

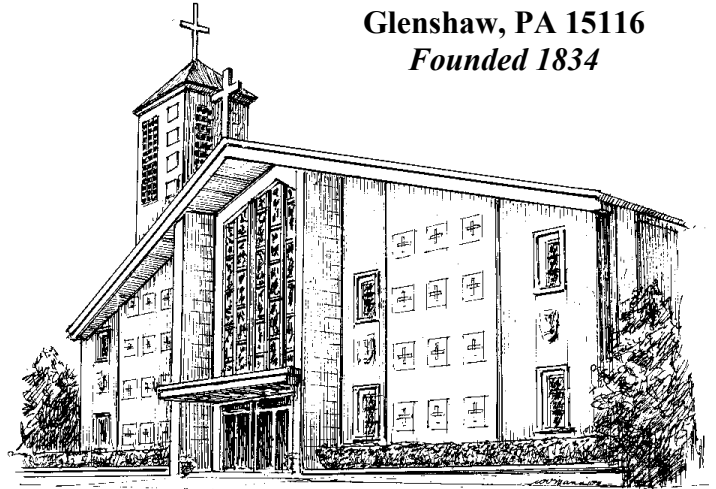
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 20, 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 Fleckenstein, Transitional Deacon
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

OPEN FORUM: THURSDAY

“GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER”

All those parishioners who would like to have a first-hand understanding of “GIFT” are invited to gather together on THURSDAY of this week, SEPTEMBER 24th at 7:00 P.M. in Marian Hall.

Members of the Pastoral Council will be on hand to offer a background expose of the entire process that has led us to creating “GIFT” as the Parish Family goal for 2009. “GIFT” changes the face of the spirituality of our Parish Family for it will develop twelve small Communities of Faith that will give every parishioner an opportunity to “increase ownership” in the Parish Family so as to “deepen participation” in parish life. This gathering is set to last 90 minutes, which will begin to reshape the way we evangelize each other in the name of the Lord Jesus who calls every baptized person to this mission.

MINISTRIES FAIR: A SUCCESS!

We offer a special round of applause to all those parishioners who made our annual “Ministries Fair” last weekend such a magnificent success. With “57 different ministries” being identified, it is quite obvious that many parishioners offer their TIME and TALENT to the work of our Parish Family. We thank all those chairpersons and leaders of our parish ministries for their generous cooperation with Jim Finn, our Pastoral Associate who set the Fair in motion. So many volunteers are needed to allow such a major event to have such an impact on so many others. It is at events such as these that all of us realize how wide spread the influence of our parish life goes in affecting so many people.

APOLOGY TO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

A public apology to the very active members of the Knights of Columbus whose group was inadvertently left off the list of ministries given in last Sunday’s bulletin. This makes “57” --- a great variety --- of Ministries in our Parish Family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RON BELSKI

Congratulations are in order for Ron Belski of our Parish Family who was given the Ministry of ALCOLYTE by Bishop Zubik last weekend. This is the next step for Ron in his journey to one day be ordained as a permanent deacon.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

The Parish Family of *St. Mary of the Assumption* joins the Church throughout the USA as we celebrate Catechetical Sunday TODAY! We wish to recognize all those who serve in our Faith Formation Programs at every level --- from the youngest child to the oldest adult. It is so vital to the life of any Parish Family to have a Faith Formation Program that gives all parishioners an opportunity to deepen their spiritual relationship to the Lord Jesus. We offer a special sense of gratitude to all those who make this deepening process possible in our Parish Family. The theme for this year’s celebration is “*Catechesis And The Proclamation Of The Word*” with the hope that every member of the Parish Family will commit to doing so all during the year!

MATCHING FUND STILL GROWING

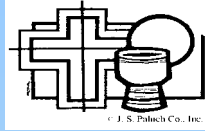
The goal of \$500,000 to complete the Third Phase of our Pledge Campaign continues to grow steadily as more and more parishioners offer their pledge or donation to the Matching Fund Program. Once we have achieved \$250,000 with pledges and donations, we will be given ANOTHER \$250,000 in Matching Funds. We ask all those parishioners being contacted by a member of the Capital Campaign Committee to respond positively to their request.

