

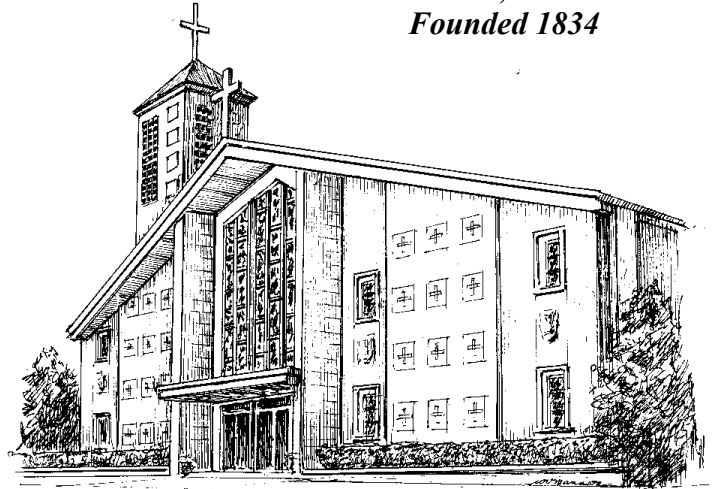
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 6, 2011

2510 Middle Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116
Founded 1834

PARISH STAFF

Mr. Francis Dadowski, Deacon
Father Jay Donahue, Parochial Vicar
Mr. James Finn, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Robert Kardasz, Dir. of Music Ministries
Father John Marcucci, Pastor
Ms. Antoinette Pilarski, Principal
Father William Rutledge, Retired in Residence
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

Youth Ministry Office - 412-486-4100

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

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

MONTH OF NOVEMBER

“PRAYING FOR THE DEAD”

With the celebration of last week's *All Souls Day* and the remembrance of all the FIFTY SIX persons who were buried from our parish church during this past year, we realize how important the funeral liturgy is for those grieving for a loved one who has died. We encourage parishioners to join us at the 10:00 a.m. liturgy when, in fact, it is a funeral. Parishioners who come to the funeral liturgy to support the grieving family in their time of sorrow are asked to sit on the right side of the church coming from the back. Family members are usually escorted to the left side of the church. As the family is being brought into the church, it is a wonderful consolation to them to see parishioners filling up the right side of the church as concerned members of the Parish Family are there to offer their support and prayers. We can bring much hope to people experiencing such grief at this time in their life when we become part of the celebrating Community of Faith.

“FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP” – USCCB

The Bishops of the United States reminded all of us of the importance of our political responsibility in the document entitled “Faithful Citizenship” with the words “...in the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation...” We encourage all parishioners to VOTE! However, we ask no person to use our property to disseminate information “FOR OR AGAINST” a particular candidate. This includes our buildings, parking lot and driveway leading into our sacred grounds!

WELCOME TO MIDDLE STATES TEAM

Our Parish Family welcomes the members of the Middle States Reaccreditation Team who will evaluate the achievements of our St. Mary Catholic Grade School. We open our doors and our hearts to the evaluators who will begin their observations this afternoon and continue during the school days of this week. May we all be proud of how important an asset our school is to our entire Parish Family!

GOOD LUCK TO OUR SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAMS NOW IN DIOCESAN PLAYOFFS

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

CALL TO EPHEBUS & NEAPOLIS

Our dedicated GIFT Coordinators are setting aside today's Hospitality Sunday for those who live in GIFT ANTIOCH and GIFT TYRE to join them in Marian Hall after each of the liturgies. There are designated places in the Hall for them to “meet and greet” others from their neighborhood. We hope that all parishioners in these two areas will accept this invitation to participate in this process. Next month we will spotlight those parishioners who live in Corinth and Perga. What a beautiful way for those who celebrate the liturgy to become more familiar with those in their neighborhood!

