

SEASON OF ADVENT UNFOLDS

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 HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION LITURGY SCHEDULE WEDNESDAY AT 4:00 P.M. THURSDAY 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 151st 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." Mary needed her whole and perfect holiness to be an instrumentally valuable part of the life of her Son, the Lord Jesus. As the Gospel of Luke reminds us about Mary, he writes "...she heard God's word and acted on it always..." Free of sin, full of grace, Mary deserves all honor that we bring to her when we come as the Faithful People of God.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPE:

Every parishioner is given an opportunity to help in the purchasing of the wide variety of flowers and other decorations that beautify our Church during this season and throughout the year. Thus, you will notice that a "Christmas Flower" envelope has been included in the newest packet of envelopes that we received from the company. We ask those who wish to use this envelope to do so as quickly as possible since a listing of the names commemorated must be created. The fact that we have an envelope in the packet means that contributions to the Flower Fund will also be recorded on the parishioner's financial statement. One of the advantages of the accurate accounting of the envelope system kept by our Office Staff is that each parishioner will have an exact amount to use for taxation and other purposes. We encourage all persons to make use of the envelopes that are sent to their home so that they might have such an accounting.

THANKSGIVING GENEROSITY

A special thank-you has come from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the magnificent generosity of so many of our parishioners during the Thanksgiving weekend. Besides the food items that were brought on that day, the basket placed in the sanctuary held \$1005. The Society assures all of us that these items will be given to those families who meet the Society's requirements for need.

"CATCH THE VIBE" VITALITY IN BUILDING EXCELLENCE

The members of the Capital Campaign Committee (CCC) express a deep sense of gratitude on behalf of the entire Parish Family for all those members who have already given to the Pledge Campaign. The members of the CCC have taken a leadership role in raising the sights of all of us to a new level of participation. "Vitality in Building Excellence" has become the mantra that hopes to involve all of us in a Pledge Campaign that "builds" an "excellence" in deepening the "vitality" of our parish life. CCC are reminded of their meeting set for Monday, December 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the rectory as they continue to plan strategies for inviting all parishioners to be generous to the campaign.

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 6:00 pm Mary Ann Beitler (Family)
- 7:30 a.m. Reges Hannan (Jim & Bee Falconio)
- 9:00 a.m. William & Sarah Meyers & Thomas Isherwood (Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Phillip & Rosa Ionadi (Marco Imbarlina Family)

Monday, December 5

- 7:00 a.m. Gloria Hurley (Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Thelma Jean Allman (Daughter Kim Stutz)

Tuesday, December 6 - St. Nicholas

- 7:00 a.m. George R. Tallon (Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Jane Gebert (Margaret Bergman)

Wednesday, December 7 - St. Ambrose

- 7:00 a.m. Rudolph Terjak (Sally Terjak)
- 10:00 a.m. Rudolph LaMagna (Mary & Children)
- 4:00 p.m.** Bernadette Kennedy Green (Mary Lou Betz)

Thursday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception

- 7:00 a.m. Mary Budzik (Lena, May & Mickey)
- 10:00 a.m. Bud Walsh (Wife & Children)
- 7:00 p.m. Olga Bonaddio (Rita & Jim Finn)

Friday, December 9

- 7:00 a.m. Nellie Rendulic (Patti & Carl Carfagna)
- 10:00 a.m. John Antonich (St. Mary Faith Formation Office)

Saturday, December 10

- 8:00 a.m. Sp. Int. John Connelly (Tim & Carol Murray)
- 2:00 p.m. **Wedding - Susan Caro - Christopher Stevens**
- 4:00 p.m. Kevin J. McNeill (Wife & Children)
- 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Special Intention
- 9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Basso Family (Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Walter Baker (Marie & Bob Deasy)



Nov. 27, 2005	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	760	\$14,177.08
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	893.00
Children's Offer.	22	\$10.00
Rel. Retirement	9	187.00
Christmas Flwrs.	20	253.00
Parish Share	13	340.00
Parish Needy	24	452.00
TOTAL	848	\$16,312.08

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)

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: Please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Our Parish Vocation Council has an ongoing project sponsoring the Traveling Chalice. Families are encouraged to reserve a week to host the Chalice in their homes. Call Jim Finn at the rectory (412) 486-4100.

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES: We have begun a new policy concerning the distribution of "children's envelopes" to those families with children who have made their First Eucharist. Instead of a packet of envelopes for EACH child in the family, we will give one box of envelopes for ALL the children in the family. We hope that the children would then "share together" what they put in the envelope each week. The entire process is to help TRAIN our young people to realize the importance of supporting the Parish Family financially. Any parent or guardian who would like to have envelopes for EACH child of their family may simply make that request..

