

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26, 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 Fleckenstein, Transitional Deacon
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

YOUNG ADULTS – NEXT WEEK

Our Parish Family will celebrate “Young Adult Sunday” NEXT WEEK at the 11:00 a.m. liturgy with Bishop Zubik himself who has once more chosen our Parish Family as the parish liturgy which will give a greater significance to this event. We hope that all those “young adults” (18 years of age to the middle 30’s) might gather at this liturgy to represent the many fine young people that we have in our Parish Family. This is another opportunity to show the spiritual caliber of our Faith. We ask all those who have a “young adult” in their family to encourage that person to be with us next Sunday at the 11:00 a.m. liturgy with the Bishop. This liturgy is always open to EVERYONE, especially those who would like to hear the Bishop speak to our people.

MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE SUNDAY

We remind all parishioners that a missionary will be with us in TWO WEEKS to speak to us of our responsibility to support the missions. There will be a second collection at all the liturgies that weekend. We remind those who would like to contribute to the work of the missions that there is NOT an envelope in our packet for this collection. Checks can simply be made out to St. Mary Parish Family for that collection since it will then be turned over to the missions for whom it is intended.

PARISH PICNIC MEETING SET

Those wishing to offer ideas and suggestions for our Parish Family Picnic are invited to join us this Thursday, July 30th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory as we have the first meeting to set up the details for this all inclusive parish event. All parishioners and families are reminded to keep Sunday, August 16th open for a friendly time of meeting new friends and relaxing with old ones.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TAX

For those persons who have a concern about the Allegheny County Alcoholic Beverage Tax that is the responsibility of all churches who have a festival, all parishioners can be assured that St. Mary of the Assumption (after a long process that our Office Staff had to experience with the County) has complied with the law. We sent a check for \$183.90 to the County from the proceeds of our Parish Festival.

LIKE TO PLAY A PART?????

In honor of our 175th anniversary as one of the oldest parishes in the entire Diocese, the Anniversary Committee has commissioned members of our Parish Family to create a “Musical” that relives the years of our parish life. We are now in the need of parishioners who would like to “play some of the speaking roles” that have been written for this production. Those who would like to take part in this “historical event” celebrating our 175 years are asked to come to Providence Hall THIS AFTERNOON at 1:00 p.m. to determine what part they might play. In the meantime, all parishioners are asked to keep open Saturday evening, October 17th for the production.

COUNCIL GOAL FOR 2009 (part 10)

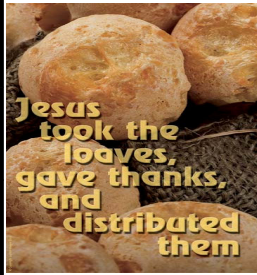
Growing In Faith Together --- GIFT --- the acrostic that the Pastoral Council has created to name each of the Twelve geographic areas of our Parish Family. The Council members are now inviting parishioners through a discerning process to determine leadership for each of these twelve areas. We hope that all members of the Parish Family might begin to anticipate to which GIFT that they belong and how they might make their GIFT a place where “Growing In Faith Together” might happen.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ALWAYS OPEN

If there is any member of the Parish Family who would like possibly to serve on the Pastoral Council, that person should make the request known to a member of the Parish Staff. There is a process of “discernment” that potential candidates are asked to experience before they are empowered to serve on the Pastoral Council. Membership is always open to those who would be interested in this discernment process that outlines the role of the Council member.

MARRIED COUPLES TO REGISTER

We offer a kind reminder to all of those couples who have been married in the past year or so that they should make sure that they are registered in the Parish Family as a married couple, so as to avoid difficulties in the future. If they move away from our Parish Family after their marriage, we suggest that they call the closest parish to their new home and make sure that they register there.



Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 26, 2009 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Charles & Doris Reddinger - Tom & Kathy
- 6:00 p.m. William Holder - Dorothy Guardalabene
- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Anna Mae Walsh - Family
- 11:00 a.m. Jean Lis - Daughter, Sally

Monday, July 27, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Leonard Hotopp - Tom & Dona Hotopp
- 10:00 a.m. Fr. Bruno Asture - Giuseppe Derenzo

Tuesday, July 28, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Mary & Joseph Hart - Eileen & Jim Fuchs
- 10:00 a.m. Regis Klein - Family

Wednesday, July 29, 2009 - St. Martha

- 7:00 a.m. Pasqualina Zottola - Vincenza Derenzo
- 10:00 a.m. Erin Arnone - Dad

Thursday, July 30, 2009 - St. Peter Chrysologus

- 7:00 a.m. Richard McCafferty - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Arthur Podorski - Aunt Mary Ann

Friday, July 31, 2009 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

- 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Caldone - Family
- 10:00 a.m. In Memory of Richard McCafferty - Family

Saturday, August 1, 2009 - St. Alphonsus Liguori

- 8:00 a.m. Theresa Lejpras - Anita Flaherty
- 2:00 p.m. Wedding of David Kepple & Jennifer Rosswog
- 4:00 p.m. Mrs. Rita Adams - Steve & Mike Adams Family
- 6:00 p.m. Edward Natali - Chuck & Nancy Zihmer

Sunday, August 2, 2009 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Anna Ahearn - Paul & Joan Kramer
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Special Intention - Bob & Marie Deasy

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Tuesday** (Grassy Knoll) 6:30PM - Power Zone Sports Camp
July 28
- Thursday** (Rectory) 7:00PM - Parish Picnic Planning Mtg.
July 30
- Saturday** (Plaza) Hospitality Weekend - After All Liturgies
August 1
- Sunday** (Plaza) Hospitality Weekend - After All Liturgies
August 2 (Church) 11:00AM - Bishop Zubik Young Adult Sunday



175th Anniversary Committee

Our meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, 2009, at 7:00PM in the Rectory. See you there!

At 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 *Richard Frankowski, brother of Norma Bernot, Ann Patricia Farrell, mother of Geri Breitbarth, Josephine Gelormini, mother of Ann Macioce*

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel a child shared his little lunch and thousands were fed, proof that the smallest act of sharing can have great significance. There are people in our lives who are starving for attention, understanding and affection. The gospel is clear: when we share ourselves, miracles happen. Take time to be miraculous.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading - Elisha feeds a hundred men with twenty barley loaves made from firstfruits, and there are leftovers. (2 Kings 4:42-44)

Second Reading - Paul urges the Ephesians to live in a manner worthy of the call they had received: as a unified, faith-filled, hope-filled community. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

Gospel - When Jesus feeds a large crowd with five barley loaves and two fish, they want to make him king. He withdraws alone to the mountain. (John 6:1-15)

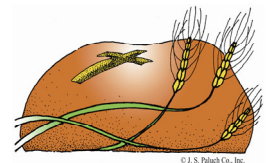


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- I. Gregory Edleman (St. Alexis) & Leigh Seserko (St. Mary)
- III. Randy Trgovic (St. Mary) & Erin Baumgartner (St. Margaret)

June 19, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	643	\$16,586.25
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$929.00
Children's Offertory	28	\$50.87
Parish Share 2009	18	\$775.00
Parish Needy	30	\$463.00
Total	719	\$18,804.12

Daily Readings



- Monday, July 27: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Mt 13:31-354
- Tuesday, July 28: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Mt 13:36-43
- Wednesday, July 29: Ex 34:29-35; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
- Thursday, July 30: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Mt 13:47-53
- Friday, July 31: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Mt 13:54-58
- Saturday, August 1: Lv: 25:1, 8-17; Mt 14:1-12
- Sunday, August 2: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

GOING ON VACATION? Need to find a Catholic church? Look at: <http://masstimes.org>

