

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 8, 2009

2510 Middle Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116
Founded 1834

PARISH STAFF

Mrs. Barbara Belski, Dir. of Youth Ministries
Mr. Francis Dadowski, Deacon
Mr. James Finn, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Robert Kardasz, Dir. of Music Ministries
Father John Marcucci, Pastor
Ms. Antoinette Pilarski, Principal
Father Edward Schleicher, Parochial Vicar
Sr. Lois Spinnenweber, CDP, Apostolate Minister
Miss Rose Stegman, Dir. of Faith Formation



Web Site: stmaryglenshaw.org

E-Mail: rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org

Parish Family Administration Office: 412-486-4100

Religious Formation Office - 412-486-5521

Youth Ministry Office - 412-492-9344

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

SCOUT SUNDAY: TODAY

We offer a warm welcome to all those who gather at the 9:00 a.m. liturgy this morning to celebrate Scout Sunday. We recognize all of the young people of our Parish Family who participate in the scouting program at every level, and most especially thank all of the adults and parents who give of themselves so generously to form these young people into dedicated Americans who realize the importance of God in their lives.

Any parishioner who is a Cub Scout, Boy Scout or Girl Scout may participate in the procession today.

Simply gather in Marian Hall at 8:40 a.m.

The many scout programs that use our facilities during the course of the year offer great service to our Parish Family in many ways, and today's 9:00 a.m. liturgy recognizes them for it. Leaders are asked please to contact Lisa Gannon (412-492-9490) or Tricia Mullen (724-444-7489) with the number that plan to attend from your group. A reception will follow in Providence Hall.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN SUMMARY

Members of the Reconstituted CCC (Capital Campaign Committee) are reminded of their meeting set for Monday of this week, February 9th beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory. Any parishioner who wishes to help in this process is welcome to gather with the group. Meanwhile, those who received a card in the mail AND are still making payment of their original pledge are asked to return that card by Monday. A member of the Committee will contact personally those who have not returned the card indicating their preference in the payment plan.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS EVENING

All adult extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, lectors, ushers and music ministers, including the choirs, contemporary groups, bell choir, cantors and instrumentalists, are invited to gather with us for our Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, February 24th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. This celebration is the Parish Family's way of thanking those who serve us all during the year with the wonderful liturgies that we celebrate together in our sacred church.

SURVEY SUMMARY REPORT

The Pastoral Council is about to make its FINAL report on the survey that was taken this past year. This report will be included in the Lenten Packet that is sent to all registered parishioners. All members of the Parish Family are asked to check this report to see the summary results of the survey. In the meantime, the Council has set as its major goal for 2009 the creation of "12 Small Communities of Faith" by which the entire geographical area of the parish may be "zoned" so as to deepen the ownership and participation of every parishioner. Keep an eye out for the details of this Pastoral Council goal.

FIRST FESTIVAL MEETING

The first meeting to begin to plan the 2009 Parish Family Festival will be held this Thursday, February 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. Under the leadership of Deacon Francis, who serves as the Festival Chairperson, we would invite all those who were "chairpersons" of the various facets of the Festival as well as any parishioner who would like to offer ideas and suggestions for the Festival to join us this Thursday so as to make our long range plans.

CATHOLICS COMING HOME

Those who serve in the "Catholics Coming Home" MINISTRY, with an invitation always open to any parishioner who feels called to reach out to those distant from the regular practice of the Faith, are reminded of their gathering set for Wednesday of this week, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. All parishioners should be reminded of their ROLE in helping to reach out to those whom they know and love who may be now distant in the practice of their Faith on a regular basis.

