

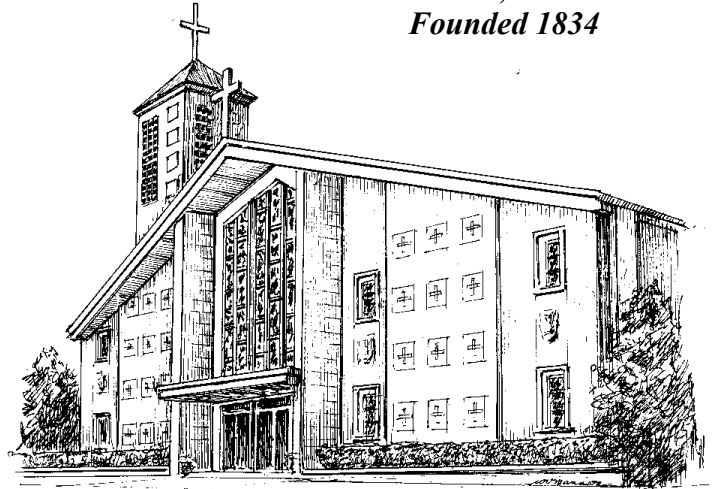
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 30, 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

NOVEMBER'S TWO-FOLD LITURGICAL CELEBRATION

November begins with two major events: the Solemnity of All Saints set for November 1st and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day) on November 2nd. These magnificent liturgical celebrations have a long history in the traditions of our Catholic Faith, and the faithful make special efforts to come to church on each day! All of us are encouraged to set aside a few moments on each of these days to reflect on their meaning.

ALL SAINTS DAY

On Tuesday, November 1st, we will celebrate All Saints Day, one of the six holydays of the ten universal holydays of the Roman Catholic Church that is celebrated in the United States. For those who would like to maintain their commitment to this day, we will have four liturgies: 4:30 p.m. Monday evening; 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. Tuesday morning; and 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening. Come, join the Community of Faith as we remember the saints of old and see them as models for our lives!

ALL SOULS COMMEMORATION

November 2nd celebrates the Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed. Family members of those who have been buried from our parish church since last November 2nd have been invited to join us for a 7:00 p.m. liturgy Wednesday evening. The regular schedule of 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. in the morning are available for those who would like to remember their beloved dead on this very sacred day.

MAUSOLEUM "PRE SALE" CONTINUES

Have you decided that you or one of your family members will be buried in our cemetery so that we might remember them for years to come? Have you decided to be buried above ground in our coming mausoleum? If you answer "yes" to these two considerations, NOW is the time to purchase your crypt or niche because there will NEVER be a time when the cost will be less than now!

**BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE
IN THE FOYER OF THE CHURCH**
*PLACE THE NAME OF A LOVED ONE
IN THE BOOK FOR ALL TO REMEMBER*

RESPECT FOR LIFE MONTH WILL END! RESPECT FOR LIFE NEVER DOES!

As October, our Respect for Life month, ends, we conclude our emphasis upon the dignity of human life with the realization that such emphasis must last continue indefinitely. In their "Statement on Capital Punishment" the U.S. Catholic bishops noted that by opposing the death penalty they sought to remove any ambiguity that might otherwise arise around their affirmation of the sanctity of human life in all its stages --- including the unborn, the aged and the infirm. Also we recognize the principal of human dignity that calls us to act preferentially on behalf of the poor and to protect the environment for future generations. We must support all efforts to curtail torture, racism and genocide, and to end war and terrorist attacks on innocent life.

A NEW TRANSLATION (part 3)

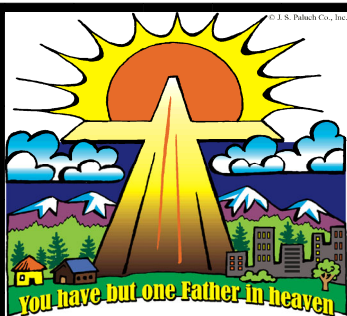
On the first Sunday of Advent of this year, we will begin a new translation of some of the prayers of the Liturgy. We will now say "consubstantial with the Father" and "was incarnate of the Virgin Mary" as a way of expressing significant dogmas of our Catholic Faith that take us back to the origin of the Creed itself in 325. Once we become familiar with such words, we will have a much better understanding of Jesus, as being of the same DIVINE nature of God, and of the same HUMAN nature of us.

