

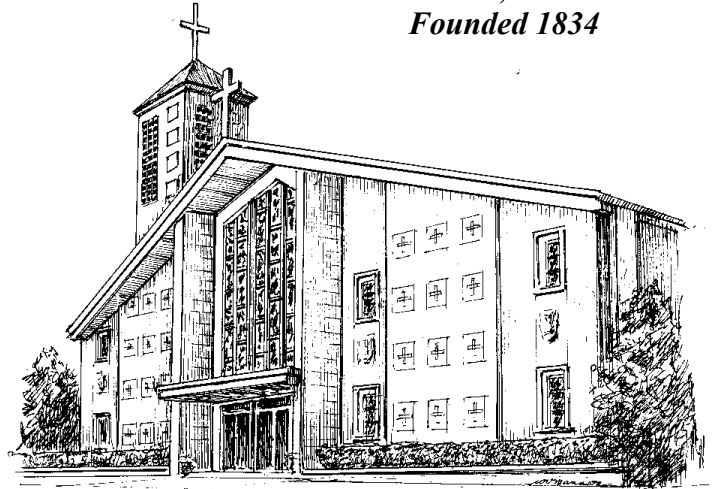
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
JANUARY 22, 2012

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

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

With the return of Ordinary Time and the green vestments of the season, the “continuous reading series” now turns our attention to the **GOSPEL OF MARK**. In the three year cycle of the Sunday readings, we are now in “Year B” where the accent is on Mark’s proclamation of who Jesus is in our lives. Mark, as the first gospel written, has a tendency to underscore the humanity of Jesus as he reminds us of the Lord’s suffering and death. We will proclaim this Gospel until we come to Ash Wednesday, and then pick up where we left off when Ordinary Time returns after the great Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycle on the 17th of June.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SENT HOME

As part of the service that we offer to all those who contribute financially to the Parish Family, the Office Staff sends individual financial statements for the year 2011 home to all those who are registered in our Parish Family. These statements are for your own personal benefit and can be used for purposes of taxation. Since the statements are printed directly from the computer, and then placed immediately in the envelope addressed to the parishioner, no one on the Staff examines the amounts listed. If your financial statement has an error in the amount you feel was given to the Parish Family due to a glitch in the computer system, simply call the rectory during regular office hours and an adjustment will be made for you by our efficient Office Staff.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ENVELOPE

Next weekend is the beginning of Catholic School Week in our Diocese. In this month’s packet of envelopes, there is a yellow one entitled “Catholic School Week.” It would be very appropriate to place this envelope in next week’s collection since this amount is given directly to our own Catholic Grade School, especially to help those who seek tuition assistance to keep their child in our school. We are reminded that the value-filled education of our parochial school is open to all children, not just those who belong to our Parish Family.

BLOOD DRIVE: TODAY
Marian Hall
8:00 a.m. --- 1:00 P.M.

RESPECT FOR LIFE MARCH

Tomorrow, Monday, January 23rd thousands of people from around the country will descend on Washington D.C. to remind the world that we have a deep respect for ALL human life.

Our Parish Family sponsors THREE buses of parishioners to join those assembled tomorrow in Washington.

For those of us who are not able to make the trip to Washington, we have TWO opportunities to unite our efforts with those who are going by joining them at a liturgy either this evening at 11:30 p.m. or at 7:00 a.m. tomorrow morning. We are reminded that our Parish Family respects the dignity of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural death. Our Catholic Church teaches us that this RESPECT negates abortion at the beginning of LIFE and opposes the death penalty at the end of LIFE, and any action in between that offends LIFE like racism, ethnic profiling or gender bias.

SUPPORT FOR OUR COMMITTEE

Members of our Respect Life Committee will be at the doors of the church today seeking our financial assistance to help them in their fiscal needs. All that is collected goes directly to OUR Committee for their needs throughout the year.

