



## Father Sam's Forum

“**R**emove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” As Lent continues, it might be helpful to connect some of the texts associated with this special season to their roots. Lest we think Christians made up things as history went along, we can see how the Church looked to its Jewish roots for meaning and interpretation of events and practices.

The encounter between Moses and God that we have in the first reading is a familiar scene for those who grew up watching *The Ten Commandments*. When Moses saw the bush on fire, he went to examine it. God spoke to him the words that open the Forum today. This encounter would lead him back to Egypt where his mission was to announce the liberation of his fellow Hebrews. In the Passover that followed, we have an understanding of our Easter celebration.

For Christians, Jesus is the Lamb; his Passover is from death to life, just as those Hebrew slaves went from bondage to freedom. That's why we read about the first Passover on Holy Thursday. The Hebrews leaving Egypt went through the sea to reach their freedom, so water became a great symbol of life and death. In Christian baptism, we use that symbol for just that reason. We who are baptized are given new life, dying to our sinfulness in the waters of baptism so that we emerge reborn. That's one of the readings at the Easter Vigil.

A Lent of 40 days corresponds to 40 years that the Hebrews wandered in the desert after their flight from Egypt. When we come to venerate the cross on Good Friday, *we remove our shoes* like Moses did, because we too are standing on holy ground. The story of the Passover is central to the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. We can't forget our roots.

## Mass Intentions: Mar. 7—Mar. 14

### Sunday, March 7—Third Sunday of Lent

7:45a **Bruno Menozzi** (Rick & Michelle Menozzi)  
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 11:30a **Charles Westhoven**  
 (Wife, Children & Grandchildren)

### Monday, March 8—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Ron Meszaros** (Ann Dugan)

### Tuesday, March 9—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Mary Barranti** (M/M Tim Thomas)  
 8:30a **Fred Peelor** (Bob Chiocca)

### Wednesday, March 10—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Claire Lane** (The Clark Family)  
 8:30a **Alex Dellana** (Wife)  
 11:00a **McMurray Hills: Jack Manion**  
 (Pat Ogilvie)

### Thursday, March 11—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Mary Catherine Quarture** (Children)  
 8:30a **Albert & Lucille Eustis**  
 (Merridy E. Greenlief)

### Friday, March 12—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Victoria Veltri** (Nora Hendrie)

### Saturday, March 13—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Joseph Yatchum**  
 (Daughters & Grandparents)  
 5:00p **Living & Deceased of the Schweibinz & Busch Families** (Claire Meredith)

### Sunday, March 14—Fourth Sunday of Lent

7:45a **Jack Reed** (Joanne Barton)  
 9:30a **Marie McGovern** (Windmueller Family)  
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Kate Airey, requested by Susan Airey & Family.*

*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! And...now special collections are available online too! Check it out.*

## Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- **Our Lenten Mission** begins after the Parish Eucharistic Day Dinner on Sunday, March 21 at 7:00pm in the church. TV and film actor Frank Runyeon will present **Afraid!** a modern day interpretation of the Gospel of Mark as the first night's theme. On Monday and Tuesday evening, Mr. Runyeon will offer two other biblical presentations, **Sermon on the Mount**, and **James**, the New Testament letter that gives us a perspective on how we can make the message of Jesus our own. See the details on page 3.
- **Lenten Penance Service**—the traditional service with multiple priest confessors is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00pm. Take advantage of this opportunity to make a good confession before Easter. **Other Lenten confession times** include Wednesdays, March 10 & 17, at 6:30pm; Saturdays, March 13, 20 & 27, at 11:00am; and Tuesday, March 30, 7:00pm. **There are no confessions on March 31 because of practices for the Triduum liturgies.**
- The celebration of **First Eucharist** begins the weekend after Easter and continues through the Easter season with the children participating in 5:00pm Saturday Masses on April 10, 17, 24 & May 1, 15, and the 11:30am Masses on April 11, 18, 25 & May 2.



