

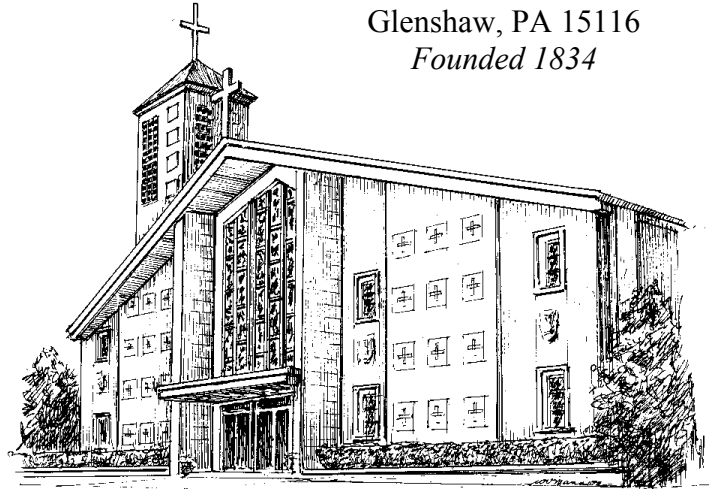
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 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

SEASON OF ADVENT

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

ADVENT HOME PACKET

Every "registered" home was sent this week our quarterly packet with times for the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. We invite you to post that schedule somewhere in a prominent place so that you might have the dates and times at your fingertips. Our Parish Staff puts this packet together in an attempt to show the importance of the HOME as the center of spiritual growth for the family.

MISPRINT IN THE PACKET

Please note that the liturgies for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated on **MONDAY, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. and TUESDAY, December 8th at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** The 175th Anniversary Celebration open to all members will be **TUESDAY EVENING at 7:00 p.m. with the Bishop as the main celebrant.**

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPE

Every parishioner is given an opportunity to help in the purchasing of the wide variety of flowers and other decorations that beautify our church during this season and throughout the year. Thus, you will notice that a "Christmas Flower" envelope has been included in the newest packet of envelopes that we received this month. We ask those who wish to use this envelope to do so as quickly as possible since a listing of the names commemorated must be created which, of course, takes time to print with the very special work done by those involved in the process.

175th FINALE CELEBRATION

A special invitation is extended to all the members of our Parish Family to join us on Tuesday evening, DECEMBER 8th at 7:00 p.m. in church to celebrate the climatic conclusion of our ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE years of parish life. Bishop Zubik will join us for this finale with a liturgy celebrating the Holyday of Obligation. A reception in Marian Hall will follow with a variety of surprises that will capture the moments of this year!

MATCHING FUND RESPONSE

We remind all parishioners who wish to help in the raising of the \$250,000 needed for us then to be given another \$250,000 in Matching Funds that today is the due date for the returning of the contribution cards that were sent to all families this past month. We are drawing closer and closer to our goal and hope that all families respond to the \$600 two year pledge.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE PLACED

Have you noticed the placing of the "Memorial Plaque" outside the door of the church for those who have given the required amount to the Pledge Campaign? We remind those who are now giving that the names on the plaque are not complete. We are hoping to make those additions and corrections AT ONE TIME so we will wait until we have a final count before we make those adjustments.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

Our Parish Pastoral Council celebrates its NINTH ANNIVERSARY as we come to this First Sunday of Advent. What a wonderful tradition of LAY LEADERSHIP has been offered by its members over the past nine years. This leadership has impacted on each and every segment of our parish so that all of us might develop our spirituality in light of the four pillars of our Vision Statement. We ask all parishioners to keep these Council members in their daily prayers --- Ron Belski, Tricia Coyle, Jack DeAngelis, Laurie Exler, Sue Ferguson, Dona Hotopp, Chuck Martier, Paul Mitsch, and Debbie Schwoegl. The formation of GIFT is the newest adventure of the Pastoral Council hoping to increase the "ownership" of all parishioners by giving them opportunity for "participation" in parish life.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 29, 2009 - First Sunday in Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Kirby & Walter Family - Family
- 6:00 p.m. Joseph Pankowski - Faith Formation Team
- 7:30 a.m. Kathryn & Michael Runatz - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Barbara Jean Orsini - Marinack-Lazzaro Family
- 11:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Monday, November 30, 2009 - St. Andrew