“MASS INTENTIONS” LIMITED

With the numerous funerals that we have in our Parish Family and with the great number of “mass intentions” that are brought for our beloved dead, we must once more LIMIT the number of intentions that can be satisfied in our church. The Parish Family regulation is such: (a) only 8 intentions a year from the same family; (b) only 2 intentions for the same person, from all families; (c) only 4 intentions from the same family for one of the Saturday evening or Sunday morning liturgies. With this regulation, we hope to serve more members who seek a “mass intention” for their loved ones.

CEMETERY BOARD MEETING

Members of the Cemetery Board will meet this Monday, September 21st beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. The Board oversees all of the needs of our cemetery with an eye to creating a mausoleum.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 20, 2009 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Joseph Szymkowiak - Wife & Family
- 6:00 p.m. Kyle Wilson - The Zeh Family
- 7:30 a.m. 40th Wedding Anniversary of Robert & Gloria Duffy
- 9:00 a.m. Phillip Ionadi - Marco & rose Imbarlina
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Schultz - Schultz Family

Monday, September 21, 2009 - St. Matthew

- 7:00 a.m. Ralph Costa - Beatrice Rettger
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Lou Blum - St. Mary Widows & Widowers

Tuesday, September 22, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Gilbert Och - The Tempert Family
- 10:00 a.m. M. Patrick Daniels - Mom & Dad

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - St. Pio of Pietreicina

- 7:00 a.m. Helen Rihn - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Duane Lis - Aunt Sally

Thursday, September 24, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Mary & Joseph Hart - Eileen & Jim Fuchs
- 10:00 a.m. Ronald Kornick - Brother

Friday, September 25, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Maria Antonia Imbarlina - Marco & Rose Imbarlina
- 10:00 a.m. Michael R. Urso - St. Mary School Faculty & Staff

Saturday, September 26, 2009 - Ss. Cosmas & Damian

- 8:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Peter Bleski & Megan O'Brien
- 4:00 p.m. Theresa Klobuchar - Eleanor Moore & Family
- 6:00 p.m. Jennie Marie Carlucci - Vance Family

Sunday, September 27, 2009 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Mildred Munio - Marie & Lou Thalhoffer
- 9:00 a.m. Clement Newcamp - James Berger Family
- 11:00 a.m. Lorraine Scolieri - Joe & Tony & Lisa

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday Sept. 20** (Church) 9:00AM - Family Program
(Marian Hall) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(Marian Hall) 7:30PM - 175th Play Practice
- Monday Sept. 21** (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Protecting God's Children - Part I
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Cemetery Meeting
- Tuesday Sept. 22** (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantors
(Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Adult Ed. with Fr. Ed
(Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bells
- Wednesday Sept. 23** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo & Bridge
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - PTG School Meeting
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir
- Thursday Sept. 24** (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Pastoral Council Group Mtg.
(Providence Hall) 7:30PM - 175th Play Practice
- Saturday Sept. 26** (Marian Hall) Rite of Welcome - Line up before all Liturgies
(Marian Hall) 5:00PM - Confirmation Sponsor Mtg.
- Sunday Sept. 27** (Marian Hall) Rite of Welcome - Line up before all Liturgies
(Marian Hall) 9:00AM- Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Marian Hall) 10:00AM - Confirmation Sponsor Meeting
(Marian Hall) 11:00AM- Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Marian Hall) 12:00PM - Confirmation Sponsor Meeting
(Marian Hall) 7:30PM - 175th Play Practice

RITE OF WELCOME for all Grade 2 & 8 at each Mass **NEXT** weekend. Our entire parish family joins in prayer for support of the families of our candidates for Sacraments of Initiation. **Confirmation Candidates** with sponsors meet with Deacon Fran next weekend.

