



Father Sam's Forum

This week Deacon Michael Peck returns to St. Vincent Seminary for his last year of theological studies before ordination to the priesthood. He will be with us most weekends as he remains assigned here throughout his deacon year. Remember him in your prayers often as he enters the final phase of discernment of the call to the priesthood.

Beginning next weekend, we are including a weekly insert with the bulletin called *The Word to Go*. This insert offers us reflections on the Sunday readings that can be used throughout the week. There are questions to ponder, suggestions about how to live what the liturgy (readings) call us to, and how to share the faith. Our question of the week won't just be asked in the homily now or appear in the *Forum*, but be found in these inserts. Every group and ministry here in the parish can use this resource as part of our pastoral plan that focuses on formation. It's a great way to include prayer time in every meeting as well as a call to deepen our spiritual lives through the Word of God.

Liturgical ministers have been meeting now for about a year in small groups, not only to talk about the ministry they offer to the parish, but about what's behind all ministry. These ongoing sessions are essential if we are to understand the core of ministry as coming from Christ, the great High Priest who offered his life. Christ invites us to the banquet of life every week, and from the nourishment we receive, we are sent into the world to make a difference.



The wedding banquet is a symbol of that ultimate feast of the Kingdom. Jesus says that instead of worrying about who gets the place of honor, we should worry about not being obtrusive. This parable teaches us a lesson about humility. *When we love someone, that person's needs and desires become more important to us than our own. We no longer live according to our own self-will. Letting go of self-will and living according to the divine will is the most critical challenge of married life.*

In the coming catechetical year, we are going to look at marriage in a special way. If we fail to understand this covenanted relationship, we will fail to understand the image of the bond between Christ and the Church, his bride. Here's our question this week. *Why do you come to the banquet? (Or, why not?)* Not everyone who is invited comes.

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
- HOPE Ministry Team Meeting, Thursday, September 9, 7:00pm
- WOSB Garage Sale, Friday & Saturday, Sept. 10/11
- Rite of Continuing Conversion for our confirmation class; Sept. 12 at the 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

Summer Census Continues

We continue the updating of our census data. Our new census sheet is available on our web site, and you can email them back if you choose. The forms are also available in church for you to complete/update and return in person, via mail, or in the collection.

We are asking *everyone* to take the time to 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.

**Greet
Fr. Paul
Merkovsky
today after the 7:45
& 9:30 Masses at
Abbey Coffee House**

**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.**



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 Specia, Director of Faith Formation— 113
 Jay Specia, 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 Aug. 29

Sunday: Sir 3:17-18,20,28-29/Heb 12:18-19,22-24a/Lk 14:1,7-14
 Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Lk 4:16-30
 Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Lk 4:31-37
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Lk 4:38-44
 Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Lk 5:1-11
 Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Lk 5:33-39
 Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Lk 6:1-5
 Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10,12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Serving the Parish Next Weekend September 4—September 5

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Merkovsky
Lectors: M & H Buzzatto **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego
EMHC: Norton, Milavec, Specia, Mertens, Klinar, Getto, R & C Satler, Baumgartner **Servers:** Shaw, Figueroa, LaRosa, Getto, Rauscher

7:45am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Jung, Balash **Greeters:** Henger, Barker **EMHC:** Petricca, Fagioletti, E & R McMillan, J & S Brooks, Gavran
Servers: Peterson, Bowlin, Brooks

9:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Dembiczak, Fitzgerald **Greeters:** Becker, Stewart
EMHC: Orient, Schultz, Stein, Torres, Serrino, McGovern, E & T Mauro, Cushma **Servers:** Kelly, Dembiczak, Cushma, Mackay, Hilzendeger

11:30am— Fr. Merkovsky, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Ray, Auer **Greeters:** Ragan, Fisher **EMHC:** P, K & L Newmaster, Oldaker, Boyd, McGinnis, Eckels, Fisher, Bench
Servers: Oberschelp, K & C Bench

Mass Intentions: Aug. 29—Sept. 5

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**

Monday, August 30—Weekday

8:30a **Regis & Loretta Kelly** (Art & Lois)

Tuesday, August 31—Weekday

6:30a **“Lou” DeSimone** (M/M Richard J. Pesce)
 8:30a **M/M Stanley Mikos & M/M Bayert Rodal** (Dennis & Maryann Rodal)

