



Father Sam's Forum

The Letter to the Hebrews often speaks about the faith handed down from the ancient models of the Old Testament like Abraham. He is singled out today as an example of faith. In fact, we call him “our father in faith.” Imagine how crazy people must have thought him when he left his native land because God had spoken to him. This was someone who took a chance, who went against all the cultural norms of his time to go on a journey.



Our faith journeys are similar. Where does God call us to go? For most of us it is never farther than our own lives: family, friends, neighbors, co-workers. When our lives intersect with theirs we can make a huge difference for the better if we pay attention. The reading today tells us, *Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.*

In a time when we have instant everything, even seeing what is happening halfway around the globe, we are asked to trust in what we cannot see. Just as Abraham trusted in God's promise, he became the father of many, not by human generation, but by spiritual. And this didn't happen quickly, but in God's time.

Jesus offers the same kind of example in the parable we hear today. Wait and trust for God's coming into your life. Be like servants who are waiting for the return of the master from a wedding and aren't quite sure when that will be. Weddings took days in biblical times, and travel was long and hard, so the servants had to be ready at any time to receive the master whose return could be at night or during the day.

Because God is faithful, we are invited to be faithful as well. God promises us all that is good, perhaps not in the usual sense we might think, but good in the ultimate sense of what really matters. This can allow us to live without fear, trusting God to fulfill what has been promised.

What has God promised you? That's our question of the week. Think about it, pray about it, talk about it. And then ask yourself how you are being called to live, given God's promises to you.

Mass Intentions: Aug. 8—Aug. 15

Sunday, August 8—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Special Intention of Joanna Kuczma**
(La Rosa Family)
9:30a **Dorothy Wasieleski** (M/M Ed Wisniewski)
11:30a **James Gallagher** (Debbie & Bob Bradel)

Monday, August 9—Weekday

- 8:30a **Irene Kosowski** (Jerry Serrino)

Tuesday, August 10—St. Lawrence, deacon

- 6:30a **Ann & Charles Bononi** (Son, Robert Bononi)
8:30a **Robert Williams** (Shirley)

Wednesday, August 11—St. Clare

- 6:30a **Frank Huesing** (Dan & Janice Rowsick)
8:30a **Jack McCloskey** (Lois McCloskey)

Thursday, August 12—Weekday

- 6:30a **Anna Merletti & the Herald Family**
(Kris Piscatelli)
8:30a **Jack Reed** (Janet & Bob Smith)

Friday, August 13—Weekday

- 8:30a **Michael Costello** (Barbara Costello)

Saturday, August 14—St. Maximilian Kolbe

- 8:30a **Jean Conwell** (Women of St. Benedict)
3:00p **Wedding: John Sobczak**
Tara Sawezyszyn
5:00p **Perry Berardino** (Michael & Dina Berardino)

Sunday, August 15—Assumption of the Virgin Mary

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
9:30a **Jack Gallagher** (Dante & Mary Pat DeRienzo)
11:30a **Deceased Members of the Rullo Family**
(Mario & Rose Rullo)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of the Grego Family, requested by Erma Grego; and the Bread & Wine is in memory of Bob Williams, requested by Shirley.

RCIA: Join Us

Our process for adult initiation into the Catholic faith will soon begin again as a new group of candidates gathers to discern, share faith and learn about what it means to be a Catholic. If you have ever thought about this—or have a spouse, relative, or neighbor who has—let us know. Contact Jay Specca, ext. 114, to find out more about RCIA. We will host a “Meet and Greet” get together later in August as we prepare for this year's journey. Sponsors are needed! Want to help and get the experience of adult faith? Call Jay for details.

Check out these great Catholic sites:

www.wordonfire.org

www.Other6.com

a place to blog about your daily lived-out experience of faith.



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

Readings for the Week of August 8

Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2,8-19 /Lk 12:32-48
Monday: Ez 1:2-5,24-28c/Mt 17:22-27
Tuesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Jn 12:24-26
Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7;10:18-22/Mt 18:15-20
Thursday: Ez 12:1-12/Mt 18:21-19:1
Friday: Ez 16:1-15,60,63/Mt 19:3-12
Saturday: Ez 18:1-10,13b,30-32/Mt 19:13-15
Next Sunday: Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

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

Serving the Parish Next Weekend August 14—August 15

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Norton, Bonadio **Greeters:** Mitchell, Patnesky
EMHC: Scheuering, Greenwald, Femiani, Vandewater, Getto, D & T Martin, Pfeifer, Bonadio **Servers:** Getto, LaRosa, Figueroa, Shaw, Quinn

7:45am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Gordon, Wanninger **Greeters:** Barker, Henger
EMHC: Kail, S & J Christopher, Basile, Faina, Puskarich, Wanninger **Servers:** Peterson, N & V DeRienzo

9:30am— Fr. Nanz, Deacon Peck
Lectors: McKenzie, Smore **Greeters:** Verlatto, Becker **EMHC:** Torres, A & L Kelly, Stein, Serrino, Schultz, Orient, Bayer, Spinabelli **Servers:** Severa, Wisnewski, Maher, Spinabelli

