

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Most Holy Trinity
June 7, 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

THE HOLY TRINITY

In the long-standing tradition of our Catholic Faith, the first Sunday after Pentecost is called "*The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity*." As we begin the long journey of Sunday liturgies that will take us all the way to Christ the King, we celebrate one of the three great mysteries of our Catholic Faith: THE TRINITY. This divine mystery reveals to us the inner life of God in that we believe in "one God, three persons" so that Father, Son and Holy Spirit all share the same divine nature, even though they are different in person. The depth of this theological language brings us to the heart of our belief in a triune God, differentiating us from other monotheistic religions, like the Jewish and Muslim faith. Never totally being able to explain the heart of this mystery, we simply worship ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS!

GRATITUDE FOR PENTECOST

The entire Parish Family thanks all those who made last week's "balloon filled" celebration of the *Solemnity of Pentecost* such an awe-inspiring event. Thank you to those who made beautiful music, especially the awe inspiring concert, those who decorated, especially with the splendor of over 400 balloons, those who offered hospitality and refreshments, and those who wore red in their clothing. A magnificent end to the Easter Season!

OLDEST MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

We offer a special birthday wish to Miss Regina Quinlan of our Parish Family who is celebrating her *102 birthday*. As the oldest member of our Parish Family, we certainly remember her in prayer on this occasion of her special day and thank her for the generous contribution she gave in the name of her nephew, Father John Maloney. May God bless you, Aunt Jean, and grant you the continuous good health of a "long" life!

RETIRED FROM OUR EXTENDED STAFF

Carolyn Winschel who has served our Faith Formation Program for nearly 14 years has retired this month. We will miss you, Carolyn, for all your "detailed" work; but are so glad that you are still a member of our Parish Family. May your life be blessed as you now serve the needs of your family!

MATCHING FUNDS: \$250,000

With the overwhelming generosity of an anonymous parishioner, we could have \$250,000 to complete the Third Phase of our Pledge Campaign IF we are able to match these funds! The Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) will be meeting on Monday of this week, June 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory to develop a plan to invite others to contribute to this "matching fund" process. Any parishioner who would like to offer suggestions and ideas to the CCC is welcome to join them on Monday evening.

COUNCIL GOAL FOR 2009 (part 3)

The Pastoral Council continues to meet regularly to develop the Parish Family GOAL for 2009: "to establish TWELVE geographic areas" within our parish boundaries to create communities growing in faith together! The Council is now seeking LEADERSHIP from parishioners in this parish-wide process. We hope that all those who are invited to learn of this process will respond favorably to the invitation sent by the Pastoral Council.

CATHOLICS COMING HOME

The unique Ministry in our Parish Family that comes under the title of "Catholics Coming Home" will gather this Wednesday, June 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. The members of this Ministry continue to develop ways to reach out to those parishioners who have become distant from the Altar of the Lord. This Ministry is open to all parishioners who would like to share their thoughts with those in this Ministry.



Festival
© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

FESTIVAL FLASHES

Parish Family Festival set for Thursday – Saturday, June 25 – 26 – 27 ... with invitations to all to be part

of the wondrous time that bonds us as a family in the Faith ... sold RAFFLE TICKETS may now be returned ... please check page 6 of this bulletin for details concerning the many facets of the Festival .. volunteers are asked to set aside Thursday, July 9th as "Volunteer Appreciation Night" for a first hand assessment of this year's Festival ... remember: a great FIREWORK display on Saturday, June 27th at 10:00 p.m. in honor of our 175th anniversary!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, June 7, 2009 - The Most Holy Trinity

- 4:00 p.m. Gentile Family - Dolly
- 6:00 p.m. Mr. & Mrs. Leo Adams - Steve & Mike Adams Fam.
- 7:30 a.m. Ann Sufak - Husband, George
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Bernie Meinert - Love, Mom

Monday, June 8, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Giacinto Derenzo - Giuseppe Derenzo
- 10:00 a.m. Christine Stawecki - Chuck & Kit Martier

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 - St. Ephrem

- 7:00 a.m. Gerard Walter - George & Lois Lutz
- 10:00 a.m. George Williams - Ken, Kathy Goral & Family

Wednesday, June 10, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Edward Bittner - Children
- 10:00 a.m. John W. Grzandziel - Marge Wesolek

Thursday, June 11, 2009 - St. Barnabas

- 7:00 a.m. Vincenzo DeRenzo - Family Friend
- 10:00 a.m. Eileen Golya - Husband & Family

Friday, June 12, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Elma & Herman Spinnenweber - Sr. Lois & Joan
- 10:00 a.m. Bongartz & Fleming Families - Ellen & Family

