

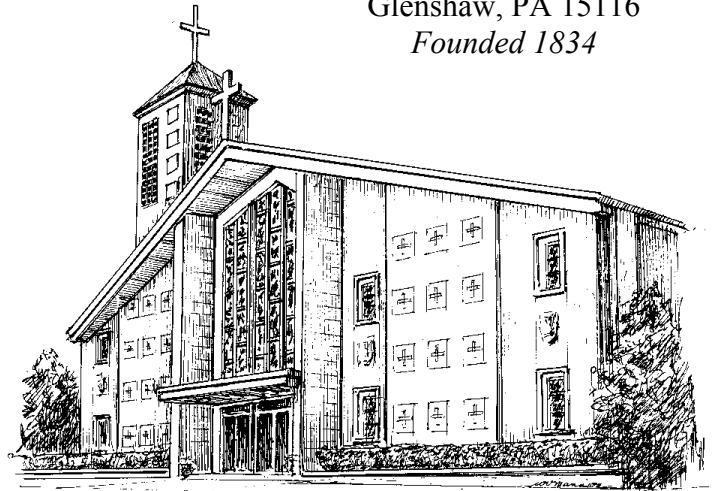
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Third Sunday of Lent
March 15, 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



LENT GOES JOHANNINE

As we now begin the third Sunday of the Lenten Season, the Liturgy of the Word takes us to the grand stories of the Gospel of JOHN. Today it is John's version of the "Cleansing of the Temple" while next week will be his very famous proclamation of "John 3:16" and finally end with the "Glorification" process for Jesus on week five. These Gospel stories prepare us spiritually for the major events of Holy Week to follow after week five.

Meanwhile, in certain circumstances, the three great Johannine stories of "The Woman at the Well" and "The Man Born Blind" and "The Raising of Lazarus" are proclaimed during the next three weeks of Lent. These are great Lenten reflections for those turning to the Bible for spiritual reading.

"THURSDAY" ENRICHMENT SERIES

All those who have been attending our Tuesday night Enrichment Series are to note that it will move to THURSDAY, March 19th this week. We will celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph that evening with Father Scott Seethaler, a Capuchin priest who has been to our Parish Family in the past and brings with him a remarkable reputation. The Confraternity of Christian Mothers and Women's Guild have arranged for Father Scott to be with us at the 7:00 p.m. liturgy. *Come to be enriched by the message Father Scott brings and experience the St. Joseph's Table, one of the features of the night!*

SECOND COLLECTION: NEXT WEEK

The second of this year's second collections will be taken up NEXT Sunday at all the liturgies. This collection has a three fold basis to it: "Catholic Campaign for Human Development," "Catholic Home Missions Appeal" and "National Collection for Black and Indian Missions."

NEXT CEMETERY MEETING

Members of the Cemetery Committee are reminded that their next meeting has been set for the third Monday of April, April 20th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. The Committee is now moving ahead for the construction of Lawn Crypts to be added to our cemetery so as to accommodate those parishioners who would like to reserve an above the ground burial place for the members of their families.

A CRUCIFIX IN THE "PAC"

Have you been to the Parish Activity Center (PAC) lately and noticed that a crucifix has now been added high above the stage area in a very prominent place? We want to remind all those who use this facility for sport or drama events that the real center of our Parish Family is our Catholic Faith expressed in the Cross of Jesus Christ. For those who have been in our parish long before our new church was built might recognize this crucifix as the one that was in the old wooden church of the past. We have now given it a new home and in a sense reminded all of us that the PAC is simply an extension of our parish life that began long before the PAC was built. The old church ... the new PAC ... everything about us falls under the precious care of Jesus of Nazareth!

TEMPORALITIES COMMISSION

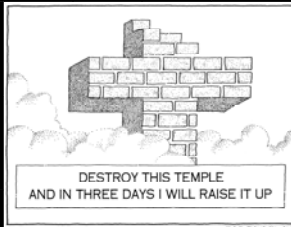
Members of the Temporalities Commission will meet this Wednesday, March 18th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. Their agenda items will include discussion concerning the new roof for the school, the septic system, the development of the front area of our grounds and the garages for the priests and the Maintenance building. Any person who would like to sit in on these discussions is certainly welcome to join the Commission.

EPISCOPAL SERVICE OF APOLOGY

At 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday of Holy Week, our Bishop will lead a special "Service of Apology" at St. Paul Cathedral for any person who has been harmed in any way by the Church. If you know of someone who has been so harmed, please remind them of this liturgy designed especially for them.

