



Father Sam's Forum

The tone of the scripture readings is beginning to change. As summer quickly comes to a close and we get ready to begin a new round of activities, from the school year to groups and programs here in the parish, we see a kind of new focus in the Gospel. For weeks we have been hearing about “journeys of faith,” the movement of Jesus and his disciples, the cost of being a disciple, and parables about God’s Kingdom. Jesus is now getting closer to his final destination—Jerusalem. All of the Gospel of Luke has been about him moving toward the Holy City for the finale, his purpose as our Savior.

So, today we get questions. Since we have been working on using the “Question of the Week” in our homilies and in the *Forum*, these questions that appear directly in the Gospel come from those who encounter Jesus. They could come from us, couldn’t they? *Who will be saved? Who will save us?*

What is it Jesus tells us? First, that at the heart of our salvation lies a real—not nominal—relationship with the Lord. It is not procured by group affiliation or by passivity in relationship. Someone I visited recently in a nursing home told me that since he attended Catholic school for 12 years, he didn’t need “any more Communion.” While he was very cordial, the gentleman didn’t get it. His interpretation, for whatever reason, was that he belonged to this group—the Church—and that everything was OK...nothing more for him to do. We hear this from people all the time. “Oh, Father, I was an altar boy years ago.” OK, now what? What are you now? What’s your relationship with Christ like now?

Jesus speaks about choosing the narrow gate. What do you suppose that is? How is saying “yes” to Christ choosing the narrow gate? Might it be the reversal of what we think? The last and the first change places. While everyone is invited, not all respond. Don’t miss the opportunity to answer the invitation!

Farewell Reception for Father Michael: Don’t forget to stop by the hall today after the 11:30 Mass and greet Fr. Michael who leaves tomorrow to assume the assignment as Parochial Vicar at Immaculate Conception parish, Washington.

No confessions this Wednesday: Because I am at the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds training this week, there will be no priest available for our regular Wednesday evening confessions.

Coming Up: Mark Your Calendars

Here are some upcoming events in the parish:

- Parents’ Pre-Baptism Session, Thursday, Sept 2, 7:00pm
- RCIA First Session, Thursday, September 9, 7:00pm
- WOSB Garage Sale, Friday & Saturday, Sept 10/11
- Rite of Continuing Conversion for our confirmation class; 11:30 Mass, with lunch and gathering after
- Pastoral Council Meeting, Tuesday, Sept 14, 7:00pm
- 50th Anniversary Initial Meeting, Thursday, Sept 16, 7:00pm
- Pastor’s Cabinet Meeting, Monday, Sept 20, 7:00pm

***Farewell
Father Michael!
Thank you for
everything you
have been for us.
Our prayers go
with you in your
new assignment.***

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

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

Welcome Father Paul Merkovsky

We are happy to welcome to our parish Fr. Paul Merkovsky (it is pronounced Mare-co-ski) as our new parochial vicar, effective on Friday, August 27. Ordained in 1990, Fr. Paul has most recently served at Holy Child Parish, Bridgeville. He is excited about joining the team here and brings with him a great love for the liturgy and for adult formation. You can greet him after the 7:45 and 9:30 Masses on Sunday, August 29, at Abbey Coffee House.





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

Mass Intentions: Aug. 22—Aug. 29

Sunday, August 22—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Jerry Baxter** (The Woltz Family)
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 11:30a **Peter Scalise, USAF** (Family)

Monday, August 23—Weekday

8:30a **Cynthia Lowery** (The Bench Family)

Tuesday, August 24—St. Bartholomew, apostle

6:30a **Mary Fravert** (Ted & Josie Turchick)
 8:30a **Liz McDonnell** (Antone Family)

Wednesday, August 25—Weekday

6:30a **Martin Cunningham** (Bill & Chris Kail)
 8:30a **Ray Danko** (Mary Beth Bokelberg)

Thursday, August 26—Weekday

6:30a **Gene Farney** (Carmel Ricci)
 8:30a **M/M Stanley Mikas & M/M Bryert Rodal**
 (Dennis & Mary Ann Rodal)

Friday, August 27—St. Monica

8:30a **Lucille Hughes Kramer** (M/M Dan Majestic)

Saturday, August 28—St. Augustine

8:30a **Marguerite Singer** (Bernard Singer)
 5:00p **50th Wedding Anniversary**
Ralph & Theresa Newman

Sunday, August 29—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Richard Dorman, Sr.** (M/M Benny Jung)
 9:30a **Gene Farney** (Elaine Farney)
 11:30a **For the People of the Parish**

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Helen & Lang Marks, requested by the Marks Family; the Bread & Wine is in memory of Frant Family, requested by Mary L. Vitale; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of Edward H. Greenwald, Sr., requested by Charlotte.

