



## Father Sam's Forum

“How am I to know...?” Abram’s question to God is a valid one. How are we to know that what the Lord tells us is real, true, actual? I’ve questioned and I suppose you have too. And if we are in a position of authority or leadership ourselves, how are others to know that what we tell them is true? I guess it all comes down to accepting another’s word.

Is your word good? Is mine? Is God’s? We speak a lot about *covenant* in the bible. When we had our recent parent meetings for the sacrament of reconciliation we did a review of that term since it is essential to understand covenant if we are to understand sin and grace. The covenant between God and Abram that is recounted in the first reading today is sealed in blood—like all biblical covenants. God’s presence is there and the two parties, Abram and God, enter into this unique relationship that binds them together. It’s actually exactly like a marriage.

The agreement we call covenant is radically different from a contract. It isn’t a “if you do this then I’ll do that,” kind of agreement, like having our bathroom remodeled. The contractor does the work and we pay him if the work is done the way we expected and the way promised. Not so in covenant. God’s love does not stop if we fail to live up to our part. The fidelity of God makes God who God says He is. We sin, we don’t respond to that love, we make a mess of things and yet God’s love is constant. We can’t *not* be God’s people because God can’t *not* be God.

“Our citizenship is in heaven,” St. Paul tells us. We’re meant for glory. How do we know? Because we take God at his word.

## Mass Intentions: Feb. 28—Mar. 7

### Sunday, February 28—Second Sunday of Lent

7:45a **For the People of the Parish**  
 9:30a **Marie McGovern** (M/M H. Cornell)  
 11:30a **Nicholas Vacca** (Judy Ripepi)

### Monday, March 1—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Elizabeth McDonnell**  
 (Women of St. Benedict)

### Tuesday, March 2—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Priscilla Bayer** (Jim & Betty Amato)  
 8:30a **Bill Meyers** (Bill & Kathy Wanninger)

### Wednesday, March 3—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Living & Deceased Members of the Busch & Schweibinz Families**  
 (Claire Meredith)  
 8:30a **Hubert Ueberschaer** (Wife, Dolores)

### Thursday, March 4—Lenten Weekday

6:30a **Elizabeth Jackson** (Ann Marie & Al Rossin)  
 8:30a **Andrew Palombo** (Walt & Sylvia Becker)

### Friday, March 5—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Alice McArdle** (Kevin & Jennifer Pollard)  
 1:45p **Manor Care: Helen Orcutt**  
 (South Hills Council 3084 K.O.C.)

### Saturday, March 6—Lenten Weekday

8:30a **Frederick Henning**  
 (Howard Gebhardt Family)  
 5:00p **Gene Farney** (M/M Gary Buffington)

### Sunday, March 7—Third Sunday of Lent

7:45a **Bruno Menozzi** (Rick & Michelle Menozzi)  
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**  
 11:30a **Charles Westhoven**  
 (Wife, Children & Grandchildren)

***The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in memory of Andy Palombo, requested by Paula Palombo, and the Bread & Wine are in memory of Andy Palombo, requested by Paula Palombo.***

## Parish News & Coming Attractions...

- **Parish Eucharistic Day** is Sunday, March 21. Following the 11:30 Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. Sign up to spend time with the Lord. See the sign up poster in the narthex. Closing Services begin at 4:30 in the afternoon, and include Evening Prayer, Eucharistic Procession, and Benediction. Fr. Fred Cain, our Regional Vicar, will deliver the homily. Everyone is invited to a simple Lenten dinner following the services. Tickets for the dinner are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. They may be purchased in the parish office.
- **Our Lenten Mission** begins after the dinner mentioned above. Sunday, March 21, 7:00pm, in church, TV and film actor, Frank Runyeon will present ***Afraid!*** a modern day interpretation of the Gospel of Mark as the first night’s theme. On Monday and Tuesday evening, Mr. Runyeon will offer two other biblical presentations, ***Sermon on the Mount***, and ***James***, the New Testament letter that gives us a perspective on how we can make the message of Jesus our own.
- **Lenten Penance Service**—the traditional service with multiple priest confessors, is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24, 7:00pm. Take advantage of this opportunity to make a good confession before Easter.