MAUSOLEUM CURRENT SALES

We remind all those who might wish to know more about the Mausoleum planned for our cemetery that they simply need to call the rectory to put their name on the list. Those who have already done this will be contacted by one of our three parishioners who are well informed of the process: Deacon Francis Dadowski, Mike Krisky and Tom Schluep are now making their rounds by contacting all those who have expressed an interest in learning about our Mausoleum. All those who are contacted by one of these three will have the financially profitable possibility of purchasing a crypt or niche at the lowest possible rate EVER!

NEXT WEEKEND: SPECIAL EVENTS
SATURDAY NIGHT
SMAA “NIGHT AT THE RACES”
SUNDAY MORNING
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
“BREAKFAST”



They abandoned their nets and followed him

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, January 22, 2012 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Giuseppe Liberto - Wife, Concetta
- 6:00 p.m. Wanda Gumski - The Ruffner Family
- 7:30 a.m. Rose DePascale - Bob's Friends
- 9:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish
- 11:00 a.m. Albert Richert - Bill & Linda
- 11:30 p.m. For Those Who Are Traveling to Washington D.C.

Monday, January 23, 2012 - Day of Penance

- 7:00 a.m. Frank Pompeo - The Mitsch Family
- 10:00 a.m. William Hanna - Louisa Mauro

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 - St. Francis de Sales

- 7:00 a.m. Antonio Costa - Concetta Liberto
- 10:00 a.m. Noelle Quinlan - Yates Family

Wednesday, January 25, 2012 - The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

- 7:00 a.m. Giuseppe Derenzo - Marco & Rose Imbarlina
- 10:00 a.m. Nancy Sanders - Daughters

Thursday, January 26, 2012 - Sts. Timothy & Titus

- 7:00 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Martin Dugan - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Jean Lis - Daughter, Sally

Friday, January 27, 2012 - St. Angela Merici

- 7:00 a.m. Anna Trauner - The Urso Family
- 10:00 a.m. Edward Mariani - St. Mary School Community

Saturday, January 28, 2012 - St. Thomas Aquinas

- 8:00 a.m. Betty Jane Hunkele - Family
- 4:00 p.m. Jerry Ferber - Barbara & Rick Romea & Family
- 6:00 p.m. James Gorry - The Sarosi Family

Sunday, January 29, 2012 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Ann Sufak - George Sufak
- 9:00 a.m. Richard Cullinan, Jr. - St. Mary Faith Formation
- 11:00 a.m. Richard Neszpaul - Jill Butler

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Blood Drive
- January 22* (Providence Hall) 10:00AM - Gr. 8 Clusters
- (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
- Monday** (School) 4:30PM - CCD Classes
- January 23* (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Market Day
- (School) 6:30PM - CCD Classes
- Tuesday** (CCD Office) 1:00PM - Adult Education
- January 24* (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor Practice
- (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Wednesday**
- January 25* (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Socials - Bingo
- (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday** (School) 11:45AM - Early Dismissal
- January 26* Parent/Teacher Conferences
- (Marian Hall) 8:00PM - Knights of Columbus Mtg.
- Friday** (School) 10:00AM - School Liturgy
- January 27*
- Saturday** (School) 10:00AM - CCD Classes
- January 28* (Marian Hall) 8:00PM - SMAA Night at the Races
- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Knights of Columbus Breakfast
- January 29* (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

A PRAYER FOR LIFE

Father and maker of all,
 you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty,
 and fashion human life in your image and likeness.
 Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands,
 and renew among your people
 a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.
 Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, forever and ever. Amen

| JANUARY 14/15, 2012 | Envelopes | Contributions |
|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Offertory | 702 | \$17,383.15 |
| Cash/Loose Checks | - | \$1,008.00 |
| Children's Offertory | 34 | \$40.50 |
| Solemnity of Mary | 3 | \$40.00 |
| St. Mary Catholic School | 15 | \$213.00 |
| Parish Share 2011 | 2 | \$2,575.00 |
| Parish Needy | 47 | \$455.00 |
| St. Anthony/DePaul Institute | 255 | \$4,447.00 |
| Religious Retirement Fund | 1 | \$5.00 |
| Total | 1059 | \$26,166.65 |

