

Bulletin # 910038

St. Mary of the Assumption Church  
2510 Middle Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116  
(412) 486-4100

Attn: Bee

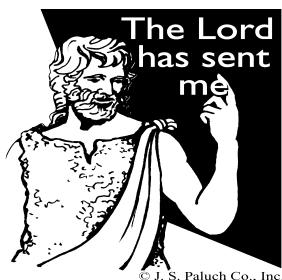
MESSAGES:

## TODAY: "GAUDETE" SUNDAY

Today is the THIRD Sunday in the Advent Season, and the rose-colored vestments signal the anticipatory "joy" that fills our hearts as the coming of the Messiah is close at hand. In the Catholic Church of the Latin language the opening line of the liturgy cried out:

"REJOICE in the Lord always,  
Again, I say REJOICE!"  
The Lord is near"

The Latin word for "rejoice" is gaudete and thus this third Sunday of Advent took on the mood of joy, and became known as "Gaudete Sunday." Today's liturgy once more accentuates the role of Isaiah and John the Baptist, the two prophets of Advent, as they each anticipate the coming of the Messiah. As we move joyfully through the Advent season to the magnificence of the Christmas event, we come one-step closer to the Birth of the Savior.



## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The next opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal celebration will take place this Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. We have invited other priests to join us for the conferring of the absolution of the Lord Jesus. We encourage those parishioners who wish to take advantage of this celebration as an ideal way of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child to join us that evening to experience the forgiveness of the divine Father. The "communal nature" of the sacrament emphasizes that we all are sinners in the eyes of our God, and yet we all come together to seek the forgiveness of our sinfulness. Reconciliation will also be celebrated next Saturday at the usual time of 11:00 a.m. as our parish priests only will be in the confessionals. There will be no confessions on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

## ADVENT PACKET SENT HOME

Are you still following the day-by-day preparation of the Advent calendar that was sent to every household in our Parish Family? What a wonderful way to create the "Advent Aura" in your home! These days of December get busier and busier as we move closer to the important events of Christmas. All of us sometimes lose ourselves in the commercial preparation of the season and fail to prepare our hearts spiritually for the coming of the Messiah as the real meaning of this time. A few minutes a day looking over the Scripture readings assigned to each individual day on our Advent calendar will give us the spiritual strength to place the proper meaning in this preparation season for the Birth of the Christ Child.

## DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE

Have you as of yet visited the world's only replica of the Vatican crèche that has been erected in the plaza of the USX Tower on Grant Street in downtown Pittsburgh? What a special moment for a family outing! All parishioners are encouraged to visit it so that it might help each of us to recapture some of the true spirit of Christmas that urges us to draw closer to Christ. The Pittsburgh Millennium Crèche Project has been made possible by a combined effort of many different religious denominations under the inspiration of the Christian Leaders Fellowship, of which the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh plays a very important role.

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Have you used the special envelope in our packet this month entitled "Christmas Flower Offering" to help the magnificent work of the "Art and Environment" ministry of our Parish Family? You are asked to submit this envelope with your donation by December 18<sup>th</sup> so that your name might be added to the listing of all our contributors. All of the monies received in these envelopes help to defray some of the cost of the Christmas flowers, with anything that is left over being used for the décor of our church during the rest of the year. Simply fill out the envelope and drop it the Sunday collection today or next Sunday, or send it through the mail to the rectory sometime in this coming week.

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent**

- 4:00 p.m. Kevin J. McNeill (Wife & Children)
- 6:00 pm Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 7:30 a.m. Special Intention
- 9:00 a.m. Deceased of Basso Family (Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Walter Baker (Marie & Bob Deasy)

**Monday, December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe**

- 7:00 a.m. Dr. Earl B. Smith (Wife & Sons)
- 10:00 a.m. Ed Wesolek (Family)
- 6:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Tuesday, December 13 - St. Lucy**

- 7:00 a.m. Jack Lynn (Jean Krzeminski)
- 10:00 a.m. Joseph Hvostal (Rege Leo & Family)

**Wednesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross**

- 7:00 a.m. Thomas Deasy (Mildred Richard)
- 10:00 a.m. Fred Benzenhoefer (St. Mary Faith Formation Office)

**Thursday, December 15**

- 7:00 a.m. Louis & Dolores Wiegand (Carol Vivaldi)
- 10:00 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari (Cugliari Family)

**Friday, December 16**

- 7:00 a.m. Maria Zappa (Les & Geri Smith)
- 10:00 a.m. Robert Schaffold (Goetz Family)