## 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— 107  
 Gregory Fincham, Director of Music Ministries— 108  
 Dennis Gehrlein, Pastoral Associate— 109  
 Cathy Malencia, Middle School Minister— 110  
 Elaine Motyl, Young Adult Coordinator— 111  
 Janet Roberto, Young Adult Minister— 112  
 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, Bookkeeper— 100  
 Jan Martin, Rectory Housekeeper— 131  
 Dave Murtaugh, Maintenance— 100  
 Kathy Pfeifer, Parish Life Manager— 106  
 John Risher, Weekend Maintenance— 100  
 Kevin Wolford, Maintenance Supervisor— 100

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

### St. Benedict Preschool

Beverly Jurcic, Director— 724-731-0222

### Scripture Readings for the Week of February 28

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12,17-18/Phil 3:17-4:1/Lk 9:28b  
 Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38  
 Tuesday: Is 1:10,16-20/Mt 23:1-12  
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28  
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31  
 Friday: Gn 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-15,18-20/Lk 15:1-3,11-32

### Triduum: Why the big deal?

Why does the Church make such a fuss about this Triduum thing? Should I know more about it? Do I have to attend all three days of services?

### Passion Play Tickets

Tickets for the 2010 Passion Play are available in the parish office beginning this week. We have a limited number for each performance. They will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. There is no charge but a free will offering to defray the cost of the production will be taken at each performance.

**In case of inclement weather, please watch WPXI (Channel 11) or go to WPXI.com for cancellations and delays.**

### Serving the Parish Next Weekend March 6—March 7

**Sat. 5:00pm**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Benya, Pustay **Greeters:** Mitchell, Schardt **EMHC:** P & G Adams, LaCamera, Femiani, Specca, Greenwald, Vandewater, Corbett **Servers:** Corbett, Curry, J, J & N Bianco

**7:45am**— Fr. Ruffalo

**Lectors:** Hornack, Jung **Greeters:** Kalaski, Henger **EMHC:** D & T Martin, Kail, McGinnis, Glod, E & R McMillan, Petricca, Faina **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

**9:30am**— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Layton

**Lectors:** Mahla, Ott **Greeters:** Oberschelp, Stewart **EMHC:** Schulta, Orient, Serrino, Torres, T & E Mauro, Bayer, L & A Kelly **Servers:** Z & J Verner, Maher, D & M DeRienzo

**11:30am**— Fr. Esposito

**Lectors:** Zuk, Luttner **Greeters:** Ragan, Fisher **EMHC:** Stein, Oldaker, Capozza, Slomiany, Bonadio, Baits, Herald, Boyd Fisher **Servers:** Oberschelp, A & E Ross

### 5 minutes with the Word

It's time to pick up your copy of our Lenten prayer book, *5 minutes with the Word*, as a way to help you keep the season. The pocket size booklets can be found in the baskets in the narthex of the church until they run out.

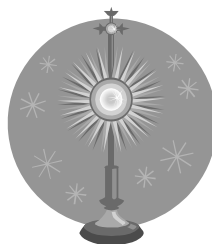
### MORE HELP NEEDED!!!

Many more volunteers are needed at the Friday Fish Fry. Please call Michael Benya at 724-942-0843 if you can help.

### 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.

### Parish Eucharistic Day



Our parish celebrates a day in honor of the holy sacrament of the Eucharist on Sunday, March 21, with adoration following the 11:30am Mass and continuing until the closing services at 4:30pm. Come spend some time with the Lord who we believe is truly present

to us in the Eucharist. Our closing services include Evening Prayer, homily by our Regional Vicar, Fr. Fred Cain, Eucharistic Procession, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We are also having a simple dinner following the services for those who want to stay for the opening of our Lenten Mission at 7:00 that evening.



## Triduum Liturgical Ministers

If you want to serve during the Triduum and on Easter Sunday, please complete this form and return it to the office before March 12.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Holy Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Good Friday, April 2, 1:30pm (Liturgy)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Good Friday, April 2, 7:00pm (Tenebrae)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_

### Holy Saturday, April 3, 8:30pm (Easter Vigil)

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 7:45am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 9:30am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

### Easter Sunday, April 4, 11:30am

Lector \_\_\_\_\_ Server \_\_\_\_\_ EMHC \_\_\_\_\_

Greeter \_\_\_\_\_ Usher \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring Ministers' Schedule

The next schedule will be for April through June. All Greeters, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Altar Servers should submit any "away" dates and schedule changes to Jay at [jspeca@stbenedicttheabbot.org](mailto:jspeca@stbenedicttheabbot.org). Put "Minister Schedule" in the subject line, or call 724-941-9587. He will be running the schedule the second week of March, so please have your information in before March 8th.

## Mass Intentions 2010 Mass Book Re-opened

Thanks to everyone's cooperation when we opened the 2010 Mass Book in October, we were able to schedule the leftover requests from 2008 – 2009, and now we have available open spaces to take additional requests. You may stop at the office to schedule Mass intentions to be celebrated this year (2010).