Banns of Marriage

- II. Joel Dausch (St. Mary) and Molly McLaughlin (Peters Creek Baptist)
- III. Peter Belski (St. Mary) and Megan O'Brien (St. Ursula)

At 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 **Eleanore Larkin**. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

Offertory Collection

September 13, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	706	\$15,295.40
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$1,112.00
Children's Offertory	46	\$90.78
Assumption	2	\$15.00
Bishop's Education Fund	207	\$3,488.75
School Collection	1	\$10.00
Parish Share 2009	13	\$665.00
Parish Needy	28	\$510.00
Total	1,003	\$21,186.93

Daily Readings



- Sept. 21** Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13
- Sept. 22** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
- Sept. 23** Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
- Sept. 24** Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
- Sept. 25** Hg 2:1-9; Lk 9:18-22
- Sept. 26** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45
- Sept. 27** Mn 11:25-29; Jas 5:1-6;
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The communal Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated during the 10:00am Mass on Monday, October 12th during our Parish Mission Renewal. Plan now to take advantage of this sacrament if you are having surgery, have a serious illness or are feeling the effects of age. If you need a ride to church, call Sister Lois 412.486.4021.

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE

All parish families are invited to host this prayer tool for vocations. Call Ron Ondriezek to schedule a week. His number is 412.486.6851.

A VOCATION VIEW

If you want to be great we must serve others. Are you willing to serve others? You can make a difference with your life.

(Mark 9:30-37)

RCIA

We meet every Sunday following the 9:00am liturgy. All are welcome to join us. This week we will discuss WHAT WE BELIEVE AS CATHOLICS and next week we'll take a look at the CREED. If you or someone you know would like to find out more about the Catholic faith, call Fr. Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory 412.486.4100.

PARISH MISSION RENEWAL

Mark your calendars: October 11-14, 2009 are the dates; 7:00pm nightly and 10:00am Monday thru Wednesday. All are welcome to join Redemptorist Father Daniel Francis as he leads us to a closer relationship to God. This is a perfect time to invite someone you know to "come back home!" No questions asked---just a warm welcome! Reach out and bring someone with you.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME invites all parents with children five years of age and under to join us Wednesday morning October 7th church in the Children's Liturgy Room for **PRAY and PLAY DAY** beginning at 9:30am ending at 10:30am. For more information, call Monica at 412.492.0242 or stmaryschildren@gmail.com.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

While it is true parents raise children, it is also true children raise parents. Children help us discover our ability to be tender, compassionate, understanding, forgiving, loving and much more. This is one of the perks of parenting; we discover ourselves.

PARENTING POINTERS

As the Simon and Garfunkel song goes, "Slow down you move too fast." As adults we have places to go, commitments to keep. We need to be responsible. Children are children, however, and sometimes we can learn from the slowdowns they foist upon us.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Sept. 21st is the Fall Equinox which means the hours of daylight equals the hours of darkness. How much balance is there in your marriage? Does one of you talk a lot more than the other? It might just be a matter of different personality styles but check out whether each of you needs to move closer to the middle. One might bite the tongue more while the other makes the effort to share more.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 25th Week Ordinary Time

How does Jesus' teaching that one who is his disciple is to be the "least of all and the servant of all" challenge YOU on your journey of faith? What is ONE concrete way you will be a servant in Christ's name in the coming week?

Family Program resumes TODAY, Sept. 20, 10 AM-Noon. Parents/Guardians visit child's classes immediately after 9:00 AM Mass, then be in Marian Hall by 10:40 AM.

THANKS~ A letter as been received from Holy Family Institute in appreciation for the backpacks and school supplies collected and donated by participants in our recent Summer Bible Program. THANKS to all those families for your generosity.

175th Anniversary Blue Bag with white Parish Logo available at the Faith Formation Office @ \$2.00 each. They're great for keeping Faith Formation materials and lessons together.

Are YOU Desperate for REAL LIFE? Come to our Bible Study, Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 PM in our Faith Formation Conference center, lower floor of the school building. Call Dori Monahan, 412-492-9891 for details.

Creed: The Profession of Faith with Father Ed Schleicher continues this Tuesday, 6:30 till 9:00 PM in Marian Hall. Come, even if you missed the session last week.