**Saturday, December 17**

- 8:00 a.m. Kathleen Pfannenschmidt (Family)
- 4:00 p.m. Dr. Vincent Londino (M/M Gregory Distilo)
- 6:00 p.m. James & Mary Regina Cannon (Kelly Cannon Family)

**Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 7:30 a.m. Bill Cochrane (Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 11:00 a.m. Maxine Deasy (Family)

**A VOCATION VIEW**

**God gives you a mission. How will you respond? Rejoice in the Spirit who is at work in you. (Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11)**

**USHERS & GREETERS:** There is a sign-up sheet in the Usher's Room for all Liturgies on Christmas and New Years. Please sign-up for the Mass of your Choice. Thank You.

**Help Needed For the Holiday Liturgies:** Please sign up to help at the Liturgy you will be attending on Christmas and New Years. **We need to cover all of the holiday weekend Liturgies. The Sign-Up Sheet is for: Altar Servers, Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The sheet is located in the Sacristy.**

**R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Kosakowski, son of Thomas & Lucille Kosakowski of our Parish Family, and brother of Sheila Coholich of our Parish Family, Helen Lipke of our Parish Family and Louise Mikulan of our Parish Family. May God grant them eternal rest in His loving peace.**

December 4, 2005	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	846	\$19,193.83
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	731.00
Children's Offer	15	12.00
Christmas Offer.	3	40.00
Christmas Flower	131	2,031.00
Children/Youth	1	5.00
Parish Share	10	355.00
Religious Retire.	3	31.00
Parish Needy	234	3,022.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>\$25,420.83</b>

**DAILY**



**READINGS**

- Dec. 12:** Zec 2: 14-17 or Rv 11: 19a; 12: 1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1: 26-38 or Lk 1: 39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary nos. 7-7-712
- Dec. 13:** Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13; Mt 21: 28-32
- Dec. 14:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7: 18b-23
- Dec. 15:** Is 54: 1-10; Lk 7: 24-30
- Dec. 16:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8, Jn 33-36
- Dec. 17:** Gn 49: 2, 8-10; Mt 1: 1-17
- Dec. 18:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16: 25-27; Lk 1: 26-38

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE**

**RCIA:** meets today following the 9 a.m. Liturgy in the rectory. Topic: "Who Is Jesus?" Next week's topic: "The Our Father." Any questions? Please call Jim Finn or Father Ed at (412) 486-4100.

**BAPTISM SUNDAY:** Today is Baptism Sunday when the children to be baptized will celebrate the sacrament after the 11:00 a.m. liturgy. We remind those parents who are planning a baptism in the future that they must contact the rectory to meet with one of the priests in preparation for the sacrament. We encourage parents to set up this meeting during the pregnancy of the mother so that it does not become last minute hurry. Parents will be given all of the needed information during this gathering with the priest, including the baptism dates of the future.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** We remind all those couples in our Parish Family who might be planning a wedding in the coming year that they must give the church at least a 6 month notice before the date can be set on the Sacrament of Marriage schedule. 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.

## **"CATCH THE VIBE"**

### VITALITY IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE

With the continued contacts being made by the members of the "Capital Campaign Committee" (CCC), in our sights now is the completion of the entire project that includes the Parish Activity Center (PAC). We hope that all those parishioners who have not given to the Campaign as of yet might take this renewed opportunity to become involved in this project. The benefit of this entire project will affect all of our lives as we gather on our sacred grounds. CCC members will meet this Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory to give an update of the Campaign. Any parishioner who would like to know first hand about the Campaign is welcome to this gathering.

## **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

### **FAITH SHARING FOR THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT**

Why might a person like John the Baptist, living in the desert, know so much about God? Who points the way to Jesus for YOU? How can you "make straight the way" to Jesus for others?

**FAMILY PROGRAM:** meets TODAY at 9:00 a.m. Liturgy, then in sessions until Noon.

**Project:** Collection of Items for the Light of Life Mission.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES:** Remember to ask your Sponsor to send the information form from their packet to our Parish Faith Formation Office. Forms were due by November 30th.

### **Monday Faith Formation, Dec. 12**

**Grades 1-2-3 meet IN Church at 6:30 p.m.**

### **Saturday Faith Formation, Dec. 17**

**Grades 1-2-3 meet In Church at 9:30 a.m.**

### **First Reconciliation - Welcome to Grade 2**

**Children** coming to experience Jesus' healing in the Sacrament on Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. or Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Parents/Guardians and other family members welcomed to participate in the time for "confession." Stop in the sacristy to pick up information for your family AFTER the Liturgy of Reconciliation.