A NEW TRANSLATION (part 4)

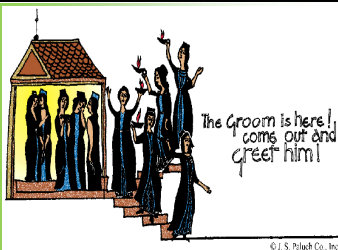
On the first Sunday of Advent, we will begin a new translation of some of the prayers of the Liturgy. Notice the Creed will now begin with the words “I believe” because the singular “I” creates a more personal and individual belief. This stems from our Baptism where our parents/godparents answered “I do” to the questions asked of them on our behalf. This same “I do” is expressed by all of us during the Easter Season when we renew our baptismal promise in this individual and personal way!

J.O.I.N. (part 16)

“JUST OFFERTORY INCREASE NEWS” is the campaign that began eight weeks ago when a Finance Council member spoke about Stewardship. Many parishioners have already begun to increase their weekly offering and we offer our gratitude for their generosity. As the holy season of Advent and Christmas come upon us, might it be a good time for others to reassess their contribution to the Sunday offertory that is so essential to keep us solvent?

GIFT COORDINATORS GATHER

Gift Coordinators are reminded of their gathering this Thursday, November 10 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. We invite any parishioner who would like to become more familiar with those who serve as GIFT Coordinators to join them this week. All parishioners are to be alert to the “Tree Decorating” project about to begin shortly!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 6, 2011 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Grace Nadalin Vaccari - Mother & Father
- 6:00 p.m. Stephanie McNalley - Mom & Dad
- 7:30 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari - Cugliari Family
- 9:00 a.m. Eileen Driscoll - Maura
- 11:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Monday, November 7, 2011 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Salvatore Sunseri - Pat & Mike Sunseri
- 10:00 a.m. Special Intentions of Paul & Dorothy Morris

Tuesday, November 8, 2011 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Richard Cullinan, Jr. - Liebert Family
- 10:00 a.m. Patsy & Minnie Mignella - Family

Wednesday, November 9, 2011 - The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

- 7:00 a.m. Andrew Conrad, Jr. - Hardek Family
- 10:00 a.m. Marge & Paul Duncan - Dona & Tom Hotopp

Thursday, November 10, 2011 - St. Leo the Great

- 7:00 a.m. John Cigna - Rosetta & Jim Kmetyk
- 10:00 a.m. George Sapsara - Wife & Children

Friday, November 11, 2011 - St. Martin of Tours

- 7:00 a.m. Katherine Yasinsky - Bernie Taylor
- 10:00 a.m. Connie McGrath - Mrs. Flaminio & Children's Choir
- 5:00 p.m. Wedding of Derek Julkowski & Alison Eastly

Saturday, November 12, 2011 - St. Josaphat

- 8:00 a.m. Edward Mariani - The Sarosi Family
- 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Jesse Millett & Jill Antosz
- 4:00 p.m. Mary & Joseph Wagner - Family
- 6:00 p.m. Antonina Cugliari - Rocco Didomenico & Family

Sunday, November 13, 2011 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Teresa & Giacomo Tolomeo - The Ruffa Family
- 11:00 a.m. Connie McGrath - Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday November 6** (Marian Hall) Hospitality after all Liturgies (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A. (Providence Hall) 10:00AM - Grade 2 Cluster Group Meeting (Providence Hall) 12:00PM - Grade 2 cluster Group Meeting (Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Middle States Reception
- Monday November 7** (School) 4:30PM - CCD Classes (School) 6:30PM - CCD Classes (Rectory) 7:00PM - Pastoral Council Meeting
- Tuesday November 8** (CCD Office) 1:00PM - Adult Education (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor Practice (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry (Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting (Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Meeting (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Wednesday November 9** (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Children Come to Me (Church) 11:30AM - Ministerium Prayer Service (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo (Church) 1:45PM - Middle States Closing Prayer Service (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday November 10** (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - GIFT Coordinators Meeting (Church) 7:00PM - Teen Choir (Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice
- Friday November 11** (School) 10:00AM - School Liturgy (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - SUPER Bingo
- Saturday November 12** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Morning of Reflection (School) 10:00AM - CCD Classes (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Middle School Dance
- Sunday November 13** (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A. (Marian Hall) 10:00AM - Confirmation Cluster Group Mtg (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children



