

SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS TODAY

Today begins a new Liturgical Year as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent as a time for the preparation of the coming of the Christ Child. It is a liturgical season of “joyful expectation” for all who await the Savior of the world to be born in the humble surroundings of Bethlehem. We hope that all parishioners will not get caught up in the mad rush of the Christmas frenzy, but spend quality moments during this reflective season to prepare their hearts and their homes for the coming of the Christ Child whose birth marks the end of the season.

ADVENT HOME PACKET

Every “registered” home was sent our quarterly packet with a multiple of “home” experiences. When we come to the very important events of the Advent season, which leads to the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, there are a multitude of celebrations being held at the church. The times for these services have all been included in the packet. We invite each family to post that schedule somewhere in a prominent place so that you might have the dates and times at your fingertips. The packet also includes this edition of “*The Bells of St. Mary*” and a meditation schedule of scripture texts that can be used each day and some interesting information concerning our Capital Campaign. Our Parish Staff put this packet together in an attempt to emphasize the importance of the HOME as the center of spiritual growth for the family.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

With the arrival of your Advent Home Packet, you will notice the special Reconciliation schedule that has been established for the season. The first of these services will take place this Saturday, December 3rd, beginning at 10:30 a.m. as we invite those celebrating their FIRST Reconciliation to join us. Members of their families and other parishioners in general are welcome to come to receive the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus. Because of the importance of this event, we have invited other priests to assist in the administering of the sacrament. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

Our Parish Pastoral Council celebrates its FIFTH ANNIVERSARY as we come to this First Sunday of Advent. What a wonderful tradition of LAY LEADERSHIP has been offered by its members over the past five years. This leadership has impacted on each and every segment of our parish so that all of us might develop our spirituality in light of the four pillars of our Vision Statement. The Council is constantly looking for input from the members of the Parish Family so that they might meet the real needs of all parishioners. We welcome these 14 members of the Pastoral Council to one of today’s liturgies as they begin another year of LAY LEADERSHIP: Ron Belski, Gina Brown, Tricia Coyle, Jack DeAngelis, Ruth Dollin, Laurie Exler, Sue Ferguson, Dona Hotopp, Carl Lichvarcik, Joyce Lunz, Chuck Martier, Paul Mitsch, Steve Shadle, and Debbie Schwoegl. We ask all parishioners to keep the Council members in your prayers!

“CONGRATULATIONS, FATHER PHILIP”

Might you have noticed that our own Father Philip Farrell has been named the DEAN of all of Lawrence County? Not only is he the pastor of St. Camillus Parish Family; but also as dean, responsible for overseeing all the parishes of the deanery. Meanwhile, at the other end of the Diocese our own Father Paul Grunebach serves as the DEAN of Greene County and pastor of St. Oliver Plunkett. What a credit to **our** parishioners for helping to form these two fine priests to achieve such an honor!

“CATCH THE VIBE”

VITALITY IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE

The fourteen members of the Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) are continuing a process of personally contacting parishioners who might contribute a significant sum to our goal. A report has been sent to every home in the Advent Packet. This report includes some “Profiles of Generosity” to help all of us see our individual place in this campaign. The CCC has put together a very professional and organized plan for us to reach our goal of \$2,500,000. We hope all those who are contacted will be generous in their commitment to this project which, when completed, will be a benefit to our entire parish life.

Masses for the Week

Sunday, November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Rose Fischer (Daughters)
- 6:00 pm Leonard Wilczynski (Richey)
- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 9:00 a.m. Theresa & Nicholas Moyeroff (Grandaughter & Family)
- 11:00 a.m. John, Barbara, & William Lorkovic (Dick & Carrie Druzak)

Monday, November 28

- 7:00 a.m. Gerard & Loretta Walter 65th Wedding Anniv.
- 10:00 a.m. Rita & Jim Finn 35th Wedding Anniversary

Tuesday, November 29

- 7:00 a.m. Betty Schleicher (Bob & Marie Doerge & Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Corrado Roberti (Madge Boyer)

Wednesday, November 30 - St. Andrew

- 7:00 a.m. Bill Mammay (Don & Joan Finke)
- 10:00 a.m. Frank Kosmack (Wife & Family)

Thursday, December 1

- 7:00 a.m. Floyd Schram (Ralph & Therese)
- 10:00 a.m. Special Intention (Marie)

Friday, December 2

- 7:00 a.m. R. Harry Marshall (Watkins Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Marie Frankowski (Richey)

Saturday, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier

- 8:00 a.m. Joseph Wagner (Family)
- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 6:00 p.m. Mary Ann Beitler (Family)

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Reges Hannan (Jim & Bee Falconio)
- 9:00 a.m. William & Sarah Meyers (Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Phillip & Rosa Ionadi (Marco Imbarlina)

A VOCATION VIEW

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. Are you open to the surprising ways God comes to you? Be attentive to God's call in the ordinary.