"VICARS AND VICARIATES" (part 1)

We will begin a new series in our weekly bulletin called "Vicars and Vicariates" as a way for our parishioners to be alert to the developments that are now taking place in our Diocese. Even though this process will not change the everyday parish life that we experience at St. Mary of the Assumption, it will have an effect upon our relationship to the other parishes in this area. In a word, the VICAR will act in the name of the Bishop, and the VICARIATE will be the territory to which he will be assigned. No longer will there be deaneries once these new geographical divisions are adopted by the Diocese.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 15, 2009 - Third Sunday in Lent

- 4:00 p.m. Living and Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 6:00 p.m. Henry Yacavino - Yacavino / Linsensbigger Families
- 7:30 a.m. Helen Valicenti - Reordan Family
- 9:00 a.m. Catherine Streiff - Balestrino Family
- 11:00 a.m. Catherine Lazzaro - Lazzaro Family

Monday, March 16, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Frederick Rihn - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Tim (Tiger) Szazynski - Ann Newill

Tuesday, March 17, 2009 - St. Patrick

- 7:00 a.m. Fr. William O'Malley - Family
- 10:00 a.m. James & Anne Downes - Ben & Peggy Gessler

Wednesday, March 18, 2009 - St. Cyril of Jerusalem

- 7:00 a.m. Regis Murphy - Jim & Don Noe & Carol Lee
- 10:00 a.m. Jack Jones - James & Ann McAlpine

Thursday, March 19, 2009 - St. Joseph

- 7:00 a.m. Betty Vrscek - Husband, Nick
- 10:00 a.m. John Gallagher - Patricia Coyle
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Mothers / Women's Organization

Friday, March 20, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Fran Mitsch - Mitsch Family
- 10:00 a.m. In Memory of Adela Ash - Family
- 2:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 21, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. Gracinta Derenzo - Elisabeth Derenzo
- 4:00 p.m. George Williams - Ken & Kathy Goral & Family
- 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family

Sunday, March 22, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

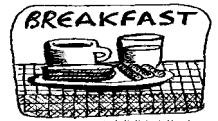
- 7:30 a.m. Francis Werling - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Joe & Elma Hollern - Joe & Isabelle
- 11:00 a.m. Rosaria Castellano - M/M Nicola Veneziano & Christina

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- March 15 (Church) 9:00AM - CCD Family Program
- (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
- Monday** (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
- March 16 (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Grade 2-First Communion Mtg
- (Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice
- Tuesday** (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
- March 17 (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor's Practice
- (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
- (Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
- Wednesday** (Church) 9:30AM - Let the Children Come to Me
- March 18 (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
- (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
- (Rectory) 7:00PM - Temporalities Commission Mtg.
- (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Fish Fry Dinner Preparation
- March 19 (Church) 7:00PM - Christian Mothers/Women's Organization
- (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- March 20 (Marian Hall) 4:30PM - Fish Fry Dinner
- Saturday** (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
- March 21
- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Parish Breakfast
- March 22 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.

PARISH BREAKFAST

March 22 * 8 - 11 AM * Marian hall
 PLEASE STOP BY FOR OUR MARCH BREAKFAST, WE WANT TO SEE SOME NEW FACES. IF YOU COME AT 9 AM THE LINES WILL BE SHORT AND YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOUR COMMUNION FAST IF YOU GO TO THE 11 AM LITURGY. We will serve pancakes [plain and specialty], sausage, scrambled eggs, baked goods, fruit and fruit juice. FREE REFILLS on the coffee and tea plus PLENTY OF FELLOWSHIP. **It is the best breakfast bargain in town.** \$6 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors, \$5 for children age 2 - 12 and children under 2 years of age eat for free.

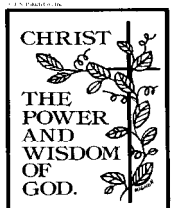


R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Katherine Miller-Fruciano and Margaret Brucker.

Offertory Collection

March 8, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	812	\$17,711.86
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$875.00
Children's Offertory	45	\$62.42
Easter Flowers	82	\$1,254.00
Catholic Campaign/Mission Appeal	1	\$2.00
Parish Share 2009	188	\$21,850.00
Parish Needy	48	\$889.00
Total	1,176	\$42,644.28

Daily Readings



- March 16:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30
- March 17:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
- March 18:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
- March 19:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 12:28-34
- March 20:** Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
- March 21:** Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
- March 22:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



Please continue to pray for the individuals who are currently involved in the R.C.I.A. experience as they continue their journey of discovering the meaning and the message of the Catholic faith. Pray, too, for the R. C. I. A. team who share the faith with these individuals. These individuals are completing the initial steps of the journey of faith in preparation for baptism or receiving confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil on April 11th. All are invited to the rectory dining room on Sunday mornings following the 9:00am liturgy. For more information call Fr. Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory (412)486-4100.

