

# PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 13, 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](http://stmaryglenshaw.org)

E-Mail: [rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto: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

## **“VOX POPULI” (part 9)**

Parishioners are strongly urged to join us for one of the five liturgies next weekend as everyone at the liturgy will be given an opportunity to express the VOX POPULI (the Voice of the People). Members of the Pastoral Council will be on hand at each liturgy to help distribute the SURVEY that all will be asked to complete at the liturgy itself. Two of the main items listed on the survey are formulated thus:

**(1) If you could change one facet of our parish life that exists now, what would it be and why?**

**(2) If you could add one facet to our parish life that does not exist now, what would it be and why?**

The Pastoral Council has created a system to composite all the responses given on the SURVEY so that the “Voice of the People” of our Parish Family might be considered as the Council sets the goals and objectives of our parish life for the future.

## **“CATHOLICS COMING HOME”**

Those parishioners who serve in this Ministry meet each month to create ways of reaching out to those who have been distant from the Church. They continually seek the assistance of all parishioners to welcome such persons back to the Altar of the Lord. We are not looking for reasons why someone has become distant from the Church, but rather a friendly welcome back. If you know of someone in this situation, please take one of the “We Miss You” pamphlets from the foyer and give it to that person.

## **ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BANQUETS**

Congratulations to the St. Mary Athletic Association (SMAA) for their TWO magnificent athletic banquets. What a wonderful display of parental and adult commitment to the all inclusive sports program of our Catholic School. All those students who participate in the athletic program will have much to remember as awards and mementos were distributed in abundance to the student-athletes. Those parents and guardians who wish to have their children “play sports” in grade school can find no better opportunity for their children than that which is provided by St. Mary Catholic Grade School.

**PARISH SHARE CONTRIBUTIONS  
MAY BE RETURNED AT ANY TIME!**

## **“CATCH THE VIBE”**

### **“VITALITY IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE”**

The Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) is now in the process of contacting all those who are still paying of their pledges to determine the exact time when the pledges will be completed. This information is vital to our eliminating the DEBT that we now have with the Diocese. Letters have been sent to all those still paying of their pledges so that they will be alerted to their being contacted. The CCC is reminded of their meeting set for this Monday beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory.

## **FISH DINNER REPORT**

All those volunteers of the Fish Dinner are invited to join us on Monday evening, April 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall for a final report on the proceeds of the Fish Dinner. All are reminded that the profit of the dinners will be used to continue to upgrade the Marian Hall kitchen. Ideas and suggestions will be entertained at the gathering.

## **REGULATIONS OF OUR CEMETERY**

All those whose loved ones are buried in our well cared for cemetery are reminded of the rules concerning plants and decorations near their graves. We ask all plot holders to be cognizant of the rules and regulations that were given to them at purchase time. Any items that have been taken by our efficient Maintenance Staff can be retrieved at their garage.



## **FLASHES!**

All parishioners are reminded to keep open the Parish Family Festival dates of June 19 – 20 - 21 –for a wonderful three evening celebration ...raffle tickets will be coming out shortly ... we invite parishioners to begin setting aside items for the FLEA MARKET ...our Craft Booth is very special as people create new items ... there will be many new items for the children this year ... new games and new prizes will be seen throughout the festival ... parishioners will be contacted to assist in the many features of the Festival ... keep an eye on the FLASHES for up-to-date information!!!



# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, April 13, 2008 - Fourth Sunday in Easter**  
 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family  
 6:00 p.m. Esther Finn Mogus - Rita & Jim Finn  
 7:30 a.m. Rev. John P. Maloney - Miss Quinlan  
 9:00 a.m. Theresa Grzandziel - Faith Formation Team  
 11:00 a.m. Harry Heinl - Rachele & Harry  
 6:00 a.m. Intention of the Mission Team going to Uganda

**Monday, April 14, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Janice R. Genco - The Polito Family  
 10:00 a.m. Dorothy Lang - Husband, Charles Lang

**Tuesday, April 15, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Bertha Bittner - Family  
 10:00 a.m. Thomas Goral, Sr. - Tom & Kathy Goral

**Wednesday, April 16, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Edward Bittner - Family  
 10:00 a.m. Ed Wesolek - Family

**Thursday, April 17, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Elizabeth Berrang - Family  
 10:00 a.m. Joseph Martin - Rita Frollini  
 7:00 p.m. Christian Mothers/Women's Organization

**Friday, April 18, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 7:00 a.m. Myrtle Filo - Al & Pat Beranek  
 10:00 a.m. Bud Walsh - Wife & Children

**Saturday, April 19, 2008 - Easter Weekday**  
 8:00 a.m. Maylena Battaglia Walsh - Mel & Pat Butler  
 4:00 p.m. Joseph & Josephine Mikszan - Russell Mikszan  
 6:00 p.m. Louise Furmanski - Latini Family

**Sunday, April 20, 2008 - Fifth Sunday in Easter**  
 7:30 a.m. Deceased Members of the Hunkele & Giel Families  
 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family  
 11:00 a.m. Maxine Deasy - Family

## Weekly Activities at a Glance

**Sunday** (Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
 April 13 (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Sunday Preschool.  
 (Church) 6:00PM - CYM Liturgy with Fr. Michael  
 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Teen's Session - Dating  
 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Parent Session - Text Messaging

**Monday** (Marian Hall) 3:00PM - Girl Scout Troop #1037 & 1275  
 April 14 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program  
 (Rectory) 7:30PM - Capital Campaign Committee  
 (Marian Hall) 5:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Dinner

**Tuesday** (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Cantor Practice  
 April 15 (Pantry) 6:00PM - Pantry Open  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting

**Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 9:15AM - Let the Little Children Come to Me  
 April 16 (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards  
 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice  
 (Jam Center) 3:00PM - CYM Drop-in  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Temporalities Meeting  
 (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday** (Church) 7:00PM - Christian Mothers/Women's Organization  
 April 17 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice

**Friday** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass  
 April 18

**Saturday** (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program  
 April 19 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Confirmation Practice

**Sunday** (Church) 9:00AM - Family Faith Formation Program  
 April 20 (Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - CYM Calliope Concert

### Calliope Songwriters Concert - Pittsburgh Songwriters Guild Sunday, April 20 - Marian Hall at 7 PM

The performances are by local songwriters of the adult contemporary genre, meant to entertain audiences of all ages. Proceeds will go toward our 2008 Appalachia fund. Suggested donations at the door is \$7.50. Light refreshments will be sold.

**R.I.P.:** Please pray for the repose of the souls of Helen Tumolo, mother of John Tumolo, Patricia Rieger, Edward Boyle, father of Cathleen Zierenberg, Jeffrey Schneider, brother of Debbie Schwoegl.



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II. Daniel Gray & Marjorie Bezilla

April 6, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	852	\$17,845.12
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$693.00
Children's Offertory	56	\$79.76
Easter Offering	3	\$50.00
Holy Land	2	\$8.00
Parish Share 2008	40	\$3,927.00
Parish Needy	147	\$1,748.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>\$24,350.88</b>

## Daily Readings



**APRIL 14: ACTS 11:1-18; JN 10:11-18**  
**APRIL 15: ACTS 11:19-26; JN 10:22-30**  
**APRIL 16: ACTS 12:24 - 13:5A;**  
**JN 12:44-50**  
**APRIL 17: ACTS 13:13-25; JN 13:16-20**  
**APRIL 18: ACTS 13:26-33; JN 14:1-6**  
**APRIL 19: ACTS 13:44-52; JN 14:7-14**  
**APRIL 20: ACTS 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9;**  
**JN 14:1-12**

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE**



**Holden Von Midgley  
Trevor Martin Cignetti  
Troy Joseph Cignetti**

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

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** takes place twice a year in a communal celebration and individually upon request. The communal anointing took place in October during our parish renewal and will be celebrated again on the **Tuesday before the Ascension during the 10:00am Mass on April 29, 2008.** This sacrament is intended to bring the healing love and life of Christ to those who are sick or feeling the effects of advanced age. It is also for those who are in severe pain or approaching surgery. This sacrament can be received more than once. If you or someone you know would like to receive this sacrament call Sister Lois, (412)486-4021 if you need a ride.

