



Father Sam's Forum

We're getting ready for the Cross. Tomorrow, September 14, is the Feast of the *Exaltation of the Holy Cross*, and the following day the memorial of the *Our Lady of Sorrows*. So today's readings fit perfectly. First we have from Isaiah one of the Songs of the Suffering Servant, typically heard during Lent on Passion Sunday. And then, in the Gospel, Jesus asks who people say that he is and when Peter says, "You are the Christ," Jesus tells him what that means. He will die.



"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." We have to remember that Mark wrote for Christians in Rome who were facing persecution under the Emperor Nero around the year 65. The Jesus of Mark's Gospel is a suffering Christ, who accepts that this is his fate because of a greater good. If you recall the Passion that began Holy Week last April, Jesus felt abandoned in death, but trusted that only through death was Resurrection.

Baptism is for us the acceptance of suffering and death. We don't like to talk about death as Americans. We tend to deny it, pretend it doesn't exist, sugar-coat it. We even use other words instead of saying that someone died. "She *passed* away," or, "he *lost* his wife." While we usually don't consider these to be wrong, they do make us escape saying the "D" word. Our faith emboldens us so we can say like St. Paul, "O Death, where is your victory?"

Speaking of death, there has been much talk caused by the health care reform proposals about end of life issues. We should all know what we believe and teach as Catholics. Having spent a good part of my priesthood in health care ministry, death and dying

were routinely part of my day. Moral Theology makes a distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means and as Catholics we have for centuries held that the life we know and enjoy here is only a glimpse of the life that awaits us. So while we respect and reverence our human lives, they are not the ultimate good.

What does this mean? Basically it comes down to this: we should all have advance directives. We should all be speaking with our loved ones about the care we want or do not want if we are unable to make decisions for ourselves. This is our responsibility and to leave it to someone else is a gross lack of consideration. Even if your children think they know what you want, it often becomes a burden for them to make hard decisions. I'll continue this next week....

Mass Intentions: Sept. 13–20

Sunday, Sept. 13–24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
- 9:30a **Mary Weidner Kendall** (Tony)
- 11:30a **Stephen Gordon** (Bob & Irene Gordon)

Monday, Sept. 14—Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- 8:30a **Anthony Capannelli** (Mary "Judy" Stewart)

Tuesday, September 15— Our Lady of Sorrows

- 6:30a **Jeff Bresson** (Carol & Rick Vereb)
- 8:30a **Constance Lipovsky** (Bill & Chris Kail)

Wednesday, September 16—Cornelius, pope & martyr & Cyprian, bishop & martyr

- 6:30a **Louise Trovato** (The Clark Family)
- 8:30a **Vanessa Dulak** (M/M Lowry Stoops)

Thursday, September 17—Weekday

- 6:30a **Don Shaw** (M/M John Brucker)
- 8:30a **Helen C. Selasky** (Harry & Family)

Friday, September 18—Weekday

- 8:30a **Catherine Pugh**
(Dolores Ueberschaer & Barbara Burke)

Saturday, September 19—Weekday

- 8:30a **Sirianni & Matarazzo Families**
(Mario & Rose Rullo)
- 5:00p **Chester Grego** (Wife, Erma)

Sunday, Sept. 20—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:45a **Francis McCaffrey** (Wife, Pat)
- 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
- 11:30a **59th Wedding Anniversary:**
Dick & Reene Gawronski

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of George Rieger, requested by M/M Ted Turchick, and the Bread & Wine is in Honor of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Ed & Jean Kolling.



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— 208
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries- 304
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 206
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 209
 Elaine Motyl, Young Adult Coordinator— 234
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 234
 Marcia Snowden, Catechetical Assistant—208
 Colette Specca, Director of Faith Formation— 205
 Jay Specca, Coordinator Adult Formation & Liturgy

Pastoral Administration

Michael Benya, Parish Campus Manager
 Mary Ann Bitters, Parish Secretary—200
 Justin Cumer, Maintenance— 200
 Shirley Jacobs, Bookkeeper— 202
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 216
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 200
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager — 200
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance— 200
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor— 200