CALL TO EPHEBUS AND NEAPOLIS

Parishioners of GIFT Ephesus and GIFT Neapolis are reminded of next week's Hospitality Weekend they assemble in Marian Hall after each liturgy. They are asked to bring non-perishable food items to help create Thanksgiving baskets for the needy. This event becomes a golden opportunity for members of Ephesus and Neapolis to "meet and greet" other parishioners in their GIFT.

J.O.I.N. (part 15)

"JUST OFFERTORY INCREASE NEWS" is the campaign that began seven weeks ago as a Finance Council member spoke at the liturgies giving us a capsule report of our fiscal needs under the heading of Stewardship. We thank those who have increased their Sunday offertory, and invite others to join them as we continue to move toward solvency!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, October 30, 2011 - 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Gregorio Distilo - Wife & Children
- 6:00 p.m. Alphonse Buzzelli - M/M James Buzzelli
- 7:30 a.m. Ethel P'Scheidl - Buddy & Karolyn Hunkele
- 9:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Robert Moyeroff - Daughter & Family

Monday, October 31, 2011 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Anna Krupski - Golden Family
- 10:00 a.m. Special Intention of Paul & Dorothy Morris
- 4:30 p.m. Dina Lombardo - Faith Formations Team

Tuesday, November 1, 2011 - All Saints Day

- 7:00 a.m. Giuseppe Derenzo - Grace Mantella & Family
- 10:00 a.m. Teresa & Giacomo Tolomeo - The Ruffa Family
- 7:00 p.m. Jim Soeder - Dongilli Family

Wednesday, November 2, 2011 - Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed

- 7:00 a.m. Elisabetta & Francesco Dierenzo - Elisabetta Dierenzo
- 10:00 a.m. Fowkes & Werling Families
- 7:00 p.m. For All the Faithful Departed

Thursday, November 3, 2011 - St. Martin de Porres

- 7:00 a.m. Cecelia Scialabba - Joan Duffy
- 10:00 a.m. Catherine & Joe Littell - Family

Friday, November 4, 2011 - St. Charles Borromeo

- 7:00 a.m. Costa & Scram Families - Therese
- 10:00 a.m. Eleanor Kier - Faith Formation Team

Saturday, November 5, 2011 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 8:00 a.m. Theresa & Joseph Fuchs - Eileen & Jim Fuchs
- 4:00 p.m. Grace Nadalin Vaccari - Mother & Father
- 6:00 p.m. Stephanie McNalley - Mom & Dad

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

- 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

Weekly Activities at a Glance

Sunday October 30 (Marian Hall) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
 (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children

Monday October 31 (School) NO CCD Classes



Tuesday November 1 (Church) 10:00AM - School Liturgy

Wednesday November 2 (Church) 9:30AM - Let the Children Come to Me
 (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo
 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
 (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice

Thursday November 3 (Church) 7:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice

Friday November 4 (School) No School - Teacher Clerical Day

Saturday November 5 Hospitality after all Liturgies
 (Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Liturgy of the Word for Children

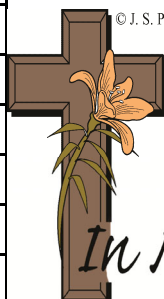
Sunday November 6 Hospitality after all Liturgies
 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.



THIS IS PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

To be servants of God, we are called to be humble as Jesus himself was humble. On this, the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Church in the United States observes "Priesthood Sunday." Through the lens of the Paschal Mystery - that is, Christ's own life, death, resurrection and subsequent Spirit - gift who unites us to God's very self - all of the baptized are called to mission. Faithful servants, whether lay or ordained, recognize that life is a journey. We do not travel alone. We belong to a community called Church. This ordered community is served by parish priests who lead us ministerially and spiritually. Today in particular, we pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to inspire the mission of Christ and to strengthen the humble service of our priests. Please pray for our priests: Father John and Father Jay and our retired priests: Fr. Bill and Fr. Ed. May God continue to bless and strengthen them as they serve the People of God in Glenshaw.