MAJOR COSTLY PARISH NEEDS

The Temporalities Commission, with the eye of the Finance Council, would like ALL parishioners to realize that major needs are now occurring in our parish life: (1) our school needs a new roof on one of its wings (as leaks are already being identified); (2) we need to abandon the septic system and get into the public sewer system (as commanded by the law); (3) the construction of a Maintenance building with garages for the priests; (4) improvements made to the grassy area in the front of our property.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 8, 2009 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Mary R. Procopio - Jim & Karen Boyle
- 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 7:30 a.m. Edward Feitl, Sr. - William & Thelma Fischer
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Elizabeth & Paul Imbarlina - Vincenza Didomenico

Monday, February 9, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Leo Elter - George & Kathy Ilkka
- 10:00 a.m. Jim & Elsie Keenan - Daughter, Pat DiPasquali

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 - St. Scholastica

- 7:00 a.m. Frank Bernardo - Dale & Cookie McKean
- 10:00 a.m. Agnes Wetzel - Gary & Rina DiFrank

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 - Our Lady of Lourdes / World Day of the Sick

- 7:00 a.m. Francis Werling - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Mike Blum - Family

Thursday, February 12, 2009 - Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

- 7:00 a.m. Paolo Barbieri - M/M Tony Fusca
- 10:00 a.m. Frank Kirzyc - Wife, Sally

Friday, February 13, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Gerard & Eugenia Walter - Mary Jean Kirby
- 10:00 a.m. Antonio Imbarlina - Marco & Rose Imbarlina

Saturday, February 14, 2009 - St. Cyril & St. Methodius / Valentine's Day

- 8:00 a.m. Deceased Members of Jack Jones Family
- 4:00 p.m. Natalie Gubanic Missenda - M. Lois Cyrstaloski
- 6:00 p.m. Vincenza Derenzo - Domenic F. Mantella

Sunday, February 15, 2009 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Maria Scolieri Distilo - M/M Gregory Distilo
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. James F. Cenci, Sr. - Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Church) 9:00AM - Family CCD Program
 Feb. 8 (Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
 (Church) 9:00AM - Scout Sunday
 (Church) 12:00PM - R.C.I.A.
 (Marian Hall) 12:00PM - CYM Play Set-up

- Monday** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
 Feb. 9 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
 (School) 6:30PM - Adult Education/Deacon Fran
 (Rectory) 7:30PM - Capital Campaign Meeting

- Tuesday** (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
 Feb. 10 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Cantor Practice
 (Church) 3:00PM - Altar Server Training
 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
 (Church) 6:30PM - Altar Server Training

- Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
 Feb. 11 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home Mtg.
 (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice

- Thursday** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
 Feb. 12 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Festival Planning Meeting
 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice

- Friday** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
 Feb. 13 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice

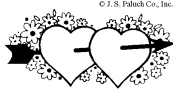
- Saturday** (School) No CCD Program
 Feb. 14 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Dinner Theatre

- Sunday** (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
 Feb. 15 (School) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
 (Marian Hall) 12:15PM - CYM Play Matinee

Members of our St. Vincent DePaul Society would like to offer the following information concerning possible savings on home owner gas bill: **DOMINION PEOPLES + GAS CUSTOMERS**
 Check your Commodity MCS Charge on your monthly billing. If you show a charge over \$9.29 you need to call 1.800.400.5648 to have your rate changed to this lower price. You must call monthly to get the latest market price. If lower than \$9.29, request the lower cost.

BEGINNING AGAIN

If I were to begin life again,
 I would want it as it was.
 I would only open my eyes a little more.



February 1, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	781	\$18,775.20
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,532.00
Children's Offertory	44	\$53.67
St. Anthony School Program	6	\$68.00
School Collection	9	\$116.00
Parish Share	2	\$35.00
Parish Needy	160	\$2,863.00
Total	1,002	\$23,442.87

Daily Readings



THE LORD TELLS THE NUMBER OF THE STARS AND CALLS THEM BY NAME.
PSALM 147:4

- Feb. 9 Gn 1:1-19; Mk 6:53-56
- Feb. 10 Gn 1:20 - 2:4a; Mk 7:1-13
- Feb. 11 Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Mk 7:14-23
- Feb. 12 Gn 2:18-25; Mk 7:24-30
- Feb. 13 Gn 3:1-8; Mk 7:31-37
- Feb. 14 Gn 3:9-24; Mk 8:1-10
- Feb. 15 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31 - 11:1;
 Mk 1:40-45

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 412.486.6851.