FOCUS ON MATRIMONY

Continuing our discussion on the sacrament of Matrimony, here are some more thoughts to ponder. Seen in the light of God's continuing work of redemption, marriage is easily understood as a vocation in the Church. Each Christian is called to live out his or her baptism in a particular vocation. For some it is a vocation of full-time church work; for others it is a vocation to the single life in the world, but for the majority of the baptized, marriage is the vocation within which they will live out their baptismal commitment. All Christians are called to their vocations to be of service to others. Those who are married and those preparing for marriage need to reflect deeply on their role within the church community. Taking on this vocation means accepting the responsibility for carrying on the work of the Church, doing so specifically as a married couple. For the couple, marriage should be the primary way they grow in faith and in their relationship to God.

MARRIAGE MOMENT

As much as married couples need to devote themselves wholeheartedly to their marriage, "Nothing-not even divorce or death-can place limits upon God's gracious love." Strive to love your spouse as God does.

GOLDEN WEDDING CELEBRATION

If you have been married for fifty years and would like to celebrate with other couples celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversaries during 2009 call Jim Finn to make a reservation for the **November 8th Mass** at St. Paul Cathedral with Bishop Zubik. The deadline for making a reservation has been extended but please call the rectory as soon as possible 412.486.4100. You will receive an invitation from the diocese closer to the November event.

RCIA is the process by which people become members of the Catholic Church. The rite is designed for those seeking baptism, those already baptized seeking to become Catholic and those who were baptized Catholic but have never completed all the sacraments of initiation (confirmation, eucharist). If you or someone you know and love is interested in joining the RCIA process here at St. Mary's beginning on September 20th, please call Father Ed or Jim Finn to find out more! 412.486.4100.

PRAY AND PLAY DAY sponsored by the Let the Little Children Come To Me ministry will be held this coming Wed. July 29th beginning at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room of the church. Following the time in church we will head over to the Middle Road Park. Parents with children five and under, older siblings and caregivers are welcome. No reservation needed! Call Monica 412.492.0242 if you want to find out more! Plan now to attend the free PARISH PICNIC beginning on Sunday, August 16th with an outdoor Mass at 1:00pm.

PARENTING POINTERS

Technology makes our lives easier - most of the time. If your teen is on a social network like Facebook, require that you be a friend. You don't have to ever post anything (in fact it's often better if you don't). It's just another way to keep abreast of what teens and their peers are thinking.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 17th Week of Ordinary Time

Paul's letter to the people of Ephesus 4:1-6 mentions humility, gentleness, patience, love, peace, and unity. What do all these words have in common? With which of these qualities do you most identify as characteristic of your own life?

LAST CHANCE to visit our POWER ZONE Sports Camp THIS Tuesday. Stop by our grassy knoll or the Parish Activity Center between 6:30-8:30 PM to enjoy and *cheer on* the youngsters at play and **THANK** the team of volunteer leaders! *You're the BEST !!!*

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

Grades 6-7-8 Summer Gathering at the JAM: Jesus and Mary Youth House Friday, July 31, 7-8:30 PM. For details, contact Mr. Ron Stone at rwstone@zoominternet.net

Grade 7 catechist needed --- WHO is a CATECHIST? A person who loves Christ, enjoys sharing faith with others, and is willing to volunteer time to engage life stories with younger members of the parish family. If YOU will like to be part of our team of catechists, please call Rose at 412-486-5521 to discuss the opportunities. What a great way to **ENJOY** this wonderful life.!

Our parish **Faith Formation Office** will be closed yet this week. Leave messages at 412-486-5521 or e-mail ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org. Beginning August 3 our office will be open 8:30 AM till 4:30 PM.

Families of Children/Youth who attend PUBLIC SCHOOLS, contact our Faith Formation office, 412-486-5521 or ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org Choose the best time/day for your family involvement in our Faith Formation sessions:

Saturdays 10:30 AM till Noon,
Mondays 4:30-6:00 PM OR 6:30 till 8:00 PM, or
One Sunday a month for the entire family, 9 AM till noon.

