



Father Sam's Forum

Happy Feast Day! The beautiful Umbrian village of Norcia is depicted in the photo in this week's column. It is the hometown of Saint Benedict, and his twin, Saint Scholastica. Located in the mountains, Norcia today is a quaint place where the central *piazza*, or square is dominated by the statue of our saint and the basilica dedicated to him. I was honored to celebrate Mass there last year with our group who traveled to Italy on pilgrimage. The monks there, many of them Americans, were gracious to us and allowed us to see



the crypt, traditionally regarded as Benedict's birthplace. I can still recall the fragrance of the incense from the chanting of the divine office by the monks that had taken place just before our visit.

Read the story of our saint in the **Lesson of the Week** on page 4. You'll see how he turned away from what his world considered important to be devoted to finding God. Does that mean we have to leave the world and go to a monastery to find God? For some it might, but for most of us, we find God right smack in the midst of our daily lives with all our struggles and joys, our challenges and opportunities.

Have you given up anything to follow Jesus? That's our question this week. What decisions have you made that help you follow him, and what decisions made in the past might you change now that you see what has transpired? I can think of a few in my life, and I bet you can, too. Knowing the things I gave up and the things I clung to, as I reflect on my life some were good choices, others were not.

Mass Intentions: July 11—July 18

Sunday, July 11—St. Benedict the Abbot

- 7:45a **Elizabeth Ricci** (Judy Ripepi)
 9:30a **Alfonso Brunatti**
 (Thomas & Mary Lee Hanlon)
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

Monday, July 12—Weekday

- 8:30a **Louise Davis** (Gene & Patty Reed)

Tuesday, July 13—Weekday

- 6:30a **Gene Farney** (Wife, Elaine)
 8:30a **Patrick & Margaret Dolan**
 (Daughter Patricia Reed)

Wednesday, July 14—Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

- 6:30a **Ralph Antone**
 (Representative Dan Deasy & Family)
 8:30a **Jack Reed** (Jackie Pirbula)

Thursday, July 15—St. Bonaventure

- 6:30a **Helen Orcutt** (Jack Pawlik)
 8:30a **Lucille McGurk** (M/M Charles Kramer)

Friday, July 16—Weekday

- 8:30a **Michael Bishop** (M/M Gary Buffington)

Saturday, July 17—Weekday

- 8:30a **James Patnesky** (Wife, Frances)
 2:00p **Wedding: Patrick Aaron** (St. Benedict)
Lindsay Kevech
 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, July 18—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Harry Czerwinski** (Zediker Family)
 9:30a **Elizabeth Ricci** (The Nist Family)
 11:30a **Regina Carifo** (Wallez Family)

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week
 in honor of Nick & Joan DeRosa,
 requested by Art & Lois Kelly.*

Summer Census Don't Forget to Complete Your Form

In order to plan for the current and future needs of the parish, we are updating our census data. Our new census sheet is available on our web site. We are asking *everyone* to take a moment and complete one. You may have had some changes in things such as who lives at home, cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, or maybe you even moved. We will hold two more "Census Sundays" today and July 18 where the forms will be available in church for you to complete/update and return in person, via mail, or in the collection.

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



Pastoral Staff

To reach a staff member, dial 724-941-9406, and then the extension number listed.

Pastoral Life & Worship

Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries— 108
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 109
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 110
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 112
 Lisa Ruggieri, Formation Office Coordinator—107
 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, Safe Environment Coordinator—107
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 131
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 100
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager— 106
 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 July 17—July 18

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Benya, Gordon **Greeters:** Patnesky, Mitchell
EMHC: Specca, Mertens, LaCamera, Vandewater, Femiani, Baumgartner, Klinar, Greenwald, Pfeifer **Servers:** Wiegmann, Peterson, Curry, Hillen, Nobers

7:45am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: DiCello, DiBartolo **Greeters:** Kalaski, Henger
EMHC: D & T Martin, Petricca, Fagioletti, Faina, Prado, Joseph **Servers:** Severa, W & D DiBartola