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special celebration of **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS.** The worldwide Church honors all Christian vocations. We are called by name and offered a special gift of a Christian vocation. We pray that we are open to God's call and ready to accept the gift. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is with us to guide and protect us on our life journey.

**TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE** is an ongoing project of our parish vocation council. Families, singles and shut-ins are invited to host this prayer tool for vocations in their homes. Call Ron Ondrizek to schedule a time 412-486-6851. The chalice has been hosted by the Kleimn family and will be hosted by Charles & Katherine Martier for the next two weeks.

### **A VOCATION VIEW**

Whose voice will you follow – the Good Shepherd's or a stranger's? Pray for a listening heart. (John 10: 1-10)

**SPRING EVENING OF REFLECTION-** *For those separated or divorced* on Wednesday, April 16 at St. Paul Seminary from 7:00-9:00pm. Father Brian Welding will join us to offer his insights and answer questions regarding the rationale and process of annulment in the Catholic Church. Refreshments and time to network with others. No charge- free will offering. Call (412)456-3160 for more details.

### **LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME**

A ministry to parents with young children under age five sponsors a **PRAY AND PLAY DAY** on the first and third Wednesday of the month. All are invited to come to church this Wed., April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am. We will learn one of the gestures involved in the Mass, move to inspiring music, visit Jesus in the tabernacle and join in a parade. No reservation is necessary. Call Monica to find out more (412)492-0242.

### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** by Bud Ozar

The shepherd in today's gospel called each sheep by name. Naming is a serious family function because our name is our life-long identity, connecting us to a family history and how we will be remembered forever.

## **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

### **Faith Sharing for 4th Sunday of Easter**

In what ways is the *shepherd* image of Jesus meaningful to YOU? How do YOU participate in carrying on Jesus' mission as a shepherd? Because Jesus came that ALL might have **life abundantly**, what more can YOU do to make this goal a reality in the world?

**Faith Formation Families of Monday, Saturday, and our Sunday Family Program** have been sent the April News reminders as well as a Registration Form for our 2008 – 2009 Catechetical Season. If YOU haven't received this on e-mail or post-mail, please contact our office at 412-486-5521.

### **Grade 2 Children and Parent/Guardians,**

an update on the processions for First Eucharist and schedules for individual photo takes will be given to children to bring home at their class THIS WEEK, on April 14, 19, and 20th.

**CONFIRMATION PRACTICE** with Deacon Fran will be THIS, **Saturday, April 19** WITH and immediately AFTER the 6:00 PM Liturgy. Candidates meet in Marian Hall by 5:40 PM. Pews #1 through 14 on both sides, center will be reserved for youth and family members. Sponsors are **welcome, but not required**, to come for the practice. A session for PARENTS' discussions with Father Ed and Mrs. Belski & high school CYM team will be held in Marian Hall while the candidates practice immediately AFTER the 6 PM Mass.

**CONFIRMATION CLUSTERS** are being visited this month by a member of our parish staff or one of the Confirmation Catechists for a discussion of how our parish family can help support youth's growth in faith **beyond the Sacrament of Confirmation.** Our deanery proposal for newly confirmed, and family members, to participate in a **WORLD YOUTH DAY pilgrimage, July 15-18,** will also be shared. Please keep our youth and their families in daily prayer as they come closer to confirming faith as lived and shared in our parish family.

### **Catechist Certification Class Elementary**

**METHODS for Catechesis** will be offered in St. Mary's School Library, Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 31, & June 7. Adults and High School (those completing Grade 8) welcome. Call 412-486-5521 to register NOW.