A VOCATION VIEW

Proclaiming the gospel is our Christian mission. Jesus proclaimed the Good News and healed because he was rooted in prayer. Take Jesus' lead-pray! (Mark 1:29-39)



RCIA Those planning to enter the Church at the Easter Vigil on April 11, 2009, meet every Sunday morning in the rectory dining room following the 9:00AM Mass. The RCIA is not a program, but a sacramental formation process that prepares individuals for living the Christian life. Conversion is at the heart of that way of life. The RCIA facilitates the conversion process. This week we will tour the church with Fr. Ed following the 11:00AM Mass and next Sunday we will discuss the liturgical season of Lent. For more information, call Fr. Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory (412)486-4100.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

A post-baptism ministry for parents with children from birth to age five years of age offers programs geared to be spiritually supportive to parents. All are welcome at the various activities. Call Monica (412)492-0242 to find out more.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE BY BUD OZAR

As we prepare to celebrate World Marriage Day next weekend we remember that Marriage is a healing sacrament because everyone comes to marriage with flaws of which we are ashamed. The love of a spouse allows us to admit our flaws and see our value through the accepting eyes of our spouse.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

As Valentines Day approaches why not dig out the readings you used at your wedding? In a quiet moment read them to each other again and ponder what they mean to you now. If you can't find them try: *1 Corinthians 13:4-13*.



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PARENTING POINTERS

Love your child by loving their mother or father. Usually this is your spouse; but even if you are divorced. Maintaining a civil, respectful relationship with your ex shows your child how to get along with people for whom they might not have a natural liking.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Fifth Week Ordinary Time

Jesus healed with a *touch*, demonstrating that it is as powerful as his word. We may re-read Mark 1:29-39 for the event recorded. Note that after the day, Jesus went into solitude to pray for all humanity. Use Jesus' own example as you go to prayer, and include intercession for the needs of others throughout the world.

Family Program –TODAY

9 AM Mass, then session till Noon. Grade 2 Scapular Prayer at closing of adult session.

Monday Faith Formation, February 9

6:30 PM Grades 3 and 4 in Church, All others in classes.

Saturday Faith Formation February 14

No classes; do lesson at home.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

received a response form to join in some aspect of *service* during the up-coming Lenten season. Parent/guardian and sponsors, your encouragement and service as well is their best witness.

LOVE WALK - TODAY, February 8, 2:00 PM

Eucharistic Liturgy at Sacred Heart, Shadyside followed by walk to East End Cooperative Ministries site in East Liberty. ALL WELCOME.

Rome! Paul and the Underground Church ~

A Bible program for families to search, discover, sing, dance, enjoy baking and building together for four evenings June 28 - July 1, 7:00 - 9 PM. Be part of the planning and process team; meet Saturday, Feb. 21, at 11:15 am in St. Mary School Library.

Special Days this Week:

Tuesday, Saint Scholastica, the twin sister of Saint Benedict, founder of Monte Casino Monastery.

Wednesday, Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of Prayer for the Sick. Did you know that since Mary's apparition to Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858, 27,000 gallons of healing waters gush from the earth there daily.

Thursday, Feb. 12 - 200th Birthday of Abraham Lincoln

Saturday, February 14 – Saints Cyril & Methodius, blood brothers from Greece who were missionaries to the Slavic peoples. **Saint Valentine**, a early church martyr invoked as the patron saint of lovers.

“Praying Lent”, a gathering BEFORE Ash Wednesday for those interested in a time of guided prayer, Scripture mediation, and reflection based on the Creighton University Online Ministry program. Contact Rosemary Cather Kelly at 412-418-6476 or RCatherK@verizon.net if YOU are interested.

