

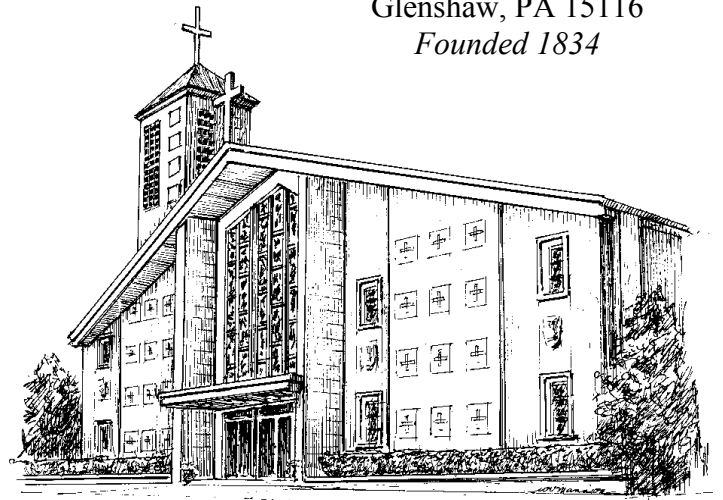
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

First Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2009

2510 Middle Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116
Founded 1834

PARISH STAFF

Mrs. Barbara Belski, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Mr. Francis Dadowski, Deacon
Mr. James Finn, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Robert Kardasz, Dir. of Music Ministries
Father John Marcucci, Pastor
Ms. Antoinette Pilarski, Principal
Father Edward Schleicher, Parochial Vicar
Sr. Lois Spinnenweber, CDP, Apostolate Minister
Miss Rose Stegman, Dir. of Faith Formation



Web Site: stmaryglenshaw.org

E-Mail: rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org

Parish Family Administration Office: 412-486-4100

Religious Formation Office - 412-486-5521

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Youth Ministry Office - 412-492-9344

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

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

WELCOME FATHER GARRY

We open the doors of our church and the love of our hearts to all those who join us at the 4:00 p.m. liturgy TODAY as we celebrate a special liturgy for "Persons With Disabilities." To add a special dimension to our celebration, we have once more invited Father Garry Patriquin, a priest of our own Diocese ordained in 1984, who is now confined to a wheel chair. Father Garry brings a very special expression of the priestly ministry to our Parish Family as the main celebrant of the liturgy this weekend. We ask all parishioners to remember in prayer all those persons who are challenged in any way whatsoever, especially those who join us at today's liturgy. We must always be a Parish Family who not only remembers "Persons With Disabilities" in prayer, but also cherishes them as integral to the spirituality of our parish life together.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS

The members of our Parish Staff are now interviewing the Confirmation candidates one by one as we all look forward to the May 7th ceremony. The entire Parish Family is asked to remember these young people as they continue to grow in the life of the Holy Spirit. Confirmation is not simply a celebration for those being confirmed, but this major parish event touches all of our lives. Representing the entire Parish Family in this process, the members of the Parish Staff have taken on the responsibility of talking with these candidates one by one to determine each candidate's fitness to celebrate the sacrament. What a wonderful night this will be when all of these young people stand before Bishop Paul Bradley to accept the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives!

PASTORAL COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

The Parish Pastoral Council will gather on Monday of this week, March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory to set in motion our goals and objectives for the year. In the Lenten packet sent to every registered home, the Council summarized the important suggestions made in the survey taken last year. The Council is now in the process of creating a set of twelve "Faith Communities throughout our Parish Family" to increase the participation of all in parish life, and allow all parishioners to take more ownership in the life of the Parish Family.

PARISH SHARE - TODAY

The SECOND collection at all the liturgies today is for our pledge or contribution to the 2009 Parish Share Program. We hope that all parishioners will make an honest effort to help us meet our assessment of \$142,895. We ask that each wage earner give at least \$120 to the Campaign, depending upon their own financial resources. Those who forgot to bring their response card today may send it to the rectory anytime this week. Those who wish to wait for another time so that they can make a larger pledge or cash payment than they are able to do at this time may certainly do so. Recall that once we meet our goal, the overage amount will be kept in our own Parish Family for our own needs.