Readings for the Week of Aug. 22

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Heb 12:5-7,11-13/Lk 13:22-30
 Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5,11-12/Mt 23:13-22
 Tuesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
 Wednesday: 2 Thes 3:6-10,16-18/Mt 23:27-32
 Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51
 Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Mt 25:1-13
 Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 25:14-30
 Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29/Heb 12:18-19,22-24a/
 Lk 14:1,7-14

Summer Census

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.*

Serving the Parish Next Weekend August 28—August 29

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Ellsworth, Specca **Greeters:** Mitchell, Patnesky
EMHC: Norton, T & D Martin, Vandewater, Femiani,
 Greenwald, Scheuering, McGinnis, Sarra **Servers:** Byrne,
 Nobers, Curran, P & M Ellsworth

7:45am— Fr. Merkovsky
Lectors: Hollot, Mamros **Greeters:** Kalasi, Barton **EMHC:**
 Puskarich, Faina, Basile, J & S Christopher, Kail Berger
Servers: E, M & E Jozwiak

9:30am— Fr. Merkovsky, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Morosco, Ruggieri **Greeters:** Becker, Verlato
EMHC: Torres, Stein, Schultz, Orient, Bayer, Walnoha, Glod, L
 & A Kelly **Servers:** D, C & L Schratz, C & A Mavrich

11:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Zuk, Hajzus **Greeters:** Ragan **EMHC:** Boyd, Herald,
 Oldaker, P Newmaster, Baits, Hayward, Huffner, Capozza,
 Slomiany **Servers:** Toscano Children



Pastor's Cabinet

With a new year of activities beginning, there will be a meeting of the Pastor's Cabinet on Monday, September 20, 7:00pm in Room 210. Everyone who represents our many ministries, groups, and organizations should be present to provide an update about activities and programs for the next few months.

Confirmation News 2010



On Sunday, **September 12**, at the 11:30 Mass, we will acknowledge our Confirmation Candidates of 2010. All students and their parents are asked to attend this Mass and then join us for lunch and a gathering in O'Brien Hall after Mass. The ritual at Mass is modeled after the Rite of Continuing Conversion from the RCIA. At our gathering, parents will have a chance to learn about Youth Ministry, details regarding confirmation preparation, and the students will submit their information packets. Please call Faith Formation at 724-941-9587 with questions. We have the date! Our parish welcomes Bishop William Winter on Saturday, **November 6**, at 11:00am for the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Weekend Help Needed

We are looking for help with weekend custodial services for 12-16 hrs. on Saturdays and Sunday mornings. Tasks include general maintenance, cleaning bathrooms in the church and hall, setting up 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.

Fall Ministers' Schedule

It is time to schedule liturgical ministers for Masses in October, November, and December. All Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers should submit "away" dates and schedule changes to Jay at jspeca@stbenedicttheabbot.org—please put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line—or call 724-941-9406, ext. 114. He will be running the schedule the second week of September, so please have your information in before September 6.

New Baptized

We welcome to our faith family **Elyse Barbara**, daughter of Mark & Coleen Stugard; **Charles John**, son of Michael & Jennifer Dyer; **Logan Anthony**, son of Giles & Jessica Wright; **Kara Michelle**, daughter of Gary & Crystal Stiegel; and **Jenna Marisa**, daughter of David & Melissa DiNardo. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

RCIA—Help Wanted!

We are excited to have a great group of people who are interested in the faith journey known as RCIA.

We begin on Thursday, September 9, 7:00pm which follows our August "meet and greet"

gathering. All of you are welcome to get involved in this *best kept secret of the Catholic Church*. How, you ask? Come and journey with someone as a parish sponsor. Sign up to be part of a welcome group, which means greeting the folks as they arrive and providing some simple refreshments for the session. And if you are really adventurous, you might even offer to facilitate the faith sharing when the group is dismissed from Sunday Mass. If you can offer any kind of support, please contact Jay Speca, ext 114.