Flowers adorning our Sanctuary are in loving memory of Stephanie McNalley from Mom & Dad

In Memoriam

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

October 30/31, 2011	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	690	\$19,385.85
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$1,250.00
Children's Offertory	32	\$78.29
World Mission Sunday	15	\$336.00
All Saints Day	19	\$213.00
Parish Share 2011	18	\$850.00
Religious Retirement	2	\$26.00
Parish Needy	25	\$609.00
Total	801	\$22,748.14

DAILY READINGS

- November 7:** Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6
- November 8:** Wis 2:23 - 3:9; Lk 17:7-10
- November 9:** Ez 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
- November 10:** Wis 7:22b-8:1; Lk 17:20-25
- November 11:** Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37
- November 12:** Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8
- November 13:** Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 3031; 1 TGe 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

A VOCATION VIEW

Are your eyes open to the presence of God? Is your lamp lit?
Are you prepared to sit, wait and welcome God in your midst?
(Matt. 25:1-13)

Banns of Marriage

III. **Derek Julkowski** (St. Catherine) & **Alison Eastly** (St. Mary)
III. **Jesse Millett** (St. Mary) & **Jill Antosz** (Transfiguration)

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 **Samuel Iacovetti**, **Dorothy Cygnarowicz**, mother of Carol Roblaski, and **Mary Dowd**, mother of Kathy O'Connor. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

MORNING OF REFLECTION FOR ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SET FOR NEXT SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Once a year we ask all those who serve as ushers, greeters, readers, music ministers (choir and cantors) and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to come together for formation and information. **Next Saturday morning** is the time to join all the liturgical ministers with their ministry coordinators beginning with Mass at 8:00am followed by a continental breakfast in Marian Hall. Fr. Jay will lead our Morning of Reflection in church and your ministry coordinator will meet with you following Fr. Jay's reflections at various sites on campus. All will be over by noon. Call Jim Finn, 412.486.4100, Ext. 203 for more information.

RCIA

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 10:00am Mass in the rectory dining. This week we will discuss the Mass with Fr. Jay and next week we will discuss the Eucharist. Call Jim Finn 412.486.4100 to find out more.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Members will meet this Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00pm in the rectory. Call Tom Goral if you have any agenda items 412.487.6244.

WELCOME ETNA-HAMPTON-SHALER CLERGY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

We will be hosting a meeting of this group of pastoral ministers from the various Protestant and Catholic Churches in the area on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 in the rectory. An Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd at Stoneridge Covenant Church at 7:30pm. All are welcome!

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Nov. 6

Wise or foolish? Assess your own choices. Have you listened to the voice of Jesus the Bridegroom? Do you come to the Feast faithfully each week? The Eucharistic Liturgy is the wedding banquet which we can enjoy daily or weekly.

Faith Formation Sessions this Week:

Monday, 4:30 & 6:30 PM Parent/guardian meeting in Marian Hall for Catholic Vision of Love overview AND Card game about the **NEW Roman Missal**.

Monday, 4:30 PM Grades 5 & 6 Sacrament of Reconciliation in CHURCH. All others meet in class.

Monday, 6:30 PM Grades 6, 7 & 8 Sacrament of Reconciliation in CHURCH. All others meet in class.

Saturday, 10:00 AM All meet in Church; Grade 8 serve

Catholic Vision of Love is our diocesan process and policy for the protection of children and youth. It also provides catechesis on the **spiritual** dimensions of sexuality. An overview and discussion with **PARENTS/ GUARDIANS** of the principles and topics which will be discussed in forth-coming classes with Grades 5 through 8 will be held on **Saturday**, November 5, 10:00 AM IN church, and **Monday**, November 7, 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM, Room 1 of our Saint Mary's School building. Adults with children in all of our Faith Formation classes are welcome to participate.