## 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  
 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 March 7

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a,13-15/1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12/Lk 13:1-9  
 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30  
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25,34-43/Mt 18:21-35  
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1,5-9/Mt 5:17-19  
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23  
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34  
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14  
 Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a,10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3,11-32

## Triduum: Is this new?

When did this Triduum thing begin? Is it really all that important? Watch for the "Lesson of the Week" on March 21, to get the answers.

## Passion Play Tickets

Tickets for the 2010 Passion Play are available in the parish office. We have a limited number for each performance. They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. There is no charge, but a free will offering to defray the cost of the production will be taken at each performance.

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

## Serving the Parish Next Weekend March 13—March 14

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Tallon, Specca **Greeters:** Reed, Patnesky **EMHC:** LaCamera, G & P Adams, Klinar, Scheuering, Norton, Pfeifer, Milavec, Mertens **Servers:** Waigand, Nobers, Byrne, LaRosa, Tallon

**7:45am**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Mamros, Rossin **Greeters:** Barker, Turchick **EMHC:** Kail, Walnoha, **Servers:** E, M, & E Jozwiak, Barton, J & S Christopher, Puskarich, Berger, Basile, Gavran

**9:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Trapanotto, Smore **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Verlato **EMHC:** E & T Mauro, Torres, Serrino, Orient, Schultz, Glod, McGovern, Cushma **Servers:** Shaw, Figueroa, Cushma, Mackay, Kimes

**11:30am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Hruby, Balash **Greeters:** Ragan, Bartoli **EMHC:** Oldaker, Stein, McGinnis, K, L & P Newmaster, B Smith, Hayward, Huffner **Servers:** Wallach, F & M Meola

## Children's Choir

This year, the Children's Choir will sing at the 9:30am Easter morning Mass. Rehearsals will be on the following Wednesdays at 4:30pm in the Choir Room: March 17, 24, and 31. The Children's Choir is open to those in the 2nd grade or older. Please call Greg Fincham at 724-941-9406, Ext. 108 if you need more information.

**N.B. The second collection next weekend will benefit the Campaign for Human Development & Home Missions. No amounts from this collection will be allocated to any ACORN group. The national ACORN organization came under serious criticism in recent years, and the US bishops have suspended any funding to ACORN.**

## Parish Eucharistic Day & Dinner

Our parish celebrates a day in honor of the holy sacrament of the Eucharist on Sunday, March 21, with adoration following the 11:30am Mass and continuing until the closing services at 4:30pm. Come spend some time with the Lord whom we believe is truly present in the Eucharist. Our closing services include Evening Prayer, homily by our Regional Vicar Fr. Fred Cain, Eucharistic Procession, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We are also having a simple dinner following the services for those who want to stay for the opening of our Lenten Mission at 7:00 that evening. Dinner tickets can be purchased in the office at \$10 for each adult and \$5 for each child under 12.



## Triduum Liturgical Ministers

If you want to serve during the Triduum and on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the office before March 12.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Holy Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Good Friday, April 2, 1:30pm (Liturgy)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Good Friday, April 2, 7:00pm (Tenebrae)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_

### Holy Saturday, April 3, 8:30pm (Easter Vigil)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 7:45am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 9:30am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 11:30am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

## Finance Council News

As noted in their presentation in January, members of our Finance Council will be in O'Brien Hall during the Abbey Coffee House after 9:30 Mass today as well as the first Sunday of April and May. These parish members are able to answer any questions or concerns you may have about finances within the parish. Watch in the weeks ahead as we begin preparation for the new budget.

