



## Father Sam's Forum

“**Y**ou have called us by our name, we belong to you.” These words are the opening of our Lenten hymn, a piece of music that will tie this holy season together. It might seem strange when you are asked to open the hymnal to the section on *Christian Initiation* instead of *Lent* to find this song. But it's not!

Why? Because Lent is about our initiation, about our baptism that made us God's children in a special way. While we keep the discipline of Lent through our works of penance such as fasting and prayer and almsgiving, we do those because of who we are—sons and daughters of the living God who called us by name and numbers us among those chosen for eternal life.

As part of our ongoing parish goals to welcome, communicate and form adults in the faith, we have been trying various means to get the message out there that we are a family of believers. Moses, I think, was making that same statement when he taught the Hebrews how to offer thanksgiving to God for the Promised Land. Priest and people had their roles in offering homage to the Lord who had delivered them from the bondage of slavery in Egypt.

With the annual retelling of the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert, we are linked to that time of wandering by those Hebrews who had to be formed in order to cross the Jordan and enter the Promised Land. Jesus spends forty days in prayer to prepare himself for his mission. The Hebrews spent forty years of formation in the desert. There they became a community of believers. Our forty days of Lent can do that for us as well.

## Mass Intentions: Feb. 21—Feb. 28

### Sunday, February 21—First Sunday of Lent

- 7:45a **Stanley Joseph** (Bob & Peggy Joseph)  
 9:30a **Mildred Teodori**  
 (Carol & Len Teodori-Blahut)  
 11:30a **Sam & Theresa Bonura** (Kauffman Family)

### Monday, February 22—Chair of St. Peter

- 8:30a **Rosalie Scarton** (Emma Diamond)

### Tuesday, February 23—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Rosario Trunzo** (Tom & Julie Dubaniewicz)  
 8:30a **Special Intention Louise Quarture**  
 (Rita, Kip & Shirley)

### Wednesday, February 24—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Robert J. Koklich** (Paula Koerber)  
 8:30a **Nicholas Volanski & Lawrence Pfeifer**  
 (The Pfeifer Family)

### Thursday, February 25—Lenten Weekday

- 6:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Dolores Zegarelli)  
 8:30a **Frances Resignalo** (Jo Lentz)

### Friday, February 26—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Jim & Doris Schauer** (Ann Hayes)

### Saturday, February 27—Lenten Weekday

- 8:30a **Victoria Hucko** (Rosalie, Shiela & Sharon)  
 5:00p **Helen Orcutt** (Jay & Colette Specca)

### Sunday, February 28—Second Sunday of Lent

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**  
 9:30a **Marie McGovern** (M/M H. Cornell)  
 11:30a **Nicholas Vacca** (Judy Ripepi)

***The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of John Wasieleski, requested by his family, and the Bread & Wine are in memory of Barbara Ann Costello, requested by Barbara Costello.***

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

## Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- *Rite of Sending*—next Saturday at the 5:00pm Mass, Fr. Sam will send the candidates who are on their journey of faith to receive the Easter sacraments to the bishop, who will acknowledge them during a service at St. Paul Cathedral on Sunday afternoon. Keep these men and women in your prayers.
- Lent begins the *Parish Share Program* again—our annual sharing with the Church of Pittsburgh. Remember that any funds we raise over our goal we get to keep and use without being taxed by the diocese. Consider how your giving is done and think about how it can benefit the parish.
- Don't forget our *Parish Eucharistic Day* is set for Sunday, March 21. On this day to honor the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, we will have adoration following the 11:30am Mass until the closing services at 4:30pm. Fr. Fred Cain, our Regional Vicar, will deliver the homily. Priests from throughout the diocese will be present and process around the church with the sacrament. Following the services, everyone is welcome to a dinner in the Pope Benedict Center. Watch for more information and how to get a ticket in next week's bulletin.
- Our *Lenten Mission* features TV and film actor Frank Runyeon this year. See the article on page 3 for more information about this three evening event to help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter.



