



Father Sam's Forum...

"...because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry." These are the words of St. Paul to his fellow disciple, Timothy, heard in our second reading today. *Ministry*. Say it...think about it. What does it mean to you? St. Paul offers a brief synopsis of his former way of life as he praises God for the gift of forgiveness. He, Paul, is a minister, because God called him to that role.

When we think of ministry, do we think that we are unworthy to be a minister? It seems a few people are of that mindset. Yet, when we look at the Scriptures, we see that God called people, not because they were "worthy" but because they had something to offer. God uses our gifts, our abilities, and our talents to further the Kingdom. Jesus picked twelve who weren't that much different from us. Some were stubborn, some were doubtful, some were quick to anger. And yet, the Church became a reality because they allowed the Spirit to work in and through them to advance the mission of Jesus. Jesus was quick to forgive, and we are supposed to be the same way. How do you respond when God forgives someone whom you may be unwilling to call your brother or sister?

A disciple is a minister. We can't get around it. The call from the Second Vatican Council was for every Christian to re-discover his or her baptism and claim it. It isn't some kind of magic, like getting your ticket stamped—"heaven, admit one." It means accountability. Today we acknowledge our young men and women who are set to be confirmed in their Catholic faith in November. For some, it may be seen as just getting the next punch in the ticket, but that would be very sad. Confirmation is claiming our baptismal identity for ourselves if we have been baptized as infants. As full members of the Church, what ministry will we accept? How will we advance the mission of Jesus?

Today, we offer an insert from the diocese that explains the role and function of the Parish Pastoral Council. The bishop's new guidelines, *One Body, One Mission*, offer a theological and pastoral perspective on the place these advisors to the pastor play in parish life. It is on the opposite side of our weekly insert from *The Word to Go*, a reflection to help us better appreciate the readings at Mass.

Also new is a podcast of the homily I deliver each week. If you go to our website, you can see a link to listen to the homily. Pope Benedict XVI has asked every priest to be on top of these new opportunities to evangelize. Did you know you can go to the parish website and sign up to receive the bulletin online every week? You can also sign up for the "Blasts from the Abbey" that are sent as reminders of coming parish events. And, of course, you can sign up for online giving, which eliminates the need to bring an envelope to Mass for your offering. The diocesan website, www.diopitt.org is another place to find all kinds of resources for living your faith.

Finally, in a few weeks all of the priests will gather with the bishop for a few days of renewal and learning. This triennial convocation means that daily Masses will not follow the usual schedule. We won't have 6:30 Mass that week, for example. Next week's bulletin will contain more information about the convocation.

Coming Up: Mark Your Calendars

Here are some coming events in the parish:

- *Today*: 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
- Parish priests away for diocesan convocation, Sept 27—30
- Health Ministry Fair, Thursday, Sept. 30, begins 10:00am
- Blessing of Pets, Saturday, Oct. 2, 10:00am

The second collection this weekend is the annual appeal for the Bishop's Education Fund, our support for Catholic education.



When logging onto the parish website, please make sure you use www.stbenedicttheabbot.org. The .com address that was used years ago is no longer active.

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



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 Sept. 12

Sunday: Ex 32:7-11,13-14/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32
 Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26,33/Lk 7:1-10
 Tuesday: Nm 21:4b-9/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
 Wednesday: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13/Jn 19:25-27
 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11/Lk 7:36-50
 Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20/Lk 8:1-3
 Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37,42-29/Lk 8:4-15
 Next Sunday: Am 8:4-7/1 Tm 2:1-8/Lk 16:1-13

Lector Formation

The last Prayer & Formation Session for all Lectors will be on September 16 at 7:00pm in room 204. Please plan to attend so we can pray together and continue to explore this ministry. It is expected that all ministers will attend. Contact Jay Specca at ext. 114 with any questions and to register for the session.

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 re-visit our parish Mission Statement and vision and get news about some coming events.

Mass Intentions: Sept. 12—Sept. 19

Sunday, Sept. 12—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **For the People of the Parish**
 9:30a **Robert Rago** (Dale Ann Williams)
 11:30a **Peggy E. Wolff** (Family)

Monday, Sept. 13—St. John Chrysostom

9:00a **Rita Thomas**
 (members of St. Vincent de Paul)

Tuesday, Sept. 14—Exaltation of the Holy Cross

6:30a **Marie Willard** (A Friend)
 8:30a **Jean Conwell** (The Lentz Family)

Wednesday, Sept. 15—Our Lady of Sorrows

6:30a **Robert Schiavoni** (Virginia Cawley)
 8:30a **Danko & Joswiak Families**
 (Mary Beth Bokelberg)

Thursday, Sept. 16—St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian

6:30a **Lucille Oberle** (Barbara Watt)
 8:30a **Lillian Cotugno** (Cotugno Family)

Friday, Sept. 17—Weekday

8:30a **Peggy Wolff** (Ferraco Family)

Saturday, Sept. 18—Weekday

8:30a **Helen Selasky** (Harry & Family)
 5:00p **Chester Grego** (Wife, Erma Grego)