## Sharing Our Treasure

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offertory</u>	<u>Debt</u>	<u>PSP</u>
<b>Jan. 3</b>	<b>\$25,218</b>	<b>\$11,618</b>	<b>\$925</b>
<b>Jan. 10</b>	<b>\$19,552</b>	<b>\$1,655</b>	<b>\$8,890</b>
<b>Jan. 17</b>	<b>\$18,760</b>	<b>\$2,334</b>	<b>\$749</b>
<b>Jan. 24</b>	<b>\$19,518</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$586</b>
<b>Jan. 31</b>	<b>\$19,684</b>	<b>\$2,537</b>	<b>\$1,255</b>
<b>On-Line Giving</b>	<b>\$7,762</b>	<b>\$985</b>	<b>\$640</b>
<b>Monthly Totals</b>	<b>\$110,494</b>	<b>\$20,129</b>	<b>\$13,045</b>
<b>Weekly Average</b>	<b>\$22,099</b>		
<b>Weekly Budgeted</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>		

According to our budget, we were on track in January since our weekly average was almost exactly the figure we count on. The Parish Share numbers are reflective of those final payments for 2009's PSP campaign since it runs February to February. Debt reduction looks good as well. Thanks to all who offer so generously their financial support to our parish. Finance Council is beginning to work on the budget for fiscal year 2010-11, and there will be some measures to reduce the budget during the remainder of this fiscal year. Watch for more news as we prepare the new budget.

## Our Lenten Mission: *The Letter of James*

Frank Runyeon, star of TV and film, will be here Tuesday, March 23, to offer his interpretation of the biblical *Letter of James*. He sets the letter in the context of the early church, only 12 years after Jesus' death when mostly all Christians were also Jewish. There was growing tension between those who thought Jesus was the Messiah and those who didn't. After the death of Stephen, many Christians left Jerusalem to avoid persecution. How would they deal with the problems they encountered? *Join us for all three nights of our Lenten Mission. Remember the three night mission begins Sunday, March 21, with "Afraid!" a telling of Mark's Gospel, and continues on Monday, March 22, with the "Sermon on the Mount." Bring your family and friends to this inspiring Lenten opportunity to understand God's Word in a new way.*



## Ask Father Sam

*What is Eucharistic Adoration, and why do we have it?*

### Lesson of the Week

*Can you speak a little about the goal of welcome that is part of our pastoral plan?*

When our parish pastoral plan was rolled out last Pentecost, one of the three goals was to become a more welcoming parish. Some folks might not understand what this means or why it is important. Years ago, many parishes were neighborhood communities, and everyone knew one another. As people moved to the suburbs and larger parishes developed over decades, it became more difficult for parishioners to actually know their neighbors. With a parish such as ours, spread over many plans and throughout the township, and having members who are from outside the township as well, this becomes easily evident.

Why is welcome important? First of all, it is part of our Benedictine heritage to offer hospitality, as St. Benedict indicated in his rule for the monks. But even if it weren't, practicing hospitality is wrapped up in our Judeo-Christian tradition. To see every person as a guest, and in our case, as Christ, is what the New Testament asks of us. So, with over 8,000 parishioners, how do we do that?

One way is to ask your input. What can we do to be more welcoming? Some of it is common sense. Say hello to those around you at Mass or when you come for some other activity. Take the attitude of meeting Christ in your weekday life, whether it is at work, school or play. When we feel welcomed and invited, we are more likely to get involved and then to return—that is, stay involved.

Our Welcome Committee has been meeting and has decided to look at three areas: 1) ministries of welcoming; 2) new member orientation; and 3) neighborhood communities. If you think this is something you can contribute to, let me know. We are always looking for others to become involved.

Every parish group should examine how they welcome others. Do they send the message, "this is for only a select few," or is an open invitation given? We have to first understand what it means to be Church. And that is so often misunderstood. As I have said over and over, this is not a club. We are disciples, and the role of disciples is to make more disciples. How are you doing at that? Do you take the responsibility that comes with baptism?

## Youth Ministry News

### Mission Trip Bike Raffle

The youth group is raffling off a custom-made lowrider bicycle made by Bicycle Designer. The retail cost is \$299 and is a perfect gift for any kid or cyclist enthusiast. Check out the bike and buy your tickets at the Friday Fish Fry. If you can't make the Fish Fry, call Janet at 724-941-9587 to see the bike and buy tickets.