## 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 February 27—February 28

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** M & H Buzzato **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey  
**EMHC:** LaCamera, G & P Adams, Mertens, Milavec, Pfeifer,  
 Norton, Getto, Scheuering **Servers:** Hillen, Getto, Curran,  
 Peterson, Quinn

**7:45am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Brugger, DiCello **Greeters:** Barker, Barton **EMHC:**  
 Kail, T & D Martin, Gavran, Basile, Berger, Puskarich, S & J  
 Christopher **Servers:** Bowlin, Wiegmann, Brugger

**9:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** McKenzie, Morosco **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Verlato  
**EMHC:** Torres, Serrino, Orient, Schultz, McGovern, Capozza,  
 Walnoha, Klinar, Gaudy **Servers:** D, C & L Schratz, Pampena,  
 Kelly

**11:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Auer, Gehrlein **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:**  
 Oldaker, Stein, Huffner, Hayward, B Smith, P, L & K  
 Newmaster, Bench **Servers:** Luzier, K & C Bench

## Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners **John Reed, Ralph Antone, and Frances Jindra**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

### Readings for the Week of February 21

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13  
 Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Mt 16:13-19  
 Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15  
 Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32  
 Thursday: Est C: 12,14-16,23-25/Mt 7:7-12  
 Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26  
 Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48  
 Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12,17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1/Lk 9:28b

## Attention All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

There will be several Prayer & Formation meetings for all of our EMHCs. Please plan to attend one of the following sessions: Mon., Feb. 22 at 7:00pm; Tues., Feb. 23 at 7:30pm; Wed., Feb. 24 at 11:00am and at 7:45pm; and Sat., Feb. 27 at 11:00am. All sessions will meet in Room 202 and should last no longer than one hour. Please contact Jay Specca at 724-941-9406, ext. 114 or email at [jspecca@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:jspecca@stbenedicttheabbot.org), to sign up for one of the sessions. As a recognized representative of the Church, prayer and formation are an important part of this ministry.

## 5 minutes with the Word

It's time to pick up your copy of our Lenten prayer book, *5 minutes with the Word*, as a way to help you keep the season. The pocket size booklets can be found in the baskets in the narthex of the church from today until they run out.

## Triduum: Am I Up To It?

What's the Triduum? Do you know? Can you do it?

## Health Ministry Survey

Our newly-formed Health Ministry Team here at St. Benedict is interested in hearing from you. In today's bulletin you will find a special insert that was adapted from Mercy Hospital's Parish Nurse Program. Please take a few moments this week to complete the survey and either mail, bring to the parish office, or drop it off in the narthex of the church. It will help us determine what type of activities or programs we can plan for the parish. If you have any questions, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406.



## Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family **Madelyn Grace**, daughter of Grant & Jennifer Carroll; **David Michael, Jr.**, son of David & Amanda Curran; **Brendan Cooper**, son of Gabriel & Kristen Seaman; and **Nathan Michael**, son of Michael & Tara Matuszewski. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

## Spring Ministers' Schedule

It is time to schedule ministers for Masses in April, May, and June. All Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and schedule changes to Jay Speca at [jspeca@hotmail.com](mailto:jspeca@hotmail.com). Put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line, or call 724-941-9587. He will be running the schedule the second week of March, so please have your information in before March 8th. Also, watch for the Holy Week and Easter Sunday sign-up schedule next week.

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

## WOSB February Meeting

Want to make a difference this Lenten season? Instead of giving something up, how about doing something that will make a difference in a young person's life! Sara Thomas from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh (BBBS) will visit the Women of St. Benedict during the general meeting on February 25 at 9:30am in O'Brien Hall. Please consider joining us and explore this wonderful organization. Visit [www.bbbspgh.org](http://www.bbbspgh.org) for more information and bring any questions you may have to the meeting. As always, the women will have something delicious cooking in the kitchen!