11:30am— Fr. Nanz, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Ray, McCabe **Greeters:** Ragan **EMHC:** Herald, Oldaker, P Newmaster, Baits, Hayward, Huffner **Servers:** Taylor, Luzier, Graves

Children's Liturgy Of the Word



One of the best things we can do is share our love for the Word of God with our children. Introducing them to the stories of our faith is so important. Currently, we do this during the 9:30 Mass on Sundays but want to offer the opportunity for pre-school aged children who come to the 11:30 Mass as well. Taking the children

apart to let them hear the Scriptures in language they can understand and then breaking open the word for faith sharing with them is such a formative experience. If we are to grow this ministry, we need your help! Who can assist in spending time with these precious little ones? If you have questions or want more information, contact Teresa Buzard at 724-941-6051.

Summer Census Don't Forget to Complete Your Form

We continue the updating of 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. The forms are also available in church for you to complete/update and return in person, via mail, or in the collection. *Also—if you know a neighbor who might not be coming to Mass regularly for any reason but belongs to the parish, please inform them about our census so they can update their information as well.*



Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week **Anne Purkey** and **Eleanor Kroll**, mother of Maryann Bitters our Parish Secretary, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

Whole Community Catechesis

For Catholics, nothing can happen in the Church that doesn't have its origin in the Sunday Mass. Nothing! That's why it's so important for us to be present every week for worship. A real connection to the Sunday liturgy is missing in most parishes. Those who make it a practice to absent themselves regularly are missing the mark. For us, liturgy is the "source and summit" of our faith. It's what makes us truly Catholic. We pray what we believe. *Whole Community Catechesis* makes it vital that faith sharing is based on the Sunday readings and that we use liturgical catechesis to help us understand our ritual. Invite someone to Mass. Show them by your life of faith that when they are absent they are missing something really important, and that we are missing them!

September Health Fair

Our Health Fair takes place September 30, and already a number of vendors and organizations have signed up to be part of the event. The day will begin with a talk by Fr. Scott Seethaler on The Spiritual Aspects of the Aging Process at 10:00am, followed by a 2-hour health fair in O'Brien Hall. All are invited. Fr. Scott's talk is being sponsored by Gateway Hospice and Comfort Keepers. If you're a health care resource or provider and want to be part of the day, please contact Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.

Health Ministry Meeting August 17

The next gathering of those interested in helping our health ministry program take shape is scheduled for August 17 at 7:00pm. A volunteer from IC Parish will explain how their program MESH (Ministry to the Elderly, Sick, Homebound) has been able to help a number of parishioners. If you are interested in health ministry or want more information, please contact Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406, Ext. 109.

Ushers & Greeters

There will be Prayer & Formation Sessions for all Ushers and Greeters on August 11 at 7:00pm, August 14 at 12:00pm, and August 17 at 7:00pm in Room 204. Please plan to attend one of these sessions so we can pray together and continue to explore these ministries. It is necessary for all ministers to attend. Also, if you are interested in serving the parish in one of these capacities, you are welcome to join us. Contact Jay Speca at Ext. 114 with any questions and to register for one of the sessions.

Altar Server Training

We are offering another camp for altar servers on August 10, 11 and 12. Anyone entering 4th grade and up is eligible to serve in this ministry. If you are already an altar server, this would be a great time to brush up on your skills and keep up with the changes. There will be multiple one hour sessions each day with no more than 10 servers at each session. New servers need to sign up for an A session on one day and a B session on a second day. Those who are already altar servers should sign up for either an A or a B session. A sessions begin in the sacristy and then proceed into the church; B sessions are only in the church.

A Session—Aug. 10 at 10:00am, 2:00pm, & 7:00pm
 B Session—Aug. 11 at 10:00am, 2:00pm, & 7:00pm
 A Session—Aug. 11 at 11:00am, 3:00pm, & 8:00pm
 B Session—Aug. 12 at 11:00am, 3:00pm, & 8:00pm

There will also be sessions on Aug. 10 at 3:00pm and Aug. 12 at 7:00pm for altar servers with 3 or more years of experience to learn how to be a senior altar server and use incense at Mass. A maximum of 10 servers will be scheduled at each session. Other sessions can be added if needed. Scheduling will be on a first come, first served basis.

Please contact Jay Speca at 724-941-9406, Ext. 114 to sign up for all sessions.

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.



Ask Father Sam

Can you speak some more about Envisioning Ministry and what it means for us as a parish?

Lesson of the Week

What can you tell me about the Health Ministry the parish is trying to begin?

As Catholics we are concerned about the whole person. That has always been the authentic Catholic Tradition. That means we aren't just about a person's soul, even though we consider that extremely important. We have to be concerned about mind and body as well. If we look at the *Letter of James*, one of the pastoral epistles, we find in the New Testament, a passage that says, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it?"