### Dinner & Program

If you are between the ages of 18 and 25, you are cordially invited to join us for dinner and a program with Fr. Scott Seethaler called *Pizza & Possibilities* at Sacred Heart Parish in Shadyside on March 18, from 6:00 to 9:30pm. Fr. Scott's program "Volunteerism, A Way to Serve God" will share concrete ways you can share your gifts and talents in service to others. Please contact Janet at 724-941-9587, ext. 112 to reserve a spot.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

*Feb. 21—Feb. 28*

Mar. 7, 7:00pm—WORD (PBAC)

Mar. 9, 7:00pm—Theology of the Body (St. Louise)

Mar. 14, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)

### Lenten Fish Fry

It's time for the annual Fish Fry every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00pm to 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. 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. You may eat in or order take out.

### Journey With the Mystics

Our Contemplative Prayer Group will offer a 4-part "Spiritual Journey With the Great Mystics" on Mondays beginning March 8, from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Chapel. Meister Eckhart will be our guide the first night. For information call Dennis at 724-941-9406, ext. 109. (An intro to Centering Prayer will be offered at 6:45 each Monday in the Chapel).

**Our Grief Support Program will take place Saturdays in March from 9:30am to 11:00am. Call Dennis at 724-941-9406 for details.**



## The Ethics & Politics of Health Care Reform

The Center for the Study of Catholic Social Thought will present Rev. Philip S. Keane, S.S., the leading scholar in medical ethics and former professor of moral theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, on Wednesday, March 10, 2:00pm in the Power Center Ballroom at Duquesne University. Admission is free and open to the public. Fr. Keane is the author of four books, including *Catholicism and Health Care Justice*. He serves as an ethics consultant to Catholic Charities and to several health care systems.

## Sign Up for Our Email Lists

Want email updates regarding church events? It's easy to sign up. Go to our website home page at [www.stbenedicttheabbot.org](http://www.stbenedicttheabbot.org) and enter your name and email address. We send out updates every 2-3 weeks with important events and a note from Fr. Sam. You can also sign up to receive Faith Formation class email updates (go to the Faith Formation home page on the website to sign up).

## Church Women United "Living the Vision"

The CHURCH WOMEN UNITED service and luncheon hosted by the Women of St. Benedict has been rescheduled to March 17. A service will be held in the Chapel at 11:00am followed by a free luncheon in O'Brien Hall. For reservations call Claudine Femiani at 724-941-5442 or Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955 by March 14.

## New Eyes for the Needy

Old eyeglasses or monetary donations for "New Eyes for the Needy" will be collected at Abbey Coffee House on March 14. This was rescheduled from February 7 due to the weather conditions that weekend.

## Girl Scout Cookies

Girls Scouts from local Troop 54327 will be selling cookies this Sunday in O'Brien Hall from 8:30am to 11:15am. Cost is \$3.50 per box.

*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, March 7

*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, March 8

10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(OBH)
6:00p	Ben's Men Rosary	(213)
6:30p	Ben's Men Meeting	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	Welcoming Committee Meeting	(210)
6:45p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

### Tuesday, March 9

9:15a	Catholic Scripture Study	(206)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)
7:30p	Welcoming Committee Meeting	(210)
7:45p	Cub Scouts Den 4	(Rm. A)

### Wednesday, March 10

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
6:00p	Parent Confirmation Meeting	(OBH)
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Passion Play Rehearsal	(PBAC)
7:45p	St. Vincent de Paul	(206)

### Thursday, March 11

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:30p	Welcoming Committee Meeting	(210)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)
7:00p	Cub Scouts Den 3	(Rm. A)
7:00p	MOM'S Group	(213)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

### Friday, March 12

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

### Saturday, March 13

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
8:00a	Ushers CPR Training	(204/206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:30a	Marriage Preparation Class	(208)
10:00a	Parents Meeting for 1st Eucharist	(OBH)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

### Sunday, March 14

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
12:30a	Marriage Preparation Class	(208)

**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