

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Second of Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2008

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

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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

THE LITURGY OF ADVENT

As the season of Advent continues to move us closer to the great event of the birth of the Savior, we look to the prophets of the sacred scriptures to deliver the message of joyful expectation. Isaiah of the Old Testament and John the Baptist of the New become the main characters of today's liturgy. We invite all parishioners to set aside the mad rush of the world's shopping frenzy and prepare quietly through the reading of the scripture text as sent home in our Advent packet for the religious meaning of the season. The "Advent calendar" delivered to every registered home in the *Pittsburgh Catholic* also gives us an ideal opportunity to discover this meaning.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday (tonight) at 6:00 p.m.

Monday at 7:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m & 7:00 p.m.

"The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception" which is celebrated on December 8th of each year marks the Solemnity that recalls the conception of the baby Mary in the womb of her mother. This beginning began for her, unlike all others who were born into the human race, free from original sin and we come to celebrate this in the action of our liturgy. This year we remember the 154th anniversary of this dogma of our Catholic Faith. In 1854, Pope Pius IX made the wonderful belief in the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of Mary a doctrine to be "firmly and constantly believed by all the faithful."

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The next opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal celebration will take place this Thursday, December 11th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. We have invited other priests to join us for the conferring of the absolution of the Lord Jesus. What an ideal way of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child --- experiencing the forgiveness of the divine Father. The "communal nature" of the sacrament emphasizes that we all are sinners in the eyes of our God, and yet we all come together to seek the forgiveness of our sinfulness.

**RED LETTER EVENING
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH
"LESSONS AND CAROLS"**

SECOND COLLECTION: TODAY!

We have been invited by a special letter from Bishop Zubik "to sponsor a second collection on the weekend of December 6th and 7th to benefit Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Pittsburgh." Because of the economics of our times, Catholic Charities is experiencing a 40% increase in the number of calls from people seeking help. On the other hand, many of its previous donors have lessened their normal donations to Catholic Charities because of their inability to find funds to give as in the past. We ask all to be generous in this "non envelope" collection.

A SPECIAL SCRIPT SALE

The Development Committee will set up a special Script Sale NEXT WEEKEND at all the liturgies. In a very speedy manner, they will sell on the spot gift cards for all the various stores and places of business that were included in the Advent packet that was sent home last week. Nothing to fill out, nothing to award --- just stop, buy and move on. Those with credit cards may use them for their purchases. There are script cards that can be used for charge accounts at various stores. What a grand way to help in the financing of our school WITHOUT any cost to the buyer --- a \$100 script purchase is worth \$100 ... just as a \$10 script purchase is worth \$10!

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN FINALE

We remind those who made an original pledge back in 2004 that the FIVE year collecting period comes to December of this year. We hope that all those still making payments will continue since the Parish Family debt is tied to their original commitment. Simply send in your payment as soon as possible. Once we receive ALL that was pledged, the debt will be completely eliminated!

WHAT AN EVENING OF MUSIC!

Congratulations to Sister Lois and her team of wonderful volunteers who provided an enjoyable evening of music and mirth with Cahal Dunne. We remind all those involved that the profits of this event go directly to the ongoing improvements that are being made in the Marian Hall kitchen. The kitchen crew that evening used the benefit of the new coffee urns that had been purchased with the monies previously set aside for the kitchen.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, December 7, 2008 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 6:00 p.m. William Ferraro - Rachele & Harry
- 7:30 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari - Cugliari Family
- 9:00 a.m. Adam Warenski - The Paul Kramer Family
- 11:00 a.m. Rudy - Mary & Family
- 6:00 p.m. Gerard Walter - Lois & George Lutz

Monday, December 8, 2008 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 7:00 a.m. Kevin McNeill - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Bernard & Marie Beyerl - Ron & Angie Beyerl
- 7:00 p.m. Albert Yarzenbinski - Faith Formation Team

Tuesday, December 9, 2008 - St. Juan Diego

- 7:00 a.m. Gladys Hefferin - Judy & Mike O'Neill
- 10:00 a.m. Eleanor Triglia - Family

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 - Weekday in Advent

- 7:00 a.m. Cathy Buettner - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Ed Wesolek - Family

Thursday, December 11, 2008 - St. Damasus I

- 7:00 a.m. Ernestine Hepp - Chuck & Kit Martier
- 10:00 a.m. Bud Walsh - Wife & Children

Friday, December 12, 2008 - Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 7:00 a.m. Agnes Halloran - The Mitsch Family
- 10:00 a.m. Phillip & Rosa Ionadi - Marco & Rose Imbarlina