- Formation Offices: Religious Education/Youth Ministry—724-941-9587

St. Benedict Pre-School

Beverly Jurcic, Director —724-731-0222

Serving the Parish Next Weekend: September 19—September 20

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Ruffalo, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Brugger, Reisz **Greeters:** McCloskey, Grego
EMHC: Klinar, Specca, P & G Adams, Femiani, Ligman,
 Mertens, Getto, Baumgartner **Servers:** Byrne, Nobers, Getto,
 Brugger, Reisz

7:45am— Fr. Ruffalo
Lector: Rossin **Greeters:** Kalaski, Barker **EMHC:** Barton,
 Basile, Puskarich, Fagioletti, Berger, Prado, Joseph, **Servers:**
 J, M, A & B Lyle

9:30am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Mahla, Wells **Greeters:** Becker, Oberschelp **EMHC:**
 Capozza, McGinnis, Torres, Davis, Gaudy, Orient, Faina,
 Walnoha Bayer **Servers:** Maher, Wisniewski, A & E Ross,
 Hilzendeger

11:30pm— Fr. Esposito
Lector: Sichi **Greeters:** Bartoli, McDonnell **EMHC:** Ruggieri,
 Quinn, Slomiany, Eckels, Huffner, K & L Newmaster **Servers:**
 Chaplin, F & M Meola

Catechetical Sunday Next Week

Catechetical Sunday will be marked in parishes nationwide during the weekend of September 19-20. This annual celebration recognizes those who share in the formal teaching ministry of the Catholic Church. This year's theme is *Catechesis and the Proclamation of the Word*. Our parish is proud of the men and women who give their time and talent each week to bring God's message of salvation to our children, teens, and adults. Our observance here includes a rite of blessing for our catechists and parents at all Masses next weekend, and a series of Open House gatherings (*see the Faith Formation news*). Please extend your appreciation to these dedicated volunteers.

Readings for the Week of September 13

Sunday: Is 50:5-9a/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35
 Monday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
 Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Jn 19:25-27
 Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Lk 7:31-35
 Thursday: 1 Tm 4:12-16/Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Lk 8:4-15
 Next Sunday: Wis 2:12,17-20/Jas 3:16-4:3/Mk 9:30-37

Rest In Peace

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners **Irene Scott** and **Josephine Wisniewski**, who died recently. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

New Catechetical Asst.

St. Benedict the Abbot welcomes Marcia Snowden, our new Catechetical Assistant for grades K—4. Marcia comes to us with a wealth of administrative and teaching experience. She will be present during Sunday and Tuesday faith formation sessions. In addition, she will eventually oversee the Children's Liturgy of the Word dismissals that will be taking place at the 9:30am and 11:30am Masses. Marcia is excited to become a part of our parish life and we ask that you welcome her to our pastoral staff.

Newly Baptized

Please welcome to our faith family these newly baptized: **Jordyn Lynn**, daughter of James & Shannon Welsh, Jr.; **Gianna Marie**, daughter of Thomas & Monica Milani; and **Lilly Rose**, daughter of T. Sean & Courtney O'Connor. May they grow in wisdom, age and grace.

Bible as Theology

Fr. Sam's five session series on the themes of the bible and it's connection to our Catholic faith begins this Tuesday, September 15, 7:30pm. Call Jay Specca in the Formation Office to register if you would like to attend. Bring a bible to class with you...and bring a friend.



Women of St. Benedict General Meeting

The Women of St. Benedict have invited local ventriloquist Cindy Speck and her friends to O'Brien Hall on September 24, at 7:00pm for some family fun and entertainment. Cindy and her friends will entertain, educate, and inspire audiences of all ages. Humorous dialogue, silly skits, touching songs, and audience participation make each performance memorable and exciting. Please stop by and meet Cindy and get to know some of the Women of St. Benedict. Refreshments will be served.

WOSB Yoga Class

Ladies who may wish to form a Yoga class starting October 5 at 10:00am and continuing into November, please call Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805 by September 25. Debbie Liberto will again be the instructor.

