to determine how we can best recruit more volunteers for our various choirs, can you tell us under what circumstances you would consider joining? If you have heard good voices around you at Mass, have you asked those people to consider joining the choir? If so, what was their answer? Do you feel that you are not good enough? Please know that most of our members do not read music nor are they required to read it. If you can carry a tune, then you can be a good choir member. Do you feel that you are too good? If so, then ask yourself if the choir is better without you or with you. We have a very large, active parish family here at St. Benedict and we know that many talented people are out there. Now is the time to come forward and share that God-given talent, particularly as a choir member. Email ([gfincham@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:gfincham@stbenedicttheabbot.org)) or call Greg Fincham at 724-941-9406, ext. 108, with your thoughts or questions.



## Scout Sunday February 14th

Scout Sunday is a special opportunity to recognize those who participate in the wonderful tradition of Scouting. We will recognize all Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts on February 14, during the 11:30am Mass with a reception in O'Brien Hall immediately after. All Scouts are welcome to participate, especially if you are in a troop/pack not sponsored by our parish. For more information, contact Kevin Dolinar at 724-942-0388.

## Church Women United Service & Luncheon

All women of the parish are invited to a pre-Lenten service and luncheon celebrating "Living the Vision through Prayer, Outreach, and Sisterhood" on February 11. Several churches from the Peters Twp. area will be joining the WOSB, who are hosting this program. The service begins in the Chapel at 11:00am, followed by a luncheon in O'Brien Hall. Let us gather to share and support one another to build fellowship. For more information, please contact Claudine Femiani at 724-941-5442 or Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955. The luncheon is free, but reservations must be received by February 7, returning this form to the Parish Office.

CWU "Living the Vision" Service & Luncheon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

## New Eyes for the Needy

PTHS sophomore students will be available at Abbey Coffee House on February 7 to collect old eyeglasses or monetary donations for "New Eyes for the Needy," a charitable organization who supplies eyeglasses to people around the world who need corrective lenses and cannot afford them. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

## Home Bible Study

Those interested in participating in a home bible study should contact Clem Ferri at 724-344-1567 or email at clem@ferricont.com. An initial meeting will be held on February 4 at 614 Robinhood Lane. Contact Clem for the time of the meeting.

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, January 31

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

9:00a Faith Formation Session  
11:00a Faith Formation Session

### Monday, February 1

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
10:00a WOSB Yoga (PBAC)  
6:30p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (208)  
7:00p Cub Scouts Den 5 (Rm A)

### Tuesday, February 2

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (206)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)  
7:30p Passion Play Rehearsal (PBAC)  
7:45p Ministers to the Sick (204)

### Wednesday, February 3

9:30a Light Weigh (206)  
12:00p AA (208)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
6:30p Blessing of Throats (Chapel)  
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)  
7:45p Passion Play Rehearsal (PBAC)

### Thursday, February 4

8:30a WOSB Bridge (OBH)  
12:00p NA (206)  
4:00p Eucharistic Adoration Begins (Chapel)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p RCIA (206)  
7:00p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

### Friday, February 5

10:00a Prayer & Share (Ch Nur & Br Rm)  
4:00p Closing of Adoration (Chapel)

### Saturday, February 6

7:30a Catholic Men's Fellowship (206)  
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)  
9:30a Sr. Citizens Brunch (OBH)  
11:00a Confessions (Church)

### Sunday, February 7

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

9:00a Faith Formation Session  
10:30a Baptism Parents' Meeting (213)  
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