Saturday, December 13, 2008 - St. Lucy

- 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Berrang - Family
- 4:00 p.m. Rosa Lombardo Mantella - Frank Mantella Family
- 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Sunday, December 14, 2008 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. John Walsh - Paul & Kelly Zoeller
- 9:00 a.m. Fred Benzenhoefer - Ron & Barb Belski
- 11:00 a.m. Eileen Lund - Arnone Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday Dec. 7** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Sunday - After all Liturgies (Rectory) 10:00AM - RCIA
- Monday Dec. 8** (Marian Hall) 2:30PM - Brownie Troop #205 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades (Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice
- Tuesday Dec. 9** (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Hand Bell Practice (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Adult Education with Fr. John (Providence Hall) 6:30PM - CYM Drama Practice (Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
- Wednesday Dec. 10** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice (Marian Hall) 5:30PM - 55 Specials Christmas Party (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home Mtg. (Sch. Library) 7:00PM - Pro-Life Meeting (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday Dec. 11** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice (Church) 6:30PM - First Reconciliation (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday Dec. 12** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- Saturday Dec. 13** (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
- Sunday Dec. 14** (Church) 9:00PM - Family Program (Rectory) 10:00AM - RCIA (Choir Room) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children (Church) 7:00PM - Lessons & Carols

The flowers beautifying the altar are in celebration of Michael Rzasa & Christine Rozyczka's wedding.

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Jack Scheller, Albert Yarzebinski, father of Al, Dorothy Shirley, sister of Ron Macecevic, Frances Czapiewski, sister Rose Stanek, Richard Lindbloom, brother of Patricia Lindbloom.

November 23, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	742	\$15,474.55
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,141.00
Children's Offertory	34	\$52.00
Religious Retirement	332	\$8,053.29
All Saints Day	1	\$2.00
Parish Share 2008	8	\$5,245.00
Parish Needy	19	\$163.00
Total	1,136	\$30,130.84

Daily Readings



- Dec. 7** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Dec. 8** Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
- Dec. 9** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Dec. 10** Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
- Dec. 11** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Dec. 12** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Dec. 13** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



Baptized in Christ

Tristan Matthew Blum

Congratulations to his parents, godparents, and grandparents. Please join us in welcoming him into our **Parish Family!**

A Vocation View

God calls us to proclaim the GOOD NEWS. How do you share that Good News? Pray for the grace to be a faith-filled witness of God's love. (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11)

RCIA is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic church. This week we will discuss Advent/Christmas. Next week we will have an overview of the sacraments. We meet in the rectory dining room after the 9:00am Mass. **All are welcome!**

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

All families with children under five are welcome to participate in this special ministry. All are invited to attend the 6:00 P. M. liturgy on Christmas Eve which is geared especially to the younger members of our parish family. Information about future activities will be mailed to the homes.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel raises many questions: Was the Baptist's family embarrassed by his life style, diet, clothing and message? Did they avoid or ignore him or advise him to come home and be 'normal?' Advent, a time to change our hearts, raises another question: Who in your family needs your acceptance?

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

How much do you know about your spouse's first years of life? Just as from her earliest days, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was formed and filled with grace in preparation for becoming the mother of Jesus, so your spouse's childhood influenced his or her growth into the person you love—most of the time. Share an early memory with your spouse.

PARENTING POINTERS

Even if you're not Hispanic, this Marian feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe has a message for all humanity. Mary appeared to Juan Diego in the form and garb of a Mexican woman. It reminds us that God often comes through people who can identify with us. Ever have trouble getting a message across to your kids? Try turning into their world, their needs.

CHURCH TOUR BOOKLETS

A project completed by the Let the Little Children Come To Ministry provides all interested persons with the chance to purchase a beautiful, detailed booklet featuring our parish church. These little booklets sell for **only five dollars** and are excellent stocking stuffers and gifts for grandparents. Pick one up in the rectory during business hours.

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE if you would like to host this prayer tool for vocations, call Ron Ondrizek at 412.486.6851. Thank you to the Certo-Newcamp family who is hosting it now and will pass it on to Mr. & Mrs. Johnson until December 14th.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Second Week of Advent

John the Baptist has a call in this Sunday Gospel from Mark 1:1-8. How are you beginning to "prepare the way for the Lord"? He called for "repentance" as a way to "make straight the paths" to the Lord. We have a chance to express repentance in the Sacrament of Penance this Thursday or next Monday. Meet the REAL CHRIST in the Sacrament to be ready for observance of His coming-in-the-flesh at Christmas.