9:30am— Fr. Ruffalo
Lectors: Auer, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato **EMHC:** Torres, Bayer, Stein, Capozza, Orient, Glod, Serrino, Schultz
Servers: F & M Meola, A & E Ross, Shaw

11:30am— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Oliverio, Ray **Greeters:** Ragan **EMHC:** Herald, Baits, Hayward, Huffner, McGinnis **Servers:** Toscano Children

Parish Feast Day & Pastoral Council News

Today, as we celebrate the feast day of our patron, St. Benedict, we install four new members to our Parish Pastoral Council. The members will receive a copy of the newly published guidelines for pastoral councils in our diocese, *One Body, One Mission*. These guidelines will be used by every parish in our diocese to implement pastoral planning.

Current members of the council are: Aimee Schmidt, facilitator; Jane Sarra, recorder; Dale Buttgerit, Ed Corbett, Ed Guna, Gil McGurl, Erik Mertens, Angelo Pampena, and Becky Pfeifer. New members being installed today are Dave Bowlin, Mark Kimes, Chris Norton, and Ellie Puskarich.

Readings for the Week of July 11

Sunday: Dt 30:10-14/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37
 Monday: Is 1:10-17/Mt 10:34-11:1
 Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Mt 11:20-24
 Wednesday: Is 10:5-7,13b-16/Mt 11:25-27
 Thursday: Is 26:7-9,12,16-19/Mt 11:28-30
 Friday: Is 38:1-6,21-22,7-8/Mt 12:1-8
 Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Mt 12:14-21
 Next Sunday: Gn 18:1-10a/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

Whole Community Catechesis...cont'd.

Here's a short reflection to help us consider our purpose as Church and parish.

The Church serves as a sign of God's presence, a mystery here in our midst, a people gathered in the Spirit, a community and its leaders, an assembly of Jesus' followers, gathered to proclaim the Word, to break the bread, and to love each other.

The Church is holy, not because it's perfect, or because the budget balances, or because the leaders say so, but because God's grace is present here. Our task is to make sure the Church serves its most real, most holy purpose by making sure that we as leaders are living in Christ ourselves.

How do we do that? One real way is to just be authentic to who Christ calls us to be. Drop all the fussing about being perfect or better than, or different from, and take each day as a gift to live as fully as possible with so many opportunities to serve others. When we are fully alive in Christ, then we will be different because we will know what truly matters. And when we know that, then others will want what we have.



Faith Formation News

***We do not need any more water bottles or cardboard tubes—
Thanks for your help!***

- A **BIG THANK YOU** from our children on the “FBI” “Relay for Life” team to the parishioners of St. Benedict for their support. These “Friends Becoming Involved” middle school kids raised over \$2,500 for cancer research which placed their team at the Bronze Level. They were also awarded a 3rd place prize for the great job they did decorating their booth. We’re proud that they were representing St. Benedict the Abbot at such a wonderful township event.
- Before the summer gets away from us, we’d like to thank the parents of our Middle School Faith Formation students for their help this past year. Thanks to your efforts and the coordination of Youth Council our kids enjoyed a little social time with their friends at Middle School Ministry. Again, many thanks for your support.
- Kudos go out to Faith Formation students in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade who participated in our Lenten Service project. These children raised over \$970 for the international program “Pennies for Peace.” From bake sales to “Guitar Hero” contests, they brought their talent and enthusiasm to help Children in Central Asia have a chance for education as a road to peace. Thanks also to the High School students of our parish who introduced this project to our youth and shared with them an opportunity to serve others.

Faith Gathering for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

There will be Prayer & Formation Sessions for all EMHC on July 15, at 7:00pm; July 17, at 12:00 noon; July 20, at 7:00pm; and July 22, at 11:00am in the church. Please plan to attend one of these sessions so we can pray together and continue to explore these ministries. ***It is necessary for all of our ministers to attend one of these sessions.*** Contact Jay Speca at ext. 114 with any questions and to register for one of the sessions.