Prayer for the "Year of the Priest"

Loving Father, pour out on all priests the full measure of your Spirit's gifts that they may preach the Gospel boldly, that they may shepherd your Church faithfully, that the image of Christ, our High Priest, may be reflected by them. Holy Mary, mother of priests, pray for them. Amen.

Special Days this week

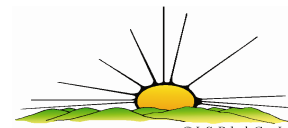
Make a date to honor these Saints by coming to an "extra" liturgy at 7:00 or 10:00AM:

Wednesday, July 29

Saint Martha, friend of Jesus who often served him in her home. He reminded her "don't be anxious about many things...", this is a good day to spend time with the Lord and give over any of your anxieties.

Thursday, July 30

Saint Peter Chrysologus lived in the 400's and was concerned for the UNITY of the church. The sermons and advice of this Doctor of the Church are as applicable to our own times as they were then.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Comin' up:

"Drop In"

Wednesday, July 29
Catacomb
7 – 8:30 PM

All youth entering Grade 9 – 12 in September are welcome to stop by.

"Angels in the Outfield"

CYM night at PNC Park: Pirates vs Cincinnati Reds on Friday, August 21. Give away is the 1979 Gold Pill Box Cap plus it is "Dollar Dogs" during the game. Cost is \$10. Diocesan TAILGATE PARTY from 4-7 PM in RED 6 LOT-meet youth from all around the diocese. Register by July 31.

"Bishop Zubik"
Sunday, August 2
11 AM liturgy
Young Adults
Who R U?

[ages 18 to early 30's, that's who U R]

Can you help?

We need YOUNG ADULTS TO BE greeters for this 11 AM liturgy. Please leave a message at the CYM office if you are willing to help.

CHECK OUT OUR AD IN THE NEXT QUARTERLY ISSUE OF THE CITY PAPER, DUE OUT THIS WEEK. THANKS TO ANDREA TRDINA, ST. MARY PARISH YOUNG ADULT, FROM THE CITY PAPER STAFF, FOR HELPING US TO SET UP THE AD.

"CYM Basketball"

The service opportunity for all of our prospective basketball players will be the wall washing and final painting of the Catacomb. We would like to complete this by the middle of August. Call in to the CYM office or send an email to Mrs. B [see below] with a group who will work for a 2 – 3 hour shift on this much needed service project.

Applications to play the 2009-2010 will be distributed during these service times.

**OPEN GYM TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY,
AUGUST 5 FROM 7-9 PM IN THE PAC.**

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 belskib@verizon.net

ST. MARY

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010 NEW PROGRAM

St. Mary School will be offering an extension to the four year-old Preschool program for the 2009-2010 school year. The Preschool Discovery Program will provide engaging hands-on experiences, providing opportunities for them to discover and explore their world using a multi-sensory approach. Each day (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) will be devoted to these specific academic domains: creative arts, literacy, and experimentation. The hours will be from 11:00 AM – 1:15 PM. If interested in this new program, please contact the school office at (412) 486-7611.

SCHOOL OFFICE

The school office will be closed during the month of July. Phone messages will be returned regularly if left on the school's answering machine.

SMAA Golf Outing

Monday September 14
Pittsburgh National Golf Club
12:30 Start 18 Hole Scramble
\$135.00/person
Trio Buffet Dinner, Prizes, Hot Dog at turn, Beer and Soft Drinks
Hole Sponsors = \$135.00 If interested please contact Kelly Cannon Ph: 412 551-3150 / Email: kellycannon@verizon.net