LENT: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

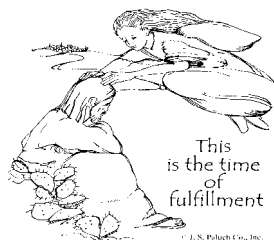
The season of Lent moves week by week toward Holy Week and the all-important Triduum. Parishioners are invited to deepen their spirituality by participating in one or more of our Lenten practices: daily liturgy, our Tuesday evening enrichment series, Way of the Cross, and our Friday fish dinners. Reconciliation is each Saturday morning at 11:00. We are invited to follow the Rice Bowl calendars that were in the Lenten packet, along with the other features of the packet sent to every registered family. Lent is a time to strengthen our relationship with the Lord Jesus by accepting a Lenten spirituality.

TWO "COSTLY" SUMMER PROJECTS

It is imperative that the Parish Family address two MAJOR issues this summer: a new roof on the one side of the school, and the installation of a pumping station to enter into the public sewer system. If there is any parishioner who would like to offer suggestions to either of these projects, or would like to make a bid on either project, please contact one of the members of the Temporalities Commission or simply call the rectory to leave your name.

RCIA MEMBERS TO THE CATHEDRAL

Our prayers go out to all our RCIA members as they go to the Cathedral this afternoon for the Rite of Election and gather with RCIA members from all over the Diocese. We look forward to these persons coming into the fullness of the Faith at the Easter Vigil. May the Lord be with each one of you!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 1, 2009 - First Sunday in Lent

- 4:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Demeter & Gramme Families
- 6:00 p.m. John A. Bell - Don & Joan Hammel
- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Domenico Castellano - Concetta Liberto
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Schultz - Schultz Family

Monday, March 2, 2009 - Weekday in Lent

- 7:00 a.m. Frank & Marie Skirtich - M/M Edward Skirtich
- 10:00 a.m. Joan Marmarosa - Bill & Sue Ebel

Tuesday, March 3, 2009 - St. Katharine Drexel

- 7:00 a.m. Richard Lawniczack - Wife & Children
- 10:00 a.m. Mercedes Warenski - Family
- 7:00 p.m. Norine Benzehoefer - The Kroner Family

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 - St. Casimir

- 7:00 a.m. Alma Bazil - Stella & Henry Newland
- 10:00 a.m. John Grandziel - Faith Formation Staff & Catechists

Thursday, March 5, 2009 - Weekday in Lent

- 7:00 a.m. Edna Mae Williams - Jody & Rick Fortier
- 10:00 a.m. Connie Crosset - Chick & Helen Yates

Friday, March 6, 2009 - First Friday, World Day of Prayer; Abstinence

- 7:00 a.m. Agnes C. Bernas - Rita & Jim Finn
- 10:00 a.m. Helen Frejkowski - St. Mary School Students/Faculty
- 2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 7, 2009 - St. Perpetua & St. Felicity

- 8:00 a.m. Anna Nath Ahearn - Family
- 4:00 p.m. Vincenza Derenzo - Family Friend
- 6:00 p.m. Walter A. Eswein - Paul Eswein & Family

Sunday, March 8, 2009 - Second Sunday of Lent

- 7:30 a.m. Joseph Giambo - Dr. & Mrs. William Poller
- 9:00 a.m. Paul Leo - Rege & Children
- 11:00 a.m. Mathilda Ferraro - Harry & Rachele



First Sunday of Lent March 1, 2009

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths.

Psalm 25:4

Weekly Activities at a Glance

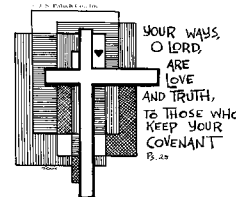
- Sunday March 1 (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend - After all Liturgies
- Monday March 2 (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - Brownie Troop # 205
(School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
(Rectory) 7:30PM - Pastoral Council
- Tuesday March 3 (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
(Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
(Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting
- Wednesday March 4 (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Children Come to Me
(Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 1:50PM - Stations of the Cross - Grades 1-3
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Meeting
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday March 5 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
(Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Fish Fry Preparation
- Friday March 6 (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
(Church) 2:00PM - Stations of the Cross - Grades 4-8
(Marian Hall) 4:30PM - Fish Fry Dinner
- Saturday March 7 (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Grade 2 - First Holy Communion Mtg.
(School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
(Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- Sunday March 8 (Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Norine Benzenhoefer, mother of Barbara Belski and Elaine Wagner, and Mary June Weber, sister of Maureen Profeta and Mary Lu Schluep.