Catechesis integrates moral formation into a Christian way of life.
~National Directory for Catechesis

40 Days for LIFE final day today, November 6. The prayerful witness of many across the U.S. seems to have saved at least 30 unborn. Continue to pray that citizens will oppose the law which permits the destruction of innocent life.

Festival of Praise ~ All welcome at St. Teresa Church, Perrysville on Saturday, November 12, 8:00-9:30 PM with Music, witness talk "**Gifts of the Spirit**" Eucharistic Adoration, and refreshments.

Bavarian Fest: Saturday, November 12, 2011, **Gedenkgottesdienst** Memorial Mass 4:00 PM at Saint Catherine of Sweden Church, Wildwood Road, Hampton, PA followed by **Heimatfest** with live German music, dancing and **gut essen**. Tickets adults: \$25.00 ; \$20 for Seniors; age 12 and younger \$10 includes full meal with drink. A selection of imported beer to be sold. For **reservations** , call Theresa Goeller @ 412-487-1870.

CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE Workshop to certify adults willing to discuss the spiritual aspects of sexuality and personal safety issues with children or youth of our parish. Session will be at **Saint Athanasius Parish, West View, Sunday, December 11, 1:00-4:00 pm** Catechists gain 6 hours in Catechetical Credits in Morality/CVOL Workshop Awarded, **PREPARATION REQUIRED**, receive pages 2-5 of the CVOL curriculum from Miss Rose (412-486-5521) at our parish Faith Formation office. To register contact: Mary Reichel, 412.931.4624 x213 **Registration Deadline December 5.**

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Welcome all 9th through 12th graders to our all new St. Mary's Youth Group!

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP

Father Jay will be with us this Sunday to discuss the changes in the Mass which will be starting the first week of Advent. This discussion will tie in nicely to the discussion we started last week about the Mass. The new missal translation will engage us in renewing our understanding of the Mass. It's not a new Mass, just a new translation for a new edition of the Missal. So come and have Father Jay take away any anxiety you may have about the changes, there's only 20 days left! See you tonight at the JAM from 6:00 to 8:00.

SERVICE

We had such success with the Haunting of St. Mary that we need to plan for more and wonderful service projects. Come this evening to the JAM at 6:00 for our discussion group and to help brainstorm some ideas for the Christmas Season. Come join in fun, food, and fellowship!

UP COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 6, 6 to 8 PM: Youth Group Discussion, JAM Center.

Saturday, Nov. 12, 8 to 9:30 PM: Festival of Praise at St. Teresa of Avila

Sunday, Nov. 13, 6 to 8 PM: Youth Group Discussion, JAM Center.

Friday, Nov. 18 to Sunday, Nov. 20: Fall Retreat at Camp Allegheny

Sunday, Nov. 20, 10 to 12: Youth Group Discussion, PAC.

CYM BASKETBALL

Diocesan competitive basketball through the youth ministry department is open to both boys and girls in Grades 9 –12. Parents and teens who are interested in participating can stop by the PAC on Wednesdays in November from 7:30 to 9 PM or call Jimmy Kohan at 412-527-9270.

Call the Rectory for current information on our social, spiritual and service activities for teens and young adults at 412-486-4100.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

MIDDLE STATES REACCREDITATION - St. Mary School will be undergoing Middle States reaccreditation from November 7-9, 2011. A team of three evaluators will be observing and analyzing every aspect of our school program. They will cite our achievements as well as areas of improvement in order to make our school the best that it can be. Please keep us in prayer while we undergo this process.