## Our Lenten Mission: *THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT*

Frank Runyeon, star of TV and film, sets the famous sermon in a revealing new setting: as told by the apostle Matthew to the church at Antioch, shortly after the Roman army has burned Jerusalem to the ground. In this dramatic setting the lines we are familiar with from the Gospel take on new meaning in the very human stories of those Matthew may have addressed. There is the livestock merchant, the silk trader, the deacon who can't stop talking, and the seamstress who spends all her money on clothes, as well as others. At the end, those who have heard this sermon have to decide what they will do now, for they have their own part to play in the story. *Join us on Monday, March 22, 7:00pm in the church for the second night of our Lenten Mission. Remember the three night mission begins Sunday, March 21, with "Afraid" a telling of Mark's Gospel, and ends on Tuesday, March 23, with the Letter of James. Bring your family and friends to this inspiring Lenten opportunity to understand God's Word in a new way.*

**Online giving is in full operation! Visit the parish website and click on the link to sign up to begin donating to the parish automatically today. It's easy and convenient!**

## Passion Play Rehearsals

We can still use cast members! Come to a rehearsal! Rehearsals have been scheduled for these dates:

- 7:30pm Tuesdays—March 16
- 7:45pm Wednesdays—March 3, 10, 17, and 24
- 1:00pm Saturdays—March 20

All rehearsals will be in the Pope Benedict Activity Center. The Passion Play will be performed on Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27, at 7:30pm in the Pope Benedict Center.

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



## Ask Father Sam

*Can you speak a little about the goal of welcome that is part of our pastoral plan?*

### Lesson of the Week

*What are the things every adult Catholic should know about his/her faith?*

One of the topics that our Adult Formation Committee discussed as they met on various occasions after the group came together was how to determine what “things” every Catholic should know about his or her faith. If you recall, the goal that is part of our pastoral plan is to offer better adult formation so that every adult member of our parish, especially parents who have to hand on their faith to their children, will feel confident that they understand what we believe.

As the group brainstormed, many topics, from the Creed to moral teachings we hold as Catholics, sacraments and sacramentals, were included, as were questions about the Mass and the bible. When I was presented with four plans of action to move adult formation ahead, one of those included having a monthly Q & A with one of the priests on Sundays between the 9:30 and 11:30 Masses. As the details of that got worked out, it occurred to me that we have a wonderful chance to explore some of these topics through the homily every week.

While the instruction for the preacher always asks that the texts of the Sunday readings are first in his mind in preparing a homily, he is free to include various aspects of our faith that can relate to these texts. Deacon Jack, Fr. Michael and I have agreed that we are going to try to coordinate our preaching this Lent with a few of those topics that surfaced from the formation group. Looking at the readings assigned each Sunday this Lent we believe we can relate them to these questions: *How do I get to heaven? Are Catholics born again? Why does the Church hold Tradition as important as Scripture? Why do we need to go to confession?*

Looking at how we become divinized, that is, more like Christ, we saw that it is from our baptism, our initiation into the mystery of the dying and rising of Jesus, that we get the ability to make this spiritual journey where we grow more and more into the likeness of the One who created us. Our conversion continues from baptism till death. Remember the words of our Lenten hymn, “You have called us by our name, we belong to you. You have called us by our name and we are yours.”

## Youth Ministry News

### Calling all Teens

#### *Looking for Service Hours?*

We could use your help with the craft room, movie room, and serving meals during the Parish Fish Fry. Teens are welcome to help every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00pm until 7:30pm. Just show up and pitch in.

### High School Girls Getaway

*Girls Getaway* is a weekend retreat to pamper your soul and learn what real womanhood is. Based on *Song of Songs* “Arise, my beautiful and come. . .” girls will get a chance to grow in their relationship with God and understand what a princess they truly are. The weekend is March 5-7 at the Gilmory Retreat Center. Cost is \$95 with scholarships available. For more information or to register, contact Janet at 724-941-9587.

### Youth Ministry Calendar

#### *Feb. 21—Feb. 28*

Feb. 28, 7:00pm—Leadership Meeting (YM Office)  
Mar. 2, 7:00pm—Theology of the Body (St. Louise)  
Mar. 7, 7:00pm—WORD (PBAC)

### Ben's Men Annual Lenten Fish Fry

It's time for the annual *Ben's Men* Fish Fry every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 4:00pm to 7:30pm in O'Brien Hall. We are serving delicious fish dinners (Adult \$8—Child \$5.50), fish sandwiches (alone \$6), and Fr. Sam's Italian pizza (\$6/pie or \$1 per slice), Benny's Clam Chowder (\$3), and Pierogi (6) with butter & onions (\$4.50). Eat in or take out. Crafts and movies for the kids too! Bring the whole family and tell your friends and neighbors!