St. Vincent dePaul Society

NEED HELP? Do you know someone who needs the help of the St. Vincent dePaul Society? Through no fault of his or her own, someone may have fallen on hard times. They may be having difficulty buying food or paying gas or electric bills or even the rent. Maybe a family has no money to buy a much needed appliance or faces some other need. No one should have to deal with such problems alone. Perhaps we can help. Please call St. Lois Spinnenweber, our Social Minister at 412.486.4021.

Daily Readings



- March 2: Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
- March 3: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
- March 4: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
- March 5: Est C:12, 14-16, 23 - 25; Mt 7:7 - 12
- March 6: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
- March 7: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
- March 8: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

February 22, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	753	\$15,677.15
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$826.00
Children's Offertory	41	\$49.00
Parish Share 2008	4	\$50.00
Parish Needy	33	\$601.00
Total	831	\$17,203.15

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

RELIGIOUS FORMATION



Baptized in Christ

Samuel Robert Gentile
Anastasia Hope Haley
Molly Elizabeth Robertson

Congratulations to their parents, godparents, and grandparents. Please join us in welcoming their into our *Parish Family!*

Faith Sharing for First Week of Lent

God's Spirit drove Jesus into the desert where he was tempted. On your journey with Christ, when have you experienced "desert" times? Who has served as angels, leading you toward God? Have you intentionally set to "not live by bread alone" this Lent, but focus on reading and reflecting on the Word of God?

Monday Faith Formation, March 2

6:30 PM Grades 3&4 in church. All others in classes. Grades 5 -6-7-8 Catholic Vision of Love, Lessons 3 & 4.

Saturday Faith Formation, March 7

9:30 AM All in Church, except Grade 2 in Marian Hall with Parent/guardian for "Grandma's Bread" and updates.



FIRST EUCHARIST Candidates with a parent/guardian meet in Marian Hall at one of the sessions: Saturday, March 7, 9:30 AM or Monday, March 16, 6:30 PM. Film for all

"Grandma's Bread", then children will do a bread baking activity while adults review some of the practical details for the First Eucharist Liturgy celebrations. Gift items will also be on display for those who may wish to make a purchase.



Confirmation CANDIDATES

will be called forth at each Mass next weekend for the **Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion**. This is an opportunity for the parish family to intensify their prayers for our youth as they affirm their intent to be committed to journey with our parish family. Candidates need to assemble in Marian Hall at least **10 minutes** before the time of the Mass to which they come to participate.

GRADE 8 and High School GIRLS – EXPLORE at the St. Joseph Convent in Baden, PA what those Religious Sisters do. Sunday March 15, 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM you, as well as parents and teachers, are welcome. NO FEE for the day. Contact Sister Marguerite Kropinak at 724-869-6585 or visit www.stjoseph-baden.org

Special Days this Week:

Tuesday, Saint Katherine Drexel,

a woman from Pennsylvania who devoted her inheritance and energy to establish schools for Native and Afro Americans. She also founded a community of religious women, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, to serve in the schools.

Wednesday, Saint Casmir,

one of the Princes of Poland who is the Patron of that country.

Saturday, Saints Felicity and Perpetua,

martyrs of the first century whose relics are in our own parish altar.

ADULT ENRICHMENT : Catholicism: The Last Hope for a Dying Culture by Dr. Anthony Esolen, Professor of English from Providence College will be the lecturer at St. Paul Seminar, Crafton, 7:30 PM this Wednesday, March 4. All are Welcome!