Faith Formation

Monday, Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM all in church; 7:00 PM all at the Immaculate Conception, holy day Mass. Parents, please come to sit with your child(ren).

Saturday, Dec. 13 - 9:30 AM All meet at Landmark Manor, corner of Rte. 8 and McNeal Road. Children & parents/guardians join in Advent blessings, song and meeting the elder residents.

Sunday, Dec. 14 - FAMILY PROGRAM, 9:00 AM Mass, followed by sessions till Noon.

First Reconciliation – Welcome to Grade 2 children coming to experience Jesus' healing in the Sacrament at 6:30 PM THIS Thursday, **Dec. 11**, or Mon., **Dec. 15**. Parents/guardians and other family members welcomed to participate.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS of our parish family, welcome to liturgy with Bishop Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral Hispanic celebration to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, Friday, Dec. 12. Our group will leave St. Mary's at 5:15 PM from our parking lot, return around 9:30 PM. Register by Dec. 10 at the Faith Formation Office or call 412-486-5521.

Feast of St. Lucy, this Saturday, Dec. 13, is the day to plant the seeds so that you'll have fresh wheat grass to place in the manger for Jesus at Christmas. **THANKS to our Grade 8 youth** who prepared the wheat seed packets.

Special Days to celebrate:

Dec. 8 – Mary's Immaculate Conception-holy day

Dec. 9 – Blessed Juan Diego, Native American of Mexico with whom Mary left her image as a pregnant mother, on his *tilma*. Her feast as Our **Lady of Guadalupe is observed on Dec. 12**. A replica of his *tilma* with the image of Mary will be on display for veneration Sunday, Dec.14, 1:30-4:30 PM, with a rosary for LIFE, 3 PM at Saint Sebastian church, 311 Seibert Rd., Ross Twp.

Coming SOON – Saint Mary's 175th Anniversary

YOU are welcome to add to the preparations. Contact us if you, or someone you recommend, loves to write and will be willing to take the brief stories and photos of our parish history to edit, and add facts from the most recent years. This will be printed in an anniversary booklet. Memoirs of events which you may like to share in a short paragraph may also be included in the anniversary booklet. Please print or write legibly and include the following with your story.

"A Favorite Memory at Saint Mary's" by (include first and last names) and phone number or current e-mail address. Submitted pieces may be dropped in the Sunday collection basket, or send to: 175th Committee, 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116 or e-mail to: finnj@stmaryglenshaw.org

The next Sunday Family CCD session will be held on December 14th, beginning with the 9:00 am Liturgy (Grade 5-3, Flynn serves).

Sessions for children and adults begin at 10:00 am. Closing Prayer will be Grade 3-H, Rice. The Special Project for December is Crisis Center North. Donations should be taken to Marian Hall at the beginning of the adult session. Needed Items for the Crisis Center are: Gas Cards, Bus Passes, Grocery Store Gift Certificates, Payless Shoes - Gift Cards for Children. Visit their web site: www.crisiscenternorth.org. Thanks to all in the Family Program for your continued support & generosity and wishing you all a most Blessed & Joyful Christmas!

YOUTH MINISTRY



CALLING

ALL BASKETBALL FANS

Support our CYM basketball team at the first home game of the season on Sunday, December 7. Attend the anticipated Holy Day liturgy for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 6 PM with the Contemporary

group and Fr. Ed. Then walk over to the PAC to cheer on our Boys JV team and follow the game with food and fellowship with the youth minister and team from St. Bonaventure.

PARENTS/ADULTS WITH A HEART FOR CREATING A COMFORTABLE SPACE FOR OUR TEENS

We still need help from parents and teens to clean up, design and actually create a great atmosphere for our high school teens. **WE NEED A DONATION OF CARPET FOR THIS NEW SPACE.** Located across the hall from the CCD office and with a separate entrance outside, it is a perfect hangout. Our high school teens have already started to use the space, we just need to spruce it up a bit. A computer, furniture, microwave and a flat screen TV have already been donated. Find out how you can help turn this into a great teen space – call the CYM office and let us know how you can help.

OUR NEXT OUTING WILL BE TO THE CRÉCHE

and

PPG Ice Skating

Sunday, December 14

Sign up at all liturgies on Hospitality Weekend at the CYM table.