Wednesday, Sept. 1—Weekday

6:30a **Robert J. Manion** (Manion Family)
 8:30a **Rose D’Alessandro** (D’Alessandro Family)

Thursday, Sept. 2—Weekday

6:30a **Loretta L. Grecco** (Ray & Debi Questiaux)
 8:30a **Alfonso Brunatti** (Crossgates Ladies Bridge)

Friday, Sept. 3—St. Gregory the Great, pope

8:30a **Donald Huffner** (Nancy)
 1:45p **Manor Care: Jack Reed** (Kate & Terry Yenke)

Saturday, Sept. 4—Weekday

8:30a **Hugh F. McGurk** (Patricia Fink)
 5:00p **For the People of the Parish**

Sunday, Sept. 5—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Joseph & Mary Otvos** (Veronica Kochinski & Family)
 9:30a **Mike & Lallie Lordi** (Children)
 11:30a **Josephine Wisniewski** (M/M Ed Wisniewski)

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of deceased members of the Ambrosini, Merone, & Spiotti families, requested by M/M Robert Ambrosini; the Bread & Wine is in memory of Rose D’Alessandro, requested by the D’Alessandro Family; and the Altar Flowers are in memory of deceased members of the Mikos & Rodal families, requested by Dennis & Maryann Rodal.

Fall Ministers’ Schedule

It’s time to schedule liturgical ministers for the weekend 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. The schedule runs the second week of September, so please have your information in before September 6. *N.B. that those who have never attended any of the continuing formation sessions will no longer be scheduled.*



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 and 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.

Eucharistic Adoration

This week is our monthly 24-hour adoration which begins Thursday at 4:00pm and concludes Friday at 4:00pm in the Chapel. All are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer before the presence of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

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 contact Jane Sarra at 724-746-6798.

HOPE Ministry

Discover HOPE (*Helping Others Pursue Employment*) is a new ministry here at St. Benedict the Abbot. The purpose of HOPE is to offer resources for those who are unemployed, underemployed or who may be seeking a new path of employment.. We are building our team now and need professionals who can help us. The ministry provides a place for workshops with some practical topics such as: resume writing, networking, interviewing skills, career coaching, online job search skills, listening skills, as well as pastoral support in these difficult times. The kickoff date for our first meet and greet is October 7, but in the meantime we are looking for people with the above listed skills to enhance our ministry team. Discover HOPE is a faith-based outplacement services ministry that is open to the entire community. For more information call George Armes, 724-348-8770.

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, at 7:00pm following 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. *This would be a great chance for some of our parish organizations to embrace our mission by serving in this capacity.*

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers this week **Joseph R. Sadowski, Sr.**; **Sydney Kelly**, father of Dick Kelly; and **Joyce Geary**, sister of Robin Ferrari, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

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

My daughter is getting married to someone who is not a Catholic. Is it possible to have a priest and a non-Catholic minister perform the ceremony?

Lesson of the Week

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

From the first centuries of Christianity, men and woman have been drawn to seek God by living apart from the “world”. Going out to the desert, for example, was a common phenomenon. There, these people would often draw others who wanted to share their simple life of prayer, and the first groups of *monks* came into being. The word *monk* comes from the word *mono*, which means alone.

Our patron Benedict wrote a rule for his monks, a very basic kind of guide for living this simple life of prayer. Following his death, as other communities of monks and their female counterparts, called nuns, were formed, this rule was sometimes adapted or a new one written, depending on the main focus of the life—work and prayer, liturgical ministry, study, and hospitality to travelers. Sometimes education was added as the monks or nuns, because they were among the few who could read and write, taught the children of the nobility.

St. Augustine was another author of a rule, although he was not a monastic. Augustine was a bishop who lived among the people he served. We can find references to “orders” of men and women who called themselves after the rule as *Benedictines*, *Augustinians*, *Carthusians*, etc. Once the 13th century arrived, there was a movement for people to embrace poverty as they believed it was set forth in the Gospel. Instead of staying put in abbeys and monasteries, a new kind of religious came into being. They were called *friars*, after the Latin word for “brother”. Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites are the communities we know from this time that still exist today. The women, though, remained in the cloister, and so were still considered “nuns”.