DAILY READINGS



- January 23: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
- January 24: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17=19; Mk 3:31-35
- January 25: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18
- January 26: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:21-25
- January 27: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
- January 28: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

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 **Maria Winschel, Carmella Bartoldi**, mother of Alfred, **Ruth Zihmer**, mother of Chuck, **Ann Podolachek**, grandmother of Jared and Eddie Vance and **Susan Duncan**. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

A VOCATION VIEW

Come after Me. Jesus called Andrew and Peter and James and John. He calls still in our day. Are you willing to drop your nets and follow? (Mark 1:14-20)

R. C. I. A. - is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. We meet in the rectory dining room following the 9:00am Mass. Today's topic is PRAYER and GRACE and next Sunday we will discuss The Ten Commandments. All are welcome. To find out more, call Jim Finn at the rectory (412)486-4100.

CATHOLIC BUT NOT CONFIRMED?

All those 18 years of age and older who have not been confirmed are invited to prepare to receive this sacrament this coming spring. If you or someone you know and love would like to be confirmed and complete their initiation into the Catholic Church please call our pastoral associate, Jim Finn at 412.486.4100.



GETTING MARRIED IN 2012?

Engaged couples planning a wedding this year are invited to register for our pre-Cana Seminar scheduled for **Saturday, March 10, 2012** in Marian Hall. The day begins at 8:30am and ends with the 4:00pm Mass in church. This is a diocesan approved marriage prep day. To register call Jim Finn, 412.486.4100.

ATTENTION MEN AND YOUNG MEN

- All are invited to make a retreat with us at St. Paul's Retreat Center on the South Side. Keep open **FEBRUARY 17-18-19**. Ask yourself--**WHY SHOULD I MAKE A RETREAT? Do you need some time to slow down and put your thoughts in order?** A retreat provides rest and quiet time. Specific information is available from Charles Fischer 412.487.4667 or Jim Karcher at 724.444.5798.
- All men and young men are also welcome to join us on the **Second** Saturday of the month following the 8:00am Mass in school for refreshments and discussion. Hope to see you on February 11th.
- SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY APRIL 14, 2012**
7th Annual Gathering of Catholic Men will take place at the A.J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University. Special price for those who pre-register through St. Mary's. Call Jim Finn for details, 412.486.4100.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Third Sunday, Ordinary Time-Jan.22

Invitation and task...Jesus saw fishermen and called out:

"Come after me -invitation!

and I will make YOU fishers of men."—*daunting task!*

Look throughout this BULLETIN for other invitations. They may not offer a task, but an enjoyable opportunity to **GIFT – Grow In Faith Together** with others in our parish family. The gospel indicates that the fishermen went *immediately* and joined the loving company of Jesus. Their successors are still "fishing" for good men!

Faith Formation Sessions this Week:

Monday, January 23 –Market Day THIS Monday,

Grade 7 & 8 help. Thanks Mrs. Buzzone!

Saturday, January 28, Grades 1-4 meet in Church, 10AM:
Grades 5-6-7-8 Catholic Vision of Love, Room 23

Confirmation Candidates urged to join the **LOVE WALK** on Feb. 12. Sign up forms have been distributed. This is a tremendous **SERVICE for the homeless** and needy of Pittsburgh. Send returns to our parish Faith Formation office. **Also, returns needed for the Confirmation Retreat.**

Catholic Vision of Love discussion and activity sessions for Grade 5-6-7-8 about sexuality, the gift of God's amazing design for humans, begin Jan. 28 & 30 with our Faith Formation classes.