October 23/23, 2011	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	688	\$18,918.92
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$998.00
Children's Offertory	33	\$46.00
World Mission Sunday	240	\$4,201.00
Retired Religious	1	\$5.00
Parish Share 2011	17	\$820.00
All Saints Day	5	\$33.00
Parish Needy	17	\$192.00
Total	1001	\$25,213.92



Flowers adorning our Sanctuary are in loving memory of Gregorio Distilo

In Memoriam

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



Baptized in Christ
Alana Louise Eiler
Jazmine Rae Moore
Greyson Bruno Morelli
Audrey Patricia Rys

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

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 **Kathleen Wagner**. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

Annals of Marriage

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

A VOCATION VIEW

Are you a person of integrity? Do your words match your deeds? Remember, those who are great are those who serve. How do you serve others?
 (Matt. 23:1-12)

IT IS A GOOD AND WHOLESOME THOUGHT TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD

All Souls Day is on November 2, just after All Saints Day. It is a day of remembrance for friends and loved ones who have passed on into God's care. All Souls Day has its roots in the ancient Pagan Festival of the Dead, based on the pagan belief that the souls of the dead would return for a meal with the family. Candles kept in the window would guide the souls back home and another place was set at the table. Children came asking for food to be offered symbolically to the dead, but then gave it out to the hungry.

The Christian celebration of the feast of All Souls was started by 7th century monks who decided to offer a Mass for their deceased community members. St. Odilo, the fifth abbot of Cluny set a specific date for the offering of special prayers for the deceased.

All Souls Day is important because Catholics believe that those who die are not immediately eligible for the Beatific Vision (the reality and goodness of God in heaven). They need to be purged of their sins. This purification of the elect is called "purgatory."

The church maintains that there will be a purification of the believers prior to entering heaven and that the prayers and the Masses of the faithful here on earth benefit those in the state of purification. On Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 P. M. Mass, relatives and friends of those buried from our church during this past year will gather to pray for and remember their deceased loved ones.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

This is a post baptism ministry to families with young children under the age of five sponsors various activities throughout the year. All are welcome to plug into this ministry. **PRAY and PLAY DAY** will be held this Wednesday, **November 2** at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room of the church. Parents, grandparents and care-givers are welcome!

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Oct.30

It's not my word, or your word, but Jesus himself who says, "The greatest among you must be your servant." I suspect that Jesus learned that from his own mother, Mary. Twice in Luke 1:28 and 48 Mary calls herself the maidservant, the slave of the Lord. "To be the Lord's slave is the essence of Mary's being a freeborn woman, in keeping with her Son's manner of reigning as King by serving." (Erasmus Leiva-Merikakis, The Way of the Disciple) Where will YOU serve this week? Ask Mary and Jesus to give you a heart like their own—the heart of a servant.

Faith Formation Sessions this Week:

Monday - 4:30 PM Holy Day Liturgy – All Saints

6:30 PM No class session; come to Mass for the

Holy Day at 4:30 PM or 7:00 PM tomorrow, November 1.

Saturday - 10:00 AM Parents and child(ren) meet in church, prayer for Grade 8 and **Catholic Vision of Love** overview for parents.

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 forthcoming classes with Grade 5 through 8 will be held on

Saturday, November 5, 10:00AM in Church and

Monday, November 7, 4:30PM and 6:30PM in Marian Hall

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

Confirmation Candidates – Saints-in-the-making:

Last springtime, Grade 8 youth were asked to journal with the Gospels, to LISTEN to Jesus' words and reflect on how they apply to life NOW. **Congratulations to the following candidates who kept their Gospel Journal through the summer months and placed it on the altar:**

Domenic Di Tomasso, James Edwards, Andy Irwin, Vanessa Fischer, Maura Kardasz, Ryan Landry, Shane McMillen, Eddie Vance, Two with no name -



Grades 6-7-8 MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH RALLY, Saturday, November 5, 7:00-9:00 PM at St. Ferdinand's, Cranberry. \$15 at the door/ **adults FREE**. Call Now 412-486-5521 for last-minute-registrations.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

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

YOUTH DISCUSSION GROUP

We didn't have a discussion group last week because of the Haunting of St. Mary's but we will start back up again this Sunday evening in the JAM. We will continue our discussion on The Catholic Social Teachings and begin to discuss the new changes in the Mass. Does anyone know what "consubstantial" means? Come join us for a great discussion, food, fun, and fellowship!