A Vocation View

As we begin this Lenten Season we are reminded of the everlasting covenant God made with us. Renew the promise you made with God. Believe in the Good News! (Psalm 25)

VOCATION AWARENESS WEEKEND

If you are a single Catholic woman or man between 18 and 40 years of age, you are invited to take an important step toward answering your questions about religious life or diocesan priesthood. Take a serious look at your questions in a prayerful environment at Martina Spiritual Renewal Center in West View. Hear from vocation directors and members of religious communities. **Mark your calendars beginning Friday evening, March 27 with supper at 6:30pm to Sunday afternoon, March 29th at 12:30pm.** Call Jim Finn 412.486.4100 to register before the **March 20th deadline.**

RCIA

Today, Sunday March 1st we will welcome the two catechumens and seven candidates as they continue their preparation for full membership into the Catholic Church. At 3:00 P. M. this afternoon we will travel to St. Paul Cathedral for the Rite of Election. Please continue to pray for these soon-to-be members of our faith community.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

A post-baptism ministry for children age birth to five years of age offers programs geared to be spiritually supportive to parents. Are all welcome. Call Monica Hoehler (412)492-0242 for more information.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE BY BUD OZAR

Today's gospel tells us "the spirit DROVE Jesus into the desert." Evidently, Jesus was reluctant to go! We all have areas in family relationships which we avoid. During this Lent let the Spirit lead you into those areas you have been avoiding. The gospel promises us: "this is the time of fulfillment." Don't miss the opportunity.

PARENTING POINTERS

Parents sometimes feel like success always occurs in private (like a tender bedtime moment) and failure in public (like at the grocery store). If you notice another's child doing something praiseworthy, compliment the child of course, but pass it on to the parent too. Sometimes we need that.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Eph.5:21) The mutual love, respect, and servanthood that this scripture refers to goes both ways. Look for a way to yield to your spouse today. Not all days, just today.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

Open to any youth in Grade 8 - 12 wishing to participate in our annual **Crosswalk** with Epworth Methodist on **Good Friday, March 21** – public school will not be in session. **Drama background is not needed, only a desire to bring the Passion of Christ to the public at this annual community and ecumenical event.** Call the CYM office at 412-486-4100, ext. 409. Mr. and Mrs. Penezic will again direct this awesome Lenten experience.



APPALACHIA REGISTRATION

We will open our Appalachia mission trip to students who graduate from the eighth grade this June, but they must meet very specific requirements. Stop by the CYM table at HOSPITALITY after any of the liturgies next weekend [February 28 and March 1]. One requirement - you and your parent/guardian must work at ALL of the remaining CYM fundraisers to help you to catch up with the other students.

A FIRST DEPOSIT [refundable if your plans change] of \$50 is needed to secure a spot on our team. **OUR ANNUAL APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP TO PRESTON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA WILL BE FROM SUNDAY, JUNE 28 TO FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2009**

SERVICE opportunities with our St. Vincent de Paul Society guys or, on Sunday, with Mr. & Mrs. Wisser: Every Saturday morning, shave the veterans at VA Hospital in Aspinwall Every Sunday AM – escort veterans to liturgy and stay to celebrate with them.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sat., Feb. 28 CYM at Hospitality after all liturgies
Sun., Mar. 1 CYM at Hospitality after all liturgies
Fri., Mar. 6 Fish dinner

ONLINE DONATIONS FOR HOPE Mission Uganda:

You are now able to make online donations to our mission efforts. **WE ARE LESS THAN \$1,000 FROM OUR GOAL OF \$10,000 TO DIG THE WATER WELL AT KOCH GOMA.** During the war, thousands were kidnapped, maimed or killed. Scattered reports of violence from rebel activity persist, but the real enemy of the people today is disease and malnutrition. In the refugee camp, Koch Goma, which houses 17,000 people, the reports indicate that most of the 30 or so deaths of men, women and children every month are due to disease and malnutrition. <http://www.hopemissionuganda.org/>

Call the CYM line for current information on our social, spiritual and service activities for teens and young adults at 412-492-9344 or 412-486-4100, extension 409 or email at belskib@verizon.net



St. Mary PTG Auction

The Annual PTG Auction will be held at the Pittsburgh Field Club, on Saturday, March 7, 2009, beginning at 5:30pm. The evening includes a sit-down dinner, silent and live auction, raffles and music and dancing by "Five Guys- featuring Drew Martier". This year's theme is "Focusing on the Future" as we look to the science and technology needs of our school. Tickets are \$50/person. To purchase your tickets all Melissa at 412-492-9349 or melissabattaglia@verizon.net for more info.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join our school children and families when they pray the Stations of the Cross.