**Confirmation Candidates:** Please remember to get your team of ten from the May 10th Decathlon for the Holy Spirit. Send your name to our Parish Faith Formation Office by April 19th.

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**TONIGHT, APRIL 13**  
**SUNDAY EVENING LITURGY WITH**  
**FR. MICHAEL KOMAKEC**  
**FROM UGANDA**  
**GATHER FOR LITURGY AT 5:50 PM**

Snack to bring if Last Name begins with:

- A - E** Fruit
- F - K** Veggies and Dip
- I - L** Non-caffeine soda or beverage
- M - Q** Chips or Pretzels
- R - Z** Desserts

## **T - ROC TONIGHT**

**Teens** in Grades 9 - 12 talk about dating with Crista in church at 7 PM after the liturgy.

**Parents** learn about the language of text messaging with Shaler students Sammy Spagnoletti and Melissa Szafranski in Marian Hall at 7 PM after the liturgy.

## **MISSION UPDATE**

### **COST FOR A MISSION TRIP FOR 9 TO UGANDA**

Room and board	\$5,000
Flight from US to Entebbe	\$20,000 [PAID]
Flight from Entebbe to Gulu	\$2,000
Medical costs and travel insurance	\$4,500
Answering the Gospel call	<b>PRICELESS</b>

**\$8,490 IS STILL NEEDED** to pay for our travel costs because so far you have donated **\$1,799**. We will post our proceeds from the Hawaiian luau in the April 20 bulletin.

### **NEW DROP IN FEATURE FOR STUDENTS** **EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON**

**HOMEWORK HELP** for teens Grades 9-12 From 4 - 5 PM students will spend time in fellowship by helping each other with those tough home work assignments. **Gather at the PAC for an hour of Group Study and bring a snack to share.** Then, for any who are interested, we will have **Open Gym for high school youth from 5 - 6 PM.**

**LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER GROUP TO SERVE** the **SOAR homeless shelter meal this month on May 10.** Our parish prepares and serves the meal on the **second Saturday of every month.** This opportunity will require a short orientation to the shelter and taking the time from 5 to 7 PM on May 10 to transport and serve the meal. A small group of 2 - 4 servers, high school age and older may present the meals to the ladies at the shelter. Call the CYM office at 412-486-4100, ext. 409 if you can help.

**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, ext. 409.**

## **ST. MARY SCHOOL**

**LAST SUPER BINGO** – The last Super Bingo of the year will take place on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Doors open at 5:30 PM; early birds begin at 7:00 PM. Advance tickets are \$35; \$40 if sold at the door. Admission includes: 12 cards for 40 regular games (50 points each), 5 specials (100 points each), one jackpot at 500 points and another jackpot at 1000 points. All proceeds benefit St. Mary School. Call Coleen at (412) 486-6622 for more information or to purchase tickets.

**SPELLING BEE WINNER**- Congratulations to Leah Hungerman, a 6th grade student, who will represent St. Mary School at the annual diocesan Spelling Bee on May 14<sup>th</sup>. She spelled her way to victory against 28 other students in grades 4 through 6.

**SCIENCE FAIR** - Students in grades 6 through 8 will participate in the middle school Science Fair which will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Providence Hall at 6:00 PM. We look forward to seeing the research and experimentation that went into the final product. The students always do such wonderful work!

**SERVICE PROJECT** - Our students will participate in an all-school service project to benefit children and adults with disabilities on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. A presentation of Hope Network, an outreach program of Harmarville Rehabilitation, will be provided as well as a wheelchair basketball presentation. The admission fee will be presented to Hope Network that will provide needed adaptive sports equipment for people with disabilities.

**KEEP SAVING** - The school is still collecting empty ink cartridges, old cell phones, and Campbell's products labels. Please drop them off in the back of church or in the container at the school door entrance. We appreciate your support.