- 7:00 a.m. Teresas Gullo - Ruffa Family
- 10:00 a.m. M. Patrick Daniels - Tom & Irene Garasic

Tuesday, December 1, 2009 - Weekday in Advent

- 7:00 a.m. Clement C. Newcamp - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Kathleen Kunkle - Warren & Arlene

Wednesday, December 2, 2009 - Weekday in Advent

- 7:00 a.m. Special Intention of Hagen & Anne Starz
- 10:00 a.m. Joseph Hvostal - Rege

Thursday, December 3, 2009 - St. Francis Xavier

- 7:00 a.m. Marie Navarro - The Mitsch Family
- 10:00 a.m. Shirley Kornick - Husband

Friday, December 4, 2009 - St. John of Damascus

- 7:00 a.m. Pat Regan - Members of St. Vincent DePaul Society
- 10:00 a.m. Charles Gabriel - St. Mary School Community

Saturday, December 5, 2009 - Weekday in Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Lebo - Ben & Marcie Ebbert
- 2:00 a.m. Wedding of Steven Cooper & Meredith Meyer
- 4:00 p.m. Margaret Laughlin - Carol
- 6:00 p.m. Russell Cvetic - Dorothy Cvetic, Ryce Family & Maier Family

Sunday, December 6, 2009 - Second Sunday in Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari - Cugliari Family
- 9:00 a.m. Raymond Benedek - Family
- 11:00 a.m. Marie Kwiatkowski - Family & Friends

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- November 29* (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- Monday** No School
- November 30* No CCD
- Tuesday** (School) Classes Resume
- December 1* (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Cantor Practice
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Mtg.
- Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Little Children Come to Me
- December 2* (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo / Bridge
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Church) 6:45PM - Vespers
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
(JAM) 7:30PM - Young Adult Social
- Thursday** (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- December 3*
- Friday** (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Sweets with Santa
- December 4* (JAM) Overnight Retreat
- Saturday** (Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- December 5* (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after Liturgies
- Sunday** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after Liturgies
- December 6*

Banns of Marriage

- III. Steven Cooper & Meredith Meyer (St. Mary)
- II. Brett West & Caitlin Spinelli (St. Mary)



The flowers adorning our Sanctuary are in celebration of Al and Jane Bartoldi's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

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 Ruth Ann Neary and Rose Fischer. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

Daily Readings



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

- November 30:** Is 2:1-5;
Mt 8:5-11
- December 1:** Is 11:1-10;
Lk 10: 21-24
- December 2:** Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37
- December 3:** Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- December 4:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;
Lk 1:26-38
- December 5:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26;
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
- December 6:** Bar 5;1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk3:1-6

November 22, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	789	\$18,402.75
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$955.00
Children's Offertory	35	\$48.00
Religious Retirement	325	\$9,220.00
All Saints Day	5	\$43.00
Immaculate Conception	2	\$18.00
Christmas Flowers	2	\$25.00
Parish Share 2009	14	\$1,000.00
Parish Needy	26	\$396.00
Total	1,198	\$30,107.75

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

A VOCATION VIEW

The Lord is near! Am I able to read the signs of the times? What is god asking of me? (Luke 21:25-36)



Please continue to pray for the individuals who are currently involved in the RCIA process as they continue their journey of discovering the meaning and the message of the Catholic faith.