Diocese Launches New Program for Priests

This October, our diocese will initiate a new training and support program that has moved around our nation, *Good Leaders, Good Shepherds*. At the invitation of Bishop Zubik, Fr. Sam will be among the first group of Pittsburgh priests to participate in it. The program comes from Catholic Leadership Institute, an organization founded by laity that seeks to build authentic Catholic leaders. Using Jesus as the ultimate model for leadership, the group has developed modules for both lay and priestly leadership in the Church. The curriculum was specifically designed to help Catholic priests overcome the challenges today of a diminishing number of clergy and more complex circumstances for priestly ministry. The goal is to minimize the frustration and energy spent on their administrative roles and maximize the joy and time spent on the pastoral duties for which they were uniquely ordained. The impact will be more holy, healthy, and happy shepherds of vibrant parish communities, leading more people to a deeper relationship with Christ. Composed of six modules over a period of two and a half years, the priests who participate will be expected to be away from their parochial assignments for several days each quarter as part of this training. They also participate in half day sessions monthly in between the multi-day ones for follow-up workshops.

Youth Ministry News

The Bible as Theology Three Sessions to Explore It

PTHS is offering a class this year called "The Bible as Literature," which will explore the various kinds of literature that make up this sacred book. Fr. Sam is offering teens a chance to explore the bible from another point of view. Anyone in grades 10–12 can sign up for this three session course which will meet on three Wednesdays, September 16, 30, and October 14—every other week so there's time in between for reading the texts. The time of the class is 5:30–7:30, and a light supper will be included. If you've ever wondered about the bible and what it means, this is your chance to come find out! We'll see how the timeline of the Scriptures stands against history and look for the themes that are so important to our Catholic faith like prophecy, kingdom and salvation. Call Janet or Elaine in Young Adult Ministry to register. You'll need a bible for the class.

Help Our Environment

With the beginning of the school year and all the papers coming home from school, please remember our Paper Recycling Bin located in the parking lot next to the St. Vincent de Paul clothing box. The bin is for all your papers, magazines, and newspapers. No phone books or cardboard. Reimbursements we receive will be split among our preschool, our formation office, and our garden group. Please help support this recycling project.

Ben's Men Meeting

The first Ben's Men meeting of the season will be held tomorrow evening, September 14, at 6:30pm in rooms 204/206. Dinner will be served along with refreshments and the speaker will be Fr. Michael Ruffalo. His topic: "Christendom Conquers: The Church's Conflict in The Crusades." All men in the parish are welcome. Contact Jack McGinnis (724-941-4213) for dinner reservations.

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



Ask Father Sam

What is the basis for Catholic Social Teaching?

Lesson of the Week

What are the rules for the reception of Holy Communion if not married in the Catholic Church?

The sacrament of the Eucharist (Holy Communion), is a foundational element of our Catholic worship. From the very first days of Christianity, believers gathered as Jesus commanded, for the breaking of bread and the teachings, what we would today call the two parts of our Mass, *Liturgy of the Eucharist* and *Liturgy of the Word*.

It was part of St. Paul's instruction that only those who were prepared should partake of the Eucharist. So we today are obliged to prepare ourselves before we receive the sacrament. We do this in a number of ways. Some might read the Gospel and pray with it before coming to Mass, others might come to Mass early enough to have time for quiet prayer before the liturgy begins. Still others might consider all the ways we are nourished by God during the week as they pray and think about the reception of Communion that is coming on Sunday.

All of us though, are asked to do two things to prepare. The first is to consider that we are not guilty of serious sin that would require confession before coming to the Eucharist. If we are, then sacramental confession would be necessary. The second is the fast from food and drink that we are asked to maintain for one hour before taking Communion.

Receiving the Eucharist says that we are "in communion" with other believers. Our being "in communion" is understood to include that we have followed the six precepts of the Church regarding how we live, and this includes marriage. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, #1630 *The priest (or deacon) who assists at the celebration of a marriage receives the consent of the spouses in the name of the Church and gives the blessing of the Church. The presence of the Church's minister (and also of the witnesses) visibly expresses the fact that this marriage is an ecclesial (sacramental) reality.* This means that unless there was a permission granted to be exempt from this form of marriage, every Catholic is bound to follow the form, being married in the presence of clergy and two witnesses.

So, to answer the question, if a Catholic has married outside the form as described above, he or she is not free to receive Communion until the marriage has been validated, that is, until it becomes a sacramental reality. Call me if I can help you to "regularize" your marriage situation.

Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Registration

Registration for fall sessions is underway. Forms were mailed out and are also available on our parish website under the faith formation link. Families are reminded again that due to the size of our programs, class requests are not able to be honored. In addition, registrations **will not be accepted** on the first day of classes.