A VOCATION VIEW

God's commandments lead us on the path to life. What path will you choose to walk? Pray for wisdom.

(Exodus 20:1-17)

A question for 18 to 40 year olds —

HOW AM I WITNESSING TO THE LOVE OF JESUS IN THE WORLD TODAY?

To find out more, plan to attend the Vocation Awareness Weekend at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center March 27-29. Call Jim Finn 412.486.4100 before the March 20th deadline. Take a serious look at your questions about possibly serving the church in a prayerful environment with others your age.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

All parents with children under age five are invited to come to church this Wed. March 18th at 9:30am for **PRAY and PLAY DAY**. Parents, grandparents and older siblings are welcome! Call Monica 412.492.0242 to find out more!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Listen to Jesus in today's gospel: "Stop making my Father's house a market place." Has your home been reduced to an extension of the shopping mall, a chaotic feeding station or Laundromat? If you are not busy and productive do you feel you are wasting time? This week, waste time just being together.

PARENTING POINTERS

Let the beginning of spring be a prompt to share nature with your child. Even if it's still chilly or rainy in your neck of the woods, get out into the woods—if not today, soon. Don't let your child suffer from nature deficit disorder.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Love is a decision." Of course couples in love have strong feelings of attraction to each other, but keeping the love going takes an act of the will for emotions fade. With care, however, the emotions that accompany love can usually be rekindled.



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Third Week of Lent

Jesus shows in this week's Gospel that the Temple was a dwelling place of his Father, a house of prayer, and he was angered that its' outer courts had become a place for buying and selling. Our own church foyer has the reminder that "This is the house of God". How can **you** help to preserve an atmosphere of reverence and honor for God in our parish sacred worship space?

Family Program meets this week at 9 AM Mass followed by class sessions till Noon. Any parish adult, any age, welcome to the Adult session in Marian Hall 10- Noon.

Monday Faith Formation, March 16 - 6:30 PM
Grades 5 & 6 in church - Stations of the Cross. All others in classes.

Saturday Faith Formation March 21 - 9:30 AM
Grades 6-7-8 in church for Stations of the Cross; all others in class.

FIRST EUCHARIST Candidates with a parent/guardian who did not come on March 7, meet in Marian Hall this, **Monday, March 16, 6:30 PM**. All will view the film "Grandma's Bread", then children will do a bread baking activity while adults review some of the practical details for the First Eucharist Liturgy celebrations. Gift items (optional) will also be on display for purchase.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES who missed the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion will join the parish family at the Tuesday, March 24, 7:00PM, liturgy to affirm their intent to be committed to the journey of faith with our parish.

SAINTS Patrick,

Cyril of Jerusalem,



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Joseph the Just One,

are all honored in the liturgy this week.

Read about the saints at www.american catholic.com
Call Miss Rose if you'd like a recipe for a treat on their day.

Adult & Family Enrichment: Any family welcome to visit our Saturday, April 4 Faith Formation Activity areas in Marian Hall to become enriched with hands-on ideas for the Paschal season. Visit our \$1.00 sale which supports youth in Ethiopia, or learn how-to-make your own Palm Cross, Easter Food Basket, Paschal Candle, Resurrection Cookies, or enjoy the story with Resurrection Eggs, and join a group for a simple Seder Meal. Call 412-486-5521 or e-mail ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org to "register" how many will attend. We like to have enough freebies.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

CROSSWALK: Open to any youth in Grade 8 - 12 wishing to participate in our annual Crosswalk with Epworth Methodist on Good Friday, April 10 – public school will not be in session. Drama background is not needed, only a desire to bring the Passion of Christ to the public at this annual community and ecumenical event. Call the CYM office at 412-486-4100, ext. 409. Mr. and Mrs. Penezic will again direct this awesome Lenten experience. **NEXT PRACTICE IS TODAY, MARCH 16, IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 11 AM LITURGY. MEET MR. AND MRS. PENEZIC AT THE FRONT OF THE CHURCH.**

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

PRAYER AND SOCIAL: We will meet after ALL of the weekly Lenten Enrichment evenings for discussion and fellowship. Remaining dates: Thursday, March 19, Tuesdays, March 24 & 31. All begin at 7 PM except March 31, which is a Reconciliation service and will begin at 6:30 PM.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 WILL BE WII NIGHT. GATHER IN THE BACK OF CHURCH AFTER THE LENTEN ENRICHMENT SESSION.