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia Akanowicz, mother of Robert Akanowicz of our Parish Family.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

III. Susan Caro - Christopher Stevens (St. Mary's)

DAILY



READINGS

- December 5: Is 35: 1-10; Lk 5: 17-26
- December 6: Is 40: 1-11; Mt 18: 12-14
- December 7: Is 40: 25-31; Mt 11: 28-30
- December 8: Gn 3: 9-15, 20; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38
- December 9: Is 48: 17-19; Mt 11: 16-19
- December 10: Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11; Mt 17: 9a, 10-13
- December 11: Is 61: 1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1: 46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5: 16-24; Jn 6-8, 19-28

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

BAPTISMS: Born again of water and the Spirit here at St. Mary's were:

Nicholas August Berarducci Peter Brody Snyder
We congratulate them, their parents, godparents and grandparents!

R.C.I.A. meets on Sunday mornings following the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy. We will meet in the rectory dining room. This week's topic: **The Sacraments: An Overview.** The topic for next week: **is Who is Jesus?** If interested, or you have any questions, please call Father Ed or Jim Finn at (412) 486-4100.

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS: For a break from the hectic preparations of the season, why not consider coming to this year's Festival of Lessons and Carols. This annual celebration of the music of the Advent and Christmas season will be held in Church on Sunday, December 11th, at 7:00 p.m. The Christmas story is told through music and scripture with appearances by our Adult, Children's Contemporary, Handbell, and Brass Choirs. This is the sixteenth annual lessons and carols celebration, so join us as we, in song and word, prepare for the coming of Jesus

SECOND SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP: will meet on December 10th after the 8:00 a.m. Liturgy. We will resume where we ended at the last session. All men are welcome!

CATHOLIC MEN 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER: the Pennsylvania State Council of the Knights of Columbus is exploring the possibility of forming a Knights of Columbus council in St. Mary's Parish. The Knights of Columbus are the largest men's organization in the world with over 1.7 million members. In Pennsylvania alone, there are over 64,000 members in 485 councils, devoted to Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Plan to attend an informational meeting on: **Tuesday, December 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the art room of our School Building.**



RELIGIOUS FORMATION

FAMILY CCD PROGRAM: meets NEXT SUNDAY, December 11, at the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy with sessions following for children & youth faith formation and adults until 12:00 noon. The **December Project is Light of Life Ministries**, a family assistance program which aids women and children in providing temporary and permanent housing, stressing the importance of family. Items needed include diapers (all sizes), cleaning products and supplies, paper products, board games, coloring books, crayons, detergents, socks and underwear for women and children (all sizes), gift certificates for fast food restaurants and/or movie theaters. Toys for boys and girls, date books/weekly calendar booklets. Monetary donations are also accepted - please make checks payable to "Light of Life Ministries." Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated.

Monday Faith Formation December 5: Grades 7 & 8 meet IN Church at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Faith Formation December 10: Grades 4, 5 & 6 meet IN Church.

CLUSTER GROUPS GRADE 2 GRADE 8

<u>CLUSTER GROUPS</u>	<u>GRADE 2</u>	<u>GRADE 8</u>
1A	?	Foglia
1B	?	Bosack
2A	?	Germinaro
2B	?	Not applicable
3A	?	Hatheway
3B	?	O'Connor
3C	Cercone	Not applicable
4	?	?
5	Vance	Coholich
5B	Not applicable	Jaspert
6	Gonzalez	Fuhrer/Wagner
7	?	Mancini
8	Balish	Not applicable
9	Elliott	?
10	?	Quigley
10B	Not applicable	DiPietro
10C	Not applicable	Tvaruzek
11	Folmer	?
12	Trageser	?

YOUTH MINISTRY

TOILETRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR HOMELESS SHELTER

The shelter at East End Cooperative Ministries is requesting a special toiletry item: **medicated anti-fungal foot powder** e.g. Desenex and **white cotton athletic socks** for the homeless men. They house 30-40 men on any given night. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE OPENED OR USED CONTAINERS OF FOOT POWDER.** Items may be left in the basket in the CYM lobby (side church entrance by the cemetery).