WE NEED A FEW GOOD... electronic games. **Help us to furnish our new youth room with games for our teens.** We are specifically looking for a Wii, Play Station 2 and also Guitar Hero.



CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

- Sun., Dec. 7 Holy Day liturgy and JV Basketball [see above for details]
- Tues., Dec. 9 Play practice **Providence Hall** 6–8 PM
- Thur., Dec. 11 Play practice **Marian Hall** 6 – 8 PM
- Sat., Dec. 13 SOAR meal for Homeless shelter
Girl Varsity Basketball Game 7:30 PM
Boy JV Basketball Game 8:45 PM
- Sun., Dec. 14 TRIP TO CRECHE AND ICE
SKATING AT PPG PLACE [see above for details]

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



LABELS FOR EDUCATION

If you look closely on the labels of Campbell's soups, Spaghetti O's, Prego spaghetti sauce, V-8 juice, or Swanson products, you will see a UPC label "Labels for Education." We ask that you simply clip the UPC code, put them in an envelope, and drop them off in the school office. Our school receives points for each item that allows us to purchase educational materials for the school. Once again: thank you, thank you, thank you!

Gift Cards and Giant Eagle Cards

Start your holiday shopping early at St. Mary School by purchasing Gift Cards for those on your shopping list. If Giant Eagle Fuel Perks are important to you, purchase your Giant Eagle cards here and use them to buy your other gift cards at Giant Eagle. Doing so still helps St. Mary School. A complete list can be found in our Parish Mailing.

St. Mary School Alumni Invited

St. Mary's 175th anniversary is kicking off on January 9, 2009 with an all school liturgy at 10 am celebrated by Bishop Zubik. The parish, along with the current school, faculty, and staff welcomes all alumni and former faculty and staff to this special liturgy. Please join us in Marian Hall following mass for a light lunch. Your RSVP is kindly requested by December 30, 2008 to Sandy Ondriezek at 412-487-8594.

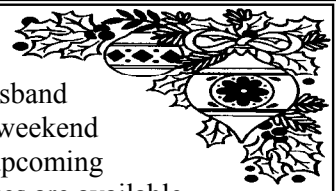
SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, March 7, 2009, St. Mary PTG Auction & Dinner, will be held at the Pittsburgh Field Club. Silent & Live Auction, Sit-Down Dinner, Entertainment by Five Guys featuring Drew Martier. Watch for more information & tickets go on sale in January 2009.

CONGRATULATIONS to young women of our parish, recent recipients of the Saint Joan of Arc Medallion award for hundreds of hours of service accomplished: Kayla Connelly at West Penn Hospital, Catherine Flynn at UPMC Passavant, and Heidi Goeller with Riding for the Handicapped. Keep up the great work gals!

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Wondering what to get your husband or wife? Surprise them with a weekend away! Gift certificates for the upcoming retreats at our local retreat houses are available and make excellent gifts. Gifts that change lives! Upcoming retreats at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center and St. Paul Retreat House are scheduled for the spring of 2009. Call Charlie Fischer (412)487-4667 or Irene Linkowski (412)487 1779 to find out how to get the certificate of your choice in time for **Christmas!**



OUR PARISH NEWS

HOMELESS AND OUT-IN-THE-COLD

is the reality of many people in our own city and country. Each year a candlelight vigil is held by the Covenant House community to pray for the homeless. After our 7:00 PM liturgy **Monday, Dec. 8** we welcome everyone to come to the pedestrian plaza for a short time of focus and prayer for the homeless.

Oplatki

Christmas Wafers are available at the rectory. Packages of four wafers will sell for \$2.00. Please stop by for yours!



Our Sharing Trees are located in the main entrance of the Church. This year there are two trees; one designated "Children" and one designated "Adults." On the trees are ornaments with the names of men, women and children who are looking to the generosity of our parish family for a Christmas gift. If you can help, please take an ornament of your choice. Return your gifts on the week-ends of December 6/7, or December 13/14, with the ornament firmly affixed to the top of your wrapped present. No packages can be accepted after December 14, 2008, since the agencies requesting help have a deadline. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please call Sr. Lois at 412.486.4021.

Advent Festival of



Please plan on attending this year's Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 14th at 7:00PM. This year's program features seasonal music from our Adult Choir, Contemporary Group, and Hand Bell Choir with a special musical drama "Carriers of the Light" performed by the Children's Choir. This promises to be a very special evening of music and scripture. Please join our music ministry on December 14th as we "prepare the way" for the coming season of Christmas.