Sunday, Sept. 19—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:45a **Peggy Wolff** (Larry & Layne Spencer)
 9:30a **For the People of the Parish**
 11:30a **Paul Klempay** (Jo Klempay)

*The Altar Flowers this week are
 in memory of Michael Giglotti, requested
 by the Giglotti Family.*

Serving the Parish Next Weekend September 18—September 19

Sat. 5:00pm— Fr. Merkovsky, Deacon Layton
Lectors: Bonadio, Norton **Greeters:** Grego, McCloskey
EMHC: Baumgartner, Klinar, Mertens, Specca, Milavec, Norton,
 Glod, Sarra, Bonadio **Servers:** Curran, Nobers, J, J & N Bianco

7:45am— Fr. Esposito
Lectors: Wanninger, Gordon **Greeters:** R & J Jackson
EMHC: McGinnis, Fagioletti, Petricca, Walnoha, Prado, Joseph,
 Wanninger **Servers:** J, M, A & B Lyle

9:30am— Fr. Esposito, Deacon Peck
Lectors: McKenzie, Wells **Greeters:** Becker, Stewart **EMHC:**
 Gaudy, L & A Kelly, Capozza, Orient, Schultz, Stein, Serrino,
 Torres **Servers:** Wisniewski, Severa, Pampena, A & D Wells

11:30am— Fr. Merkovsky, Deacon Peck
Lectors: Zuk, Gehrlein **Greeters:** Ragan **EMHC:** Herald,
 Baits, Hayward, Huffner, P, L & K Newmaster, Oldaker, Boyd
Servers: Rauscher, Graves, Luzier

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



Faith Formation Registration

Registration for fall sessions is underway. Registration forms are available in the Faith Formation office or on line at the parish website. Families are reminded again that due to the size of our programs, class requests are not able to be honored. **Registrations will not be accepted on the first day of classes.**

Protecting God's Children

**Part of maintaining
a Safe Environment -
Schedule for area workshops**

A training session for the diocesan required workshop, "Protecting God's Children," will be held here on September 18, from 9:30am until 12:30pm in rooms 204/206. Please call Colette in Faith Formation at 724-941-9587 to register. Other local parishes that are offering the workshop include: Immaculate Conception, Washington; September 15, 9:30am and September 23, 6:30pm; St. Louise de Marillac, September 16, 9:30am and 6:30pm. For a complete listing of parishes that present this training go to the diocesan website at www.diopitt.org and check under the "Current Issues" at the bottom of the home page.

Adult Choir

Members Welcome!

The Adult Choir rehearses most Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the Choir Room in the church. Rehearsals resumed last Thursday. The Choir begins their ministry singing today at the 9:30 Mass. New members are always needed and welcomed! Make a joyful noise to the Lord, and call Greg Fincham at 724-941-9406, Ext. 108, or email him at gfincham@stbenedicttheabbot.org to learn more about this ministry.

Young Adult Choir

Is there any interest in having a choir of young adults (middle and high school age) who sing at least monthly at the 11:30am Mass? In the past, we have incorporated a small "band" and will certainly continue to use the talents of these loyal teens, but it would be especially nice to utilize the vocal talents of our young adults in the form of a choir as well. Please let us know if you are interested in this endeavor! Contact Greg Fincham by telephone at 724-941-9406, Ext. 108; or by email at gfincham@stbenedicttheabbot.org.

Catholic Scripture Study: *The Acts of the Apostles*

Please join us! Catholic Scripture Study begins September 28 from 9:15am until 11:15am and will meet weekly for 28 weeks. This is the birth of the Church—the completion of the story of Jesus as manifested in the life of the early Church— Christ's Mystical Body on earth. The book includes Jesus' Ascension, Pentecost, replacing Judas, Peter's primacy, Saul the persecutor and his conversion, and more. No prior knowledge of the bible is required; we invite and encourage all levels of knowledge! Please call or email Tara Curry to register at 724-942-7539 or tgcurry@gmail.com. A children's program will be available for ages birth to 6 years.

Evening Catholic Scripture Study: *Gospel of John*

John is known as "the apostle whom Jesus loved" (John 20:2), and one of the three considered to be in the "Inner Circle" of Jesus' friends, along with Peter and James. His tenacity showed as John was the only apostle who was there at the foot of the cross when our Lord was crucified. Through the exegesis of Scott Hahn and Mark Shea, you will be led through the multilayered writings of John and discover much more than you probably ever realized about this Gospel. Classes are on Monday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:30pm beginning October 4. The cost of the class is just \$55 for 30 weeks. Please contact Ed Corbett if you have any questions or wish to enroll at 412-302-1659 or ecorbett@verizon.net.



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

Is it a sin to go to church on Saturday (or on a weekday) instead of Sunday because of a prior engagement? I know Sunday is the holy sabbath and that day is to be devoted to God and that it has been a tradition for a long time. But I personally think that what truly matters is that we all should have time for God, and go to church once a week. Also I always thought we were worshiping God and Jesus, not a day (Sunday). I'm not sure if it is a sin, or wrong to think this, but it's what I think about and I'm not gonna lie about it.