Welcome!

50th Anniversary Committee



Fr. Sam would like to invite all who are interested to a preliminary meeting to discuss plans for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of our parish in 2012. St. Benedict was established in May 1962, so beginning in May 2011 we will mark a year of jubilee. We are looking for those who have

been here since the beginning of the parish, as well as those who have joined our faith family in recent years. Various sub-committees will be needed such as Anniversary Mass, Banquet, Special Events. Again, everyone is welcome. The first meeting of the committee will be held on Thursday, September 16, at 7:00pm in Room 204.



Ask Father Sam

What is the difference between the various religious orders? We hear about Benedictines, Franciscans, Jesuits, etc.

Lesson of the Week

What exactly is a "Mass of Translation"?

Earlier this summer, one of our diocesan priests, Father Patrick Rager, died after a long illness. Fr. Rager had been confined to a wheelchair just two years following his ordination twenty-five years ago. He was diagnosed with ALS, and over the course of the past 23 years steadily declined. He was first able to assume a special ministry created for him working from his family home, calling others who had physical disabilities and offering phone support, leading retreats, and publishing a newsletter. As his own disease progressed, he became unable to speak, and in the end was only able to communicate with his eyes.

When the announcement of Fr. Rager's death was published, it was noted that a "Mass of Translation" was being celebrated before the Mass of Christian Burial, what we would call the funeral Mass. Some of you may remember that when Fr. Donatelli died we held his wake in the Chapel. His body laid in state there, but then, the evening before the funeral, we took his body into the church and celebrated Mass. The *Mass of Translation* is what we call the Mass that is celebrated when the body of a priest is moved from wherever it has been waked: the funeral home, the Rectory, a chapel, into the church where the Mass of Christian Burial will be held. The word translation is used but in this case it means "to move from one place to another."



Speaking of funerals, sometimes we see the use of the phrase "Mass of Resurrection" in the paper when the announcement of the death is published. This is

blatantly wrong. You won't find any liturgical celebration with that title. Every Mass has an aspect of the Resurrection because it is linked to the Paschal Mystery, the suffering, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We take the mystery in its entirety and can't separate it.

Youth Ministry News

Campfire Thursdays

Join us for our last campfire on August 26. Come and hang out at the church for games, fun, and a good old bonfire. We have activities such as ultimate Frisbee, water games, open jam session, and more. Time is from 7:00pm to 10:00pm. We welcome all incoming freshman and older. Bring your friends.

YM Mulch Sale

Our teens are selling mulch this summer. This fundraising event helps the Youth Ministry program reduce the cost of summer programs and retreats. Please pick up an order form and price list in the narthex of the Church or the Parish Office.

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week **John T. Brandsma**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.

Share the Harvest



Do you have more produce coming up in your garden than you can use? Here is an opportunity for you to share those extra vegetables with the local Food Bank. Tables will be set up by the church

entrance before Sunday Masses through the month of August. Please put the vegetables in plastic bags and place them in the baskets on the table. They will be delivered to the Food Bank. Thank you for supporting local families with healthy food!

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.



WOSB Annual Garage Sale

The WOSB Annual Giant Garage Sale this year is 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.

Helping at the Garage Sale is very rewarding, please consider spending some time with us. To volunteer, please call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805.

Retrouvaille

Are you married to a stranger? Do you feel alone? Do you argue—or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on September 10, 2010, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434 or 3041@retrouvaille.org. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, August 22

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

*Farewell Reception
for Fr. Michael Ruffalo
after the 11:30 Mass (OBH-PBAC)*

Monday, August 23

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

Wednesday, August 25

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:30p	No Confessions today	
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, August 26

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

Saturday, August 28

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, August 29

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:45 & 9:30 Mass;
come meet our new parochial vicar,
Fr. Paul Merkovsky at either of these times!*

St. Ben's Bowling League

St. Benedict's Bowling League will begin bowling this year on August 29. If you would like additional information, please contact Ken Hartenbach at hartenbach2@verizon.net.

Steeler Ticket Winner

The winner of the Ben's Men Steeler Ticket Raffle was Cap O'Donnell of Penn Hills who works with Bob Racko's niece. Thank you for your support.

Check out these great Catholic sites:
www.wordonfire.org
www.Other6.com
*a place to blog about your daily lived-out
experience of faith.*



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