**ADVENTure with Father John** continues as we see the faces of the PROPHETS of THIS season on Thursday, December 15, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. **COME**, even if you missed the session on December 1st.

**THE WORD AMONG US BOOKLETS:** are STILL available on the pamphlet rack at the rear of our Church. Find the WORD of assurance that YOU are deeply loved and will be forever!

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**TOILETRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS SHELTER**  
The shelter at East End Cooperative Ministries is requesting a special toiletry item: **medicated anti-fungal foot powder** e.g. Desenex and **white cotton athletic socks** for the homeless men. They house 30-40 men on any given night. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE OPENED OR USED CONTAINERS OF FOOT POWDER.** Items may be left in the basket in the CYM lobby (side church entrance by the cemetery).

### **PARENTS OF YOUNG ADULTS**

#### **WHO WILL BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY**

**WE NEED THEIR MAILING ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN SEND THEM AN INVITATION TO OUR CHRISTMAS BREAK YOUNG ADULT EVENT THAT WILL INCLUDE FOOD, GAMES AND AWESOME PRIZES.** Please write or e-mail the address to us **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

### **HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**Tues. Dec. 13** Play Practice in Providence Hall 7-9 PM  
**Thurs. Dec. 15** Play Practice-Providence Hall 7-9 PM

### **CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIA PROJECT**

Assembled kits with 10 luminaria per kit will be available at all liturgies on December 10-11; donations will be accepted and all profit will go to our Appalachia mission project. **GREAT HOLIDAY FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT.** Return the assembled luminaria between 1 – 2 PM on Christmas Eve where our team will meet you so that you may place and light your own luminaria or leave for the team to place. More detailed instructions will accompany each purchased kit.

### **APPALACHIA 2006**

At our November meeting the goals for our summer work camp were established with a **strong focus on development of faith and a sense of community.** Youth who will be eligible to attend must be age **16** by June 26, 2006; must attend our high school faith formation sessions [**T-ROC**]; participate in our major fund raiser-the **Friday Lenten fish dinners** and must attend a **fundamental skills** session if they missed Brandon Goeller's Skill Workshop in September. A **deposit of \$30** must be sent in by **Friday, December 30**-check payable to St. Mary Church CYM.

**Contact Barb Belski or Lisa Rulis Ross**  
at 412-492-9344

email us at [cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org)  
Check out our website! [www.stmaryglenshaw.org/cym](http://www.stmaryglenshaw.org/cym)

**Go to the above web site for our new discussion board. You may anonymously post your question and someone on our parish staff will post a reply. Young adults and adults click on adult discussion board.**

## **ST. MARY SCHOOL**

**BAND CONCERT:** St. Mary's Instrumental Band will hold their Christmas Concert on Tuesday, December 20th, at 1:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. All are welcome to attend.

**SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED:** The School Office will be closed from December 23, 2005 through January 1, 2006. The staff and students will be on Christmas break. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**SCHOOL TUITION DUE:** All those 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 and make arrangements for a tuition payment plan that meets their situation.

**GROCERY AND SCRIP SALES:** Want to help the fund raising responsibility of our catholic school? Do you need to shop for this time of year? Buy at the supermarket? Go out to dinner? All you are asked to do is to stop at the school in the morning to pick up your cards or certificates for your shopping needs. There is no cost to you --- if you need \$100 worth of items, you buy \$100 and will lose no buying power at the store where you use the card or certificate. In some cases, there is the advantage of having a "shopping card" that can be used until the amount of the card is completed. The store where you shop will then return to the school a percentage of your amount spend --- so that the buyer does not lose a penny! A very simple process for all parishioners to help our Parish Family meet our responsibility of raising 10% of the school cost through fund raising projects.

**ALL CHILDREN ARE INVITED**  
**TO THE 6:00 P.M. LITURGY**  
**ON CHRISTMAS EVE ---**  
**ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR THEM!**

## **GENERAL PARISH NEWS**

**Let The Little Children Come To Me:** Each week a different Family Perspective by Bud Ozar will appear in the bulletin courtesy of the Core Team of our post baptism ministry to young children (birth to age five) and their parents. **Even though we hear "the Lord is with you," we still don't believe it. John the Baptist reminds us today "there is one among you whom you do not recognize." If a parent is to "witness so that all may believe," he must live with recognition of the Lord present in daily life.**

**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:** You are invited to come home for Christmas! Have you been away from the Catholic Church? Do you know someone who has been away? 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? **We want to welcome you back!** No pressure, no cost, no reservations necessary! Call Fr. John, Fr. Ed, Deacon Francis, or Jim Finn to find your way back for Christmas! (412) 486-4100.

**GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING:** Are you having trouble deciding what to get your spouse or parent for Christmas? Give a certificate for a weekend retreat at one of the local retreat houses. To order a gift certificate from St. Paul's on the Southside, call (412) 381-7676 or Martina Spiritual Renewal Center in West View, call (412) 931-9766. More information is available from our parish retreat promoters: Charlie Fischer (412) 487-4667, Irene Linkowski (412) 487-1779 or Pat Rafferty (724) 443-6885.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:** Once again we thank all for the wonderful variety of foods donated for Thanksgiving. We thank those who sorted the bags of foods and those who delivered some of the food to the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Sisters were most grateful. Thank you also, to Boy Scout Troop 169 for the box of food and special thanks

To Girl Scout Troop 184, who made cookies for the shut-ins for Thanksgiving: Gabby LePore, Taresa Dongilli, Becky Rugh, Brianna Thompson, and Maria Natoli and Mom. Beautiful boxes girls! God Bless You All!



**REMINDER:** All Gifts For the Parish Sharing Tree should be returned TODAY, Sunday, December 11th. We have to deliver these gifts, so please bring your gift to Church by Noon today.

Thank You.

## **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS TONIGHT, DECEMBER 11 - 7:00 P.M.**

The Christmas Story is told through Music and Scripture with appearances by our Adult, Children's, Contemporary, Handbell and Brass Choirs. Please join us this evening as we prepare in song and word for the coming of Jesus.

## **AROUND THE TOWN**

**St Ursula Parish:** is sponsoring a Cruise on the Newest and Largest Ship in the world. Date: November 5, 2006, sailing the Western Caribbean. Ship: Freedom of the Seas. Cost: Inside cabins start at only \$620.00 per person double. Balcony cabins start at only \$950.00 per person double, plus tax and government fee \$184.90. Call for a brochure: (412) 487-5907.

**The Hampton Marching Band** would like you join us for our annual Craft Show and Flea Market to be held on Saturday, January 21 at the Hampton High School. Tables cost \$20 for a 12 ft. long table or \$10 for a 6 ft. round table. Come display your talents and enjoy a day with the Hampton Band. Call Kathy Martucci at (412) 487-7135 for more information.



**PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS** from Father John

As the Gentiles in the world in which we live crowd malls and marketplaces during these final weeks before the great days of Christmas looking for last minute bargains, our Jewish brothers and sisters will be preparing to fill their synagogues for the celebration of HANUKKAH, which is an eight-day festival beginning of the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev and lasting through the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Tevet (months in the Jewish calendar somewhat corresponding to the final days of December). The Hebrew word “Hanukkah” basically means “rededication” and it takes the Jewish devotee all the way back to 164 B.C. when Judah the Maccabee led a revolt against the Hellenistic Syrians who had placed a statue of the Greek god Zeus in their Temple in Jerusalem. This was an “abomination of desolation” to the religious Jew, and the revolt led by the Maccabee family cleansed the temple and “rededicated” it back to the one God of their faith. Over 2000 years later today’s Jewish people still remember the enormity of that event.

A number of legends connect this vitally important historical event with the Winter Solstice that comes during this eight-day celebration. Just like the “Winter Solstice” is the reason we celebrate the birth of the Child Jesus (the Light of the World) since we certainly do not know the day of which Jesus was born, pious Jews see this “shortest day of the year” as a sign that the “Light of the Temple” once more began to shine with faith in the one true God. The growing light of each new day represented the growing light of the Temple.

The celebration of Hanukkah for the Jewish person also includes the giving of gifts, the eating of designated festive foods and the gathering of family and friends to play certain games and enjoy each other’s company. The culmination of each of these eight days comes with the lighting of one of the candles on the Menorah, since it is clear that the central motif of the entire celebration is LIGHT!

What a co-incidence! At the same time that we Christians are celebrating the Birthday of the Light of the World (DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>) who has come to deliver us from all our sinfulness, our Jewish brothers and sisters are celebrating a Festival of Light, (DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> this year) reminding them that God once delivered them also. What a magnificent time to offer a seasonal greeting to our Jewish friends --- with the fondest hope that one day we shall share the Eternal Light of Heaven together!

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