Once again we also have *Fish Fry Lunch* available every Friday during Lent (except Good Friday) from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Lunch special includes a fried fish sandwich, coleslaw, and French fries for \$7, fish sandwiches (alone \$6), Benny's Clam Chowder (\$3), and Fr. Sam's pizza for \$6/pie or \$1 per slice. You may eat in or order take out.



## MOM's Sharing Lenten/Spring Class Offered

Ministry of Mothers Sharing (MOM'S) invite you to join them for an 8 week enrichment class for mothers beginning March 3 from 9:15am to 11:15am or March 4 from 7:30pm to 9:30pm (choose one class time for the entire 8 weeks). Topics include stress management through prayer, motherhood as a vital church ministry, and choosing friends that help you become a better person. The cost is \$35 and the registration form is available on the church website. Contact Kathleen Chaudhari at 724-941-8546 with any questions.

## Girl Scout Sunday

We will recognize all the girls who participate in Scouting in grades K-12 on March 7, during the 11:30am Mass. All are welcome to participate. Wear your vest or sash and meet in the narthex at 11:15am. For more information or to volunteer to be a greeter, lector, or altar server at this Mass, please contact Amy Shope, 724-941- 6060.

## WOSB Annual Luncheon

The Women of St. Benedict will host their annual spring luncheon on May 6. Save the date and join us for a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:00am followed by lunch at the Hilton Garden Inn in Southpointe. Watch future bulletins for details regarding menu choices, prices and reservation deadlines.

## Sign Up for Our Email Lists

Want email updates regarding church events? It's easy to signup. Go to our website home page at [www.stbenedicttheabbot.org](http://www.stbenedicttheabbot.org) and enter your name and email address. We send out updates every 2-3 weeks with important events and a note from Fr. Sam. You can also sign up to receive Faith Formation class email updates (go to the Faith Formation home page on the website to sign up).

## New Eyes for the Needy

Old eyeglasses or monetary donations for "New Eyes for the Needy" will be collected at Abbey Coffee House on March 14. This was rescheduled from February 7 due to the weather conditions that weekend.

**Check out this great Catholic web site: [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org)**

## This Week In Our Parish

### Sunday, February 28

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

9:00a Faith Formation Session  
11:00a Faith Formation Session

### Monday, March 1

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
10:00a WOSB Yoga (OBH)  
6:30p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p Finance Council Meeting (Rectory)  
7:00p Catholic Scripture Study (208)  
7:00p Cub Scouts Den 5 (Rm A)  
7:00p Centering Prayer (204)  
7:30p Welcoming Committee Mtg. (210)

### Tuesday, March 2

8:30a Special Needs Children (210)  
9:15a Catholic Scripture Study (206)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
7:00p Contemporary Choir (Choir)

### Wednesday, March 3

9:00a MOM'S Group (208/210)  
9:30a Light Weigh (206)  
11:00a EMHC Prayer & Formation (202)  
12:00p AA (208)  
6:00p Faith Formation Session  
6:30p Confessions (Church)  
7:45p Tae Kwon Do (OBH)  
7:45p Passion Play Rehearsal (PBAC)

### Thursday, March 4

8:30a WOSB Bridge (OBH)  
12:00p NA (206)  
4:00p Eucharistic Adoration Begins (Chapel)  
6:00p Aerobics (PBAC)  
7:00p RCIA (206)  
7:00p Parents Baptism Meeting (210)  
7:00p Boy Scout Troop 1313 (OBH)  
7:00p MOM'S Group (213)  
7:30p Adult Choir (Choir)

### Friday, March 5

10:00a Prayer & Share (Nursery)  
11:00a Lunch Fish Fry (OBH)  
4:00p Closing of Adoration (Chapel)  
4:00p Supper Fish Fry (OBH)  
7:00p Stations of the Cross (Church)

### Saturday, March 6

7:30a Catholic Men's Fellowship (206)  
9:00a Aerobics (PBAC)  
9:00a Jesus Day (OBH)  
11:00a Confessions (Church)

### Sunday, March 7

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

9:00a Faith Formation Session  
11:00a Faith Formation Session  
7:00p WORD (PBAC)

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



## 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 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 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