Lesson of the Week

While traveling when a Holy Day of Obligation fell on a week day, I called the Church in the area to find their Mass schedule. The individual responded their Bishop celebrated the Holy Day on Sunday and that they could tell I was from the North. What is our obligation at this point?

The Code of Canon Law lists the special feasts that should be marked with great solemnity throughout the Church Year. The scheduling of "holy days" are then left to the discretion of the local bishops' conferences to be set as "days of precept" which means obligation to participate at Mass. Here, in the USA, the regional conferences determine this. So, my guess is that the person who asked this question was away in May when we marked the Ascension of the Lord, forty days after Easter Sunday. All the regional conferences in the States, except the ones that are geographically in the Northeast (Boston, Hartford, New York, Philadelphia, etc.) made the decision some years ago to move this feast from Thursday to the Sunday after. So, for example, if you were in Dallas when the Ascension came around, you would not have been obliged to participate at Mass on that Thursday since it was celebrated on the following Sunday. In the instance of the situation asked above, the bishop, along with his brother bishops in that particular area, made the decision to transfer the feast.

While this may be confusing to some, it is similar to what we find here when certain holydays fall on a Saturday or a Monday. Because the weekly day of obligation, Sunday, is close, our local bishops made the decision some years ago that they would remove the obligation from those days...except for two of them, Christmas and the Immaculate Conception. So, for example, this year, November 1, All Saints, falls on a Monday. The obligation to attend Mass is not attached. Christmas is on a Saturday. The obligation remains for that day.

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 on 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.

Ben's Men Meeting Tomorrow

The first meeting of the new season is tomorrow, September 13. The evening will begin with the Rosary at 6:15pm followed by the social and dinner. Fr. Sam, Jay and Colette Specca will be speaking about "Here Comes Everybody—A Brief Look at Whole Community Catechesis," followed by the business meeting. All men in the parish are welcome to attend! Call Jack McGinnis at 724-941-4213 for dinner reservations.

WOSB Meeting Malone's Flowers

Ever notice the unique flower arrangements in our church? The altar always looks so festive during special occasions. Stop by the kick-off meeting for the *Women of St. Benedict* and meet the folks who make this happen, local florist Malone's Flower Shop in Canonsburg. Staff from Malone's will help usher in the Fall with some beautiful floral demonstrations centered around the theme "Flowers and Faith." Please join us in **O'Brien Hall on September 23 at 9:30am**. Refreshments will be served by our welcoming hostesses!



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 many 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 now 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.

Join Cub Scout Pack 1313

All boys in grades 1 through 5 are welcome to join Pack 1313 at St. Benedict on September 14 in O'Brien Hall from 6:30 until 8:00pm. Our Cub Scout troop here is all about fun, family, making friends, and learning to grow and develop into responsible young men. If you or your son would like to learn more, please stop in during sign-up for more information. If you cannot make the sign-up night, you are welcome to join any time during the year. Please contact Steve Ridge at 724-941-9816.

Fall Bulb Sale

The final day for the *St. Benedict Fall Bulb Sale* is today. Bulbs will be distributed in mid-October. Color photos and a printable order form can be found on the parish website. Proceeds from the sale benefit renovation of the church grounds.

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.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, September 12

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

11:30a	Rite of Continuing Conversion for 2010 Confirmation Class	(Church & OBH)
1:00p	Abbey Players	(213)
4:00p	Quick Journey Through Bible Mtg	(210)

Monday, September 13

8:30a	Special Needs Children	(210)
10:00a	WOSB Yoga	(PBAC)
10:00a	Catechist Meeting	(204)
6:15p	Ben's Men Rosary	(206)
6:30p	Ben's Men Meeting	(OBH)
6:30p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	Centering Prayer	(Chapel)

Tuesday, September 14

8:30p	Special Needs Children	(210)
6:30p	Cub Scout Sign-up	(OBH)
7:00p	Catechist Meeting	(204)
7:00p	Pastoral Council	(210)
7:00p	Contemporary Choir	(Choir)

Wednesday, September 15

12:00p	AA	(208)
6:30p	Confessions	(Church)
7:45p	Tae Kwon Do	(OBH)

Thursday, September 16

9:00a	WOSB Board Meeting	(208)
12:00p	NA	(206)
6:00p	Aerobics	(PBAC)
7:00p	50th Anniversary Committee	(204/206)
7:30p	Boy Scout Troop 1313	(PBAC)
7:30p	Adult Choir	(Choir)

Saturday, September 18

7:30a	CMF	(206)
9:00a	Aerobics	(PBAC)
9:30a	Protecting God's Children	(204/206)
11:00a	Confessions	(Church)

Sunday, September 19

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

9:00a	Faith Formation Session	
9:00a	Parents "Meet and Greet"	(PBAC)
11:00a	Faith Formation Session	
11:00a	Parents "Meet and Greet"	(PBAC)

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