PASTA FOR PENNIES - For the past three weeks, our students were asked to collect money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society via a "Pasta for Pennies" competition. We are proud to share that the twelve classrooms collected a grand total of \$2665.88 which will be donated to LLS in Mario Noro's name. We are so proud of our students who showed great generosity and compassion.

SUPER BINGO

A Super Bingo will be held at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 2510 Middle Road in Glenshaw on **Friday, November 11, 2011.** Advance tickets are \$35.00 each or can be purchased at the door for \$40.00 each. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. Admission includes 30 games of Regular Bingo, 4 Specials and 2 Jackpots. Proceeds benefit St. Mary of Assumption School. Call Coleen at 412-486-6622 for more information



You're Invited:
St. Mary's Middle School Dance

St. Mary's invites all Middle school age students to a "**Graffiti Night**" Dance on Saturday, November 12, 2011, 7:15-10:00pm in the St. Mary's Church Hall: 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw. **Wear or Bring a T-shirt to be signed.** Buy your tickets for \$5.00 at St. Mary's rectory or that evening at the door to the church hall. Pizza, nachos, candy and soft drinks will all be available. Appropriate dress is required for admittance. Bring a canned good for our pantry and the winning team receives a treat!!!!

Check out one of our new CDs, Voting Guidelines from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Dave Durand is an internationally recognized best-selling author, motivational speaker, sales consultant, corporate executive, television guest, host of a nationally syndicated weekly segment on Relevant Radio, faithful Catholic, husband and father. Did you know that the Catholic Church teaches that there are numerous considerations that can affect how a faithful Catholic can vote in good conscience? Responsible citizenship is a duty, but the topic can be confusing. In this presentation, Dave Durand concisely presents the guidelines produced by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to clearly advise and direct Catholics to help them vote.

OUR PARISH NEWS

RETREAT NEWS

This is the weekend that several of our women are on retreat at St. Paul's. They ask for our prayers. In return they will pray for us. If you missed this retreat weekend, watch the bulletin for other retreat opportunities.

VETERAN'S DAY THIS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Did you know that the Archdiocese for Military Services, USA, based in Washington, D. C., serves 1.5 million Catholics at stateside and overseas bases, veterans' hospitals and combat zones? There are currently 31 new seminarians intending to serve in the military, up from three in 2001. They will begin filling the critical shortage of chaplains who bring "consolation", encouragement and even physical support to our troops.

The Military Prayer List is located near the statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our church. A candle is kept burning 24/7 to remind all to remember to pray for those listed and all military personnel.

LET US PRAY

*All powerful and ever-living God,
Those who take refuge in you will be glad
And forever will shout for joy.*

Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm.

May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Novena for Implementation of the New Roman Missal.

Intention for Week 6: That the Eucharistic Liturgy will be a source of strength and hope for all the faithful.

Scripture Reading: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Reflection from Pope Benedict XVI, June 22, 2008:

"It is important that pastors AND faithful be constantly committed to deepening their knowledge of this great Sacrament...remembering that the Eucharist bears fruit in one's personal life, in the life of the Church and the world."

"Prayer: O God, in the covenant of your Christ you never cease to gather to yourself from all nations a people growing together in unity through the Spirit; grant that your church may continually go forward with the human family and always be the leaven and the soul of human society, to renew it in Christ and transform it into the family of God. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Novena Prayer of Self-Offering: Receive, Lord, my entire freedom. Accept the whole of my memory, my intellect and my will. Whatever I have or possess, it was you who gave it to me; I restore it to you in full, and I surrender it completely to the guidance of your will. Give me only love of you together with your grace, and I am rich enough, and ask for nothing more. Amen.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

ANNUAL SUPRIZE AUCTION, November 15th, sponsored by the **Christian Mothers/Women's Organization**. Proceeds benefit a St. Vincent dePaul family for the holidays. The evening begins with 7:00PM mass followed by the rosary and prayers for our children and the military. Please bring a dessert or wine or an appetizer, along with a wrapped gift to be auctioned, \$10 minimum value. **Come join in the fun and bring a friend! Call Elaine Lascher at 412-492-7227 with questions!**

FOOD PANTRY

We are very grateful to those who donate! We can use the donations at any time! We give out bags of food two Tuesdays per month, along with \$10.00 Giant Eagle gift certificates. Some Thanksgiving suggestions: Peanut butter, crackers, beans (any kind), canned vegetables, Spaghetti, cranberry sauce, napkins, or any items to make up a basket. Thank you!