Grades First through Third, will meet in church at 1:50PM to 2:30PM on the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 4,
- Wednesday, March 11,
- Wednesday, March 18,
- Wednesday, March 25,
- and

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Grades Fourth through Eighth, will meet in church at 2:00PM to 2:30PM on the following dates:

- Friday, March 6,
- Friday, March 13,
- Friday, March 20,
- Friday, March 27, and Friday, April 3, 2009

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ As part of our 175th Anniversary celebration, we have invited priests who grew up in our parish or who served here to come back to direct the Lenten Enrichment Series on Tuesday evenings during Lent. This week Fr. Tom Miller who served here while a seminarian will say Mass at 7:00pm on March 3rd. Next Tuesday, Father Andrew Fischer will come home for the Mass at 7:00pm.
- ◆ The 175th Anniversary Planning Committee will meet next Wed. March 11th at 7:00PM.
- ◆ Did you know that the Redemptorist Fathers from St. Philomena Church in the Strip District ministered to the early parishioners here in Pine Creek? Besides Saint John Neumann, Blessed Francis X. Seelos served St. Mary's.
- ◆ **Is Music your cup of Tea?** Are you one of those persons who always seem to have music swirling in your head? Are you one who loves to sing, even if no one is around? Are you a person who still remembers your favorite music and bursts into song every once in a while? Then maybe you are the EXACT person who would like to be a member of cast of our "175th Historical Musical" set for the month of October.

OUR PARISH NEWS

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP- Keep open Sat. April 18, 2009 for the **FOURTH ANNUAL GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN** at the A. J. Palumbo Center at Duquesne University. Doors open at 8:00 AM and the closing Mass is at 4:00 PM. Box lunch included. Pre-register with Jim Finn at the rectory if you want to go on the BUS leaving from **St. Mary's**. Cost: 35.00 per person; high school and college students- \$10.00. Make check payable to: **C. M. F.** (Catholic Men's Fellowship) First come, first served!

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Invite all women to join us for our evening of Reflection on Thursday, March 19th. We begin with 5:30PM dinner in Marian Hall, followed by 7:00PM liturgy with Fr. Scott Seethaler, Rosary, and Benediction. RSVP by March 13th to Theresa at 412-487-1870 or Elaine at 412-487-4667. Cost is \$15.00

55 SPECIAL GROUP

We will be traveling to the **Mountaineer Casino**, on Monday, March 9, 2009. The cost will be \$24.00 per person. We will be picked up at St. Mary's lower parking lot by motor coach at 8:30AM. Please call Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091.

40 Days for Life

Members of St. Mary's Pro-life organization will be participating in the "40 Days for Life" by doing a prayer vigil in front of Magee Women's Hospital every Monday from 9 to 10 AM, starting March 2 through March 30. We invite all members of our parish to join us. If you would like to carpool please phone Ginny at 412-486-8241.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

We are in search of talented individuals who are just itching for an audience! If you are one of these people, please contact Marie Doerge at 412.487.2977, for she is looking for entertainment during the Lenten Fish Dinners. Students and adults are **all** welcome and this could be your big chance to stardom! Please call!

LENTEN

Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners during Lent. We are still in need of volunteers. Please call the Penezic's at 412-487-5211 to offer your hand of service. Desserts will be needed for our Fish Dinners as well. Please consider bringing your favorite dessert to share. Drop off your creations in Marian Hall the night before the dinner from 7:00-8:00PM or on Friday by 4:00PM. A schedule for your night of donation follows; last name beginning with the letter:

E - H	March 6
I - L	March 13
M - P	March 20
Q - T	March 27
U - Z	April 3

Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!

St. Mary's Travelers have planned their first outing of the year. On April 18th we will board the motor coach right here at St. Mary's and travel to ?????? We will visit ?????? and then go to ?????? We will stop at ??? and get some ?????? The day will end with a fine dinner and stage show at the ?????? All this for \$72.00!! Make checks payable to Mary Ann Coholich and mail to St. Mary's Church, 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw, PA. 15116. For further information call Mary Ann at 412-486-0165 or Arlene 412-486-1891.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



The next Sunday Family CCD session will be held on March 15th, beginning with the 9:00 am Liturgy (Grade 3-Heidi Rice's class serves). Sessions for children and adults begin at 10:00 am. Closing Prayer: Grade 7-R&J Rihmland. **Special Project Small Seeds Development, Inc.** – Items needed include: Diapers, baby wipes, cleaning supplies, school & art supplies, first aid kits, healthy snacks; gift certificates for movies, fast food restaurants, grocery stores. Also needed for children: new or gently used children's coats, gloves, hats, boots, sweaters, books, and games. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS DIVORCED, SEPARATED, OR WIDOWED?