THE HAUNTING SERVICE AT ST. MARY'S

WHAT A GREAT SUCCESS! We raised \$657.25 for the Lupus Foundation of PA. Kate Dunn is now the proud owner of an autographed Steeler football. We had so much fun working together and we would like to thank our parishioners for all their support. A Big thanks goes out to Mr. Pennington for his great and eerie suggestions and talent. We also would like to thank Sidney Rudl and Lee Ann Trout for their expertise in make-up artistry. We continue to thank our parents for all their help and support. Check out all the pictures on the Youth Group bulletin board on your way into church.

UP COMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 30, 6 to 8 PM: Youth Group Discussion, JAM Center.

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

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 October from 7:30 to 9 PM. Deadline to register is **November 30, 2011**. Our coaches for our Boy's Basketball teams will be Jimmy Kohan and Mike Daley. Our coaches for our Girl's Basketball teams will be Jenna Penezic and Phil Fitzgibbons. For questions or concerns please call Jimmy Kohan at 412-527-9270.

SAVE THE DATE

A FALL RETREAT FOR TEENS, 9th - 12th Grade The CHURCH ALIVE starting on Friday, November 18th at 6:30PM through Sunday, November 20th at 2:00PM at **Camp Allegheny** in Ellwood City, PA. Registration is \$95 and is due no later than October 31st. In this world filled with chaos, hardship, and pain, it is comforting to know that something remains consistent, true and strong; our Catholic Faith and eternal love for God. Contact Christine Miller for more information at 724.831.0511.

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

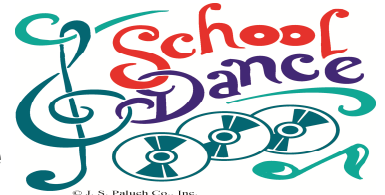
ST. MARY SCHOOL

THANK YOU - On behalf of the Mario Noro family and St. Mary School, thanks to everyone who made the October 24th Blood Drive a wonderful success. The goal for the drive was set at 60 units, and that was surpassed with a total of 97 units. God bless each and every person who contributed! The family is extremely grateful.

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 and tickets.

YOU ARE INVITED!!
St. Mary's
Middle School Dance



St. Mary's invites all Middle School age students to a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade dance on Saturday, November 12, 2011 from 7:15-10:00PM in Marian Hall. Tickets on sale at St. Mary's Rectory or that evening at the door for \$5.00. Pizza, nachos, candy and soft drinks will be available. Appropriate dress is required for admittance. Please come and join us in the fun!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Today, Sunday, October 30, Glenshaw Presbyterian Church will host the nationally known choral conductor, composer, and singer, **Patti Drennan** for their third *Concert with the Composer*. The concert is free; profits from the offering taken will benefit the Bread of Life Food Pantry in Etna. PLEASE JOIN US!

St. Raphael's 8th Annual Turkey Bingo will be held Sunday, November 13th in their gym/multi-purpose room. Early Birds 1:00PM. Tickets \$30.00 in advance or \$35.00 at the door includes 20 regular games plus 4 specials. Call 412.661.3100 or 412.661.0288. Over \$3400 in prizes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Test Your Knowledge of Abuse Prevention: True or False?

True or false: It is common for both child and adult victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone about the abuse. True. It is common for victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone. When the person was assaulted as a child, he or she may wait years or decades. The reasons for this are numerous: victims may want to deny the fact that someone they trusted could do this to them; they may want to just put it behind them; they may believe the myth that they caused the assault by their behavior; or they may fear how other people will react to the truth.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline: 1.888.808.1235

OUR PARISH NEWS

R. C. I. A.

Those who wish to find out more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian, meet each Sunday morning following the 9:00am liturgy. All are welcome to join us in the rectory dining room. This week Father Jay will discuss the Mass/Liturgy and next week we will have an overview of the Sacraments with emphasis on Baptism and Confirmation. All interested persons are welcome to join us for these sessions. Call Jim Finn 412.486.4100 if interested.

Special Days this Week:

October 31- All Hallows Eve – Halloween initiates our three day celebration of the communion of saints.

November 1 – All Saints Day celebrates the many angels and saints who are enjoying eternal life in heaven. Reflect on what it is that makes one's life holy? Our call is to become saints!

November 2 – All Souls Day, a day to gather to pray for all those who have gone ahead of us into life eternal.

November 3 – Saint Martin de Porres, a Dominican lay brother who spent much of his life in prayer, penance, and care of the poor in Peru. He apprenticed to a barber so is patron saint of barbers and hairstylists.