Pray, too, for the RCIA team who share the faith

with these individuals as they complete the initial steps of the journey of faith in preparation for the Easter Vigil. All are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings following the 9:00 A. M. Mass in the rectory dining. We do not meet today but will resume on Sunday, December 6th. Call Father Ed or Jim Finn 412.486.4100 to find out more.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

Parents with children age five and under are welcome to gather on December 2nd for this month. A special treat will be shared by all. Have a blessed **Christmas!** We will meet again in January on the first and third Wednesdays. Call Monica 412.492.0242.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

The Christmas season pressures families to buy and consume. Today's gospel warns: "Be on guard and alert" lest you get caught up in the buying frenzy. The most important shopping you can do is in your own heart to discover what you can change. It is not what you get or give which makes the difference this Christmas, it is who you become.

PARENTING POINTERS

While family reunions are about reconnecting and playing together, it does take a lot of work to feed and house visitors. Yes, pay attention to relating with your family, but there are times to be a "Martha" (Lk. 10:41) and help with the tasks of hospitality also. How can you help out today? Clean-up? Entertain young ones for a change? Fix something that's broken?



Moments

In Advent we prepare for the coming of Jesus. How do you prepare for the coming of your spouse after an absence? Do you have any customs that help you reunite at the end of the day or a longer time apart? Anticipation is important.

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING

All members are asked to meet this Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 P. M. in the rectory. Submit agenda items to Tom Goral at 412.487.6244. All interested parishioners are welcome to attend this meeting.



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for First Week of Advent

Advent is the season which the Church provides for us to pause and reflect on the promise of Christ's return – to that point called the "end times." Prophets Jeremiah, Baruch, Zephaniah, and Micah along with John the Baptist and Mary, Jesus' mother, remind us to listen, pray, pay attention, and wait patiently with HOPE. Will you spend quality time attending to the Christ of the Scriptures this Advent? NOW is the time to make a plan, or use The Catholic Update "Day by Day - A Season of Surprises" which was mailed in the packet from our parish. It has a wonderful plan - let it be your guide!

Faith Formation

All urged to come with your family to 7:00 PM Mass on TUESDAY, December 8 - Holyday - Feast of Mary's Immaculate Conception. Bishop Zubik will come to preside at the liturgy for the closing of our 175th Anniversary Year.

Saturday, December 5, 10:30 AM - All meet in church round the Advent wreath.

Monday, December 7, 4:30 PM - All gather on the plaza for short prayer for the homeless.

Monday, December 7, 6:30 PM - All meet in class until 7:00 PM Vigil of the Immaculate Conception – Holy Day liturgy.

MISSION OUTREACH

Our November-December project is a raffle of a **BIG jar of candy** with alternate prize being a girls basket of **Pink** items. Candy guesses @ 25 cents each/ 5 for \$1.00. Anyone welcome to participate, stop in at the Faith formation Office. Photos of the youth we are helping to support are posted in the Faith Formation office. Winners will be announced on December 13 at Noon.

Middle Schoolers

Congratulations for sharing your **BURNING HEARTS**, call 412-486-5521 if you will be part of the food prep and serving at our **ADVENT MEAGER MEAL with Deacon Rob**, December 12th after the 6:00 PM Mass. All ages/ families welcome to come to the meal. Call for reservations.

Last Call for SHOEBOXES FOR SOLDIERS - ANY person(s) willing to provide items to be sent to our military before Christmas, contact the Faith Formation office for details or for a list suggested items to include. 412-486-5521. Deadline to bring items is THIS Friday, December 4, 2009.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

For children of our parish will be celebrated at parish liturgies - others are welcome too. Extra priests will be available for the Sacrament:

Thursday, December 10, 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 12, 10:30 AM

Monday, December 14, 6:30 PM

Meeting Jesus in the Sacrament of Healing is a wonderful way to prepare for the celebration of His Incarnation at Christmas and His coming in many ways each day. The grace of the Sacrament helps clear one's vision to be able to "see with the eyes of the heart."

YOUTH MINISTRY MANDATORY

In light of the positive response to our recent discussion about stress in the family, we hope that all parents and teens took their mandatory break from their crazy lives over this past holiday weekend. Remember to keep up that pursuit of prayer time!

