

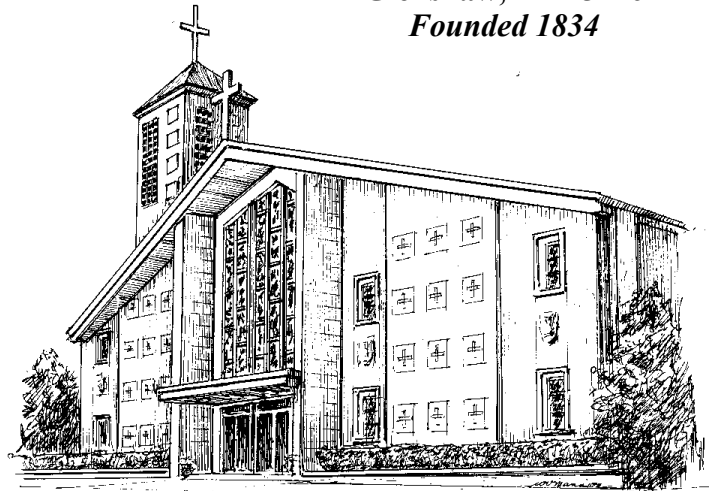
# PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 8, 2012

2510 Middle Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116  
Founded 1834

## PARISH STAFF

Mr. Francis Dadowski, Deacon  
Father Jay Donahue, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. James Finn, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Robert Kardasz, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Father John Marcucci, Pastor  
Ms. Antoinette Pilarski, Principal  
Father William Rutledge, Retired in Residence  
Sr. Lois Spinnenweber, CDP, Apostolate Minister  
Miss Rose Stegman, Dir. of Faith Formation



Web Site: [stmaryglenshaw.org](http://stmaryglenshaw.org)

E-Mail: [rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org)

Parish Family Administration Office: 412-486-4100

Religious Formation Office - 412-486-5521

Youth Ministry Office - 412-486-4100

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

Fax: 412-486-4150



## SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## DAILY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.  
Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

## RECONCILIATION

Saturday at 11:00 a.m. until final penitent is finished

## BAPTISM

On Sunday twice a month after parental interview

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Twice a year in a communal celebration  
Individually upon request

## MATRIMONY

Saturday weddings at 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.  
Notification at least 6 months in advance

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

Monday at 12:00 noon

## **SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY**

### **“MANIFESTATION OF THE CHRIST”**

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord, bringing a high point to the Christmas season that began on December 25<sup>th</sup> with the celebration of the Nativity of the Child Jesus. Tomorrow, Monday, we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the final event in the Christmas cycle. Next Sunday we shall return to the green vestments of Ordinary Time and look forward to the great cycle of Easter, which begins this year on February 22<sup>nd</sup> with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Today's Solemnity of the Epiphany speaks to us of the “manifestation” of the Child Jesus as God's presence living among us. The Magi, unnumbered in the gospel, are representatives of our “gentile-world” in that the Lord Jesus has brought salvation to all people. Today's celebration brings us to the realization that we have been “gifted” by our heavenly Father in sharing the life of his Son and our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

### **PARISH STAFF GRATITUDE**

The Parish Staff wishes to thank those who brought monetary, culinary and visionary gifts to enhance our celebration of this holy season. It would be impossible for us to express the appreciation of our hearts in these few words, but please know that your intentions will be remembered by each of us every time we come to the Altar of the Lord. The tremendous outpouring of generosity shown by so many parishioners really humbles all of us!

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2011**

The financial statements for 2011 will be sent to all those envelope holders in our Parish Family. We remind those receiving their statement that the “Pledge Campaign” amount on this statement is ONLY for 2011. Many parishioners gave some of their contribution in previous years, and that amount would have been recorded on those statements. Also, the 2011 statement will include contributions made last Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

**BINGO – THIS FRIDAY  
MARIAN HALL – JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
GAMES BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC DAY: MONDAY**

Take advantage of the opportunity to spend some quality time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy this **Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** and remain on the altar until 7:00 p.m. Monday evening when we repose the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction. Spending time before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and devotion is spending time before the living God, present in the Eucharist. There is a signup sheet in the foyer of the church to schedule a time for personal prayer. We hope that all parishioners will take advantage of this Parish Family Eucharistic Day as a spiritually enriching way of beginning this new year of 2012!