We have, from the apostolic times, been concerned about the whole person. For us, a large suburban parish, it can sometimes be difficult to stay connected with the real needs of the members because of our size and also because we might not even know those needs. Abbey Community Ministry is being formed to address those real needs, mind, body and spirit. As another piece of this outreach, the Health Ministry program we are beginning will take as its aim the health of the whole person.

Is someone grieving? How can we connect them to a group that will help them in bereavement? Is someone in need of home visits just to provide companionship? Who can give an hour a week to do that? Is someone unable to address their health issues because they are elderly or live alone? Would a visit from a nurse or other volunteer help them?

We have many resources here in the parish that go untapped because people don't know about them or don't think they could benefit from them. What we want to do is really become as open as we can to the struggles we all have. The two most important words in the English language are "I need." Can we speak those words and allow our brothers and sisters to be ministers of Christ's love for us?

One of the ways we will address this need is through our Health Fair for seniors coming in September. Fr. Scott Seethaler, the Capuchin friar well known in these parts, will address the spiritual issues around aging. Circle the date. September 30!

Youth Ministry News

Campfire Thursdays

If you couldn't join us at our last campfire, 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 12 & 24.

Mulch Sale

Our teens are selling mulch 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.

Weekend Custodial Help Needed

We are looking for a person to help with weekend custodial services working about 12-16 hrs. on Saturdays and Sunday morning. Tasks include general maintenance, cleaning bathrooms in the church and hall, setting up of classrooms and halls, and custodial services for weekend events and activities. During the winter months, snow shoveling and salting of walks and parking lot, driving an automatic pickup truck and plowing is required (training to operate plow will be provided). If you are interested, please contact Mike Benya at 724-941-9406, Ext. 105.

Magnificat Pittsburgh

Ladies, join Magnificat Pittsburgh for an uplifting prayer breakfast on August 21 from 9:00am until noon at the Sheraton in Warrendale (Mars, PA). After breakfast there will be a time of prayer before feature speaker Debi Byham, who suffered from depression and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for 27 years, tells the story of her experience of healing and peace at Medjugorje. Bishop Zubik will be attending as a guest. The cost of the breakfast is \$18. Registration deadline is August 13. To register, call Kay at 724-722-6749 or Pam at 412-461-8906 or you may download a registration form at www.magnificatpittsburgh.org.



WOSB Annual Garage Sale

The Women of St. Benedict will have their annual garage sale on September 10 from 9:00am to 7:00pm and September 11 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Set up days will be September 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Volunteers are needed to sort, price and display items, receive donations in the evening, provide lunch for workers during the week, customer service during the sale, and clean-up on Saturday afternoon after the sale.

Please help by donating items you no longer want or need. Items may be dropped off in O'Brien Hall starting September 3rd. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS BEFORE THAT DATE.**

ITEMS WANTED: clean baby & children's clothing & toys; jewelry; kitchen items such as dishes, glassware, silverware, pots & pans; small working electrical appliances; knickknacks; paperback books; VHS tapes; audio tapes; DVD's; Halloween costumes; holiday decorations; pictures & picture frames; artificial flowers; baskets, craft & sewing items; small tables & chairs; working lawn mowers; garden tools; working hand & electrical tools; clothing, linens & bedding items that are in good condition and are not soiled or torn; healthy house plants.

Please keep in mind when donating items—**WE DO NOT WANT JUNK**—we have a reputation for having "quality" items at our garage sale and would like to continue this tradition.

ITEMS NOT WANTED: automobile tires; stoves & refrigerators; large furniture; computers; old & used sporting equipment; bowling balls; treadmills; encyclopedias & old books, old purses, and clothing that is torn or out-of-date.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805.

Vatican Art Comes to History Center

The WOSB are sponsoring a bus trip to view the Vatican art display at the Senator John Heinz History Center on October 19. Fr. Michael will offer three information sessions on September 28 and October 5 and 12. For further information regarding the trip, please contact Mary Beth Bokelberg at 724-941-9085. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, August 8

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

Monday, August 9

6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)

Tuesday, August 10

9:00a	Spirit Day	(204)
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Wednesday, August 11

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:00p	Ushers & Greeters Formation	(204)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, August 12

12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)

Saturday, August 14

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)
12:00p	Ushers & Greeters Formation	(204)

Sunday, August 15

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

Marriage Preparation Class

Engaged couples are invited to attend a one-day marriage preparation class at St. Louise de Marillac Parish in Upper Saint Clair on September 25 at the LeGras Parish Center (lower level) beginning at 8:30am and concluding with Mass at 6:00pm. This program is for couples planning to be married in the upcoming year. For more information or to receive a registration form, please call the St. Louise de Marillac Parish Office at 412-833-1010. The fee is \$100 and includes breakfast and lunch.

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.



TO GET INVOLVED, CALL . . .

Abbey Coffee House

Ellie Puskarich
724-941-4686

Abbey Community Ministry

Jane Sarra
724-746-6798

Abbey Players

Nicole Gasse
724-747-0617

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

Children's Liturgy

Theresa Buzard
724-941-6051

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

H.O.P.E. Ministry

George Armes
724-348-8770

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