APPALACHIA REGISTRATION

We are in the final stages of forming our Appalachia team. A **FIRST DEPOSIT** [refundable if your plans change] of \$50 is needed to secure a spot on our team; checks may be made out to “St. Mary Parish”. **OUR ANNUAL APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP TO PRESTON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA WILL BE FROM SUNDAY, JUNE 28 TO FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2009.**

WE CANNOT TAKE ANY LAST MINUTE TEENS THIS YEAR. PLEASE GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN SO THAT YOU CAN FULFILL ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS. YOU MUST WORK ALL OF THE REMAINING BREAKFASTS AND APRIL CALLIOPE CONCERT PLUS HELP CYM AT THE FISH DINNERS AND THE PARISH FESTIVAL.

SERVICE opportunities with our St. Vincent de Paul Society guys or, on Sunday, with Mr. & Mrs. Wisser:
Every Saturday morning, shave the veterans at VA Hospital in Aspinwall
Every Sunday AM – escort veterans to liturgy and stay to celebrate with them.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 15 Crosswalk practice after 11 am mass
Mon. Mar. 16 High School Nite-new Youth Room 5-8 PM
Thur., Mar. 19 Young adult – Over 21 “Wii Nite”
Fri., Mar. 20 Fish dinner

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



Applications for registration for the next school year are now being accepted in the school office. St. Mary School offers a 3 and 4 year-old preschool program as well as kindergarten through 8th grade. More information can be obtained by calling the school office at (412) 486-7611.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join our school children and families when they come together to pray the Stations of the Cross. Grades 1 through 3 will meet in church at 1:50pm on the following Wednesdays: March 18th, March 25th, and April 1st. Grades 4 through 8 will meet in church at 2:00pm on the following Fridays: March 20th, March 27th, and April 3rd.

MEAGER MEAL

Come Join the Middle School kids in a MEAGER MEAL while we remember all those less fortunate. A light dinner of soup and bread will be served. A free will donation will be collected and given to a local food bank.

Date: Wednesday, March 25

Time: Soup will be served between 5:00pm and 7:00pm

Place: Marian Hall

RSVP: leeanntrout@verizon.net or 412-492-8043

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ After 40 days at sea, young John arrived in New York City which boasted some 300,000 people. Down to his last dollar, his clothing threadbare, and his shoes worn nearly through, John searched through Manhattan for a Catholic Church. A tavern owner put John in touch with Father Raffener, New York’s prominent German priest. He took John to Bishop Dubois. After the Bishop heard John’s story, he said: “Young man, your uncertainties are over. I will ordain you a priest next month for my diocese.” He desperately needed priests for his diocese which took in the entire state of New York and Northeastern New Jersey. Only 36 priests took care of more than 200,000 Catholics scattered over this huge area. Only three of these priests spoke German! Next week we’ll find out where Fr. John was assigned.
- ◆ **Trips planned!** Would you like to join others from St. Mary’s and visit some of the places where St. John Neumann ministered? May 16-17: we will travel to upstate New York and July 18-19 we will travel to St. Peter’s Church in Philadelphia where the body of St. John Neumann is preserved under the altar. Watch the bulletin for complete details about these educational and fun-filled trips as part of our 175th anniversary celebration!
- ◆ **A Reminder!** 1st Communion Photos, that we will display, can be put in the box in the Children’s Liturgy Room.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Journey with Jesus, Holy Thursday night, April 9. Deacon Fran will take the bus to visit six other local worship sites where we recall the places Jesus was led after leaving the upper room of the last supper. The journey begins immediately after the 7:00 PM liturgy and returns to our church around 11:15 PM. Reserve your seat(s) on the bus; call 412-486-5521 or ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org.

ADULT ENRICHMENT : .SAINTS for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost- Part 2" will be discussed with Mr. Jim Finn **Monday, April 6 , 6:30-8:00 PM** in Marian Hall. **All are Welcome!** Call 412-486-5521 ASAP to give your name so sufficient handouts will be available.

MARKET DAY orders due by this Tuesday, noon. Get quick-fix meals for Lent or Easter time. Order on-line at www.marketday.com

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS/WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
Invite all women to join us for our evening of Reflection on Thursday, March 19th. We begin with 5:30PM dinner in Marian Hall, followed by 7:00PM liturgy with Fr. Scott Seethaler, Rosary, and Benediction. RSVP by March 13th to Theresa at 412.487.1870 or Mary Ann at 412.486.0165. Cost is \$15.00

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE
Our parish Vocation Council sponsors an ongoing project to assist those who wish to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. All are invited to host this prayer tool in their homes. Bob & Marie Deasy will host the chalice on March 15th through March 31st. To schedule a week of prayer in your home, call Ron Ondrizek 412.486.6851.