### **2012 PRAYER LIST OF THE SICK**

We remind all those persons who were listed on our Prayer List that appears each month in the bulletin that the names of 2011 are not automatically placed on the list for 2012. Those who are still homebound, ill or in need of our prayers are asked to simply call the rectory during the regular office hours and place the your name or the name of your loved one on our 2012 listing. We invite all parishioners to remember in prayer all those who will be added to this newly formed Prayer List.

### **CATHOLICS COMING HOME**

Members of the “Catholics Coming Home” ministry will meet this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory with an open invitation to all parishioners to offer ideas and suggestions to reach out to those who are distant from the Church. Offer to those persons a green card found at the doors of the church!

### **NEXT WEEK: SECOND COLLECTION**

We remind everyone of the importance of the second collection next week entitled “St. Anthony School and Sensory Handicapped Children.” This collection not only helps these needy children, but the same amount is returned to our Parish Family.

### **CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION**

We thank those who gave in the Christmas Flower collection as we remember their loved ones in our daily prayers. We remind all that this collection not only helps to supply the decorations for the Christmas season, but is used to offset some of the expenses for decorating the church during the year.



## LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, January 8, 2012 - The Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 p.m. Steve Barkovich - Jack & Lorraine Cross  
 6:00 p.m. Frances Yacavino - The Yacavino Family  
 7:30 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family  
 9:00 a.m. Vincenza Derenzo - Brother, Marco Imbarlina  
 11:00 a.m. Gerard Walters - Family

### Monday, January 9, 2012 - The Baptism of the Lord

7:00 a.m. John & Barbara Lorkovic - Dick & Carrie  
 10:00 a.m. In Honor of Ed & Mary Ann Coholich - Paul & Ginny Penezic

6:00 p.m. Recitation of the Rosary  
 7:00 p.m. Benediction

### Tuesday, January 10, 2012 - First Weekday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. Mary Stauffer - Thessalonica G.I.F.T. Coordinators  
 10:00 a.m. Catherine O'Leary - Bonnie

### Wednesday, January 11, 2012 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. Concetta Febraro - Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Distilo  
 10:00 a.m. John Caldone, Sr. - Dom & Ruth Caldone

### Thursday, January 12, 2012 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

7:00 a.m. Toy (Tug) Autry - The Mitsch Family  
 10:00 a.m. Dorothy Nigro - Dr. Anthony Bruno

### Friday, January 13, 2012 - St. Hilary

7:00 a.m. Maria Concetta Scolieri, Distilo - Mrs. Grace Distilo  
 10:00 a.m. Anthony Perretta - St. Mary School Community

### Saturday, January 14, 2012 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Special Intention - Bill & Pat Best  
 4:00 p.m. Irene Sins - Rich & Jan Raible  
 6:00 p.m. John Genco - St. Mary School Community

### Sunday, January 15, 2012 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. James B. Fath - Terry & Jan Molnar  
 9:00 a.m. Richard Cullinan, Jr. - The Temporalities Committee  
 11:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

## Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Marian Hall) **Hospitality** after all Liturgies  
*January 8* (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.  
 (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgies of the Word for Children
- Monday** (School) 4:30PM - CCD Classes  
*January 9* (School) 6:30PM - CCD Classes  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Meeting
- Tuesday** (CCD Office) 1:00PM - Adult Education  
*January 10* (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor Practice  
 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo  
*January 11* (Church) 2:45PM - Children Choir Practice  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home  
 (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday** (Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Squires Meeting  
*January 12* (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Mtg.
- Friday** (School) 10:00AM - School Liturgy  
*January 13* (School) 11:45AM - Early Admissions/Faculty Mtg.  
 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - **Super BINGO**
- Saturday** (School) 10:00AM - CCD Classes  
*January 14* (Marian Hall) 12:00PM - Catechetical Appreciation Luncheon
- Sunday** (Church) 9:00AM - Family Program  
*January 15* (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.

**"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given."**

This is My Beloved Son

-St. Francis of Assisi



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 8, 2012

All kings shall pay him homage,  
 All nations shall serve him.



### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 25, 2011	Envelopes	Contributions
Christmas	783	\$39,330.00
January 1, 2012	Envelopes	Contributions
Solemnity of Mary	322	\$6,348.25

## DAILY READINGS



- January 9: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11; Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11
- January 10: 1 Sm 1:9-20 or 1 Sm 1:1-8 and 1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28 or Mk 1:14-20 and Mk 1:21-28
- January 11: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39
- January 12: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45
- January 13: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12
- January 14: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Mk 2:13-17
- January 15: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE

### NATIONAL VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

Tomorrow we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which begins *National Vocation Awareness Week*, a special time in which the Church prays for the renewal and strengthening of vocations of dedicated people as married and single people, men to serve as priests, deacons, brothers, and women as religious sisters. To find out more about a church vocation, call one of our priests or our pastoral associate, Jim Finn at 412.486.4100, Ext. 203. All are invited to join the school community on Friday, January 13 at the 10:00am Mass. Father Jay will preside and share his vocation story.

### *Home with the Lord*

Remember Lord and welcome into your Kingdom those who have died and have gone before us marked in the sign of faith, especially **Caroline Druzak**. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

### A VOCATION VIEW

The Magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts do you have to give? Is God calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister? (Matt. 2:1-12)

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is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. We meet in the rectory dining room following the 9:00am Mass. All are welcome.

Today's topic is Who is Jesus? Next week we will discuss the Parables/Miracles of Jesus. To find out more, call Jim Finn at the rectory (412) 486-4100.

### ATTENTION MEN AND YOUNG MEN

- ◆ You are invited to join the men who come to the 8:00am Mass on the second Saturday of the month and stay for coffee and conversation. We will meet on this coming Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. To find out more call Carl Lichvarchik at 412.805.5755. All are welcome!
- ◆ **ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT**  
All men and young men of our parish are invited to keep open the weekend of February 17-18-19 and join men from all over the diocese for a weekend retreat at St. Paul's Retreat Center in nearby South Side. Call Charles Fischer 412.487.4667 to find out more!
- ◆ **GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN-SAVE THE DATE**  
All men and young men of our parish family are invited to join others from all over the diocese on the Saturday after Easter, April 14, 2012 at the A. J. Palumbo Center. We could use a few good men to serve as Parish Conference Leaders. Call Jim Finn, 412.486.4100 to find out what that entails.



## RELIGIOUS FORMATION

### Faith Sharing for Epiphany

Men who studied and followed the guidance of the stars are the Magi we hear about this week. Traditional names of magi are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. A good custom is to invoke their intercession during this week and sprinkle holy water to bless each room of your home. Post above each door frame a placard or write:

**20+C+M+B+12**

with chalk as a reminder that the magi who visited Jesus will bless your home during 2012.

**Vocation Awareness Week** is also observed this week. As the magi responded to their prompting by the brilliance of the STAR, be grateful for the vocation for which the Lord is gracing you to make God's love visible in our world. *Father-God, thank YOU for loving me and guiding me in the ways of your Son, Jesus our Savior. Amen.*

### Faith Formation Sessions this Week:

**Monday, January 9** – both sessions, Grade 2 child with parent/guardian meet in Marian Hall.

**Parish Eucharistic Day; each class come**

**Let us Adore Him – Christ the Lord !**

4:30 PM Grade 8 meet IN church;

6:30 PM Grade 3 meet IN church till 6:40 PM

**Saturday, January 14** – All meet in Room 23 (there will be a funeral in church.)

### **FIRST EUCHARIST: Grade 2 child with parent/guardian**

#### **GRADE 2 GIFT ASSEMBLY**

Saturday, January 7,  
10:00AM in Church  
OR Sunday, January 8,  
Noon, Providence Hall

#### **GRADE 2 ASSEMBLY**

Monday, January 9  
4:30PM in Marian Hall  
OR Monday, January 9  
6:30PM in Church

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES** as well as parents, guardians, or sponsors are invited to **Grow In Faith Together** as part of our pilgrimage to the **March for Life** to Washington, DC, Monday, January 23, 2012. Required permission forms have been given in all of the class sessions. Call NOW to reserve a seat on the bus.