Formation Open Houses

To begin our new Catechetical year, we are hosting an "Open House" for all parents on "Catechetical Sunday," September 20, and on the following Tuesday, September 22. Check the time of your child's session and come to the Open House that begins at that time. The schedule is also available on our website:

Sunday 9:00-10:10 Session:

9:00am:

Grades K-3 Parents and children report directly to the classroom

Grades 4-6 Parents report to Pope Benedict Center (the old church) children report to their classroom

Sunday 11:00-12:10 Session

11:00am:

Grades K-3 Parents and children report directly to the classroom

Grades 4-6 Parents report to Pope Benedict Center (the old church) children report to their classroom

Tuesday Session—6:00pm-7:15pm:

6:00pm:

Grades K-3 Parents and children report directly to the classroom

Grades 4-6 Parents report to Pope Benedict Center children report to their classroom

Middle School Faith Formation Open Houses

Faith Formation for our Middle School Children in 7th and 8th grade starts on September 23 with an "Open House" for parents and students.

6:00—7:00pm: 7th Graders and their parents

7:00—8:00pm: 8th Graders and their parents

This schedule is also available on line.



WOSB Annual Garage Sale

This is "Garage Sale Week"! The Women of St. Benedict will have their annual garage sale on Sept. 18, from 9:00am to 7:00pm and Sept. 19, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Set up days will be Sept. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17. Beginning today items may be brought to O'Brien Hall. Please remember we do not want junk! Volunteers are still needed to help 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. For more information or to volunteer, please call Jackie Buck at 724-941-6955 or Nancy Huffner at 724-941-6805.

International Day of Peace

An International Day of Peace is planned for September 21 at St. Mary's of the Mount Parish at 6:30pm. An International Peace Pole will be planted followed by a Flag Ceremony with 194 flags paraded to commemorate the G-20 meetings. For more information or to make a contribution for a flag/pole please contact our pastoral associate Dennis Gehrlein at 724-941-9406.

Widows and Widowers

The Widows and Widowers of St. Benedict the Abbot Church are meeting on September 17 at 5:00pm for dinner at Piccolino's Restaurant on McLaughlin Run Road. After dinner, there will be a movie presentation in room 208 featuring *The Bread My Sweet*. For further details, please contact Ellie Puskarich at 724-941-4686. New faces are always welcome.

"Sunday Readings" Class

Starting on September 17, a 12-week course title "The Sunday Readings" will be offered at the Spiritan Center in Bethel Park from 9:30am until 11:30am. The class will be taught by Mary Ann Nicholls, M. Div. Registration is the first day of class and the cost is \$27. If you have any questions, please call the Spiritan Center at 412-835-3510, Ext. 112.

Retrouvaille Weekend

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. In today's busy world, many couples experience anger, coldness, frustration, and loneliness. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on September 25-27, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, September 13

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass*

Monday, September 14

6:30p Ben's Men Meeting (204/206)

Tuesday, September 15

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)
7:00p Cub Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)
7:30p Bible as Theology (204/206)

Wednesday, September 16

12:00p AA (208)
6:30p Confessions (Church)

Thursday, September 17

9:30a Light Weigh (213)
10:00a Youth Council (210)
12:00p NA (206)
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)
7:30p Widow & Widowers (208)
7:30p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (PBAC)
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

Friday, September 18

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)
9:00a WOSB Garage Sale (OBH)
6:00p Italian Pilgrimage Meeting (off site)

Saturday, September 19

7:30a CMF (206)
9:00a WOSB Garage Sale (OBH)
11:00a Confessions (Church)

Sunday, September 20

*Abbey Coffee House Open after
7:30 & 10:00 Mass*

9:00a Faith Formation Open House
11:00a Faith Formation Open House

Italian Tour Meeting

The final pre-tour meeting is set to take place on Friday, September 18, 6:00pm at the home of Barbara Gigliotti, 341 Snowberry Cir. Venetia, in the Country Brook development off East McMurray Road. Call 724-941-2908 if you need directions. Ezio, the owner of Renaissance Travel, will be with us to present the travel documents, and Fr. Sam will give every traveler a packet of information and final details that will be helpful for the pilgrimage.

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



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

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 Mavrach
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

Don Ligman
724-941-5938

Wedding Coordinators

Lois McCloskey
724-941-6879

Women of St. Benedict

Nancy Huffner
724-941-6805

Youth Council

Sheila Arcuri
724-942-6431