Evening of Reflection- for those who are separated or divorced will be offered on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 7-9PM at St. Paul Seminary. The presenter will be Father Eugene Lauer, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. There is no charge but a free will offering will be accepted. For further information call 412.456.3160.

A Beginning Experience weekend March 20-22, 2009 at the Gilmory Center in Moon Township, PA, offers an opportunity for healing one's loss in a caring atmosphere. The Beginning Experience is supported by the Office for Parish Life/Family Life. For information, make a confidential call to Susan Ackerman @724.334.0118.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN

Women's Lenten Conference- The 12th Annual Women's Lenten Conference will be held on Sat. March 21, 2009 at Sacred Heart Parish in Emsworth. Time: 10:00am until 2:00pm. Donation: \$15.00 per person. Make check payable to: **TASH, Inc.** Confirmation will be sent via email. The deadline for registering is March 11th. Send to: Fr. Scott Seethaler, OFM Cap., 221 36th Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15201

Men's Retreat- March 13-14-15 at St. Paul's Retreat House on the Southside. Call Charlie Fischer (412)487-4667 or Jim Karcher 724.444.5798 to register or find out more! All are welcome, especially "first timers."

LENTEN ENRICHMENT SERIES- Mass every Tuesday evening during Lent at 7:00pm with a guest homilist.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS- Every Friday during Lent at 2:00pm with the school children and at 7:00pm in church.

LENTEN ENRICHMENT SERIES

Father Thomas Miller, pastor at St. Joseph on Dorseyville Road will be at St. Mary's on **TUESDAY, MARCH 3rd to kick off our annual Lenten Enrichment Series.** Due to another commitment, Father Tom Wagner will not be able to be with us this year. Why not plan to join us for the Tuesdays of Lent for Mass at 7:00 P. M.? Each week we will have a different priest director.

MARKET DAY fliers for March are with the Bulletins today. Don't miss the chance for a free dessert this month.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

Winter lingers on this year! The falling snow with its sometimes blinding effect, the whipping wind with its sometimes howling sounds and the dropping temperatures with its sometimes below freezing chill factor refuse to give in to the warming rays of the sun. School delays, traffic jams and cancelled flights fill the news channels with unprecedented regularity. Somewhere behind the dawning light of a new day lies the springtime of another season; but not yet!

Winter paints a picturesque scene on the landscape of our property. The rolling hills of the cemetery are crusted with the icy conditions of the latest snow. The bare trees scattered throughout the cemetery twist and turn with each new burst of the howling wind. The stark like headstones of the cemetery protrude through the darkness of the night reflecting a beam of moonlight. The window of my bedroom captures this view for me each time I stand staring into this winter wonderland.

There are very few Parish Families in the Diocese so blessed where the grounds of the cemetery are so closely attached to the building of the church. There is probably no rectory in the Diocese so situated that allows the priest to have such an up close and personal vista of the burial grounds of the People of God. There are many days when I gaze across the wide expanse of these sacred grounds and thank the many who have gone before us, leaving us such a magnificent tradition of our Faith in the mystery of the Christ. The dead of winter is not here forever. Soon it will disappear into the life of a new spring. The bright sun will soften the icy frost of the ground to produce velvety grass. Gentle winds will give budding trees the features that tell us new life is on the way. Warming temperatures will force the earth to spring forth with an array of flowers and plants that will change the scene from a desolate experience of death to a splendid response of life.

It is in this majestic wonder of the wintry season that we can meditate upon the all encompassing mystery of “dying and rising.” It is the central mystery of our Catholic Faith as we begin the season of Lent that will blossom into the life-giving grandeur of Easter. But throughout it all, the central mystery remains the same: the “dying and rising of the Lord Jesus” is the divine promise that one day the winter of this life will be over and the glorious kingdom of the Christ will be ours forever!