YOUTH MINISTRY**PARISH BAKERS****Have A Heart**

For our annual CYM performance

Arsenic and Old Lace**Can you help?**

Please donate your favorite home made dessert for our Valentine's Day weekend performances; we can use the desserts at both performances. And, please, catch one of the shows, we promise a night of entertainment under our new director, **Christian DeFilippo**. Drop off your dessert donations by 5 PM on Saturday, February 14 to Marian Hall.

PERFORMANCES IN MARIAN HALL:**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

Buffet Dinner and silent auction prior to the play begins at 7:15 PM. Performance starts at 8 PM. Cost \$10. Walk-ins welcome.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Performance begins at 12:45 PM, silent auction will continue and a concession stand will be open for light lunch foods. Free will offering for both performance and food. Advance ticket purchase of \$5 will guarantee front row seating but also walk-ins are welcome.

CYM recognizes our senior basketball players this weekend:

Samantha Kerin

Nicole Lindner

Maggie McGinley

Jennifer Reynolds

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

<u>Sat., Feb. 7</u>	Boy JV vs. St. Bede's 7:30 PM Girl Varsity vs. OLA 8:45 PM
<u>Sun., Feb. 8</u>	LOVEWALK Girl Varsity vs. St. James 6:30 PM
<u>Mon., Feb. 9</u>	Play Practice Marian Hall
<u>Tues., Feb. 10</u>	Play practice 6 – 8 PM Marian Hall
<u>Wed., Feb. 11</u>	Play Practice Marian Hall
<u>Thur., Feb. 12</u>	Play Practice 6 – 8 PM Marian Hall
<u>Fri., Feb. 13</u>	Dress Rehearsal Marian Hall
<u>Sat., Feb. 14</u>	Arsenic and Old Lace [see above]
<u>Sun., Feb. 15</u>	Arsenic and Old Lace [see above]

APPALACHIA REGISTRATION AND FIRST DEPOSIT [DEPOSIT \$50 TO SECURE A SPOT] FOR OUR ANNUAL APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP FROM JUNE 28 TO JULY 3, 2009 AND FOR NCYC [National Catholic Youth Conference] in Kansas City, Missouri FROM NOVEMBER 19-22, 2009 [TOTAL COST IS \$895, FIRST DEPOSIT \$100 TO SECURE A SPOT].

SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION OF \$1,930.73 WILL BE SPLIT BETWEEN OUR TWO MISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA AND UGANDA TO PROVIDE WATER FOR THE PEOPLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

Call the CYM line for current information on our social, spiritual and service activities for teens and young adults at 412-492-9344 or 412-486-4100, extension 409 or email at belskib@verizon.net

ST. MARY**St. Mary PTG Auction**

"Focusing on the Future", Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 5:30pm. Pittsburgh Field Club, Fox Chapel, PA. Evening includes Silent & Live Auction, Raffles, Sit-down Dinner and Entertainment by "Five Guys -featuring Drew Martier". A wonderful evening you don't want to miss. Tickets are on sale now, contact Melissa at 412 492-9349 or melissabattaglia@verizon.net for more information. Proceeds benefit St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic School.

"MY FAVORITE FELLA" DANCE

The PTG is sponsoring a special dance for the girls in kindergarten through eighth grades of St. Mary School. The girls are invited to bring their dads, guardians, grandfathers, uncles, or other favorite adult "fella" on Saturday, February 7th, at 7:15PM for dessert and dancing in Marian Hall. This is the 6th year for this event.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a nun?