November 4 – Saint Charles Borromeo was a dedicated priest, zealous and energetic bishop, and a driving force for reform in the Church in Italy after the disaster of the Reformation.

Fast and Pray to end abortion, 40 Days for LIFE , September 28 through November 6. Continue praying that the abortion industry will be put out of business, and citizens will oppose the law which permits the destruction of innocent life.

Novena for Implementation of the New Roman Missal.

Intention for Week 5: That those in consecrated life will keep the Eucharist at the center of their lives.

Scripture Reading: John 6: 51-58

Reflection from Pope Benedict XVI, June 28, 2008:

“The Eucharist—the center of our Christian being - is founded on Jesus’ sacrifice for us; it is born from the suffering of love which culminated on the Cross. We live by this Love that gives itself.

Prayer: O God, who inspire and bring to fulfillment every good intention, direct your servants into the way of eternal salvation, and as they have left all things to devote themselves entirely to you, grant that they may faithfully serve you and their neighbor in a spirit of poverty and humility of heart. 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

LITURGICAL MINISTERS ALERT

All of those serving in liturgical ministries are reminded to come to the **MORNING of REFLECTION** on **Saturday, November 12th** beginning with Mass at 8:00 A. M. and concluding no later than 12 noon. Father Jay, our new parochial vicar will direct the morning for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Music Ministers, (cantors and choir members) Ushers and Greeters. Please you call your Ministry Coordinator so we know how many to plan for.

WOMEN’S RETREAT THIS COMING WEEKEND

All women are invited to join other women from the parish and diocese this coming weekend November 4-5-6 at St. Paul Retreat House. There’s still room - call Irene Linkowski at 412.487.1779 **IMMEDIATELY.**

TURKEY might be preferred second to **Seasoned Salmon**, one of the top sellers at **MARKET DAY**. See the specials for **NOVEMBER** listed on the flier/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.**

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.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE 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. All are welcome.

BARVARIAN 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. For reservations or tickets, call Theresa Goeller @ 412-487-1870.

DAILY READINGS

October 31:	Rom 11:29-36; Lk 14:12-14
November 1:	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
November 2:	Wis 3:1-9; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:39; Jn 6:37-40
November 3:	Rom 14:7-12; Lk 15:1-10
November 4:	Rom 15:14-21; Lk 16:1-8
November 5:	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Lk 16:9-15
November 6:	Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thes 4:13-18 [13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

There is many a day in my life when I take a stroll through the cemetery where my mother and father have been buried side by side. It seems like the older I get with more of my life behind me than in front of me, this meditative walk takes on a greater significance. There is nothing morbid about my reflection concerning the death of those whom I love, for the basis of my “impression” lies in the magnificent experience of the Resurrection as the destiny designed by God for all of us. November brings these thoughts to the fore since this is the month when we remember our beloved dead. What a touchingly powerful celebration will occur on the evening of All Souls Day when FIFTY-SIX candles will be lit in our sanctuary -- each one representing one of the 56 persons who was buried from our Parish Family this past year! Yet we have come to believe that death is not a tragic end to life. It is simply the entranceway that allows us to bask in the light of eternal glory.

Those of us who saunter through the cemetery adjacent to our own parish church can literally “feel” the presence of the divine Lord in the beauty of these sacred grounds. The wonderful care of the cemetery by our devoted Maintenance Department bespeaks to all who pass this way of our commitment to those who have gone before us. What a superb memory for any family --- to bury their beloved on the same grounds where they come to celebrate the liturgy each weekend! Our Catholic Faith has always underscored the precious importance of a funeral liturgy. Completing the month of October when the emphasis was on Respect For Life, we now move through the month of November where “eternal life” becomes the focus of the liturgical action. We will begin the month remembering our beloved on All Souls Day, and we will end the month with the triumph celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Might this be the month when we visit the sacred burial grounds of the members of our own family? Might this be the month when we keep alive their memory in our daily prayers? Might this be the month when we take a serious look at our own personal preparations for burial, especially with the coming of the modern mausoleum scheduled for our own Assumption Cemetery? These are not thoughts of morbidity, which stem from an unwholesomely gloomy attitude of death; but these are glorious thoughts of Resurrection, which come from a deep-seated faith experience in the Lord Jesus.... “Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting” (1 Corinthians 15:53)!