Centering Prayer A Summer Spiritual Journey

For the Mondays of July and August, our centering prayer group will present an 8-week journey into the spiritual wisdom of the book “Intimacy with God” by Fr. Thomas Keating. The program will focus on specific chapters in this best-selling spiritual book. Those who are interested are welcome to come to any or all of the sessions Monday evenings beginning July 12 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Chapel. Copies of the book may be purchased for \$18. There is no other cost; only a willingness to deepen your own prayer life. For more info, call our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406, ext. 109.

Fr. Scott Seethaler to Speak at Parish Health Fair

Thursday, September 30 will be an exciting day at St. Benedict as Fr. Scott Seethaler, OFM Cap, presents *The Spiritual Aspects of the Aging Process*. A long-time favorite preacher and speaker, Fr. Scott will speak from 10:00am to 11:30am. His program, sponsored by Gateway Hospice, will be followed by a Parish Health Fair that our Health Ministry Program is now putting together. For more information, please contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein, at 724-941-9406, ext 109.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week former parishioner **Helen McGlone**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord.

McMurray Hills Mass Volunteer Needed

Can you offer two hours a month to “comfort the afflicted” and “visit the sick?” Once each month for many years St. Benedict’s parish priests have celebrated Mass for the residents at two local nursing homes. Parishioners help by preparing the space and aiding residents. Volunteers are needed to assist at McMurray Hills Manor located on West McMurray Road, the third Tuesday of each month from approximately 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Upcoming dates are July 20, August 17, and September 21. We are also looking for someone to provide piano accompaniment for hymns sung at Mass. For information or to volunteer contact Teri Valeri at 724-942-0375.



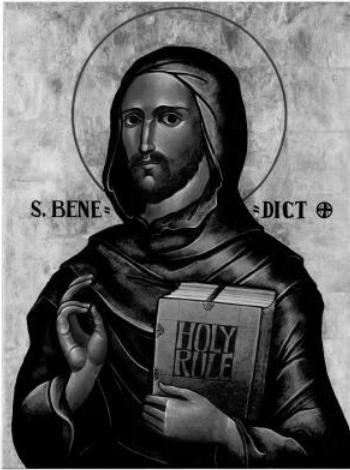
Ask Father Sam

What's new with the revised Mass prayers?

Lesson of the Week

What can you tell me about our patron saint?

Benedict, our patron, whose name comes from the Latin "to speak well of," was born around the year 480, in the central Italian region of Umbria, in the village of Norcia, known in Latin as Nursia, about seventy miles from Rome. We don't know much about his family life except that his father was a free man and that he had a sister, often thought of as his twin, Scholastica.



As a young man, Benedict left home to begin a course in liberal studies

at Rome. Rome at that time had lost its significance as the capital of the empire and was in a shabby state. His desire to please God alone turned him away from the life he witnessed among his fellow students in Rome. He gave up his studies, abandoned the city and his inheritance, and embraced the religious life.

Settling at Affile, about thirty-five miles east of Rome, Benedict found a group of Christians who provided him with lodging near the local church. Joining an ascetic community there, he soon found himself drawn to complete solitude and went to Subiaco where he concealed himself for three years, living in a cave.

A monk from a nearby monastery named Romanus clothed him in the monastic habit and secretly provided a portion of his own bread for Benedict, lowering it over the cliff on a rope to the entrance of the cave. The solitary life was a great time of purification for our saint. He faced his inner core with all its weaknesses and temptations and emerged from his cave self-contained and entirely in harmony with himself. At one point, shepherds found him, and others from the area came to him for spiritual counsel. A nearby monastery heard of his reputation and invited him to come and be their leader. But, soon, the monks became disillusioned because of his strictness and tried to poison him so they could return to their former way of living. He left the monks and returned to the wilderness. *cont'd* →

Youth Ministry News

1. Camp Fire Thursdays

If you couldn't join us this past Thursday for ultimate frisbee, come on any **Campfire Thursday** and hang out at the church for games, fun, and a good old bonfire. Each night we will be doing something different, such as ultimate Frisbee, water games, open jam session, and more. Times are from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. We welcome all incoming freshmen and older. Bring your friends. The dates for campfires are August 5, 12 & 24.

