



Father Sam's Forum

Saint Luke is a storyteller par excellence! His version of the Gospel is full of wonderful parables that place Jesus in the role of teacher through these open ended tales. We have one today in the familiar "prodigal son."

The journey of 40 days of Lent is halfway over. As we celebrate Laetare Sunday—the Latin name means "rejoice," and comes from the Introit of the Mass which says, "Be Joyful, O Jerusalem!" - we should stop to think about how the season is unfolding in our lives. Have there been any surprises? Is God drawing you into deeper relationship? Are you seeing your own weaknesses more clearly?

On February 28, at Saint Paul Cathedral, Bishop Zubik welcomed to the Rite of Election all those from our parish who will complete their Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil and make their profession of faith as Catholics. These men and women have been part of the RCIA process here since last summer. Find out who they are and welcome them to the parish. It may be that they were drawn to share our faith by your example.

Remember that next Sunday begins our three night Parish Lenten Mission. Frank Runyeon will be with us to share three parts of the bible, the Gospel of Mark, Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, and the Letter of James. Each night at 7:00 we will enter into the time of the early Christians and learn how we can better understand and live the challenge of discipleship. Next Sunday afternoon at 4:30 we close our parish Eucharistic Day with prayer and procession followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Come spend the afternoon and evening!

Mass Intentions: Mar. 14—Mar. 21

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**

Monday, March 15—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **John Godzo** (M/M Joseph Smith)

Tuesday, March 16—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Fred Henning** (Ben's Men)
8:30a **Elizabeth Huffner** (Lois McCloskey)

Wednesday, March 17—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Adolph & Lila Vittone**
(M/M Eugene A. J. Vittone)
8:30a **Lucille McGurk** (Patricia Fink)

Thursday, March 18—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Mercy Durkin** (Colleen & Jonathan Conley)
8:30a **Patrick Tierno** (M/M Young)

Friday, March 19—St. Joseph

8:30a **Denise Blehar** (M/M William Blehar)

Saturday, March 20—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Edward McCloskey** (John T. McCloskey)
5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, March 21—Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:45a **John & Johanna Kosir** (Family)
9:30a **Viola Jarasiewicz**
(Mitch & Priscilla Jarasiewicz)
11:30a **Joe Kanish** (Michele Mistofffeles)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Joseph (Joe) Capozza, requested by Dotti & Family, and the Bread & Wine is also in memory of Joseph (Joe) Capozza, requested by Dotti & 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...

Pennies for Peace—Guitar Hero Contest—our 6th grade students will be hosting this contest this Friday, March 19, during the Fish Fry. All are welcome to participate as they raise funds for this worthy cause.

There's lots happening next week! Next Sunday, March 21, Fr. Fred Cain, our Regional Vicar will visit the parish and preach at the closing services for Eucharistic Day. Join us at 4:30 in the afternoon. There's still time to get your ticket for a simple dinner that allows you to have a bite between the services and the opening of our Lenten Mission. See page 3 for more details about the Mission and Eucharistic Day.

The schedule for liturgical ministers for the Triduum and Easter Sunday is on the insert in the bulletin today. Remember to find a sub if you are unable to serve.

Confessions for Lent continue on these dates: Wednesday, March 17, 6:30pm; Saturday, March 20, 11:00am; Wednesday, March 24, our annual **Lenten Penance Service**, 7:00pm; Saturday, March 27, 11:00am; and Tuesday, March 30, 7:00pm. *There are no confessions on Wednesday, March 31, because of rehearsals for the liturgies of the Triduum.*



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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend March 20—March 21

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Glover, Norton **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego **EMHC:** Greenwald, Sarra, Specca, Femiani, Getto, R & C Satler, Baumgartner, Glover **Servers:** Quinn, Peterson, Curran, Getto, Hillen

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: Ross, Wanninger **Greeters:** R & J Jackson **EMHC:** R & E McMillan, D & T Martin, Joseph, Prado, S & J Brooks, Wanninger **Servers:** Brooks, N & V DeRienzo

9:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Richardson-Gohring, Wells **Greeters:** Stewart, Becker **EMHC:** Torres, Walnoha, Klinar, Capozza, A & L Kelly, Bayer, Gaudy, Spinabelli **Servers:** L & J Spinabelli, Severa, A & D Wells

11:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: McCabe, Hajzus **Greeters:** Bartoli, Ragan **EMHC:** Stein, Oldaker, T & E Mauro, Boyd, Herald, Baits, Bonadio, Slomiany **Servers:** Taylor, Chaplin, Graves

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers **Bishop John McDowell**, our parishioners **Dorothy Wasieleski**, **John C. Stanish, Jr.**, **John Crookshank**, and **Helen Kassab**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Did You Give?