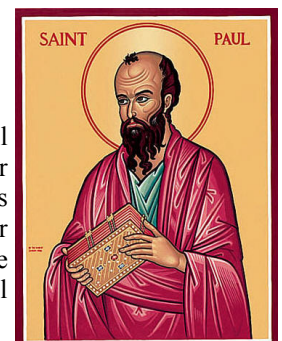
HOMELESS folks in our own city of Pittsburgh need **blankets and backpacks** as the weather is getting colder. Any donations of said items may be placed in bag, attach sign "for Homeless", and leave on the last pews in the Children Liturgy Room (cry room). **THANKS to YOU who have already generously responded to this.**

Adult Bible Study meets **Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 PM** in our Faith Formation conference room. Newcomers welcome. Call Dori Monahan for details, 412-492-9891.

MARKET DAY foods for winter meals can be ordered on a flier at the Scrip or Faith Formation office, at the rear exits of church, or on-line. **NEW patrons** will boost our profit, which helps with improvements of our parish facilities. **January delivery will be THIS Monday, Jan. 23, 6:00-7:00PM. Helpers needed at 5:00 PM thru 7:00 PM. Call 412-486-5521 to volunteer.**

MOVIE: Paul the Apostle

A thriller about this thrilling man will be shown here at Saint Mary's to honor the day we commemorate his conversion, January 25. Contact our Faith Formation office if YOU are interested, 412-486-5521 or e-mail ccdooffice@stmaryglenshaw.org



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

CYM BASKETBALL

Your St. Mary's boys High School team has already doubled the number of wins from last year and is currently fielding two teams! Come out and see the Condors play some hoops. Give Jimmy Kohan a call if you want to help out or attend a game 412-527-9270. Special thanks to our great dedicated men of the Parish like Mike Daley, Phil Fitzgibbons and Jimmy Kohan for making this program a slam dunk!

University of St Mary's

Paul Mitsch, Katelyn Deet and Fr. Jay hosted a brainstorming session with several college students who are alumni of our Project Appalachia. There is a lot of enthusiasm and leadership from our college students. If you are interested in Project Appalachia contact Paul Mitsch at the Rectory 412-486-4100 or Katelyn Deet at deetk@duq.edu.

Need Service Hours or want to talk with a priest?

Contact Fr Jay Donahue at the Rectory 412 486 4100 or by email mcsean6612@gmail.com or by facebook at John Donahue.

St. Mary's Youth for Life

Our Youth will be heading to Washington DC for the annual March for Life on January 23, 2011. Please consider making this road trip and experience a mini World Youth Day like event. Remember to return permission slips for the March for Life to Mrs. Miller, Ms. O, or mail it to the rectory.

SQUIRES

The youth of the Squires are doing great things please contact Ray Newcomer for more details 412 767 4870 or rjdnew@verizon.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Nights 6:00 – 8:00 Cheers Group in the JAM.

SAVE THE DATE

January 22 and 23rd The Youth for Life are hosting a *midnight mass for life* at 11:30pm at our Church and then at 12:30am we will road trip to Washington DC for the March for Life. Register with Virginia Dougherty



ST. MARY SCHOOL

SCIENCE FAIR - The Middle School Students are in the throes of preparation for the 2012 St. Mary School Science Fair. The students will be presenting their projects on Thursday, February 2nd.

Judges are needed for this Science Fair. If you are interested in helping, no experience is necessary, just an interest in Science. There will be a judges training meeting on Thursday, February 4th, at 8:30 AM in Marian Hall. The judging will take place from 9 AM – noon. If interested, please contact Rita Turchetta, Middle School Science Teacher, at 724-444-3145 or at turchetta@stmaryglenshaw.org.

OPEN HOUSE - Any family who might be interested in receiving a faith-filled, value-centered, quality education for their child is most welcome to come and see our school any Wednesday from January 24th through February 29th between 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM. This will give you the opportunity to see the children and staff during the regular routine of a school day. If this day and these times are not conducive to your schedule, please feel free to call the office and make another arrangement.

We provide a 3 and 4 year-old Preschool Program in addition to our Kindergarten through 8th grades.