Saturday, June 13, 2009 - St. Anthony of Padua

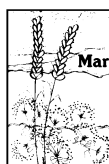
- 8:00 a.m. Suzanna Sovek - Faith Formation Team
- 4:00 p.m. Elaine & Scott Wentzel - Carol
- 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Sunday, June 14, 2009 - The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

- 7:30 a.m. Nancy Sanders - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Mary Louise Wagner - Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 10:00AM - Grade 1- Parent Meeting
- June 7 (Marian Hall) 10:00AM - Grade 7 - Parent Meeting
- Monday** (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
- June 8 (Rectory) 7:30PM - Capital Campaign Committee
- Tuesday** (Church) 11:00AM - Children NPH Practice
- June 9 (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
- (Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
- Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 1:00PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
- June 10 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home
- (Marian Hall) 7:30PM - 55 Specials Meeting
- Thursday** (Providence Hall) 7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting
- June 11
- Sunday** (Church) 9:00AM - Baccalaureate Mass
- June 14 (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children



The flowers at the tabernacle and altar are in celebration of Susan & Stephen Galise's wedding.

Banns of Marriage

II. David Reber (St. Ferdinand) & Kristen Hoover (St. Mary)

Congratulations to James & Mildred Hengelsberg on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. May God continue to bless them in Health & Happiness.

FELLOWSHIP OF CATHOLIC MEN

All men and young men are welcome to come to the 8:00AM Mass on St. Anthony's Day and then get together the **following Saturday, June 20th** for Mass at 8:00AM followed by food, fellowship and discussion. **Note:** The second Saturday group will meet on the third Saturday this month only. Call Carl Lichvarchik at 412.903.7607 to find out more.

ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO ST. JOHN NEUMANN'S SHRINE IN PHILADELPHIA

Hurry and make a reservation for this July 18-19 trip to Lancaster and Philadelphia. Get ready for fun, good food and fellowship with an opportunity to visit the church where St. John Neumann is buried. Call Mary Ann 412.486.0165.



PRO-LIFE Meeting

ALL welcome, Monday June 15, 7:00 PM in St. Mary school Room 23- enter by the library.

Offertory Collection

May 31, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	788	\$17,453.24
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$908.00
Children's Offertory	32	\$54.50
Catholic Relief	3	\$55.00
Peter's Pence	2	\$15.00
Ascension	3	\$25.00
Parish Share 2009	26	\$1,285.00
Parish Needy	32	\$818.00
Total	886	\$20,613.74

Daily Readings

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS



- June 8:** 2 Cor 1:1-7; Mt 5:1-2
- June 9:** 2Cor 1:18-22; Mt 5:13-16
- June 10:** 2 Cor 3:4-11; Mt 5:17-19
- June 11:** Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3; Mt 5:20-26
- June 12:** 2 Cor 4:7-15; Mt 5:27-32
- June 13:** 2 Cor 5:14-21; Mt 5:33-37
- June 14:** Ex 24:3-8; Heb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



If you or someone you know and love is interested in finding out more about becoming a Catholic Christian or if you want to enrich the information you already know or want to know more about the Catholic Church then accept the

invitation to join us on Sunday mornings beginning after Labor Day. In the meantime, you are welcome to set up an appointment to find out more by calling Father Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory 412.486.4100.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

We sponsor a weekly **PRAY and PLAY Day** on Wednesdays during the summer beginning this Wed. June 10. All parents and caregivers with children under five and their older siblings are invited. Come to the Children's Liturgy Room in the church at 9:30am. After spending some time on a child-friendly church tour, we go to Middle Road Park for playtime and the opportunity to meet new friends. This week we will visit the **tabernacle**. We will be using the St. Mary Tour books. Copies are available to all interested parties for \$5.00. Stop by the rectory or pick your copy up on any Wednesday morning. All welcome! Call Monica at (412)492-0242.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus told his disciples "I have much more to tell you, but you cannot hear it now." Jesus has the same problem with us as we do with our children. Our advice is not always welcome. Timing was a challenge for Jesus as it is for us as parents.

PARENTING POINTERS

June is a time of graduations and dandelions; weddings and lightning bugs; vacations and summer jobs. Whether you have babies or teenagers, take a moment today to notice something small but precious about your child. Sit in wonderment for a moment about the mystery of human life.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Let love be sincere." (Romans 12:9) Who is the most sincere person you know? Ponder this virtue today and think of one sincere, loving comment you can make to your spouse before the sun goes down.

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE

Thanks to the 8th Grade Graduating Class for hosting the chalice. If you would like to host the chalice in your home for two weeks and pray for church vocations, give Ron Ondrizek 412.486.6851 a call.