MARKET DAY has CHRISTMAS meals and treats. Orders due by NOON, Dec. 9. Pick up will be on Monday, December 15, 6:30-7:30PM

LAST CALL: SISTERS CHRISTMAS CATECHISM, at City Theater, South Side. Our group will reserve tickets at \$35.00 each if 20 or more and travel by bus to the show Tues., Dec. 16. Call by Dec. 10 if you want tickets; 412-486-5521.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



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ADVENT Evening with Father John...

CHRISTMAS TREE or P-SAL-TREEe. Be surprised with the "tree" that Father John has "planted" at the session last Thursday. Gather in Church at 6:30PM to begin the session which will conclude by 9:00 PM THIS Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Volunteers Needed!!

The **ARTS & ENVIRONMENT** Committee needs volunteers to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please help us give back to the Lord the beauty he bestows on us all year long. Call Joan Kinder at 412.417.4549 for details. Thank you!!

With the upcoming holidays, there is a great need for those serving as readers, altar servers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and greeters to sign up to assist at the holyday liturgies. **PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD** in the sacristy and in the Usher/Greeter room and let's try to fill all the slots! Thank you!

CATHOLICS

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

It's the journey of a lifetime—yours. But, does it ever feel like you left home without a map? With all the twists and turns and challenges of life, it's easy to feel like we've lost our way. Now is the time to reconnect with your parish family and get the support to help you come home for Christmas! We miss you!

ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

2009 is the year! 175 years ago St. Mary's began serving the Catholic residents of Pine Creek. We will kick off our anniversary year with **EUCCHARISTIC DAY** on **Monday, January 5, 2009**, the feast of Saint John Neumann. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed after the 10:00 am Mass until Evening Prayer and Benediction at 7:00 P. M.

November 30, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	750	\$18,396.72
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$805.00
Children's Offertory	29	\$36.75
Religious Retirement	25	\$743.00
Christmas Flowers	17	\$226.00
Children/Youth Christmas Offering	2	\$7.00
Immac. Conception	7	\$51.00
Parish Share 2008	9	\$440.00
Parish Needy	39	\$888.00
Total	878	\$21,593.47

Respect for Life

This is an invitation to come pray the rosary every Saturday morning at 7:30AM presiding the 8:00AM Liturgy. After the mass we will travel to the clinic in East Liberty to pray for one hour. Our next meeting will be held on Dec. 10, at 7:00PM in the School Library. Questions: Ginny at 412-486-8241.

The St. Vincent DePaul Society is very grateful to all for the generous donations on Thanksgiving Day. Because of your wonderful generosity, each family will receive extra bags for Christmas & New Years.



CANDLES, set of 4, @ \$3.00 and some ring candle holders available at our Faith Formation office. Also, some Family-friendly activities for the season for sale. Stop in or call 412-486-5521 to order.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

There is an inherent devotion to MARY that lurks in the heart of every member of our Parish Family of St. Mary of the Assumption, since the “ASSUMPTION” refers to an event in the life of Mary and not simply to one of her many titles. There are many parishes named in honor of Mary, but most of them use titles like “Our Lady” in their name. Not so our Parish Family! The name of our Parish Family is based on the final event in the earthly life of Mary, her assumption into the heavenly kingdom. There is something very special about this event, since it stands as a universal model for every follower of the Lord Jesus. The Assumption of Mary reminds us that we too, if faithful like Mary, may come to experience the resurrection of our body in the final coming of the Christ the King.

Just as the “Assumption” is spiritually significant because it refers to the final event in the earthly life of Mary, on Monday of this week, December 8th, we all will celebrate the **Solemnity of the “Immaculate Conception”** which refers to the first event in her life. Clearly we must be reminded that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother. Many Catholics erroneously think that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. Not so! That event is entitled “The Annunciation” as the angel declares to Mary that she will be the Mother of the Messiah and therein the conception of Jesus begins. The Immaculate Conception is not recorded in the annals of the Bible, but rather has been declared in the living Tradition of the Catholic Church.

The celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th is not only a universal Holyday of Obligation, but it is the patronal feast of the United States. In 1846 the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore made that determination, and the American bishops were very instrumental in petitioning Pope Pius IX to declare in 1854 the Immaculate Conception as a dogma. There are many titles and names given to Mary in her central role in all our lives, but the Immaculate Conception at the beginning of her life and the Assumption at the end hold revered places of honor. On Monday of this week, we who live in the Parish Family of the “Assumption” will celebrate the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception. What a wonderful day for all of us who have a special devotion to Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church!