After the Renaissance and resulting from the time of the Reformation, new communities that were known as “apostolic” were founded. These groups of priests, brothers and sisters, were not cloistered. They worked among the people in everyday life as teachers, nurses, missionaries, preachers, and they founded universities and hospitals as part of their

Lesson of the Week...cont'd

mission. Service to the poor was usually a major focus of these new orders. Often, they took the rule of an older group like the Franciscans or Benedictines and applied it to their active lifestyle. So we have what we call *third order* Franciscan and Dominican sisters who staffed schools and founded hospitals and traveled as missionaries from Europe to the Americas, and then to Africa and Asia.

One of the new communities, the Jesuits, was founded as a response to the rise of the Protestant movement, and the priests and brothers of this order went with explorers who left from France and Spain for the New World. St. Vincent de Paul founded the *Daughters of Charity* in response to the needs of the poor in his native France. Today, they are the largest community of women religious. Here in the States, Mother Seton knew of these sisters and based her *Sisters of Charity* on his rule. Bishop O'Connor, the founding bishop of our diocese, brought the Sisters of Mercy from Ireland with him in 1843. They were a new group dedicated to serving the poor and ended up doing this here in the Pittsburgh area through education and healthcare.

It might be a surprising moment for those who were taught by or worked with sisters and brothers to look into those communities and see how they began. Often from very humble and difficult beginnings—and at times without much support from the institutional Church—great things have been accomplished. They responded to the needs of their times. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

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.

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.



Youth Ministry News

1. Adults Needed

We have amazing teens at St. Benedict, and we need some amazing adults to walk with them on their spiritual journey, either one-on-one or behind the scenes. If you like working with teens, we need you to be a core member, chaperone a service project, help with fundraisers, or plan a youth group meal. Most importantly, we need your prayers for our teens and the success of this upcoming year. There is something everyone can do to make a positive impact in the faith of our future Church. To get involved or learn more, call Janet at 724-941-9587, Ext. 112.

2. Parent Communication

Information for our high school youth group is being sent out via e-mail. Please make sure you send in your email address to get on the mailing list. This includes activities and schedules, parent volunteer opportunities, and feedback needed on upcoming events. Please send your email to janetr@stbenedicttheabbot.org.

WOSB Annual Garage Sale

The WOSB Annual *Giant Garage Sale* will be held 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.

ITEMS WANTED: clean baby & children's clothing & toys; jewelry; kitchen items; small working electrical appliances; knickknacks; paperback books; VHS tapes; audio tapes; DVD's; Halloween costumes; holiday decorations; pictures & picture frames; small tables & chairs; working lawn mowers; garden tools; working hand & electrical tools; clothing & linens in good condition and not soiled or torn; healthy house plants.

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.

Items can be brought to O'Brien Hall beginning September 3.

Confirmation students can earn service time helping at the Garage Sale. To volunteer, please call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805.

This Week In Our Parish

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!**

Monday, August 30

8:30a	Lifeline Screening	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)

Tuesday, August 31

7:00p	Pre-School Board Meeting	(Rectory)
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Wednesday, September 1

12:00p	AA	(208)
12:30p	Staff Meeting	
	Office Closed until 2:30p	
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, September 2

8:30a	WOSB Bridge Group	(OBH)
12:00p	NA	(206)
4:00p	Eucharistic Adoration begins	(Chapel)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Parents' Baptism Prep	(206)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(OBH)

Friday, September 3

4:00p	Closing of Adoration	(Chapel)
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Saturday, September 4

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

Sunday, September 5

**Labor Day Weekend:
The Parish Office is closed today and
Abbey Coffee House is closed today.**

Catholic Men's Fellowship (CMF)

The CMF of St. Benedict the Abbot offers Catholic men, fathers, husbands, and single men the opportunity to share their faith and love for Christ, as Catholic Christian men, through prayer and fellowship. We gather in Christ's presence to share our experience, strength, and hope and prayerfully support one another in an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality. All men are welcome! We meet every Saturday morning at 7:30am-9:00am in room 206. Any interested men should contact Ed Corbett at 412-302-1659 or email at Eccorbett@verizon.net



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