**Catechist Appreciation Lunch** Saturday, January 14th at Noon in Marian Hall. This celebration is a gesture of our parish **GRATITUDE** for the many hours offered by the catechists and aides who volunteer service in our Faith

### *Epiphany means "manifestation".*

**Tips for Parents to Build Strong Catholic Families**

may be found at [www.faithfirst.com/hogan.html](http://www.faithfirst.com/hogan.html)

**Church History** on DVD lesson and discussion meet Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 PM in our Faith Formation conference room. Newcomers welcome. Be in-formed of the richness of our Church.

## St. Mary's Youth News

### CYM BASKETBALL

Your St. Mary's boys High School team has already doubled the number of wins from last year and is currently fielding two teams! Come out and see the Condors play some hoops. Give Jimmy Kohan a call if you want to help out or attend a game 412-527-9270. Special thanks to our great dedicated men of the Parish like Mike Daley, Phil Fitzgibbons and Jimmy Kohan for making this program a slam dunk!

### CHEERS GROUP

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 8, the day the 3 Kings brought gifts to baby Jesus, we will host a high school student gift exchange in the Jam Center from 6pm to 8pm. We are inviting all High School Students to the *Image is Everything* 2012 Silver Ring Thing tour where we take the chastity challenge this January 13. See [Silverringthing.com](http://Silverringthing.com) and remember to contact Ms. O at 412-487-8594 or [s\\_andra@verizon.com](mailto:s_andra@verizon.com) to reserve a seat.

### University of St Mary's

Paul Mitsch, Katelyn Deet and Fr Jay hosted a brainstorming session with several college students who are alumni of our Project Appalachia. There is a lot of enthusiasm and leadership from our college students, thus we are hosting a January 8<sup>th</sup> Brunchon to talk about the Summer missionary work in Appalachia lead by our College students. If you are interested in Project Appalachia contact Paul Mitsch at the Rectory 412-486-4100 or Katelyn Deet at [deetk@duq.edu](mailto:deetk@duq.edu).

### Need Service Hours or want to talk with a priest?

Contact Fr Jay Donahue at the Rectory 412 486 4100 or by email [mcsean6612@gmail.com](mailto:mcsean6612@gmail.com) or by facebook at John Donahue.

### St. Mary's Youth for Life

Our Youth will be heading to Washington DC for the annual March for Life on January 23, 2011. Please consider making this road trip and experience a mini World Youth Day like event. Remember to return permission slips for the March for Life to Mrs. Miller, Ms. O, or mail it to the rectory.

### SQUIRES

The youth of the Squires are doing great things please contact Ray Newcomer for more details 412 767 4870 or [rjdnew@verizon.net](mailto:rjdnew@verizon.net)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** Project Appalachia lead by St. Mary's University students is hosting a brunchon at St. Mary's hall below the Church at Noon to discuss the details for this Summer's missionary work in Appalachia, W.Va. Anyone interested in this project is invited to attend.

**Sunday Nights** 6:00 – 8:00 Cheers Group in the JAM.

### SAVE THE DATE

**January 13<sup>th</sup>** *Image is Everything* 2012, **Silver Ring Thing** tour, a high-tech, high-energy performance that educates teens about the benefits of remaining abstinent until marriage. Contact Ms. O at 412-487-8594 or [s\\_andra@verizon.net](mailto:s_andra@verizon.net) to reserve a seat!

**January 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup>** The Youth for Life are hosting a *midnight mass for life* at 11:30pm at our Church and then at 12:30am we will road trip to Washington DC for the March for Life. Register with Virginia

## ST. MARY SCHOOL

**SUPER BINGO** - A Super Bingo will take place on Friday, January 13th, in Marian Hall. Advance tickets are \$35 each or can be purchased at the door for \$40 each. Admission includes 12 cards for 30 regular games and 4 specials. There are also two jackpot games at 500 points and another for 1000 points.

Doors open at 5:30 PM; bingo begins at 7:00 PM. The evening also includes raffles, quickies, and instant bingos. All proceeds benefit St. Mary School. Advance tickets may be purchased in the Scrip office, rectory, or by calling Coleen Sarosi at (412) 486-6622. Thank you for your support!