## Passion Play Rehearsals

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

- 7:30pm Tuesdays—February 23, March 16
- 7:45pm Wednesdays—March 3, 10, 17, and 24
- 1:00pm Saturdays—February 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. ***Tickets for the performances will be available in the office beginning next week.***

## Mass Intentions 2010 Mass Book Re-opened

Thanks to everyone's cooperation when we opened the 2010 Mass Book in October, we were able to schedule the leftover requests from 2008 – 2009, and now we have available open spaces to take additional requests. You may stop at the office to schedule Mass intentions to be celebrated this year (2010).

## Our Lenten Mission: AFRAID

Afraid! is a one man play, staged with dramatic lighting and entertaining audience interaction. Its text is the Gospel of Mark, translated into contemporary American speech. As characters and settings and lights constantly shift, the Gospel engages the audience's imagination, surprises them with flashes of humor, and drives relentlessly forward with all the dramatic suspense you would expect from great theater. Every Christian wonders what it would have been like to be there, in Galilee, and meet Jesus. This evening will help us to have that experience. Plan to join us and bring along your whole family, Sunday, March 21, 7:00pm in the church. Frank Runyeon, star of TV and film, will bring the bible to life for us on three evenings as he opens the Word of God to make it relevant for our everyday living in this 21st century. A wonderful way to prepare for Holy Week and Easter, our Lenten Mission promises to be reflective as well as entertaining.

***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!***

## Easter Decorators Needed



Just as we did for Christmas, Fr. Sam is asking for anyone who wants to help plan the church décor for Easter to come to a brief meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 6:00pm. We'll meet in the Chapel. If you've helped in the recent past, or years ago, or never, come join us.

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



## Ask Father Sam

*What are the things every adult Catholic should know about his/her faith?*

### Lesson of the Week

*What were the Crusades and why did they occur?*

The word "Crusade" comes from the Spanish, *cruzada*, meaning crossed, because of the crosses that emblazoned the banners and shields carried into battle by the knights who left Europe to fight the Muslims in the Holy Land in the 11th through the 13th centuries. Often seen as something that is less than optimal in the story of Christianity, we have to understand them in the mentality of their time, and not from the lens we have today.

When pilgrims to Jerusalem complained to their religious leaders at home that their access to the sites where Jesus lived were being restricted by the Muslims who had captured these lands, and, in some cases, Christians were captured and forced to convert to Islam or be killed, people like St. Bernard rose to denounce this and called for armed intervention to take back these places. Between 1095 and 1291 there were nine separate military campaigns to accomplish this task.

In the first crusade, called by Pope Urban II, about 20,000 peasant-fighters were killed by Muslims in Turkey on their way to fight in the Holy Land, even though some French nobles and their soldiers captured a few key cities, including Jerusalem, where they killed not only the Muslim inhabitants, but also the Jewish ones. We would say both were examples of useless slaughter of innocent people.

As they went on, there were more examples of bad things that happened in the name of religion, such as crusaders who took Constantinople, a Christian city, and killed inhabitants there. What we learn from this misinformed and mistaken venture is this: the Crusades damaged the self-image of the Church by 1) disillusion about the establishment of a universal Christendom; 2) the Muslims weren't going away and the princes who led the armies were interested in wealth and power, not conversion; and 3) the pope could not make the world operate according to Christian principles.

As we reflect on this time in history, we can see that the mindset of people was framed differently than today. Communication was bad, greed and power took the place of self-control, and the "end" - taking back the Holy Land, seemed to justify the "means," killing innocent people and causing destruction.

## Youth Ministry News

### Calling all Teens

*Looking for Service Hours?*

We could use your help with the craft room, movie room, and serving meals during the Fish Fry. Teens are welcome to help every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00pm until 7:00pm. Just show up and pitch in.