A VOCATION VIEW

Today we celebrate a central mystery of our faith. Our triune God calls us to be his own and blesses us on our life journey. What impact does this mystery have on your vocation? (Psalm 34)

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Holy Trinity Sunday

"Three Persons equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, yet one Lord, one God, ever to be adored."

This segment of the Preface for today's feast summarizes the **RELATIONSHIP** within God. Do any two other persons in your life enjoy a similar relationship? Who of your close relations are majestic? Or "undivided in splendor"? When do you enjoy your oneness?

"All of God's merciful deeds in salvation history are aimed at uniting our lives with the life of the Trinity".

Families of Children/Youth who attend PUBLIC SCHOOLS, if YOU need a copy of the **Registration Form for the 2009 – 2010** Catechetical Season, contact our office at 412-486-5521 or ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org.

Sessions will be held on :

- ⇒ **Saturdays**, 10:30 AM –Noon;
- ⇒ **Mondays**, 4:30-6:00 PM , and 6:30-8:00 PM;
- ⇒ **Third Sunday** each month Family Program, 9 AM Mass, then till Noon.

MINISTRY WITH MIDDLE SCHOOLERS –Grades 6-7-8

and parents/guardians, welcome to contact Mr. Ron Stone with YOUR ideas for monthly gatherings. Send inquiries to ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org att: Mr. Ron

Summertime Drop in and PLAY at the JAM: Jesus and Mary Youth House **every Wednesday** 6:00-8:30 PM begins June 17. Contact Lee Ann Trout for details, 412-492-8043 or leeanntrout@verizon.net.

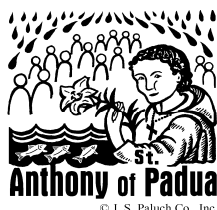
Summer Bible Program opportunities – Registration deadline for July and August programs will be at our Parish Festival.

- ◆ 4 evenings June 28-July 1, 6:30-8:30 PM - "Paul in Rome and the Underground Church"
- ◆ Tuesday evenings in July, 6:00-8:30 PM- "POWER ZONE" - summer sports camp!
- ◆ Son Rock Kids' Camp, Aug.10-14, 9:30 AM- Noon

REGISTRATION FORMS are available at the display board in our church foyer.

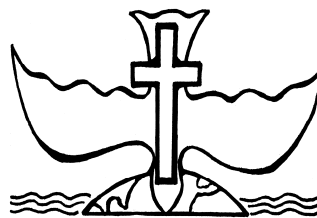
THEATER OUTING

...if you enjoyed *Late Night Catechism*, don't miss Sister's newest, *Till Death Do Us Part*. Group rate ticket \$30 each, if we have ten or more to go on Saturday, June 20, 5:30 PM show at City Theater, South Side. Car pool from St. Mary's at 4:40 PM or dine out and meet at the theater. Call Rose at 412-486-5521.



FEAST OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

We will celebrate the feast on Saturday, June 13. Bread will be blessed and distributed following the 8:00AM Mass.



The Most Holy Trinity June 7, 2009

Go ... and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

YOUTH MINISTRY

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS FOR NEXT YEAR:
Get a head start on your service hours. If you will be a Confirmation candidate for 2010 or will be in Grades 9 – 12 next year then call the CYM office to work our booth at the Parish Festival. We do children's games and you can chill in the Catacomb:

Thur., June 25 - 5:30 to 8:30 PM or 6:30 to 9:30 PM
 Fri., June 26 - 5:30 to 8:30 PM or 7:30 to 10:30 PM
 Sat., June 27 - THREE SHIFTS: 4:15 TO 7:15 PM,
 6 TO 9 PM OR 7:30 TO 11:15 PM

CALL the CYM office at 412-492-9344 TO SIGN UP.

CLASS OF 2009

BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL PARISH BACCALAUREATE

[We pray for our graduates in the context of a liturgy]

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

9 AM LITURGY

REPORT TO CHURCH AT 8:45 AM

BRING YOUR CAP & GOWN

OR ONE WILL BE PROVIDED

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN MARIAN HALL

Our parish celebrates your graduation with prayers and a breakfast reception. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE – RSVP to the CYM office with the number of guests attending the breakfast [the graduate and two parents/guardians are not charged, all other guests pay \$3 per person. Make check out to St. Mary Parish for additional guests and leave at the rectory for Barb Belski]. Call in your information – the school you graduated from and your future plans i.e. school or a job at 412-492-9344.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Each year many public high schools offer a Baccalaureate, which is basically a prayer service run by the students; some occur at the high school while others are off-site, usually at a near by place of worship. **If you are a high school senior, do you know about your public high school's Baccalaureate?**