To set up an appointment, please call the school office at 412-486-7611. We welcome you and look forward to meeting you and your child.



NIGHT AT THE RACES

“They’re coming down the stretch”

The St. Mary Athletic Association will hold their annual **“Night at the Races”** in Marian Hall on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Please join us for this most enjoyable evening with friends and exciting entertainment. Tickets are **\$20.00** and includes food buffet, beer, setups and soda (BYOB). Please consider coming after the 6PM Mass. Doors open at 7:00pm. Buffet dinner at 7:15pm. Races start at 8:00pm. Adults only. For tickets contact Tom Iurlano at 412-478-0834 or via email at tiurlano@gmail.com or Joy Soeder at 412-983-7799 or via email at soeder-joy@yahoo.com. **Bring your friends and family!**

VINCENTIAN ACADEMY

We will be hosting a **Winter Open House** on Friday, February 10th, from 6 to 8:00PM at 8100 McKnight Road. The evening includes tours of the school, Q & A on academics, meeting the faculty and new football coach, and admission to that night's boy's basketball game.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline: 1.888.808.1235

OUR PARISH NEWS

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will be holding a workshop in **Marian Hall on Tuesday, January 31, 2012 at 6:30PM.** This workshop is mandatory to all who volunteer. Please contact our CCD office at 412.486.5521 to register.

Special Days this Week:

January 23 - Saint Vincent Pallotti organized schools for farmers and unskilled at various trades in Rome.

January 24 - Saint Francis de Sales authored classics, *Introduction to a Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God* to support spiritual growth of laity.

January 25 - Conversion of Saint Paul from tentmaker, Pharisee and persecutor of Christians, to a passionate apostle for Jesus Christ.

Till January 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Theme: *"We will all be changed by the Victory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 15:51-58)*

January 26- Saints Timothy and Titus, companion friends of Saint Paul. See the letters to them in the Bible.

January 27 - Saint Angela Merici, foundress of the Ursuline Sisters who devote their lives to education and mercy toward the poor.

January 28 - Saint Thomas Aquinas - patron of students and scholars who labored, studied, preached, wrote, and taught of the immense wonders of the Blessed Trinity.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

Thank you to the Family CCD Program for the collection of variety of foods for our Food Pantry. Your generosity is much appreciated.

WIDOWS/WIDOWERS

We will be meeting at Rice's Roadhouse Restaurant on Mount Royal Boulevard on Sunday, January 29th, at 4:00PM. Please join us. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Lagiovane at 412.486.4209 or Marge Wesolek at 412.486.5621.

ANNUAL ADULT LECTURE SERIES

This lecture series which begins on **Wednesday, February 15, 2012** at St. Paul Seminary is the central focus of the diocese's efforts to provide adults across the diocese an opportunity to grow in their understanding and love of the faith. All are invited to the first of three lectures on February 15 from 7:30pm until 9:00pm: Bob Rice is the guest speaker and his topic is **Things That Make Us Catholic.** The lectures are both a public profession of faith, and a support to the faith of those who attend. The lecture is free and open to all. If interested in car pooling, call Jim Finn 412.486.4100.



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

Ed, Mary Lou, Patricia, William, Cindy Benoit, Joe Cuhn, Bonnie Dollin, Jenny Dugan, Anita Fabry, Luke Fabry, Marie Fusca, Drew & Trent Grady, Rachel Gniewkowski, Judy Huber, Hilary Husband, Barbara Lagiovane, Sarah Polito, James Rosswog, Courtney Ryce, Bernard Schaltenbrand, Joshua Stanek, Elaine Settelmaier, Christine Z.

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS



CENTRAL BLOOD BANK

We are holding our semi-annual Parish Blood Drive in honor of **Mario Noro**, who is a student at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish School, **TODAY, Sunday, January 22**, in Marian Hall, from 8:00AM to 1:00PM. Please stop by and help save a LIFE!