Capital Campaign Memorial

We are close to completing the preparations for our memorial and need to finalize the donor lists. The lists are still available in the parish office for you to view and check the accuracy of spelling, etc. If you were missed because of poor record keeping, please check with Kathy in the parish office. The deadline for any changes is March 31.

Caring for the Sick

As we strive to practice service and hospitality, part of our mission, caring for the sick, is a real part of how we do that. But to do that we have to first know who the sick among us are. Please contact the parish office if someone is hospitalized or recovering at home and would benefit from a visit, Communion at home, or some other form of pastoral care. In such a large parish it is easy to slip through the cracks. Dennis Gerhlein, our pastoral associate, is trying to bring together volunteers who can assist him and the clergy in this important part of parish life. **Going to the hospital? Please tell one of the priests so that you may receive a special blessing or the sacrament of the sick. It helps.**

Readings for the Week of March 14

Sunday: Jos 5:9a,10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3,11-32
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9,12/Jn 5:1-16
 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
 Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a,12-14a,16/Rom 4:13,16-18,22/Mt 1:16,18-21,24a
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
 Next Sunday: Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11

Triduum: lots of church!

Do we really have to come? Watch for the "Lesson of the Week" on March 21, to get the answers.

Protecting God's Children

A training session for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children," has been scheduled for March 19, from 9:30am until 12:30pm in rooms 208/210. Please call Colette in Faith Formation at 724-941-9587, ext. 113 to register.

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



Parish Eucharistic Day & Dinner

Next Sunday our parish celebrates a day in honor of the holy sacrament of the Eucharist 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 are available in the office at \$10 for each adult and \$5 for each child under 12. **Last day is Wednesday!**

Women of St. Benedict "Think Spring"

Join the Women of St. Benedict as they present local author Phyllis Testal Monk, M.Ed. on March 25, at 9:30am in O'Brien Hall. She's the co-author of *Wildflowers of Pennsylvania*, and has a slide presentation of photographs taken by members of the Botanical Society of Western PA. Get a glimpse of spring as we look ahead to what is in store for our area this season! Refreshments will be served.

Children's Easter Choir

This year, the Children's Choir will sing at the 9:30am Easter Sunday Mass. Rehearsals are 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.

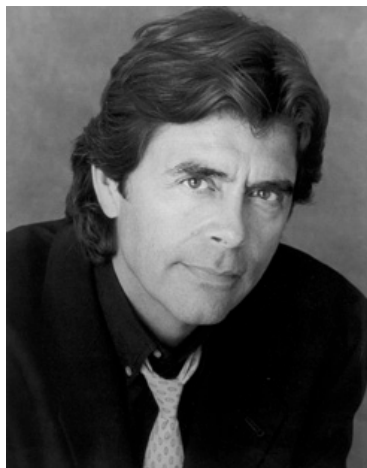
Passion Play Tickets

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.

Vacation Bible School 2010

Vacation Bible School will be held this year during the week of July 12 –16. Please watch in the future bulletins for more information.

Lenten Mission begins March 21



Be sure to join us on Sunday, March 21, Monday, March 22, and Tuesday, March 23, at 7:00pm in the church, as Frank Runyeon, TV and film actor offers us reflections on the bible this Lent. As we prepare for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, these performances will enhance and inform our understanding of God's word in the Gospel of

Mark, the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Letter of James. See the insert in our bulletin today for more details.

Journey With the Mystics

Our Contemplative Prayer Group presents Part 2 of "Spiritual Journey with the Mystics" this Monday, March 15 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Chapel. Julian of Norwich will be our guide this night. Others include: Abraham Joshua Heschel (April 5) and the unknown author of "Cloud of the Unknowing" (April 12). For information, call Dennis at 724-941-9406, ext. 109. (An intro to Centering Prayer will be offered at 6:45 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.

Lenten Fish Fry

The annual Fish Fry continues 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.

MORE HELP NEEDED!!!

Many more volunteers are needed at the Friday Fish Fry. Please call Michael Benya at 724-942-0843 if you can help.



Ask Father Sam

Can you tell me more about the Triduum?