175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- August is the month when we celebrate our Patronal Feast. Mark your calendars and celebrate with us on August 14-15-16!
- Come to church on Friday evening, August 14th for the anticipated holy day Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following the 7:00pm Mass there will be an ice cream social on the plaza.
- The Masses on Saturday August 15 for the holy day are at 8:00am and 10:00am.
- All are invited to the **PARISH FAMILY PICNIC** on Sunday, August 16th beginning with an outdoor Mass at 1:00 P. M. Following Mass there will be food, fellowship and fun for all!
- It's not too late to begin spreading the word about our 175th Anniversary Dinner on **Saturday, November 14th** at the Holiday Inn, RIDC Park, Blawnox, Pa. There will be a gathering at 6:00PM followed by a sit down dinner at 7:00PM followed by music and dancing until 11:00pm. Call Mary Ann 412.486.0165 for reservation information.
- Current and former parishioners are welcome to come and share their memories of Saint Mary's.

OUR PARISH NEWS

A Note from Deacon Rob

Thank you to all who prayed for the safe travels and success of the pastoral visit to the Diocesan Mission in Chimbote, Peru. Bishop Zubik, Msgr. John Kozar, and the ten diocesan seminarians experienced the Church in an outstanding and unforgettable way, and learned a lot not only of the Peruvian culture, but also of how the faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh are supporting - both spiritually and financially - the faithful of the Diocese of Chimbote. It was truly an eye-opening visit to some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. Please continue to pray for the mission in Chimbote, the people they serve, and all here in Pittsburgh who work so hard to support this phenomenal work of the Church.

A VOCATION VIEW

If you are willing to share what you have, God will multiply your gifts. Imagine how God can use you to nourish a hungry world. Consider being a sister, brother, priest, or deacon. (John 6:1-13)

175th Anniversary Dinner

On November 14, we invite you to RIDC, Holiday Inn, for our 175th Anniversary Dinner celebration. Complete details were sent to each home in the Summer packet. Note change: NO wedding soup; salad with dinner. Tables of 8 are available if parties wish to reserve an entire table. \$30.00 per ticket. Send ticket requests to St. Mary's c/o Mary Ann Coholich.

MARKET DAY... next date will be August 20th. New order forms ARE available at the church exits and scrip office next weekend. Orders may be placed on line anytime: www.marketday.com.

Our Priests..show your appreciation ...YOU are INVITED to pledge prayers, rosaries, chaplets, holy hours, and sacrifices for priests, that they may be protected in body and spirit, and may grow in holiness and in the fruitfulness of their ministry. This can be done at www.YearofPriests.org. Along with pledging a spiritual bouquet, YOU are invited to share stories about your favorite priests.

Widow/Widowers Group

We will meet at the Olive Garden Restaurant, on McKnight Road, today, July 26 at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. For further information or directions call 412-486-5621.

CHOIR NEWS

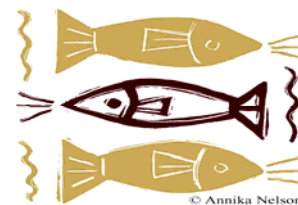
New members are welcome to join the St. Mary Children's Choir. A workshop for new members will be on Thursday, July 30 and Friday, July 31, at 10:45AM - 1:30PM in church. Please call Mrs. Flaminio at the rectory office for additional information.



**THE EYES OF ALL LOOK HOPEFULLY TO YOU,
AND YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE SEASON.**

Psalm 145:15

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



YEAR OF THE PRIEST

During this special year we are encouraged to offer prayers for our parish priests, all priests and those discerning a call to priesthood. August 4th is the feast of Saint John Mary Vianney, the Cure of Ars. The pope has proclaimed him as the patron saint of all priests of the world. For more information about the "Year of the Priest," contact members of the Serra Club.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, Shepherd of souls,
To be fishers of men, raise up new apostles
In your holy church.
Teach them that to serve you is to reign:
To possess you is to possess all things.
Kindle in the hearts of our people the fire of zeal for souls.
Make them eager to spread your kingdom upon earth.
Grant them courage to follow you, who are the Way,
the Truth and the Life;
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

RETREAT NEWS

Mark your calendars NOV. 6-7-8

Our fall retreat for women will be held at St. Paul's Retreat Center on Pittsburgh's Southside. Find out more and plan to attend by calling: Irene 412.487.1779, Elma 412.486.3508, or Patricia at 724.443.6885.