### High School Girls Getaway

*Girls Getaway* is a weekend retreat to pamper your soul and learn what real womanhood is. Based on *Song of Songs* "Arise, my beautiful and come. . ." girls will get a chance to grow in their relationship with God and understand what a princess they truly are. The weekend is March 5-7 at the Gilmory Retreat Center. Cost is \$95 with scholarships available. For more information or to register, contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

**Feb. 21—Feb. 28**

Feb. 21—WORD (PBAC)  
Feb. 23, 7:00pm—Theology of the Body (St. Louise)  
Feb. 28, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)

### Ben's Men Annual Lenten Fish Fry

It's time for the annual Ben's Men Fish Fry every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00pm to 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. We are serving delicious fish dinners (Adult \$8—Child \$5.50), fish sandwiches (alone \$6), and Fr. Sam's Italian pizza (\$6/pie or \$1 per slice), Benny's Clam Chowder (\$3), and Pierogi (6) with butter & onions (\$4.50). Eat in or take out. Crafts and movies for the kids too! Bring the whole family and tell your friends and neighbors!

Once again we also have *Fish Fry Lunch* available every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Lunch special includes a fried fish sandwich, coleslaw, and French fries for \$7, fish sandwiches (alone \$6), Benny's Clam Chowder (\$3), and Fr. Sam's pizza for \$6/pie or \$1 per slice. You may eat in or order take out.



## This Week In Our Parish

### MOM'S Sharing Lenten/Spring Class Offered

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOM'S) invite you to join them for an 8-week enrichment class for mothers beginning March 3 from 9:15am to 11:15am or March 4 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm (choose one class time for the entire 8 weeks). Topics include stress management through prayer, motherhood as a vital church ministry, and choosing friends that help you become a better person. The cost is \$35 and the registration form is available on the church website. Contact Kathleen Chaudhari at 724-941-8546 with any questions.

### Girl Scout Sunday

We will recognize all girls who participate in Girl Scouting in grades K-12 on March 7 during the 11:30am Mass. All girl scouts are welcome to participate. Please wear your vest or sash and meet in the narthex at 11:15am. For more information or to volunteer to be a greeter, lector, or altar server at this Mass, please contact Amy Shope at 724-941-6060.

### Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center

The Catholic Charities Free Health Care Center is recruiting experienced mental health professionals to provide limited counseling services for our patients who do not have health insurance. Licensed social workers or psychologists who can volunteer their time on a consistent basis should contact our volunteer coordinator at 412-456-6977. For more information about the Free Health Care Center visit [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org).

### Free Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be available at the South Hills Bible Chapel Monday through Friday until April 15 from 8:30am until 2:00pm. There will be no Saturday hours, and they will be closed on Good Friday. No appointments are necessary; walk-ins only. Do not contact the Bible Chapel regarding VITA services; they do not have access to the church office phone.

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

#### Sunday, February 21

*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, February 22

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	Cub Scouts Den 1	(RmA)
7:00p	First Reconciliation	(Church)
7:00p	EMHC Prayer & Formation	(202)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(204)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 4	(RmB)

#### Tuesday, February 23

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:00p	EMHC Prayer & Formation	(202)
7:30p	Passion Play Rehearsal	(PBAC)

#### Wednesday, February 24

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
11:00a	EMHC Prayer & Formation	(202)
12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Easter Decorating Meeting	(Chapel)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	First Reconciliation	(Church)
7:45p	EMHC Prayer & Formation	(202)
7:45p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

#### Thursday, February 25

9:30a	WOSB General Meeting	(OBH)
9:30a	MOM'S Café	(208/210)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 2	(RmA)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Pastoral Council	(213)

#### Friday, February 26

10:00a	Prayer & Share	(Nursery)
11:00a	Lunch Fish Fry	(OBH)
4:00p	Ben's Men Fish Fry	(OBH)
7:00p	Stations of the Cross	(Church)

#### Saturday, February 27

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
11:00a	EMHC Prayer & Formation	(202)
1:00p	Passion Play Rehearsal	(PBAC)

#### Sunday, February 28

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

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



## 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