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL MEETINGS

November 11th - 7:00 - 8:00PM

November 27th - 10:30 - 11:30AM

CASINO TRIP to the MEADOWS

The 55 Social Group will be traveling to the Meadows in Washington, PA, on November 14th. Please call Jane Fabry at 412-487-3091 for further information.

SQUIRES

On November 11th and 12th, the Columbian Squires will be selling "Keep Christ in Christmas" magnets for your car after each of the masses. They will be selling for \$5.00 each.

FREE APPLE PIE with \$90 on-line purchase at **MARKET DAY. NOVEMBER** order forms available at the church exits and in the Scrip and Faith Formation offices. Great holiday meal and dessert items for easy preparation. **BE A WINNER!** All who order \$40 or more are eligible for the drawing to win a FREE item each month. Pick up will be **Monday, November 19, 6-7:00 PM.**



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

Bobbie & Ralph Aiello, Ed, Mary Lou, Patricia, William, Paula, Lisa, Jack, Jennifer, Sr. Colette, V'Kojak Balsamico, Danielle Lynn Bauer, Rita Bauer, Cindy Benoit, Bonnie Burkhart, Jim Caulfield, Christine DallePezze, Bonnie Dollin, Dick & Caroline Druzak, Jenny Dugan, Susan Duncan, Luke Fabry, Anita Fabry, Denny Fitch, Marie Fusca, Janet Glanville, Drew & Trent Grady, Hilary Husband, Larry Karwoski, Marlene Kasko, Frank Kornick, Barbara Lagiovane, Sandi Maier, Lori Mueller, Elizabeth Mulkerin, Jim Pilkington, Jay Plietz, Sarah Polito, Jim Rosswog, Courtney Ryce, Ann Samarin, Elaine Settellaier, Marie Sherman, Doreen Solomon, Pat Sovek, Joshua Stanek, Mark Thimons, Christopher Thorpe, Bill Vistein, Daniel Warcholak, Kristin Wilson, Christine Z.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

In the frenzied world in which we live where the front page headlines in newspapers and the leading story in the television news media include gut-wrenching events such as ---

the inner workings of an American foreign policy concerning war in the Middle East ---
or the nightmarish fright of Americans fearing to be possible targets of a crazed terrorist ---
or the turbulent effect of the stock market leaving Americans to wonder about their financial future ---

AMERICANS of the United States of America sometimes lose sight of the magnificent opportunity that is at the heart of life in the most democratic country in the history of the human race!

OUR PRIVILEGE TO VOTE -- ELECTION DAY ON TUESDAY

We live in a free and democratic country where there is a separation between the life of the Church and the life of the State. The basis of that separation simply means that the State cannot endorse any one religious way of life, but must allow all Americans the opportunity to express their religious beliefs in their own particular way. Thus, we have the ability to come each week on the Lord's Day to celebrate the mystery of our Catholic Faith. However, those who are true to the celebration of their religious belief should not take lightly their privilege to vote in this democratic nation. Our Catholic Faith calls us out to participate in the political system of the country that gives us the freedom to be Catholics.

We are called to vote! Those of us who use the political rhetoric of the candidates as an excuse for not voting violate the very freedom we cherish so dearly. For whom we vote is our own personal choice. Not to vote is also a choice --- a choice we should never express. Each of us should drop to our knees this Tuesday to thank the Father in heaven for the gracious gift of creating us to live in a country where every vote counts!