Hampton High School - Monday, June 8 7 PM
Fox Chapel High School – Wednesday, June 10
Shaler – None scheduled so far.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon., June 8 Catacomb WILL NOT BE OPEN
 Sat., June 13 S.O.A.R. shelter homeless meal
 Sun., June 14 High school and college graduates 9 AM

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

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

St. Mary School is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. We offer a 3 and 4 year-old preschool program as well as kindergarten through 8th grade programs. Children MUST be five years old by September 1st in order to register for kindergarten. Parents/guardians are asked to provide the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, and copy of the child's social security number when registering. A \$100 registration fee, which will be applied to the child's tuition, is also required at the time of registration.

For more information or to arrange a tour, please call the school office at (412) 486-7611. Come and see what we are all about!

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS - The school office will be open from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Monday through Thursdays, during the month of June. It will be closed for the month of July, but phone messages will be returned during July. The office will reopen Monday, August 3rd.

SCRIP OFFICE - The summer hours for the Scip office will be from 8:00 – 10:00 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays throughout June and August. In July, the office will be open on Mondays and Fridays only from 8:00 – 10:00 AM.

Thank you for your continued support of our certificate program.

SCOUTING

On May 13, 2009, Craig E. Genser, a member of Boy Scout Troop 380 based in O'Hara, was awarded the Eagle rank, which is the highest and most coveted rank in all of Scouting. Our congratulations to Craig and his family.



175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ Next BIG event to mark our 175th Anniversary is our Annual Parish Festival on June 25-26-27. Ethnic dinners will be served every evening in Marian Hall from 4:30pm until 7:00pm.
- ◆ There will be a Polka Mass on Sat. June 27th at 5:00 P. M. and the **Grand Finale** of the Festival will be professional fireworks on Saturday evening! A special invitation is extended to our former parishioners to come back and see what a special place St. Mary's is and has been for 175 years.
- ◆ **HISTORICAL MUSICAL** is set for Sat., October 17th in the PAC. **YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!** Now is the time to let us know what you would like to do to help make this event happen! All kinds of help is needed from people of all ages! Call and let us know that you are willing to help and we'll let you know your part. We're waiting for your call—Tom 412.486.5030 or Jim at the rectory 412.486.4100.

OUR PARISH NEWS

FESTIVAL HAPPENINGS

ST. MARY BAKERS

Once again it's time for all parishioners to share your "baked goodies" which will be enjoyed by all who attend the Festival Dinners and purchase them at the Bake Sale. Bake goods are needed for each dinner and the bake sale which will be held each night of the festival in Marian Hall. Please bring your desserts, pies, cakes, cookies to the church hall anytime after 1:30PM each day and label for dinner or for Bake Sale or double your recipe and make one for each! The following is a guideline if your name begins with:

A thru H - Thursday, June 25

I thru P - Friday, June 26

Q thru Z - Saturday, June 27

Thank you in advance for baking and donating a "double batch" of bake goods. God Bless the hands of our wonderful bakers!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer at the festival for a few hours, please call ANNE ZEIS at 412.487.7520. There are time slots open for the game booths, food booths, and the Flea Market. Bring a friend and make a new friend while helping our festival be a success.

FLEA MARKET

New and used items needed in **GOOD and CLEAN** condition! **NO** clothing, magazines or gym equipment! Small items of furniture accepted! Spring cleaning? Your unwanted "valuables" can become someone else's treasures. Drop off dates and times are: **June 15 through June 19** - 12:00noon to 3:00PM and 6:00 to 9:00PM each day in our Parish School. **Items are NOT to be left unattended ANYWHERE on the Parish grounds.** Help is needed to sort and price our treasures! Please call Mary Ann Coholich at 412-486-0165, if you can help!

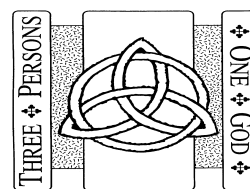
CRAFT BOOTH

Thank you so much to all crafters who have donated wonderful homemade items to our booth year after year. We do appreciate your generosity and the craft booth as made a lot of money for the church as a result. We are again asking for all types of new craft items that we can sell at the festival. Please call Debbie Boyd at 724-449-5790 with questions for pick-up! Thank you!

BASKET AUCTION

The Basket Auction Committee is now searching for donations and volunteers. In order for the Basket Auction to be successful we need your assistance. We invite you or anyone you know who would like to donate their time and/or talent to assist our committee with soliciting donations, setting up or the selling of tickets to contact: Judy Fritsch, 412.487.2368 or Kathy DiGirolamo, 412.486.0508. Please let us know if your ministry wants to donate. We will accept donations through June 5, 2009. Thereafter, will we only accept cash donations.