Protecting God's Children Part 1: A time to Protect God's Children Film and discussion with Mrs. Rita Finn meet THIS Monday, September 21, 6:30-8:00 PM in Marian Hall. Part 2 will be held October 19. Call 412-486-5521 if YOU will participate. FREE booklets to each participant. It is our hope to have EVERY adult in our parish attend this workshop during this season.

The Catholic Social Teachings of our Catholic Church in a Journey From Faith to Justice, will be discussed with Father Frank Almada at the John Paul Center, 9th Street, Sharpsburg, Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, & 22, 7:00 till 9:30 PM. To register, call Marilyn Ganster at 412-781-7348.



40 Days For Life

from Sept 23 to November 1, Pittsburgh will unite with cities all across the U.S. for the national **"40 Days for Life."** This campaign is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil

to end abortion in America. Members of St. Mary's will be carpooling to Planned Parenthood every Friday morning at 9AM and we will return at 10:30. We will meet at the circle. We will continue to pray the rosary for life on Saturday mornings at 7:30 AM, attend Mass at 8, and carpool to Planned Parenthood for an hour of prayer. All are welcome. Opening Rally will be Wednesday, September 23, 7pm at St Paul's Cathedral in Oakland. If you have questions, contact Ginny Dougherty at 412-486-8241.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Catholic Underground Pittsburgh!

The Catholic Underground come to Pittsburgh on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 8:00PM! This cultural apostolate has spread from New York City to cities around the U.S. and Europe. Young adults and professionals between the ages of 21-35 will come from across the Diocese to enjoy solemn praise in a candlelit church and then enjoy a great evening of live music and conversation in a coffeehouse setting. Please join us for this completely FREE event at Sacred Heart Church in Shadyside. Details at www.CatholicUndergroundPittsburgh.org.

THE BEATITUDES~HAVE ATTITUDE LEARN THEM~LIVE THEM

Matthew 5: 3-12

Shaler Senior Service projects are going fast. Contact the CYM office ASAP if you are a high school senior looking for a project.



NEXT PARISH BREAKFAST OCTOBER 25

HERE'S TO YOUR GOOD HEALTH!

OPEN GYM IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNG ADULTS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT THE PAC BEGINNING AT 7:30 PM. GET READY FOR BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL OR BADMINTON.

STRAIGHT TALK WITH MRS. T

PARENTS: Your teens have lots of questions about relationships and maturing in their understanding of God's plan for them. The amazing Mrs. T will offer an opportunity for teens to gather for a series of great presentations and discussions geared specifically for youth in Grades 9 - 12. Call 412-486-5521 to register your high school teen for this life changing series.



CYM Basketball

There will be opportunities for service hours for all teens wishing to play on the CYM basketball team this year, including working at our monthly parish breakfasts. You will need to complete sixteen hours to qualify for the team.

If you are even thinking about playing CYM basketball, go to the Diocese of Pittsburgh website [www.diopitt.org] click under "The Church teaches" then Secretariat, then scroll down to Youth and Young Adult, click on Youth Ministry, then CYM Sports. Under basketball, click on Form E Athletic Release. Take it to your physician when you go for your school physical. **Turn the completed and signed form to the CYM office ASAP OR DROP OFF AT THE RECTORY**, we are starting to compile the roster. The site to obtain the form is also posted on the St. Mary CYM Facebook page.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AT St. Mary of the Assumption CYM. 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 contact Mrs. B via belskib@verizon.net

ST. MARY

GROCERY & SCRIPT NEWS

Because of the importance of the "grocery and script" sales that take place on the weekends, the "Development Committee" has opened up the possibility that all parishioners might have access to this operation during the week. The "Development Committee" is the "brain and brawn trust" of our catholic school families all of whom have the responsibility to raise 10% of the total cost of the school through fund-raisers. With a school that costs over \$1,300,000, the fund raising must be over \$130,000. Raising this money is the responsibility of ALL the families in the school. The talented members of the Committee are hoping to involve all of us in this process. All those going shopping during the week might simply pass by the school, pick up your purchasing power certificates and use them immediately that day. For the customer there is no charge for this service and the customer does not lose any value in purchasing power. The store then reimburses the school for the use of these certificates. Thereby, without any cost to the parishioner, the school is able to support the necessary fund-raising component of the budget. Might you be a parishioner who will begin to use this service each shopping day???



ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment Books will be sold at the Scrip Office and at the Scrip table in church to benefit the school. They are selling for \$20, with a \$5 assessment credit going to any school family you designate. Thank you for your continued support!



175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ Have you enjoyed the little tidbits about our parish history in this spot? Now is the time to place an order for our ANNIVERSARY BOOK. Turn in ten dollars with your name and address and we'll order a copy for you.
- ◆ Admission tickets for our 175th Anniversary Historical Musical are available at the rectory or in the narthex. Be sure to come to the PAC on **Saturday evening, October 17th at 7:30pm.**
- ◆ Now is the time to make your reservation for the 175th Anniversary Dinner Dance on **Saturday, November 14, 2009** at the Holiday Inn at RIDC Park in Blawnox. Call Mary Ann 412.486.0165 to make a reservation. Only thirty dollars a person for a sit down dinner. Many are reserving a table of eight for their families.

OUR PARISH NEWS

A Thought from Deacon Rob

Three weeks have come and gone since I've started my final year in seminary. Three weeks which have given me many reading assignments, typed / homework assignments, opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, and opportunities to exercise my diaconal ministry both at Saint Mary's and at Saint Vincent's.

Yet one of the most important lessons that I continue to learn is how central the Eucharist is in the life of a Catholic. I continue to learn that lesson daily, and in that lesson I find new depths in not only knowing the love of God, but also in deepening my relationship with Jesus Christ. I continue to explore and discover the vast riches that this Mystery holds in my life, and in the life of every Catholic.

At the seminary, we are given ample opportunities to adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. I try to make time everyday to spend at least 15 minutes in conversation with our Lord. And I believe that anyone with a serious commitment to the Gospel would try to spend some time before our Lord at some point during the week between Masses.

Recently, an article appeared in Catholic circles by a priest from a mid-West college who concluded an article saying that Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is "a doctrinal, theological, and spiritual step backward". This is such a sad statement! We have recently heard from Jesus himself for five weeks on how central His Body and Blood are to those who are His disciples. How can anyone who professes to be Catholic not want to spend some time with Him, to come to know Him and experience His love?!

We are called to come and sit at the feet of the Master. We are called upon time and again to "follow Him" (as we heard last week). To be in communion with Christ is to know what He says and to desire to live the way He lived. There is no better way in which we come to know Jesus than to spend time in conversation with Him who is Love itself . . . and the best way to do this is before His Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

I encourage all to come early or stay a little bit before or after the Mass you attend on the weekends to know Christ better. I would also encourage, if your time permits you, to visit the Christ during the day in the church. He quietly waits for you and me to visit Him. Come, let us adore.

Think About Joining the Adult Choir!



In recent years, we have seen some very talented people leave our adult choir. People retire, move away, or their life situations changes. We have also had some very talented people become involved with the group, but some of the recent departures leave us in need of some new voices if we are going to maintain the quality of music the church has enjoyed in the past. St. Mary's adult choir rehearses at 7:30PM on Wednesday, and usually sings at 11:00AM mass on Sunday. This choir also sings at major liturgical celebrations and concerts throughout the year. It requires a commitment, but having a quality choral group benefits everyone. If you have been thinking about joining, but have been unsure, now would be an excellent time to join us!

MARKET DAY pick up THIS Monday, Sept. 21. Helpers on needed 5:00 PM on; call Lee at 724-443-1147.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

observed nationally today focuses on the theme: "*Catechesis and the Proclamation of the WORD*".

RETREAT NEWS

All women of the parish are invited to join us on **November 6-7-8** as we make our Annual Retreat at St. Paul's on the South Side. All are welcome! To register or to find out more, call Irene Linkowski at 412.487.1779.

The Men's Retreat is coming up in March, 2009. Watch the bulletin for more information. Retreat information is available by calling Jim Finn at the rectory at 412.486.4100.