**SCIENCE FAIR** - The Middle School Students are in the throes of preparation for the 2012 St. Mary School Science Fair. The students will be presenting their projects on Thursday, February 2nd.

Judges are needed for this Science Fair. If you are interested in helping, no experience is necessary, just an interest in Science. There will be a judges training meeting on Thursday, February 4th, at 8:30 AM in Marian Hall. The judging will take place from 9 AM – noon. If interested, please contact Rita Turchetta, Middle School Science Teacher, at 724-444-3145 or at [tu-chettar@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:tu-chettar@stmaryglenshaw.org).

**OPEN HOUSE** - Any family who might be interested in receiving a faith-filled, value-centered, quality education for their child is most welcome to come and see our school any Wednesday from January 24th through February 29th between 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM. This will give you the opportunity to see the children and staff during the regular routine of a school day. If this day and these times are not conducive to your schedule, please feel free to call the office and make another arrangement.

We provide a 3 and 4 year-old Preschool Program in addition to our Kindergarten through 8th grades.

To set up an appointment, please call the school office at 412-486-7611. We welcome you and look forward to meeting you and your child.



### Special Days this Week:

#### January 9 - Baptism of the Lord.

Jesus was affirmed by the voice from the heavens, "You are my beloved". As baptized into Jesus, YOU also are a beloved of God.

**January 13 – Saint Hilary of Poitiers** is honored as a Doctor of the Church because of his defense of the doctrine

### PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

A workshop will be held on Saturday, on January 21, 2012 at **Holy Spirit Parish Lyceum** in Millvale beginning at 11:00AM. Please contact the parish office at 412-821-4424 to register.

**Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline: 1.888.808.1235**

## OUR PARISH NEWS

### ST. MARY'S FOR LIFE

We will meet on Thursday, January 12, at 7:00PM on the lower level of the school. All are WELCOME!



### SAVE THE DATE

**Monday, January 23, 2012**  
**RALLY AND MARCH FOR LIFE**  
 Washington, DC

Meet with Senators Toomey and Casey  
 No Charge for St. Mary's Parishioners  
 Bus will leave from St. Mary's after the 7:00AM Mass and return at 10:30PM. For information, call Carol Loiselle at 724.443.7398 or [carold@zoominternet.net](mailto:carold@zoominternet.net) or sign up in the back of church.

### CATHOLIC BUT NOT CONFIRMED?

If you are 18 or older and have not been confirmed and would like to complete your initiation into the Catholic Church, we will be preparing adults to receive this sacrament here at St. Mary's when the Bishop comes on May 8 or at the Cathedral on May 20, 2012. Call Jim Finn, our pastoral associate to find out more at 412.486.4100, Ext. 203.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS and SQUIRES

- All Parishioners are invited to join in the Recitation of the Rosary at 6:00PM on Monday, January 9, 2012, just prior to the closing of Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- The Annual Council-Level Free Throw Competition was held at St. Mary's on Sunday, December 11, 2011. This year's local winners are: Desiree Hermain (10 year old girl); Zane Ingram (10 year old boy); Concetta Panza (11 year old girl); Joe DalDosso (13 year old boy); David Newcomer (14 year old boy).
- The Squires are planning a trip to Harrisburg to see the Governor in May or June. They are planning a trip to Washington DC in September or October to place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Brother Knights are more than welcome to join the Squires on these trips.

**MARKET DAY** has tasty foods for winter meals. Pick up a flier at the Scrip or Faith Formation office, or at the rear exits of church. **NEW patrons** will boost our profit, which helps with improvements of our parish facilities. **January delivery will be Monday, January 23, 6-7:00 PM. Helpers needed at 5:00 PM thru 7:00 PM. Call 412-486-5521 to volunteer.**

### GETTING MARRIED IN 2012?

Registrations are being accepted for the **March 10, 2012** pre-Cana Seminar to be held here at St. Mary's in Marian Hall from 8:30am until the 4:00pm Mass. Engaged couples planning a wedding during 2012 are invited to attend this diocesan-approved marriage prep day. More information is available by calling Jim Finn, our Pastoral Associate at 412.486.4100, Ext. 203.