FISH FRY



LENTEN

Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners on Fridays from 4:30PM to 7:00PM during Lent. We are still in need of volunteers. Please call the Penezic's at 412-487-5211 to offer your hand of service. Desserts will be needed for our Fish Dinners as well. Please consider bringing your favorite dessert to share. Drop off your creations in Marian Hall the night before the dinner from 7:00-8:00PM or on Friday by 4:00PM. A schedule for your night of donation follows; last name beginning with the letter:

- M - P March 20**
- Q - T March 27**
- U - Z April 3**

Please know that we have "Take-Out" as well as "Sit-Down" dinners. For your convenience, we have reserved "Take-Out" parking immediately outside the doors of Marian Hall. Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



SAINT JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOZIN, Native American to whom Mary appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe, is patron of the three Catholic churches in Sharpsburg. Bishop Zubik will install Father Frank Almado, Dean of our Allegheny Valley deanery, as pastor at the 10:30 AM Mass this Sunday. Our prayers and good wishes go to the families of the newly named parish.

Widows & Widowers Group will meet on March 29, at Lins Garden Restaurant, Route 8 and Route 910, at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. For more information call 412-486-5621 or 412-486-4209.

40 Days for Life

Members of St. Mary's Pro-life organization will be participating in the "40 Days for Life" by doing a prayer vigil in front of Magee Women's Hospital every Monday from 9 to 10 AM, starting March 2 through March 30. We invite all members of our parish to join us. If you would like to carpool please phone Ginny at 412-486-8241.

Do you know someone who is divorced, separated, or widowed? A BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND March 20-22, 2009 at the Gilmary Center in Moon Twp. Offers an opportunity for healing one's loss in a caring atmosphere. The Beginning Experience is supported by the Office for Parish Life/Family Life. For information, make a confidential call to Susan Ackerman @724.334.0118.

EVENING OF REFLECTION - for those who are separated or divorced, sponsored by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Office for Family Life and Catechesis, will be offered on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 7-9PM at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton. There is no charge. For further information call 412.456.3160.

PRE-REGISTRATION GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

Enclosed is a check made payable to: **C.M.F.** for \$_____.

- \$35.00 ... Adults
- \$10.00 ... High School/College Students

Please reserve _____ seats on the bus.

Please pre-register the following:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please return to Rectory Office c/o Jim Finn.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

“MARCH MADNESS” is a frenzy that will now begin for another season. People in all walks of life are spending hours searching standings and statistics before they fill out the ballot for their pool. Workers in every arena of the workplace will be calling in sick, or sneaking off during lunchtime to find the nearest television to watch as much of the games as possible without jeopardizing their jobs. Sports aficionados will merely bunk it in for three straight weekends as they grab some fast food and refreshing drink and simply become a couch potato in front of a television that switches from game to game to bring the most exciting finishes to the screen. “MARCH MADNESS” is a frenzy of the college basketball world that takes the final weeks of the month of March and through a series of 64 basketball games, played at various times and different locations throughout the entire country, creates a one loss elimination of the specially chosen 65 basketball teams. At the end, only one team remains victorious and that team is crowned as the National Champion! “MARCH MADNESS” is a frenzy that has captured every facet of the news. It not only fills the sports section of the daily newspaper, but in cities where its team is still in the hunt, it becomes front-page news. Television news has it as its lead-in story. The internet is abuzz with commentary. Talk radio fills the airways all day long with predictions of who will make it to the Final Four, and who will be crowned CHAMPION (which, by the way, will take place very appropriately during Holy Week this year)!

Simultaneously, and seemingly anticlimactically to the world of sports, the Liturgy of the Church will take these final weeks of March to celebrate the memory of another *frenzy* that has repercussions way beyond any sports tournament. The Season of Lent will reach its climax in Holy Week as the Liturgy relives the world of Jesus of Nazareth who has created a frenzy of epic reverberations. A religious madness has been stirred up. A Roman nation feels threatened. A Jewish religion is enraged. Combined they have chosen to eliminate the one who has caused such a furor. The cross of Golgotha is the only answer to this “religious fanatic” who is the cause of the frenzy that has every facet of life frantic. And so it came to pass --- the cross of Golgotha was to end this frenzy. Not so! There was an empty tomb. A crown of victory over death for the crucified one who is now alive! Disciples were overjoyed with the news. Jesus the Christ has been CROWNED CHAMPION in the glory of the Resurrection! And another *frenzy* had begun --- and still it is today.