(Mark 13: 33-37)

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED FOR

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY: There is a sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for Volunteers for the Christmas and New Year's Day Masses: We need Altar Servers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

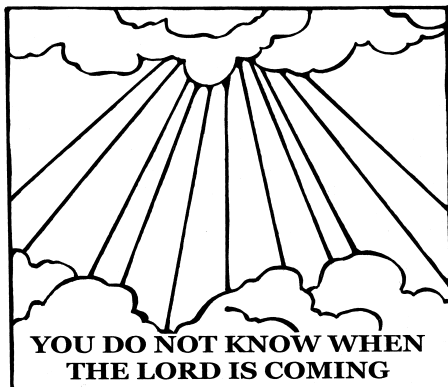
BANNS OF MARRIAGE

II. Susan Caro - Christopher Stevens (St. Mary's)

Sick Relatives & Friends

Minnie Acri, Anna Marie Belch, Sandy Bober, Marianne Boyd, Cory Bendick, Charlotte Bright, David Brown, Larry Burke, Joyce Caricato, Erin Claus, Virginia Dauer, Larry Diana, Mary Evankovich, Seth Fabry, Frank Fruciano, Dave Fry, Loretta Gaydosh, Joe George, Finisia Golden, Ava Hutchenson, Janice, Jason, Albee Kandrack, Helen Keirn, Sandy Koch, Louis Kovach, Michelle Midgley, Daryll Miersch, Fran Migliore, Helen Mikszan, Rege & Kitty Murphy, Al Newell, Ian O'Malley, Bonita Perri, Anthony Pugliese, Sr., Courtney Ryce, Carl Schulze, David Sell, Virginia Selleck, Anthony Spinola, Lisa Stalnaker, Joshua Stanek, Rita Stedeford, Loretta Steinacher, Ursula Steinacher, Mark Thimons, Geoffrey Thor, Bill Vistein, Stanley Zukiewicz

DUE TO THE PRINTING SCHEDULE OF THE BULLETIN, THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 & 27, 2005 WILL BE IN THE BULLETIN OF DECEMBER 4TH. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE.



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DAILY



READINGS

- Nov. 28: Is 2: 105; Mt 8: 5-11
- Nov. 29: Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24
- Nov. 30: Rom 10: 9-18; Mt 4: 18-22
- Dec. 1: Is 26: 1-6; Mt 7: 21, 24-27
- Dec. 2: Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9: 27-31
- Dec. 3: Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9: 35 —
10: 1, 5a, 6-8
- Dec. 4: Is 40: 1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3: 8-14;
Mk 1: 1-8

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

R.C.I.A. Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic Church? Would you like to develop your faith? Do you have any questions that need answered? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. We are NOT meeting this weekend because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, but we will meet next Sunday in the Rectory following the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy. The topic for next week is: **The Sacraments: An Overview**; The topic for December 11 will be: **Who Is Jesus?** If interested, please join us. Or if you have questions, please call Father Ed or Jim Finn at (412) 486-4100.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS: For a break from the hectic preparations of the season, why not consider coming to this year's Festival of Lessons and Carols. This annual celebration of the music of the Advent and Christmas Season will be held in Church on Sunday, December 11th, at 7 p.m. The Christmas story is told through music and scripture with appearances by our Adult, Children's, Contemporary, Handbell and Brass Choirs. This is the sixteenth annual lessons and carols celebration, so join us as we, in song and word, prepare for the coming of Jesus.

GETTING ENGAGED? This is the time of the year when many of our young people make a lifetime commitment to each other for the sacrament of Matrimony. We remind all of those persons getting engaged that they must give at least a 6 month notice to the Parish Family before a date can be set for their wedding in the church. Also, there is a preparation program required by the Diocese of Pittsburgh for all couples planning such a marriage. We would ask couples to contact one of the priests in the parish to set up this initial meeting to determine the procedures for the wedding. We are reminded that Saturday weddings take place at 12:00 noon or 2:00 p.m. These dates and times are given on a first come, first served basis. The earlier you contact the priest, the more certitude you will have to get the date and time you wish, which saves much frustration in trying to coordinate all the features of a wedding.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for First Advent Week

This Sunday Gospel from Mark 13:33-37 indicates that as Christians, we each have individual work to do. What are some examples of the work YOU and your peers are to do? What are some things that YOU will do this Advent season to "stay on watch" for our Lord Jesus?

Monday Faith Formation will not meet in classes this week, Nov. 28. Do the Gospel Weekly and workbook lessons at home; a great way to begin the ADVENT season as a family sharing ideas of how YOU can give the gift of yourself.