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

### NIGHT AT THE RACES

*"They're coming down the stretch"*



*The St. Mary Athletic Association* will hold their annual "Night at the Races" in Marian Hall on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Please join us for this most enjoyable evening with friends and exciting entertainment. Tickets are **\$20.00** and includes food buffet, beer, setups and soda (BYOB). Please consider coming after the 6PM Mass. Doors open at 7:00pm. Buffet dinner at 7:15pm. Races start at 8:00pm. Adults only. For tickets contact Tom Iurlano at 412-478-0834 or via email at [tiurlano@gmail.com](mailto:tiurlano@gmail.com) or Joy Soeder at 412-983-7799 or via email at [soederjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:soederjoy@yahoo.com).

**Bring your friends and family!**



### CENTRAL BLOOD BANK

We will hold our semi-annual Parish Blood Drive in honor of **Mario Noro**, who is a student at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish School and who was diagnosed with acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in early September 2011. Please stop by in Marian Hall, Sunday, January 22, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM to donate blood. Please log on to [www.centralbloodbank.org](http://www.centralbloodbank.org) and enter sponsor code **G0040131** or call Rose Kolbuchar at 412-486-9458 to register for a preferred time.

### "Catholicism"- Adult Enrichment

Strengthen your faith, be inspired, enjoy the company of fellow Catholics, and grow in relationship with Christ! St. Athanasius Parish (2 blocks east of Rt 19 in West View) will be offering the nationally acclaimed study series entitled, "Catholicism," which features outstanding DVD presentations by Father Robert Barron and guided discussions led by our Deacons, Gary Comer and Bill Palamara. Meet on **Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the St. Athanasius Youth Center, January 11<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>**. No cost, no books to purchase. Advance registrations requested, but not required. Drop-ins welcome. To register call Mary at 412-931-4624 x213.

**HOMELESS** folks in our own city of Pittsburgh need **blankets and backpacks** as the weather is getting colder. Any donations of said items may be placed in bag, attach sign "for Homeless", and leave on the last pews in the Children Liturgy Room (cry room). **THANKS to YOU who have already generously responded to this.**

### Christmas Flower Offerings In Memory of :

**Anthony & Julia Springhill** from Edward & Josephine Balog

## **PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS** from Father John

It began so imperceptibly on the First Sunday of Advent with the liturgical spotlight outlining for us all the events leading up to the birth of the Christ Child. It ends tomorrow with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord with the liturgy opening up for us the public ministry of the Lord Jesus. In the language of the liturgy of the Church, this time period has traditionally been called The Christmas Cycle. During this wondrous time we have celebrated the two remarkable moments of the Nativity of the Lord Jesus and the Epiphany of the Lord. Interspersed between these events we gathered to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family and the Motherhood of Mary. The anticipatory blue color of the Advent décor melted into the brilliant white of the Christmas Season.

The liturgical music that filled our sacred church during these holy moments captured our hearts and souls with a transforming power that took us “out of this world.” We were carried to the heights of the divine as we celebrated the spiritually enriching events of Catholic liturgy. The believing assembly of these faith-filled experiences were reminded that celebrating these liturgical moments has a much more significant meaning than all else that we might do in the spiritual world around us. When we gathered during the liturgical celebrations of the Christmas Cycle, within the living tradition of our Catholic Faith that spans centuries of growth and development, we proclaimed this CHILD as the genuine fulfillment of the yearning of our lives. Salvation has been afforded to us in the indescribable love of the divine Father. However, it is not simply in his birth that such salvation will come to each of us. We must now journey with the person of Jesus to his ignominious death on the cross and the spectacular glory of the empty tomb.

Thus, we look forward to The Easter Cycle, which will begin with the celebration of Ash Wednesday of Lent and carry us through the mystery of the Resurrection to the glory of Pentecost. Yet, for the moment we need a breather. We need time to reflect upon all that has already occurred before we begin this next great cycle of liturgical events. In this interim steps Ordinary Time and a return to the color of green. Beginning with next Sunday’s liturgy, we have this year six Sundays to catch our spiritual breath. Then, the liturgical celebrations of our Catholic Church will sweep us off our feet and transport us to the magnificent reliving of the mystery of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit.