

# PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Third Sunday of Easter  
April 6, 2008

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](http://stmaryglenshaw.org)

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

Parish Family Administration Office: 412-486-4100

Religious Formation Office - 412-486-5521

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

## **“CATCH THE VIBE”**

### **“VITALITY IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE”**

There are still members of our Parish Family who are fulfilling the pledges that they made two or three years ago. We are all reminded that when these pledges are complete, the debt that we now have with the Diocese will be totally eliminated. Parishioners still paying on their pledges will be contacted by a member of the Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) to determine their intentions as far as the payment is concerned. With the first two phases of our project completed --- including the improvement of our sacred grounds and the construction of our Parish Activity Center --- we will now look to the needs of our field areas and the construction of our much needed maintenance building. All parishioners will be kept abreast of the developments in these areas.

### **COUNCIL CONCERN FOR HOMEBOUND**

One of the goals of our Pastoral Council is to assure that every parishioner who is homebound, in a caring facility or institutionalized is aware of the MINISTRY that our Parish Family might have to them. Sister Lois represents our Parish Family in reaching out to these people who have needs from receiving the Eucharist in their homes, to having a meal provided for them. We ask those who might be concerned about such parishioners to contact the rectory or Sister Lois to make us aware of this need.

### **“VOX POPULI” (part 8)**

It is only TWO weeks away when the VOX POPULI (“The Voice of the People”) will be heard by the members of our Pastoral Council. Everyone is asked to make a special effort to participate in the liturgy that weekend when a few minutes will be set aside to “mark the survey” that has been created by the Pastoral Council. This will give parishioners an opportunity to help the Council set the goals for the future of our parish life.

### **EASTER WATER STILL AVAILABLE**

Those seeking the Holy Water of Easter to bless their homes or their families at prayer may simply take a small bottle near the baptistery and fill it with the water that was blessed at the great event of the Easter Vigil. What a beautiful custom for each family to have in their home!!

## **PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Members of the Pastoral Council are alerted of their meeting set for this Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory. Members of the Parish Family are always invited to seek out the Council members to offer ideas and suggestions concerning the future direction of our parish life. The Council is now in the process of refining the survey that will be distributed in two weeks for all parishioners to have an input in the goals and objectives set by the Council. As the Diocese of Pittsburgh encourages the leadership of Parish Pastoral Councils in each parish, our members have been very faithful to the process endorsed by the Diocese in this parish life regulation.

### **“CATHOLICS COMING HOME”**

All parishioners are alerted to the fact that a new MINISTRY has developed in our Parish Family entitled “CATHOLICS COMING HOME” (CCH). This is a group of dedicated parishioners who are reaching out to those who have become distant from the regular practice of the Catholic Faith. Those in the Ministry will then open an easy access for the person to come home to the regular practice of the Faith. Pamphlets entitled “We Miss You” are available at the doors of the church with Ministry members on them. Take one and offer to those seeking a return to the practice of the Faith.

## **FISH DINNER VOLUNTEERS**

All those persons who were volunteers for our very successful Lenten fish dinners are reminded of their “appreciation evening” to be held on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. Under the leadership of Ginny and Paul Penezic, we will seek ideas and suggestions from the group concerning these dinners. All volunteers are asked to mark this date on their personal calendars.

## **GROUP FIRST EUCHARIST**

The last Sunday of April is our Parish Family celebration of the First Eucharist of all our young people. We just remind parishioners participating in the liturgies of April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> that we will have many guests that weekend, especially at the 4:00 p.m. liturgy on Saturday evening and the 11:00 a.m. liturgy on Sunday morning!



# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 - Third Sunday in Easter**

- 4:00 p.m. William & Charles Semler - Hilda & Bill Gilg
- 6:00 p.m. Gregoria & Antonia Scolieri - Marco & Rose Imbarlina
- 7:30 a.m. Francis Werling, Jr. - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Josephine Harlovic - Hefferin Family
- 11:00 a.m. Gerard Walter - Loretta Walter

**Monday, April 7, 2008 - St. John Baptist de la Salle**

- 7:00 a.m. Bernadene Corbett - Ron & Fran Plesco
- 10:00 a.m. Marie Sonnett - Tom & Babs

**Tuesday, April 8, 2008 - Easter Weekday**

- 7:00 a.m. Paul Berrang - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Russell Sherred, Sr. - Adeline & Russ

**Wednesday, April 9, 2008 - Easter Weekday**

- 7:00 a.m. Leonard Lang - Germaine Lieb
- 10:00 a.m. Rose Sobehart - M/M Joseph Rezak & Melissa

**Thursday, April 10, 2008 - Easter Weekday**

- 7:00 a.m. Owen Finley Stevens - Grandma & Pa
- 10:00 a.m. Joan Paragi - Sr. Theresa Novak

**Friday, April 11, 2008 - St. Stanislaus**

- 7:00 a.m. Ernest Restori - Wisneski Family
- 10:00 a.m. David Heim - The Stevens Family

**Saturday, April 12, 2008 - Easter Weekday**

- 8:00 a.m. John, Barbara & William Lorkovic - Dick & Carrie Druzak
- 10:00 a.m. CCD
- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 6:00 p.m. Esther Finn Mogus - Rita & Jim Finn

**Sunday, April 13, 2008 - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

- 7:30 a.m. Edward Bittner - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Theresa Grzandziel - Faith Formation Team
- 11:00 a.m. Harry Heintl - Rachele & Harry
- 6:00 p.m. Intension of the Mission Team going to Uganda

## Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday, April 6** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after all Liturgies  
(Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Sunday Preschool  
(Marian Hall) 5:30PM - Eagle Scout Court of Honor
- Monday, April 7** (Marian Hall) 3:00PM - Girl Scout Troop #1275  
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Handbell Practice  
(School) 6:30PM - CCD Program  
(Rectory) 7:30PM - Pastoral Council
- Tuesday, April 8** (Marian Hall) 3:00PM - Brownie Troop #205
- Wednesday, April 9** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards  
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice  
(PAC) 3:00PM - CYM Drop-in Grades 6 - 12  
(PAC) 5:00PM - Open Gym/Boys & Girls Gr. 6-12  
(Church) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home Meeting  
(Marian Hall) 7:30PM - 55 Specials - Meeting  
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday, April 10** (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday, April 11** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass  
(Marian Hall) 1:30PM - DARE Graduation
- Saturday, April 12** (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program  
(Church) 10:00AM - CCD Mass  
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Hawaiian Luau Fund Raiser for Uganda
- Sunday, April 13** (Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
(Church) 11:00AM - Sunday Preschool  
(Church) 6:00PM - CYM Liturgy with Fr. Michael  
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Teen's Session - Dating  
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Parent Session - Text Messaging

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Anne Germinaro, mother of Michael Germinaro, Alexander J. McLellan, father of Sherri Reddick, and Helen Valicenti, mother of June Loedding.



### Hospitality Weekend

Please join us in Marian Hall after all the Liturgies for good food and fellowship.

## BANNS OF MARRIAGE

### I. DANIEL GRAY & MARJORIE BEZILLA (ST. MARY)

March 30, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	762	\$17,051.15
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,065.00
Children's Offertory	31	\$36.28
Holy Land	13	\$206.00
Easter Offering	29	\$654.00
Easter Flowers	1	\$25.00
Catholic Campaign/ Human Development	3	\$61.00
Parish Share 2008	44	\$2,675.00
Parish Needy	29	\$424.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>\$22,197.43</b>

## Daily Readings



You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

- April 7: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29**
- April 8: Acts 7:51 - 8:1a; Jn 6:30-35**
- April 9: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35 - 40**
- April 10: Acts 8:26 - 40; jn 6:44-51**
- April 11: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59**
- April 12: Acts 9:31 - 42; Jn 6:60-69**
- April 13: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Pt 2:20b - 25;  
Jn 10:1 - 10**

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE**

**TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE-** Our parish Vocation Council sponsors an ongoing project to assist those who wish to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. All are invited to host this prayer tool in their homes. To schedule a week of prayer in your home, call Ron Ondrizek at (412)486-6851.

### **A VOCATION VIEW**

Do you recognize Jesus in your midst? Is your heart burning within you? Think about the possibility of walking the path with Jesus as a brother, sister, priest, or deacon. ( Luke 24:13-35)

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Next Sunday, April 13, is a special Easter celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated this day as *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. Our parish will join with the universal church to ask for God's blessings that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocation.

### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar**

In today's gospel the disciples were returning home so "downcast" they did not recognize Jesus walking with them. In our homes we can also be so overwhelmed we don't see God with us. Today's gospel tells us to stop each day and open our eyes to the blessings we are to one another in our families.

### **GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN**

Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the A. J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University.

**TRAVEL PLANS-** St. Mary's bus will leave from the lower parking lot on Sat. April 12 at 7:30am. Those who registered with Jim Finn and indicated that they would ride the bus will be given their admission tickets on Sat. morning as they board the bus. The day will end with an anticipated Sunday Mass at 4:00pm. Bishop David Zubik is the presider and homilist. The bus will leave immediately following Mass. **PLEASE PARK IN THE LOWER PARKING LOT NEAR MIDDLE ROAD.** Last minute questions can be directed to Jim Finn (412)486-0187.

**SECOND SATURDAY MENS GROUP- will not meet on April 12 because of the GATHERING at Duquesne University. See you on May 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**EVENING OF REFLECTION-** The annulment process, or Declaration of Marriage Nullity, as it is properly called, is often misunderstood. Anyone interested in learning about this process is invited to attend a special program at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton on **Wednesday, April 16, 2008 from 7:00p.m. until 9:00p.m.** The presenter will be father Brian Welding, tribunal Judicial vicar for the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This program is FREE and open to the public. For more information, call 412-456-3160 or email familylife@diopitt.org.

## **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

### **Faith Sharing for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

In what ways is Jesus present in the bread blessed, broken and shared? How do you show hospitality to strangers in the world today? What time has your family set aside to "sit around the table" and tell stories of recognizing and responding to JESUS? When do you do this with friends?

**Faith Formation Families of Monday, Saturday, and our Sunday Family Program** have been sent the April News reminders as well as a Registration Form for our 2008 – 2009 Catechetical Season. All those for whom we have e-mail have been sent the two items on e-mail.

### **Grade 2 Children and Parent/Guardians,**

an update on the processions for First Eucharist and schedules for individual photo takes will be given to children to bring home at their class on April 14, 19 -20.

**CONFIRMATION PRACTICE** with Deacon Fran will be as originally scheduled, **Saturday, April 19** WITH and immediately AFTER the 6:00 PM Liturgy. Sponsors are **welcome, but not required**, to come for the practice. A session for PARENTS' discussions with Father Ed and Mrs. Belski & CYM will be held in Marian Hall while the candidates practice immediately AFTER the 6 PM Mass.

**CONFIRMATION CLUSTERS** are being visited during the month of April by a member of our parish staff or one of the Confirmation Catechists for a discussion of how our parish family can help support youth's growth in faith beyond the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our deanery proposal for newly confirmed, and family members, to participate in a **WORLD YOUTH DAY pilgrimage, July 15-18**, will also be shared. Let's keep our youth and their families in daily prayer as they come closer to confirming faith as lived and shared in our Catholic faith community.

**ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT : MORALITY class** being held at St. Joseph Church, 342 Dorseyville Road, O'Hara Township. Not too late to get in on the Wednesday sessions, 6 – 9:00 PM taught by Mrs. Sharon Hachman and Father Denis Bradley. Call Nancy Vecchio, 412-963-9252 for details.

**Catechist Certification Class Elementary METHODS for Catechesis** will be offered in St. Mary's School Library, Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 31, & June 7. Adults and High School (those completing Grade 8) welcome. Call 412-486-5521 to register NOW.

**Grade 7 Parents & Youth:** Students were given information about serving as "hosts" for the reception for the evening of Confirmation on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, from 7:00-9:00PM. Please call the Faith Formation Office at 412-486-5521 to help.

**Sunday Family CCD:** The next session is **April 20<sup>th</sup>** beginning with the 9:00 am Liturgy: **Grade 7-3 Serves.** Adult Session: **Marian Hall 10:00 am – Noon** Closing Prayer: **Grade 7-1 / Mr. & Mrs. Rihmland**

**Special Project for April: - Pajama Program -** Needed: *new children's pajamas, all sizes, and new children's books* - These will be donated to children in need in the United states, many of which are waiting and hoping to be adopted. Please bring all donations to this session and drop off at the back table. Thanks for your continuing support of these special projects!

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### HOPE Mission Team

We will be going to Gulu, Uganda under the direction of Fr. Michael Komakec from June 14 to June 28, 2008:

Barbara Belski - Parish Staff  
 Caitlin Cavanaugh - Senior at University of New Hampshire  
 Drs. Lillian and Frank Cavanaugh - physicians  
 Sean Cavanaugh - in training as physician assistant  
 Jessica Cook - Junior at Fox Chapel High School  
 Marian Cook - teacher, retired  
 Katy Belski Frey - teacher at Propel school  
 Mark Frey - computer department Pitt Law

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

### COST FOR A MISSION TRIP FOR 9 TO UGANDA

Room and board	\$5,000
Flight from US to Entebbe	\$20,000 [PAID]
Flight from Entebbe to Gulu	\$2,000
Medical costs and travel insurance	\$4,500
Answering the Gospel call	PRICELESS

**\$8,950 IS STILL NEEDED** to pay for our travel costs because so far you have donated \$1,350.

We hope to offset some of the remaining cost at our April 12 Hawaiian Luau. The Hawaiian Luau is our only major fund raiser to meet this goal.

## How can you help?

- Purchase a ticket for our Luau on April 12 at the rectory.
- Offset our Luau expenses with a corporate donation or sponsorship.
- Sign up to make a dessert or donate wine for the Luau.

If you would be interested in donating money toward our travel fund, it would be most appreciated. Please make donation checks out to St. Mary Parish with the memo "African Mission Travel Fund" and leave at the rectory for Barb Belski.

LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER GROUP TO SERVE the SOAR Homeless Shelter meal this month on May 10. Our parish prepares and serves the meal on the second Saturday of every month. This opportunity will require a short orientation to the shelter and taking the time from 5 to 7 PM on May 10 to transport and serve the meal. A small group of 2 - 4 servers, high school age and older may present the meals to the ladies at the shelter. Call the CYM office at 412-486-4100, ext. 409 if you can help.

**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, ext. 409.**

## **ST. MARY SCHOOL**

### **REGISTRATION FOR 2008**

We are still accepting registrations for interested families of students preschool through seventh grades for the 2008-2009 school year.

St. Mary School offers a 3 year-old and 4 year-old preschool program, as well as half-day and full-day kindergarten programs. Students considering kindergarten **MUST** be five by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Registration requirements include copies of the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, and social security card. In addition, a \$100 non-refundable registration fee is required but is applied to the child's tuition.

Inquiries and tours can be made at (412) 486-7611. Consider St. Mary School as your school of choice.



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**STILL COLLECTING** - We are still collecting empty ink cartridges, old cell phones, and labels from Campbell's products. Please continue to help us save these items that benefit our school by dropping them off in the back of church or inside the school entrance. We thank you for your continued support!

**THANK YOU** Thank you **Thank you Thank you Thank you!**

Thanks for adding Easter joy to our families.

Our St. Mary School, 5th grade classes and teachers for donating two full, complete, Easter Sunday meals and including candy for the children.

CCD and the Family Program for food donations for the Pantry and candy donation for the Shuman Center.

St. Peter's Cluster Group for adopting a family for Easter.

Parishioners for donation of Easter candy for the Shuman Center, and for adoption of a family with a complete meal.

Sr. Lois Spinnenweber

## **GENERAL PARISH NEWS**

### **Holy Communion Ministers, Readers, and Altar Servers**

The next schedule for your ministries will be mailed out by the end of April. Please contact Susan Urso in the Rectory Office if there are dates that you will not be able to serve due to unavailability in May and June. Thank you.

### **Meet Bishop Zubik at the Wisdom, Age, and Grace**

**Workshop: "The Peace We Seek"**, Friday, May 9, 8:00 AM till 3:00 PM, includes Mass, continental breakfast, talks, discussion, lunch, prizes, and PEACE. See [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org) or pick up a registration form at our parish Faith Formation office, 412-486-5521

**MARKET DAY fliers for April are NOW** available at the church exits, scrip and Faith Formation offices. **PICK UP will be Monday, April 28, 6:30-7:30 PM**, NOT before 6:30 PM. **A MAN or two who could lend a hand** will be gratefully welcome. Call Lee, 724-443-1147

**RICE BOWLS**, still being accepted at the Faith Formation office. **THANKS** to all those who gave for assistance to the world's most needy aided by Catholic Relief Services.

**"POWER ZONE"** is a **summer sports camp**, an exciting and enriching FIVE session program for children ages 8 thru 14, scheduled for Tuesdays, **July 8 through August 5, 5:00 – 9:00 PM**. Older teens and adults needed to assist as coaches & support team. Supervised activities for tiny tots and younger children will be available. **Contact Lee Ann Trout at 412-492-8043 or [leeanntrout@verizon.net](mailto:leeanntrout@verizon.net) for further details.**

### **Morning of Reflection for**

#### **Mothers and Adult Daughters**

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 9:00AM - 1:00PM at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center, South Side, Pittsburgh. Offering: \$35 for Mother and Daughter; \$40 for family (includes 11:00AM brunch). Speakers: Maureen Wood, Mother and Director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Pittsburgh with Beth Wood, Adult Daughter and Middle School Teacher, in Baltimore. Please register in advance. 412-381-7676 or email: [stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org](mailto:stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org).



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

Anna Marie Belch, Renae Vivaldi Breskovich, Barbara Callahan, Virginia Glass, Martha Hornak, John Hoehn, Olivia Hutchenson, Helen Kolek, Karen Mickus, Regis & Kitty Murphy, Jack & Margie Nist, Judy Ranalli, Courtney Ryce, Frankie Seiler, Joshua Stanek, Mark Thimons, Archie Wharton, James Wilson.



### **HAWAIIAN LUAU**

Our Hawaiian Luau is one week away. We need baked Hawaiian desserts such as pineapple upside down cake, coconut cake, or macadamia cookies. We are also looking for donations of fresh pineapple, tropical canned fruit and Wine. Please deliver items to Marian Hall on Friday April 11th. If the hall is locked, go to the rectory for the key and leave your item in the kitchen or the cooler, clearly marked for the April 12 Luau. Thank you for your support. Call 412-486-4100, ext. 409 with questions.



### **ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEENS**

**Youth Gatherings Program.** Our next gathering will be held on **Sunday, April 20, after the 9 AM Mass from 10 AM to Noon, in the Parish Activity Center.** Plan to attend and enjoy a good time!

### **Is a Just War Possible?**

What do you know about the Catholic Church's teachings on war and the use of force? Have you heard of the Just War Theory? Do you know of its origins? Have you thought about its applicability to today's events? A panel of eight St. Mary's parishioners has looked at these issues. The panel will share its findings, as well as reflections on panelists' military and humanitarian experiences, and will suggest resources for further study and local service efforts during St. Mary's Family Faith Formation session on Sunday, April 20, 2008, after the 9:00AM Mass in Marian Hall. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a thoughtful Christian discussion of a topical issue. Please contact Martha Hollihan at 412-967-0842 with any questions.

### **Christian Mothers/Women's Organization**

You only have a week and a half before our **Covered Dish Dinner!!!** Please contact one of the officers to let us know that you are coming so we can put your name on our list. You can purchase your tickets for \$5.00 from any of the officers or if you tell us to put your name on the list, you can pay for the tickets the night of the dinner. Husbands and/or guest are welcome. You will be held responsible for paying if your name is on the list, as we need a count for the entrée. The **cut off date is April 13th** at midnight! This is our last big event of the year ladies, so let's all attend! All members should bring a covered dish of their choice. The entrée is chicken. Wine and beer will be served. Please contact an officer ASAP as April 17th is fast approaching.

### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend**

April 18-20 at the Four Points Sheraton, Findlay Twp. For more information or to register, contact Mary & Lou Locante at 412-635-7775 or check us out on the web at [wwme-pittsburgh.org](http://wwme-pittsburgh.org).

## *Were not our hearts burning within us?*

by Barbara Belski, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

This is one of my favorite Gospel texts, second only to the Beatitudes. Found just in Luke, we are swept off our feet by the themes "of journey, faith as seeing and hospitality."

### **How can this story come alive for you and me today?**

"...two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem..." Luke 24:13

**What pulls us away from our journey toward God?** Luke is showing us that these two disciples were walking away from The Way by writing that they were going *away from Jerusalem* [or Jesus] rather than moving toward the Light. Are we not the same today? One of our young adult catechists wrote to me about some of his recent struggles, noting that "sometimes you need journeys to find true paths." I am not sure if this is his original reflection, but how true it is to what many of us experience. I certainly fall into daily temptations to stray from God's call; often needing someone in my life to speak bluntly to me and point out my negative actions or words. We need to pray passionately for the strength required to stay on our journey toward God and to avoid those distractions that lead us off that path.

"...but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him." Luke 24: 16

**What stops us from recognizing Christ?** Excusing ourselves from reaching out to the poor because we just don't have enough time in the day. Passing up an opportunity to read Scripture daily; provided so easily by our daily Catholic liturgy readings noted in our parish bulletin. Resisting the impulse to volunteer at our parish or even to just take a few minutes to speak to those we see at Sunday Liturgy. Turning our backs on family and friends in pain, because of fear or uncertainty. There are countless ways to prevent us from recognizing Him.

"...stay with us...." Luke 24:29

**The "Ah ha" moment...the power of Jesus can not be resisted!** Finally, the disciples are touched by the overwhelming love of Christ. They extend an invitation to this "stranger" because "*...it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.*" How do they come to see Him? Because finally, their eyes are opened in the sharing of a meal. **Wait a minute...what does this sound like?** If you think Eucharist, then you are on to something. You are opening yourself to the saving power of Jesus in our Catholic liturgy, the communal celebration of the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ.

**Do you know people who say that they do not need to go to church?** They offer that defense about praying privately...as though that is enough. But we know better, don't we? This Gospel story shows that we who struggle to journey toward Christ find that our eyes are opened by His overwhelming love and sacrifice. We celebrate our communal liturgy, read Scripture and serve God by serving others.

"*Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?*" Luke 24:32

**Ah ha!      Alleluia!**

Brown, R.E., J.A. Fitzmyer, R.E. Murphy, gen. eds. *The New Jerome Biblical Commentary*, ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1990). Chapter 43 on Luke, p. 720.