**GOOD
NEWS
TO
SHARE**



LAST PARISH BREAKFAST TILL FALL

Sunday, June 21

Marian Hall after the 7:30 & 9 AM Liturgies

Come celebrate the men in your life and enjoy a special menu of breakfast foods. The Knights of Columbus will be there after the 9 AM liturgy.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

Bishop Zubik and the Pittsburgh seminarians will be hosting a **FESTIVAL of PRAISE**, a celebration of Faith for young Catholics - high school, college, young adults in their 20s and 30s on **MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2009 from 6:30pm until 9:30pm** at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton. Young people and priests from all over the diocese will gather for a night of Praise and Worship, Adoration and the opportunity for confession along with food and friendship! This event is **FREE** and requires no RSVP. Call Jim Finn, 412.486.4100 if you need a ride.

LAST CALL

Faith Enrichment to be held in our St. Mary School, Room 23 for Adults and High School Youth -

Catechetical Methods thru the Liturgical Year, with Master Catechists team, June 8-12, 9:00 AM till Noon;

Mary, Teaching and Ministry, with Dr. Ed Scheid, June 15 thru 19, 9:00 AM till Noon. Call 412-486-5521 register.

MARKET DAY fliers for June are available in the church foyer and at the Scrip office. Market Day pick up will be **MONDAY, June 15, 6:30 PM.** Helpers needed at 5:00 PM to sort and pack orders. Thanks to ALL patrons and helpers at our Market Days. There will **NOT** be a Market Day in July; next date will be August 20th.

Christ the Divine Teacher Catholic Academy is currently seeking applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant to the Principal. The candidate should have a working knowledge of the Microsoft Office Suite Applications and the use of on-line database programs. The applicant must be able to obtain all applicable clearances and be in conformity with Pittsburgh Diocesan regulations. Please submit your application, in "writing" to Rev. Kenneth White, 309 Brilliant Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15215.

ACTION NEEDED to contact U.S. Senators and representatives to oppose the Embryonic stem cell research bill. The following message from our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops may be used: "It is troubling that the National Institutes of Health plans to use federal funds for stem cell research that requires destroying live human embryos. It is appalling that some members of Congress want an even broader policy, encouraging the deliberate use of in vitro fertilization or cloning to produce human embryos for stem cell research. Such creation of new life solely to destroy it would mark the final reduction of human beings to mere objects or commodities. Please oppose any use of my tax dollars to promote destructive embryonic stem cell research or any form of human cloning. Instead please support adult stem cell research, which is ethically sound, harms no one, and is already helping suffering patients with dozens of conditions." See the USCCB website for more details.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



© Annika Nelson



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

Theologians suggest that there are three great dogmas in our Catholic Faith. (1) that God is triune (TRINITY); (2) that Jesus is both divine and human (INCARNATION); and (3) that the Holy Spirit gives life to the People of God (THE CHURCH). Each of these dogmas reveals a mystery that demands Faith to accept, since these mysteries go way beyond human proof. Today's liturgy spotlights the first of these great dogmas. Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Trinity. It is our belief that God has always been and will always be "triune" in the pronouncement of our Faith. Without beginning, without end, God is three persons: Father – Son – Holy Spirit. In the language of relationship, this simply means that God has NEVER been alone!

The dogmas of our Catholic Faith have not been revealed simply as something to believe. In the history of dogmatic theology, the revelation of each dogma has had a profound effect upon "how we live out" the Faith we believe. We are the People of God whose "life style" identifies us with our divine God. It is in this effect on our lives that each dogma has its significance. The TRINITY that we liturgically proclaim today is not simply a dogma to believe, but it is a dogma to live. At the heart of this mystery, we have come to believe that God is not ALONE, but God is always a community: three persons/one nature.

This dogma affects our lives at the moment of our creation into this world. Throughout the history of the Christian Church we have proclaimed that we are made in the "image and likeness" of God. This belief is revealed in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, and continues to have verification throughout the entire process of the Christian Faith. But God is triune --- never alone. If we are made in the image and likeness of God --- then we have been created NEVER to be alone!

We are communal by nature. We are not created to be alone. Therefore, everything we do in this COMMUNITY OF FAITH, the Parish Family of *St. Mary of the Assumption*, touches the very core of who we are! Our participation in the life of our Parish Family originates from the fact that we are communal at the very core of our life! Is this not reason enough to remain faithful to the communal life of our Parish Family???