First Reconciliation -Welcome to Grade 2 children coming to experience Jesus' healing in the Sacrament THIS Saturday, Dec. 3, 10:30 AM or Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 PM or Monday, Dec. 19, 6:30 PM. Parents/guardians and other family members welcomed to participate in the time for "confession" as we **Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Confirmation Candidates Gathering Saturday, December 3. Each cluster group plan to bring items to share a meal with their group. Foods are to be brought to Marian Hall by 5:50 PM. ALL candidates, a parent or sponsor participate in our Liturgy at 6:00 PM followed by the meal then a service rally project to brighten our Dec. 24.

FAMILY TREE -How many generations of YOUR "tree" do you know or know about? Visit our Faith Formation hall (beside our office) to see the Family Tree of Jesus. FREE symbols with bible references available to create your own JESSE Tree at home. (Jesse was the father of King David, ancestor of Jesus)

THE WORD AMONG US, special Advent edition available on the pamphlet rack at the rear of our church. NEW segment with daily Mass prayers and an invitation to SEE HIS "GLORY".

YOUTH MINISTRY

T-ROC (TOTALLY RELY ON CHRIST) SESSION AT THE SERVICE RALLY

We'll meet with our Eighth Grade Confirmation Candidates as they experience our AWESOME High School T-ROC on Saturday, December 3rd at the Service Rally! Lots of Food, Fellowship, and Fun! We'll also take part in the Luminaria Service Project. Get in on the experience – beginning with the 6PM Liturgy!

OUR VISIT TO THE CRECHE AND PPG ICESKATING

Be a part of the Pittsburgh Crowd who will experience the life-sized Nativity at the USS Steel Plaza. Then, hear your favorite Christmas Carols as we skate around the beautiful Christmas Tree at PPG Center on Sunday, December 4th. Check the web page, the phone line and next week's bulletin for final details.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

<u>Tues. Nov. 29</u>	Play Practice in Marian Hall
<u>Wed. Nov. 30</u>	Parent Meeting for Appalachia 7 p.m. in the School Library
<u>Thurs. Dec. 1</u>	Play Practice in School Library
<u>Sat. Dec. 3</u>	T-ROC at Service Rally starts at 6PM Liturgy
<u>Sat. Dec. 4</u>	Visit to Creche and PPG Ice Skating- 4:30PM

LIGHT THE WAY FOR JESUS

Please consider helping to beautify our sacred grounds in St. Mary's second annual Christmas Eve Luminaria project.

IDEAL SERVICE PROJECT FOR BOTH SECOND AND EIGHTH GRADE CLUSTER GROUPS.

We are still in need of approximately 200 clean, clear, small glass jars to place candles on our property before all Christmas Eve liturgies. **Don't throw away those pickle, olive, or gravy jars this Thanksgiving!** A specially marked box has been placed in the CYM lobby.

Contact Barb Belski or Lisa Rulis Ross at 412-492-9344 to register for any of the above events or email us at cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org

Check out our website! www.stmaryglenshaw.org/cym

ST. MARY SCHOOL

\$24,000 SCHOOL GRANT: We just received from the Diocese a \$24,000 grant for St. Mary Catholic Grade School. The Diocese receives this money from all those parishes that do NOT have a catholic grade school. Each non-school parish must give 10% of its income to help those parishes with schools. That money is apportioned to the school according to the number of students in the school who are from parishes that do NOT have a school. We remind our parishioners to encourage their friends from other parishes that do not have a parochial school, like St. Catherine, St. Victor, St. Richard, etc., to educate their children in our school. The more of these students that we are able to serve, the larger the grant we will receive from the Diocese; and thereby keep the assessment costs lower for the Parish Family.

SCHOOL TUITION DUE: Families with children in our parochial school are reminded that the final payment for this year's tuition is now due. One of the significant ways in which we can keep our tuition increase at a minimum is for each family to pay its tuition bill on time. We hope that all families will take heed to make sure that such is done before the end of the month. Those with delinquent tuition will be summoned to discuss their particular situations.



Our Parish Sharing Tree will be located in the entrance to the Church. There are ornaments "ornaments" with gift requests from St. Vincent dePaul, Little Sisters of the Poor, Regency Nursing Center, Michael's Place, Intersection and Providence Center. These requests touch needy persons from the very young to the elderly. Please take an ornament and bring your gift with the tag firmly attached back to Church on December 3-4, or 10-11. We need all of the gifts before December 11 in order to meet the distribution dates for the various agencies. Thank you for helping those who are dependent on your generosity at Christmas. Any questions? Please call Mary Kay Collins at (412) 367-3176.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

JOHN CRIES OUT "PREPARE the Way of the Lord"...our Father John will lead us in a way to "prepare" by leading an ADVENTure with the PROPHETS of Advent on Thursdays, Dec. 1 and Dec.15, 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Call 412-486-5521 NOW to register, then come to PROFIT from the experience.