YOUNG ADULTS

Young adults are invited to the JAM center after every Advent Wednesday evening vesper service for social time, games and fellowship. Vespers at 6:45 PM in the church; social time will follow beginning at 7:20 PM in the JAM center on December 2, 9, 10 and 23. We will also use that time to finalize our plans for THEOLOGY ON TAP IN 2010.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADES 9-12 CYM BASKETBALL

Commissioning of our coaches will be at the 6 PM liturgy on Saturday, December 5. All players are expected to attend this liturgy to honor the adults who are running our sports program. All basketball players need to sign up to help with our annual luminaria project at their practice this week.

LUMINARIA PROJECT WILL BE LAUNCHED AFTER EVERY LITURGY ON DECEMBER 5 & 6. AT ANY OF THOSE LITURGIES, COME TO THE CYM TABLE AT HOSPITALITY AND SIGN A MEMORIAL BAG FOR YOUR LOVED ONES; A FREE WILL DONATION MAY BE OFFERED AT THAT TIME.

LAST CHANCE TO PURCHASE COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS [THOSE BEAUTIFUL SUN CATCHERS DEPICTING TWO SCENES OF OUR PARISH CHURCH] ON THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5 & 6. WE HAVE A LIMITED SUPPLY REMAINING AND WE WILL SELL THEM FOR \$20 EACH AT THE CYM TABLE. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

DROP IN AND CHANGE IN OPEN GYM SCHEDULE

Drop In – MONDAY from 6:30 to 8 PM in the Catacomb for games, food and fellowship for youth in Grades 9 - 12. Current service project is making pillows for the homeless. Please bring sewing supplies, clean pillow [not feather!] and a clean pillowcase. The completed pillows will be given to our St. Vincent de Paul Monday evening outreach to the homeless program.

Open Gym time on Wednesdays will now be restricted to our high school CYM basketball teams for practice or games.

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 or check us out on FACEBOOK at St. Mary of the Assumption CYM.

ST. MARY



THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE

– In anticipation of the holiday, the school will hold a Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Wednesday, November 25th, at 10:45 AM in church. All are welcome to join us in prayer for the many blessings of God.

OFFICES CLOSED - The school and SCRIP offices will be closed from noon Wednesday, November 25th, through Monday, November 30th. Offices will reopen on Tuesday, December 1st.

SWEETS WITH SANTA - On Friday, December 4th, we are expecting a very important visitor---SANTA CLAUS!!! He's coming to visit with the children of St. Mary's at the Sweets With Santa event in Marian Hall. The evening begins at 6:30 PM and ends at 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$5 per person, available at the door. The night includes a visit from Santa, the best cookies in Glenshaw, games, and crafts. A photographer will also be on hand. There is a Chinese Auction filled with fun things for the kids and grown-ups too. All are welcome; see you there!

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS



All parishioners

and friends of the parish

are invited

to a Mass of Thanksgiving

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Seven O'Clock in the Evening

Commemorating

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

And

Concluding a year of activities celebrating

One hundred seventy-five years

As a community of the Faithful

+++++

Dessert Reception to follow in Marian Hall

OUR PARISH NEWS

A THOUGHT FROM DEACON ROB

HAPPY NEW YEAR! If you know it, sing along: "Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne."

When Scotsman Robert Burns wrote the original poem in 1788, he was expressing a way to celebrate and honor the "days gone by" (if we translate "auld lang syne" into modern English). For us Catholics – who, today, begin a new liturgical year – this song may seem a little foolish to sing (at least to ourselves, not in the liturgy). But, even from a secular standpoint, the idea behind this song captures what we do in this great season of anticipation.

During Advent, we celebrate a two-fold anticipation. Like the song, we celebrate what has come with joyful anticipation of what is to come. In Advent, while we look forward to the coming of Christ in His glory, we celebrate His first coming as the baby born in a manger. We could not have one without the other. Yet, we forget about the preparations for the Second Coming . . . our society builds up that great Holy Day (which has now pretty much become a secular holiday) as a day in which we are supposed to give and receive gifts.

This two-fold anticipation urges us to prepare to give ourselves as the ultimate gift. If we are to mirror Christ, who gave His life as a gift to us for our redemption, how much more should we prepare not only to give physical gifts at Christmas, but give God our very being so that Christ may be made present on this earth until He comes in glory?

And so, on this "New Year's Day", we do not simply take a cup of kindness, but we raise up the Cup of Salvation in gratitude for the gift that is ours. We come together to not only remember and prepare to celebrate the glorious first coming of Christ in the manger, but we prepare to give our lives as the ultimate gift to God when Christ comes in His glory. We come to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"



ADVENT EVENING VESPERS

Please take this time during Advent to unwind in a relaxed setting at our Vesper service every Wednesday in December from 6:45 PM to around 7:15 PM in the church. Vespers is considered to be the official prayer of the Catholic Church and will be coordinated by Mr. Frank Ruffa and Deacon Candidate Ron Belski.

FREE PIZZA with MARKET DAY orders of \$40 or more in December. **NEW TIME for Pick up** December 14, 6:00-7:00 PM in Marian Hall. Don't miss the EASY way to get some tasty gifts for the Christmas and Epiphany season.

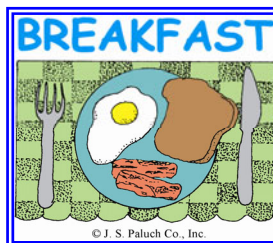
ADVENT Candles

@ \$3.00 per set and booklets for family activities available at the Faith Formation office, 412.486.5521.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



NEXT PARISH BREAKFAST - DECEMBER 20



Delicious home baked breakfast rolls and cakes along with eggs, sausage and beverages; served between 8 AM and 11 AM in a hospitable style to enhance fellowship and faith in MARIAN HALL.

HEY BOYS! Ages 13 to 17...
Squires!?

SPECIAL OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK:

December 6 Saint Nicholas Day...This bishop was renowned for his charity and helping the needy. Do a good deed in his honor for someone in need today.

December 7 Saint Ambrose, one of the original Doctors of the Church, was born into a wealthy family but gave away all his possessions to be possessed by Christ.

December 8 Immaculate Conception of Mary .We acclaim that mary grew in her mother's womb free from original sin.

December 9 Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin native of Mexico to whom Mary appeared and left her image on his tilma. Her feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12. She is Patroness of the Americas and of the Pro-Life Cause.

Adult Education

Please join us in the Faith Formation Office on Tuesdays, December 1, 8, & 15 for review and discussion on the book, "*The Shack*" by William P. Young. We will meet from 1:00pm to 2:30pm. Please contact Dori Monahan, 412-492-9891, for more information.

The Sharing Tree

It is the sharing time of the year! Our trees are set up in the Narthex for those who wish to participate in making Christmas brighter for someone less fortunate. All of the groups with whom we partner in this effort are very grateful for the continued generosity of our wonderful, caring parish. The last day that we can accept the gifts this year will be **Sunday, December 13**, as they have to be sorted, packed and delivered to the various facilities early in that week in time for them to sort and distribute the presents. If you are interested in sharing, please do not take a name if your are not able to return the gift by the deadline. Drop the packages off in the Narthex, and be sure to attach the ornament to the gift, including gift certificates. Thank you and God bless you.

Sr. Lois Spinnenweber

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” to each and every one of you! Seems strange, does it not, to wish “happy new year” on November 29th? Well, there is one very important word omitted in this expression: it should read “Happy New Year LITURGICALLY!” Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new year on the calendar of the Church. Today begins another liturgical year when we will relive the mystery of the Lord Jesus over the next 52 weeks. This mystery will become the center of our lives together as we look forward to another year of spiritual development that will bring each of us closer to the presence of our God.

The ADVENT Season is four Sundays in length. Sometimes we have a tendency to say “four weeks” long, but the fourth week is not always complete. As a matter of fact, in this year of 2009, since Christmas is on a Friday, the Advent Season is *three weeks and five days* in length. We must keep in mind that the FOUR of the Advent Season really relates to the number of “Sundays” in the season, and not to the number of weeks.

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

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