2. Car Wash

The Youth Group will host a car wash during the morning Masses today and again on Sunday, July 18. You can drop off your car and have it cleaned while you are at Mass. We are accepting free will donations and all monies raised will help support youth events and the upcoming mission trip.

3. Mulch Sale

Our teens are selling mulch this spring as a way to fundraise which helps us continue the Youth Ministry program and reduce the cost of activities and retreats. Please pick up an order form and price list in the narthex of the church or the Parish Office.

Students began to gather around him, drawn to him by his peacefulness. For these, he founded twelve small monasteries and to each gave an abbot, with Benedict supervising them all. The monastic colony blossomed. More and more of the Roman nobility brought their sons to him to be educated. This aroused the envy of a neighboring priest, who, in an effort to discredit him, sent young girls to dance in front of the monks' cells to tempt them. Moving from the pestering priest, the saint founded a new monastery at Monte Cassino in 529, and there he wrote his famous rule for monks. St. Benedict died in 547.

Benedict's Rule was drawn from other sources and incorporated the teachings of church leaders and ascetical tradition with his own observations and spirituality. It is a compendium of practical directives, pointing to manual labor, his love for liturgy, focus on prayer, and his sense of order. Everything had its time, and the key was the balance between all things. Moderation and balance remain a challenge for us today. We look to Benedict's example and rule as the guide for our own spiritual journey.



Attention 2010 Confirmation Parents

A make-up meeting for parents who missed the two previous Confirmation informational meetings will be held on Sunday, July 18, following the 9:30 Mass. Join us in the PBAC at 10:45am. Learn about our September 12 event which includes recognition of the candidates at Mass and brunch. If you have any questions contact Colette in Faith Formation.

New Server Training Round 2

We will offer another camp for new altar servers this summer in early August. Watch the bulletin for the dates. Those entering the 4th grade or higher are eligible to serve in this ministry. Those who are already servers may participate in the camp as well. New skills like the use of incense will be taught, and old ones will be reviewed.

Golden Wedding Celebration

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is again planning its annual Golden Wedding Celebration for couples who have been married for 50 years. This year's celebration will take place on Sunday, October 3, beginning with Mass at 3:00pm at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop Zubik will be the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall at the Cathedral. If you are a parishioner celebrating your 50th wedding anniversary in 2010 and would be interested in attending the celebration along with other jubilarian couples, please call the parish office no later than August 8. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.

Life Line Screening

Once again, Life Line Screening, a provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will be at St. Benedict's on August 30 from 8:30am until 5:30pm. They offer screenings for the carotid artery (stroke), heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, and osteoporosis. Appointments are limited and pre-registration is required. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-679-5192. This event is sponsored by Ohio Valley General Hospital.

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

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, July 11

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

Monday, July 12

*Vacation Bible School today through Friday
8:45am—12:15pm*

7:00p Centering Prayer (204)

Wednesday, July 14

12:00p AA (UR)
6:30p Confessions (Church)
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)

Thursday, July 15

12:00p NA (UR)
7:00p EMHC Prayer & Formation (Church)
7:30p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (OBH)

Saturday, July 17

9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)
11:00a Confessions (Church)
12:00p EMHC Prayer & Formation (Church)

Sunday, July 18

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

Abbey Community Ministry

We are still counting on everyone's involvement to help us make this new outreach effort a success. We have to remember that WE are the Church—each one of us who is baptized. And that means it is up to US to be Christ in our neighborhoods, schools, and places of work. We can make a difference.

Win Steeler Tickets

Ben's Men is conducting their annual raffle in O'Brien Hall. You can purchase a chance for only \$15. The winner will receive \$500 plus 4 tickets to every pre-season and regular season game in 2010.

WOSB Shoe Boxes

The Women of St. Benedict are collecting soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, etc. to send to families in Appalachia this Christmas. As you travel this summer please save hotel samples for us. Last year we packed 500 shoe boxes and hope to pack more this year. We also need women's size shoe boxes. Please place your items in the collection box in O'Brien Hall. If you have any questions, call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955.



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 Servers

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