SEX and GOD are the two topics most searched on the internet. Theology of the Body for Teens program "marries" them through Pope John Paul II's compelling vision for love and life. Using a great mix of stories, real-life examples, films, activities, prayers, and references to the culture that teens understand, Theology of the Body for Teens answers the questions teens have about their own bodies, issues on sexual morality, and how they were uniquely created for greatness. High School Teens (or parents) wishing to be part of the several week process, contact Lee Ann Trout at 412-492-8043. Sessions begin Saturday, Sept. 19, 10:30 AM till Noon or Sunday, Sept. 20, 10:00 AM till Noon. Meetings will be in the JAM house.

HOMELESS persons in Pittsburgh are in need of sleeping bags and blankets. Any items you wish to donate, please put on the last pews in the Children Liturgy Room with a sign "for the homeless".

SCARECROWS, VAMPIRES, & PUMPKINS

Enjoy a day in Ligonier with shopping, lunch and a performance that includes vampires who attend the "Annual Vampire Hunter's Convention." Visit a pumpkin patch before returning home. For more details, please contact Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091.

RIVERS CASINO

On Friday, October 16th, join us for a bus trip to the new Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh. Your cost will be \$16. The casino will refund you \$15, leaving you with a total cost of \$1.00! For more details, please contact Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091.



LIST

Please pray for all the sick and those recovering from illness. Family and friends have requested prayer for the following:

Allen & Beverly, Richard Antoszewski, Rose Antoszewski, Clara, Frank, Mary Lou, Patricia A., William G., Renae Vivaldi/Breskovich, Michael Breskovich, Thomas Bridge, Thomas Butler, Carol DiPerna, Craig Glaser, John Hoehn, Kathy Klein, Joey Kuhn, Barbara Lagiovane, Ernest Musto, Luke Noullet, Sarah Polito, Debbie Porco, Lindsay Nicole Rolley, Paul Spadafora, Joshua Stanek, Jeff Stockert, Matthew Thens, Mark Thimons, Bill Vistein, Frank Vinski, Paul Z.

Pastoral Impressions – Catechetical Sunday

by Rose Stegman

Listen...Listen ! , Look...Look ! , Tell it...Tell it! These words remind me of when I was a child and would stand in our back yard and shout, then listen to hear the word come back as an echo. With the passing years too many houses have been built which interfere with the space which provided an echo years ago. However, these words are timely as we observe Catechetical Sunday, a day to acknowledge the calling of every baptized person to be a catechist—one who “echoes” the WORD of God. From the Greek verb *katekhein*, catechesis means to resound or echo. Luke uses the same verb in Acts 18:25 as “instructing in the way of the Lord.” These words likewise remind me of Jesus telling his disciples why he used parables to teach: ... “because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.” (Matthew 13:13) In recent meetings with our four teams of catechists who volunteer to “instruct in the ways of the Lord” with the youngest members of our parish family, I was pleased to hear them “**Tell it**”, how they perceived the Word of God echoed in their own experiences throughout the summertime. One couple joyfully announced the blessing of new life still growing in the womb which will begin their own family. A mother mentioned how wondrous is summertime when her several children are at home with her and they have fun sharing tasks and playing. Another cited the challenges of her high school teen testing her to the limits yet feeling the guidance of our Lord with her. A high school youth spent the summer at basic training with the National Guard and drew on his faith to support others at boot camp who confided in him with their troubles and doubts. Others mentioned being care givers for elderly parents or relatives and being strengthened in the face of adjustments that elder life brings. A young mom and her two children felt the presence of our God as they faithfully helped “grandpa” in his last months of debilitating illness and recent death. As well as meeting the issues of their own lives, they generously volunteer to “instruct in the ways of the Lord,” others in our family of faith. We commend them, as well as urge all to reflect how YOU echo the love of our God and the passion and compassion of Jesus in the exigencies of daily life. May you **LISTEN** to the reality of our God’s words echoed to you, “YOU are precious to me, and I love you!” **LOOK** for opportunities to **TELL IT** to all those who hunger for such assurance.