Married Couples Retreat

October 2-3-4 with Fr. Scott Seethaler, OFMCap. at the Paul VI Pastoral Center. Call 304-277-3300 to register or find out more!



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"When Irish eyes are smilin', sure 'tis like a morn in spring..." Come to enjoy a CONCERT to benefit students at the Ethiopian Mission under care of Father Vince Stegman, CSSp. will be given by IRISH Singer, Cahal Dunne on Saturday, August 22, 7:00 – 9:00 PM followed by a reception and silent auction. The event will be at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, 384 Fox Chapel Road. Tickets @\$15.00 adults. \$10 children age 12 and under. Contact Theresa Goeller at 412-487-1870 or Rose Stegman 412-781-2838.

Amtrak Adventure to Our Lady of the Alleghenies

Wednesday, September 2, 2009 with All Saints Christian Mothers. Bus departs All Saints 6 AM, back by 8:30 PM. Cost \$79.00 per person includes bus, train, lunch, entrance fees. Checks payable to All Saints Christian Mothers, c/o Kathy Christoff, 60 Maplewood St., Etna, PA 15223 - 412-781-4788.

55 Specials

The Riverside Inn will present on Tuesday, September 15, 2009, "The Queen of Bingo." Meet cast members "Sis and Babe" who have been playing Bingo for years. Included in this bus trip will be a visit to a Slovak Folk Arts Fair and lunch. There are only 13 seats left and the cost will be \$75.00 per person. Please call Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091 for more details.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

Thursday of this week is July 30th --- it is the year 2009. Maybe to most of us it is simply another day on the calendar. However, it is exactly **TEN YEARS** from July 30th of the year 1999. Certainly for all of us that day has no ring to it at all --- but FOR ME it is marked as one of the “red letter days” of my entire life of sixty seven years. Why? Because July 30, 1999 was my FIRST day assigned to the Parish Family of *St. Mary of the Assumption*. Have I been here for **TEN YEARS**? Wow! The memories of “first blush” are flashing through my mind as I recall stepping into the arena of our Parish Family for the first time --- how staggering it was to experience the immensity of the property that belonged to us --- how humbling it was to be sent to the fourth oldest parish in the entire Diocese with such a spectacular history to it --- how challenging it was to discern the multitudinous features of parish life that touched every aspect of the human spirit!

Now ... **TEN YEARS LATER** --- all of that takes second place to the magnificent wonder I have experienced in the PEOPLE of this Parish Family. Their acceptance of me with all my foibles and failures has touched the very recesses of my being. Their willingness to give my most inane and vacuous ideas a chance speaks volumes to my heart. Their generosity in offering themselves so willingly to the merest of my suggestions for the future says more about them than my daydreaming visions could ever mean! Could I ever appreciate being sent to the PEOPLE of this Parish Family? The other nine members of the Parish Staff are sensational in the professionalism that they bring to their ministry. The co-operative efforts that they shared with me made my transition a perfect joy that could only be reflected in their service. The commitment our Extended Staff bring to their individual responsibilities allows “making decisions about our parish life” a blessing rather than a chore. The overwhelming number of parishioners who volunteer at every level of our existence together as a Parish Family continues to impress me and inspire me every day of these past ten years.

Taking a page out of the history of our Catholic Faith, I would offer this scenario: if someone were to ask me “to hand over the wealth of this parish” --- with its tremendous financial collections and its great worth in property and buildings --- I would fill the immense grassy field facing Middle Road with ALL OUR PARISHIONERS for all to see --- point to them **“growing in faith together”** in one fold --- and say to the inquisitor: HERE TRULY ARE THE RICHES OF OUR PARISH FAMILY!