Homeless and Out-in-the-Cold is the reality of many people in our own city and country. Each year on **DECEMBER 7** a candlelight vigil is held by the Covenant House community to pray for the homeless. After our 4:00 PM liturgy this Wednesday we welcome everyone to take a candle and join in the pedestrian plaza for a short time of focus and prayer for the homeless.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME: is a unique ministry for parents with children birth to age five and their older siblings. Each week the Core Team places a **Family Perspective** thought in the bulletin written by Bud Ozar. **We rush through our busy day, distracted by all we must do and at night we relax in the distraction of TV. Today's gospel tells us to "Be watchful and alert" because distractions prevent us from discovering the Lord's loving presence rushing through our busy day with us. Expect to find the Lord and you will.**

SING! SING! SING! Join the let the Little Children Come To Me ministry on Friday, December 2, for Christmas Carols and Presents with the folks at Rebecca Residence. All voices are welcome for this evening of fun and song...so Dads and older siblings please come and share the spirit of Advent and Christmas with our friends at Rebecca Residence on Cedar Ridge Road. Please contact Anne Holtz at (412) 487-1616 to let us know if you are interested. Also offered will be a music CD to practice with your little one at home!

COLLECTION DEADLINE: We will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the Women's Shelter **until Sat. Dec. 3rd.** There is a box in the Cry Room of the Church for your contributions. The Let the Little Children Come To Me Ministry thanks you for your support of this worthwhile service project!

ATTENTION DADS! KEEP OPEN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3RD: All men are invited to join men from all over the Diocese on Saturday, December 3rd, at St. Paul Seminary for an Advent Holy Hour from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. Cars will leave from our parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Call Jim Finn at (412) 486-4100 to make a reservation. There will be No Charge. Sponsored by the Catholic Men's Fellowship of Pittsburgh.

NEW INTERNET RESOURCE FOR OUR PARISH
We now have a valuable resource for our Spiritual growth and parish community development. We have a license for the internet publication **Parish Life, a resource for building the Body of Christ.** Our license allows all parishioners to receive this monthly internet publication with a one-time registration using our parish code. Our code is **420342.** Go to **www.celebrationeseries.org** and click the Parishioner - Participant E-Mail Registration button to register our code to receive the monthly publication. Once you have registered, you will be notified each month when the publication is available. No passwords are necessary. (Please refrain from distributing the code to persons who are not members of our parish family.) If you have questions or problems with registration, the Web site **www.celebrationeseries.org** will direct you. This publication will be most helpful to our worship commission and liturgical ministers!

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS! Have you been away from the Catholic Church? Do you feel alienated or hurt by the Church? Are you confused by changes or teachings in the Church? Is a Marriage situation preventing you from receiving Holy Communion? Have you tried another Church, but miss your own? Our parish Family misses you and wants you back! Call one of our Priests or Jim Finn, Pastoral Associate to find out how you can reconnect! (412) 486-4100. No cost. No pressure. No reservations...just make a phone call!

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” to each and every one of you! Seems strange, does it not, to wish “happy new year” on November 27th? Well, there is one very important word omitted in this expression: it should read “Happy New Year LITURGICALLY!” Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new year on the calendar of the Church. Today begins another liturgical year when we will relive the mystery of the Lord Jesus over the next 52 weeks. This mystery will become the center of our lives together as we look forward to another year of spiritual development that will bring each of us closer to the presence of our God.

The ADVENT Season is four Sundays in length. Sometimes we have a tendency to say “four weeks” long, but the fourth week is not always complete. As a matter of fact, this year of 2005, since Christmas is on a Sunday, the Advent Season is EXACTLY four weeks in length. Yet we must keep in mind that the FOUR of the Advent Season really relates to the number of “Sundays” in the season, and not to the number of weeks.

It is during the days of this season, irrespective of its length, that we are given time to get ourselves ready for the coming of the Christmas event with the birth of the Christ Child in our midst. Advent is a season of PROMISE! It is a time when we should prepare ourselves for the arrival of our Savior into our hearts. The promise of our God will be fulfilled in a way that goes way beyond our human expectation as the divine becomes human in the earthly person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Many of us get entangled in the commercial advertising of the world around us and begin to lose sight of the true meaning of the event. Advent gives us an opportunity to set aside such commercialism and place ourselves in the presence of the divine. However, this does not become easy. It is a great challenge to keep ourselves focused on the coming of the Christ Child in the wondrous event of Christmas with all that is swirling in the world around us. Be assured that your intentions are in my prayers, and in those of the entire Parish Staff. We will continue to remember how significant you are to the life of this Parish Family and we will hope that the best of this Advent season will allow your new year to be a time of spiritual wonder and growth!

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