**SCHOOL DANCE** - We will be holding a School Dance on Friday, April 25, starting at 7:00PM to 10:00PM. Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 at our Rectory and our Faith Formation Office in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.

## **Happy Birthday Pope Benedict XVI**

Keep him in prayer as he comes to visit the USA.

**Lord God, bless our Holy Father who comes as a messenger of peace and charity to all people. May his presents in are country serve to build up the bonds that unite us who are made in Your image and likeness. May his teaching and witness strengthen the faith of the people of God. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

## **GENERAL PARISH NEWS**



### **FIVE DAYS OF DIRECTED PRAYER- May 18-23**

These days of directed prayer are intended to help men and women hungry for a more personal experience of God in prayer to learn how to pray with greater focus using scripture and reflection on experience. Jesuit Father Jim Conroy will return to St. Mary's to conduct this formation week. To sign up or to find out more, call our pastoral associate, Jim Finn (412)486-4100.

**Meet Bishop Zubik at the Wisdom, Age, and Grace Workshop: "The Peace We Seek",** Friday, May 9, 8:00 AM till 3:00 PM, includes Mass, continental breakfast, talks, discussion, lunch, prizes, and PEACE. See [www.ccpgh.org](http://www.ccpgh.org) or pick up a registration form at our parish Faith Formation office, 412-486-5521

**MARKET DAY fliers for April may be picked up** at the church exits, scrip and Faith Formation offices. Delivery will be **Monday, April 28, 6:30-7:30 PM**, NOT before 6:30 PM. **A MAN or two who could lend a hand** will be gratefully welcome. Call Lee, 724-443-1147

**"POWER ZONE" summer sports camp,** and FIVE sessions for children ages 8 thru 14, is scheduled for Tuesdays, **July 8 through August 5, 5:00 – 9:00 PM.** Older teens and adults needed to assist as coaches & support team. Supervised activities for tiny tots and younger children will be available.

**Contact Lee Ann Trout at 412-492-8043 or [leeanntrout@verizon.net](mailto:leeanntrout@verizon.net) for further details.**

**GALILEE Family Bible Adventure** will meet June 29 through July 2, 7:00 -9:00 PM. Four evenings of FAMILY fun and immersion in customs of the Jewish tradition. Registration forms being distributed beginning THIS week. **Will YOU sew some straight seams** for our scarves? Or **do you have a hand drill** we might borrow for our woodshop? If so, call Lee Ann 412-492-8043

**Sunday Family CCD:** The next session is **April 20<sup>th</sup>** beginning with the 9:00 am Liturgy: **Grade 7-3 Serves.** Adult Session: **Marian Hall 10:00 am – Noon** Closing Prayer: **Grade 7-1 / Mr. & Mrs. Rihmland**

**Special Project for April:-Pajama Program -Needed: new children's pajamas, all sizes, and new children's books** - These will be donated to children in need in the United States, many of which are waiting and hoping to be adopted. Please bring all donations to this session and drop off at the back table. Thanks for your continuing support of these special projects!

**Widows & Widowers Group** will meet on April 27, at the Runway Restaurant by the Butler Airport at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. For more information or carpooling call Marge at 412-486-5621 or Barb at 412-486-4209.

### **POPE BENEDICT VISITS THE UNITED STATES**

In his historic first visit to the United States, April 15-20, Pope Benedict XVI will address not only the Catholic faithful but the whole world. A new pamphlet on the Pope's life is available from the rack at the back of the church. He will celebrate his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on Wed., April 16, the day he visits the White House. Please pray for our Holy Father that this pastoral visit gives him a unique opportunity to proclaim the Gospel of Peace to our country.

### **ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEENS**

**Youth Gatherings Program.** Our next gathering will be held on **Sunday, April 20, after the 9 AM Mass from 10 AM to Noon, in the Parish Activity Center.** Plan to attend and enjoy a good time!