The Sisters of St. Joseph are hosting an **EXPLORE!** Gathering for eighth grade and high school girls who would like to learn more about the **life of a Sister**. **EXPLORE!** Will be held on **Sunday, March 15**, from **10:00AM to 4:00PM** at **St. Joseph Convent in Baden, PA**. The program will include Liturgy in the Motherhouse Chapel, brunch with the Sisters, a tour of the Motherhouse, sharing stories of the lives, ministries, prayer, and community life of the Sisters. Parents and teachers are also welcome to visit. For more information, contact Sister Marguerite Kropinak, CSJ at 724.869.6585 or www.stjoseph-baden.org.

175TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ Senator Jane E. Orié presented us with a Citation from the Senate of Pennsylvania in commemoration of our 175th Anniversary.
- ◆ St. Mary of the Assumption is the fourth oldest parish in the diocese, following Old St. Patrick's in the strip district, which dates back to 1811, St. Peter in Butler, dating to 1829, and St. Paul in Pittsburgh, to 1834. Early residents of the Pine Creek area had to travel a rough 10 miles to St. Patrick's for Mass. As the number of people grew they wanted to have their own church. The Bishop of Philadelphia created a new parish in 1834 as a mission of St. Patrick's.
- ◆ As part of our 175th anniversary, we observed World Day of Consecrated Life last weekend. Five Sisters of Divine Providence who entered from this parish attended, along with our own Sisters Lois and Jean Anthony. Bro. Michael Miller a Benedictine whose parents belong here came too! Brother Michael attended our parish school.

OUR PARISH NEWS

WELCOME! Middle School Ministry welcomes Mr. Ron Stone as coordinator. Many thanks and best wishes go to Mr. Mark Tobin for his ministry for the past two years.

IS MUSIC YOUR CUP OF TEA?

Are you one of those persons who always seem to have music swirling in your head? Are you one who loves to sing, even if no one is around? Are you a person who still remembers your favorite music and bursts into song every once in a while? Then maybe you are the EXACT person who would like to be a member of cast of our "175th Historical Musical" set for the month of October. So ... keep on singing ... and thinking and maybe joining the CAST!

MEN'S RETREAT COMING

It isn't too late to make a reservation for the retreat scheduled for MARCH 13-14-15 at St. Paul's Retreat House on the Southside of Pittsburgh. Call Charlie Fischer (412)487-4667, or Jim Karcher (724)444-5798 to find out more.

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN

For the fourth straight year men and young men of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will gather at the A. J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University on Saturday, April 18, 2009. Make your reservation with Jim Finn (412)486-4100 for \$35.00 and a FREE bus ride to and from the event. Bus will leave St. Mary's at 7:30am. Park in the lower parking lot. The day will conclude with Mass at 4:00 P. M. with Bishop Zubik. Box lunch included. Call Jim Finn to find out more.



Lenten Fish Dinners: Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners during Lent. We are still in need of volunteers. Please call the Penezic's at 412-487-5211 to offer your hand of service. Desserts will be needed for our Fish Dinners as well. Please consider bringing your

favorite dessert to share. Drop off your creations in Marian Hall the night before the dinner from 7:00-8:00PM or on Friday by 4:00PM. A schedule for your night of donation follows; last name beginning with the letter:

A - D	February 27
E - H	March 6
I - L	March 13
M - P	March 20
Q - T	March 27
U - Z	April 3

Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!

St. Mary's Travelers

Have planned their first outing of the year. On April 18th we will board the motor coach right here at St. Mary's and travel to ?????? We will visit ?????? and then go to ?????? We will stop at ?????? and get some ?????? The day will end with a fine dinner and stage show at the ?????? All this for \$72.00!! Make checks payable to Mary Ann Coholich and mail to St. Mary's Church, 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw, PA. 15116. For further information call Mary Ann at 412-486-0165 or Arlene 412-486-1891, but don't ask where we're going....we're not tellin'!! Friends and families invited on this **Mystery Outing!**

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



Why Do I Sing?