ST. MARY'S FOR LIFE members will be at the doors this weekend for their annual collection. Please support them for all they do for the protection of innocent life.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 23, 2012

RALLY AND MARCH FOR LIFE

Washington, DC

Meet with Senators Toomey and Casey

No Charge for St. Mary's Parishioners

Bus will leave from St. Mary's after the 7:00AM Mass and return at 10:30PM. For information, call Carol Loiselle at 724.443.7398 or carold@zoominternet.net or sign up in the back of church.



KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS SUPERSIZED BREAKFAST

Please join us on **Sunday, January 29, 2012** from 8:00AM to Noon in Marian Hall. The Knights will be serving:

Omelettes to order,

Eggs to order

OR Eggs Estrada,

PLUS Pancakes, Sausage, and Toast

Cost for Adults - \$8.00, Seniors (62 & older) - \$7.00, and Children ages 4 to 10 - \$4.00

ATTENTION FISH DINNER VOLUNTEERS

Anyone who has volunteered in the past or ANYONE who would be interested in joining the Fish Dinner Volunteer Team is asked to call Paul or Ginny Penezic at 412.487.5211 to confirm your spot on the roster.

SCOUT SUNDAY

February 5, 2012 is Scout Sunday. Any parishioner who is a Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Girl Scout is invited to participate in the procession. Scouts should wear their uniforms and meet in Marian Hall to line up. A reception will follow in Marian Hall in conjunction with Hospitality Sunday. Please contact Lisa Gannon at 412.492.9490 or Tricia Mullen at 724.444.7489 with the number that plan to attend from your group. The time of Liturgy will be announced at a later date.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

World Marriage Day is celebrated the weekend of **February 11-12, 2012.** There will be a diocesan celebration of World Marriage Day on **Saturday, February 11, 2012 at St. Kilian Parish.** It will begin with Mass at 5:30p.m. in the church with Very Rev. Philip Farrell, VG Vicar for Vicariate 4, as the celebrant and homilist. Following Mass there will be a wine and cheese reception in the parish hall. A presentation by Reverend Charles Bober, pastor of St. Kilian Parish will follow. All engaged and married couples are invited to attend. Donation is \$10.00 per couple. To register please call the Office for Adult and Family Faith Formation, 412.456.3160.

Pastoral Impressions

by Miss Rose Stegman

January 22 has special significance for my LIFE. It has come to have even more significance since the January 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which struck down many laws prohibiting abortion. This week marks thirty-nine years since that infamous ruling, and for all those years thousands of people observed this at the national March for Life in Washington, DC. Having spent many years going to participate in the March, I can attest to the passion of men, women, youth and even youngsters who are knowledgeable about the true dignity of life from the moment of conception till natural death. Not only are they in-the-know about their identity as “children of God”, but are willing to publicly witness to the absolute importance of standing up to defend life. They/we march as a voice for the most vulnerable in the womb who have no one else to speak for them. Thousands of tiny lives in various stages of embryonic development are threatened, and often destroyed, every day in our country. What is deemed “legal” in our country cuts at the very heart of the sacredness of life. As we march in Washington tomorrow once again, I will lift up in spirit every person there as a shining light to dispel the moral darkness of our world.

The call of Jesus we hear in the gospel this Sunday, “Come after me, I will make you fishers of men”, is a call to each of us. He was calling out to men at their daily labor of fishing. Yet, the “come after me” is applicable to each of us in whatever occupation or ministry in which we work or serve. That call in light of this anniversary might be translated as such:

“Come after me” as I lead the March for Life.

“Come after me” who live in the frightened body of a woman seeking abortion.

“Come after me” to cry out for repealing the law which deems abortion legal.

“Come after me” in the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be strengthened with grace.

“Come after me” as I wait for you in the depths of your own heart. Listen for the reassuring words, “I love you”, and speak to me of your hopes and concerns.

“Come after me” not just today, but every day in petitions that all will come to love and respect LIFE and praise Our Father, the Source of all Life.