Lesson of the Week

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

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration, which is having the holy sacrament that we receive in Communion, placed upon the altar for private prayer and worship, dates back to the late Middle Ages. In that era of Church history, people were not inclined much to actually receive the Eucharist at Mass for a number of reasons. In order to help focus on our belief that Christ is actually present in the consecrated bread and wine, leaders of the Church began to seek ways to call people's attention to that belief.

One way was through special celebrations like the feast we celebrate after the Easter season ends that is known as *Corpus Christi*, the feast of the Body of the Lord. The Office for the feast was composed by St. Thomas Aquinas, who gave us the hymn *Tantum Ergo*, that so many of us know from our youth. It was hoped that by Eucharistic processions where the priest or bishop carried the sacrament through the streets of the city or town, followed by the people, there would be an increase of devotion to Christ's real presence. It was also in this same era that a law was made that stated every Catholic was bound to receive the Eucharist at least once a year, during the Easter season. We came to call this our *Easter Duty*.

Over the centuries, Eucharistic devotion reached an apex as many parishes celebrated a special time set aside each year for it. The Forty Hours devotion was very popular throughout the end of the 19th and into the 20th century, and again, many of us would be familiar with this if we grew up in the 1940's and 50's. Over time though, as more and more people began to receive Communion at Mass, it seemed that this devotion lost some popularity. But, we are seeing more young people who are interested in it, and some say that at Catholic colleges the practice has seen a resurgence.

In our parish we offer adoration every month, beginning on the Thursday before the First Friday of the month. If you haven't ever participated, take the opportunity to do so. From 4:00pm on Thursday through 4:00pm Friday, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for prayer and adoration. *The next adoration time will be in May since April 1–2 is Holy Thursday and Good Friday.*

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.

Thank You & God Bless

Youth Ministry and SBA Parish would like to thank Elaine Motyl for two years of wonderful ministry. She has generously shared her talents to make youth ministry more welcoming, organized and inspirational. We will all miss her dearly and pray for God's blessings on her next endeavor.

Sunday Night WORD

Next week, March 21, all teens are invited to come to the Pope Benedict Center at 6:00pm for a meager meal and fellowship. We will then join the rest of the Church for the first night of the Parish Mission presented by Frank Runyeon, "Afraid!"

Youth & Parent Survey

Youth Ministry is seeking input and feedback from all parents and teens to better meet the needs of the parish. We are putting out surveys to both parents and teens through the website. Please take the survey and encourage others to do so in order that we can get a wide base for the feedback. To participate, go to www.stbenedicttheabbot.org/ym. Thank you so much for your time and support.

Youth Ministry Calendar—Feb. 21—Feb. 28

Mar. 14, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)
Mar. 16, 7:00pm—Theology of the Body (St. Louise)
Mar. 21, 7:00pm—Parish Mission (Church)



This Week In Our Parish

Building Fund Donations

In Memory of Fr. Donatelli
M/M William Wahl

In Memory of Marie McGovern
Christopher & Laura Norton

In Memory of Elizabeth McDonnell
Robert & Deborah McCulloch, III

In Memory of Emily Ann Sclygi
John & Mary Jane Rosile

Spring Fling

Please mark your calendars for the Women of St. Benedict *Spring Fling Arts, Crafts and Antiques Fair* on April 10, 2010 from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686 with any questions.

Widows and Widowers

The Widows and Widowers of St. Benedict will meet for dinner on March 18, at Calabria's Restaurant in Upper St. Clair at 6:00pm. New faces are always welcome. For further information, please contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686.

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 (today).

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.

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

Sunday, March 14

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

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

Monday, March 15

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(PBAC)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
6:45p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)
7:00p	Catholic Scripture Study	(208)

Tuesday, March 16

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)

Wednesday, March 17

9:30a	Light Weigh	(206)
11:00a	Church Women United	(Chapel)
12:00p	Church Women United Luncheon	(OBH)
12:00p	AA	(208)
6:00p	Faith Formation Session	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)
7:45p	Passion Play Rehearsal	(PBAC)

Thursday, March 18

9:30a	WOSB Board Meeting	(204)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	RCIA	(206)
7:00p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)
7:00p	MOM'S Group	(213)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Friday, March 19

9:30a	Protecting God's Children	(208/210)
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 20

7:30a	Catholic Men's Fellowship	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
10:00a	Parent's 1st Eucharist Meeting	(OBH)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
12:30p	Passion Play Rehearsal	(PBAC)

Sunday, March 21

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
4:30p	Eucharistic Day Closing	(Church)
5:30p	Eucharistic Day Dinner	(OBH)
7:00p	Lenten Mission "Alive!"	(Church)

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



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