We may ask ourselves this question when we come to mass. Or, perhaps, why do I sing at liturgy? In the new document *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, developed by the Committee on Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, there are fourteen reasons stated at the beginning of the document. It might be fun to compare our real answers to this question with the fourteen reasons stated in *Sing to the Lord*. Here is a summary:

1. God gave us the gift of song.
2. Singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people.
3. The Jewish people were instructed to sing.
4. Jesus and his apostles sang.
5. Music strengthens our faith.
6. Our Catholic liturgical tradition uses music to proclaim Christ and to reply with worship and praise.
7. We continue the song of victory: of the exodus, of the Resurrection, and of the eternal Song of the Lamb.
8. The paschal hymn continues in service outside of Church.
9. Inspired by song, we go forth to spread the Gospel; singing motivates us to action.
10. Sung worship allows us to participate in the action of the Trinity.
11. Sung participation is the source from which the true Christian spirit is derived.
12. Listening to sung prayer lifts our minds to God.
13. Even if we don't have good singing voices, sung participation comes from our heart.
14. Through song, we honor and glorify the Trinity.

We may have our own reasons for singing but one thing is clear; there is always good reason for singing out with joy at the liturgy.

MARKET DAY Patrons – help obtain books for our School Library. Your purchases in February are needed for us to reach our **goal of \$4,180.00 in sales.** Barnes & Noble will give our school \$250.00 gift cards to purchase books for our library IF our goal is met. Order forms are now available at the Church entrances, and in the Scrip and Faith Formation offices in the school building, or order on-line at www.marketday.com.

BACK TO THE FAMILY

Struggles and difficulties are part, but not all of what comprises, family life. Hear some reassuring advice by father, psychologist, author, and radio host, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:00-8:30 PM at Aquinas Academy, 2308 W. Hardies Rd., Gibsonia. For details call 724-444-0722

FAMILIES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28 when Father Garry Patriquin, himself wheelchair bound, will celebrate the 4:00 PM Mass here and include a special blessing for those specially challenged.

St. Paul Seminary Open House, in Crafton, is hosting an Open House on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2009, for all high school, college, and career age men interested in learning more about the priestly formation program and seminary life. Please contact the Office for Vocations at 412.456.3123.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

May I speak on behalf of the entire Parish Family in welcoming all the SCOUTS, both boys and girls and all their adult leaders to today's 9:00 a.m. liturgy as we celebrate SCOUT SUNDAY!!! The Scout Program has a marvelous history of development in this country. Even though the early tradition of the Scout movement began in England in 1907 under the leadership of Robert Baden Powell, an officer in the British army; it spread quickly to the United States because of its accent upon developing character, citizenship, and physical and mental fitness. With the aid of William Boyce, a Chicago publisher who had been greatly impressed by the Scout Program in England, the "Boys Scouts of America" was formed in 1910.

Meanwhile, a certain Juliette Gordon Low, who was a companion to Baden Powell, brought the Scout movement for girls to the United States. In 1912 she set up a home program for girls to meet so that they too might experience the American values of citizenship and personal accomplishments; and therefore she is known as the founder of the "Girl Scouts of America." In 1916 the Congress of the United States gave the Scouting Program a federal charter and from that time on it has had a major impact upon the life of many young people.

The activities of the Scout Program are geared to a series of achievements that the boys and girls must accomplish to advance through the various Scout ranks. Those interested parishioners who gather at today's 9:00 a.m. liturgy to celebrate with the many dedicated scouts of our Parish Family will witness to the accomplishments of our young people by the multitudinous variety of badges and medals that don their uniforms. Today we make a special recognition of the boys and girls who participate in the various programs of the Scouts of America as they serve their Church and their Country in such wonderful ways!

We congratulate all our girls and boys who participate in the Scout Program, whether they meet on our grounds or elsewhere, and encourage them to continue in this process. For all the adults who offer themselves so generously to the development of these young people, thank you very much for your dedicated efforts that allow the youth of our Faith Community to mature into such wonderful human values!