**ST. MARY'S TRAVELERS** - "A Tribute to America's Heroes" May 22nd, 2008 On this one day outing we will visit the Flight 93 Memorial and Chapel. An on-board guide will share insights of that memorable day. We will also travel to the Anderson Farm, the site of the Quecreek Mine Miracle! Our speaker will be Lori Anderson, owner of the farm who will share with you her story of the days following the mining accident. Lunch and all gratuities are included. Cost is \$50.00. Make checks payable to Mary Ann Coholich and send to St. Mary's Church 2510 Middle Road, Glenshaw, PA. 15116.

**THIS IS IT CHRISTIAN MOTHERS!** The week is here for our Covered Dish Dinner April 17th. If you haven't purchased your ticket or let one of our officers know that your coming, you'll have missed it!!!! **The cut off for your phone call is April 13th as we need a count for the entree.** Anyone who signed up at the last meeting in regards to our regular sign up sheet of duties, can call Marilyn if they don't remember what they signed up to do or bring. Everyone is looking forward to all your favorite homemade dishes and socializing after our Rosary at 6:30 and Mass at 7 p.m.. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**The Catholic Conference at the Camp VIII** will be held Sat. April 19, 2008 at Camp Kon-O-Kwee Conference Center in Fombell, Pa. The day features: guest speakers, Mass, Rosary and Divine Mercy, confessions, healing service, food and beverages. To find out more call Gospa Missions (724)538-3171.

### **Is a Just War Possible?**

What do you know about the Catholic Church's teachings on war and the use of force? Have you heard of the Just War Theory? Do you know of its origins? Have you thought about its applicability to today's events? A panel of eight St. Mary's parishioners has looked at these issues. The panel will share its findings, as well as reflections on panelists' military and humanitarian experiences, and will suggest resources for further study and local service efforts during St. Mary's Family Faith Formation session on Sunday, April 20, 2008, after the 9:00AM Mass in Marian Hall. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a thoughtful Christian discussion of a topical issue. Please contact Martha Hollihan at 412-967-0842 with any questions.

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## ***PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS*** from Father John

The radiant magnificence of the Easter Season is now in full bloom and its presence can be felt throughout the entire church. As soon as we step inside our sacred building, the captivating aroma of the flowers gets our attention. Then, we immediately see the splendid array of the Easter décor that makes us pause in our tracks. An impressive Easter Candle and oil stocks front and center tell all of us that this is not simply a time of beautiful temporal ornamentation; but these are the moments of eternal sacramental life!

The Easter Season resounds with the spirituality of the Sacraments of Initiation: **Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist**. From the Easter Vigil, when eight members of our Parish Family came to the fullness of the sacramental life in the most important liturgy of the entire year, through all the days of the Easter Season when many of our parishioners are immersed in the life of these three sacraments, all of us might note how precisely our Parish Family holds fast to this liturgical setting when the Sacraments of Initiation are so emphasized. Each Sunday during this Easter Season when children are brought to the waters of the font, we are reminded of the importance of the “first” of the Sacraments of Initiation: BAPTISM. Baptism opens up for those to be baptized a new life as they are plunged into the font of newly-blessed water imitating a process of dying and rising with the Lord Jesus and thus becoming a new creation, free from all sinfulness.

The “second” of these Sacraments of Initiation, CONFIRMATION, will be celebrated on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> when our entire sacred church will be on fire with the Holy Spirit. Those to be confirmed will be anointed by the newly-installed Bishop of our Diocese with the oil of salvation from the sacred stocks brought from the Chrism Liturgy at the Cathedral on Holy Thursday, and thus made strong in the life of Christ.

EUCCHARIST as the “third” of these sacraments will be celebrated by the First Communion class with great solemnity on the last weekend of this month as they come to the Altar of the Lord for the first time. In this three-fold celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, we have caught the very heart of the Easter event. The Easter Season has become a time for the Parish Family of *St. Mary of the Assumption* to RELIVE the Sacraments of Initiation in our lives, not simply to remember them in our mind!!!