PARENTS OF YOUNG ADULTS

WHO WILL BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAY

WE NEED THEIR MAILING ADDRESS SO THAT WE CAN SEND THEM AN INVITATION TO OUR CHRISTMAS BREAK YOUNG ADULT EVENT THAT WILL INCLUDE FOOD, GAMES AND AWESOME PRIZES. Please write or e-mail the address to us **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Sat. Dec. 3** T-ROC & Service Rally starts with 6PM Liturgy followed by potluck dinner and service project with 8th grade students.
- Sun. Dec. 4** Visit to Crèche and PPG Ice Skating-Meet the bus at church at 4:30PM. Must pre-register.
- Tues. Dec. 6** Play Practice in Marian Hall 7-9 PM
- Wed. Dec. 7** 4 PM Holy day liturgy and candlelight vigil for homeless teens in the plaza after liturgy
- Thurs. Dec. 8** **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION [Holy day]**
Play Practice-Providence Hall 7-9 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIA PROJECT

Assembled kits with 10 luminaria per kit may be purchased for \$5 at all liturgies on December 10-11; profit will go to our mission project. **GREAT HOLIDAY FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT.** Return the assembled luminaria between 1 – 2 PM on Christmas Eve where our team will meet you so that you may light your own luminaria or leave for the team to place. More detailed instructions will accompany each purchased kit.

Contact Barb Belski or Lisa Rulis Ross
at 412-492-9344

email us at cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org
Check out our website! www.stmaryglenshaw.org/cym

Go to the above web site for our new discussion board. You may anonymously post your question and someone on our parish staff will post a reply. Young adults and adults click on adult discussion board.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

DRAMA CLUB PLAY - You are cordially invited to attend the annual Drama Club's Christmas play, "The Missing Choir of Soda Springs," on Friday, December 9th at 7:00 PM in Marian Hall. Come and enjoy the spirit of the season with our students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE - Another dance for middle school students will take place on Saturday, December 10, 2005, from 7:30-10:00 PM., in Marian Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets will be available for purchase in the rectory and CCD offices from December 7th-9th. Tickets will be sold in the school in the mornings of those same dates. No tickets will be sold at the door. The dress code will be strictly enforced. This dance is sponsored by St. Mary School PTG.

MANY THANKS: A very special thank you is extended to Arlene Milon, a St. Mary's parishioner, who was instrumental in organizing the Rockettes Fundraiser over Thanksgiving. Father John received a check at the performance in the amount of \$2,000 for the school. Thanks to all who supported this wonderful event!

Central Catholic High School's Placement Test for 8th graders wishing to attend Central Catholic High School next year is scheduled for Saturday, December 10th. There is a \$10 registration fee to take the test. To register, contact Brian Miller at (412) 621-7505.



November 20, 2005	Envelopes	Contribution
Offertory	860	\$17,439.67
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	782.00
Children's Offer.	20	15.30
Rel. Retirement	172	4,274.00
All Saints	1	10.00
Christmas Donation	1	5.00
Parish Share	10	440.00
Christmas Flwrs.	4	50.00
Parish Needy	5	180.00
TOTAL	1,073	\$23,195.97

GENERAL PARISH NEWS



PARISH SHARING TREE: Our Sharing Tree is located in the Narthex of the Church and has the names of men, women and children who need our help at Christmas. If you take an ornament, please return the gift with the ornament secured to the package by December 11th. Your continued support of this very worthwhile project is greatly appreciated.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME: Each week this ministry to parents of children birth to age five places a **FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** in the Bulletin: **Because it is difficult to forgive and easy to be angry, today's gospel encourages us to "repent and forgive."** This Christmas give a gift that makes a difference; repent from anger that prevents forgiveness.

For more information about this post-baptismal ministry, call Cindy Shadle at (412) 487-5272.

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING: will be held on Tuesday, December 6th, at 7 p.m. in the rectory. Call Tom Goral if you have something you would like placed on the agenda at (412) 487-6244.

A GREAT IDEA FOR A GIFT! Are you having trouble deciding what to get your Husband or your Dad for Christmas? Give a **GIFT CERTIFICATE** that will change his life...consider giving the special man in your life a weekend retreat at St. Paul's Retreat House on the Southside. To order a gift certificate call (412) 381-7676 or for more information call Charlie Fischer at (412) 487-4667.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Do you know someone who has been away from the Church? Why not invite that special person to "come home" for Christmas? It is easy to become reconnected with your Parish Family. Call one of the Priests or Jim Finn at (412) 486-4100.

Faith Sharing for Second Advent Week

How do you feel God straightens the way for you on your path of faith? Think about the person John the Baptist. What types of things would John expect people today to change to reform their lives?

FIRST RECONCILIATION - WELCOME

TO GRADE 2 CHILDREN coming to experience Jesus' healing in the Sacrament on Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m. or Monday, December 19, 6:30 p.m. Parents/Guardians and other family members welcomed to participate in the time for "confession."

ADVENTURE with Father John continues as we see the faces of the **PROPHETS** of THIS season on Thursday, December 15th, 6 - 9 p.m. **COME** even if you missed the session on December 1st.

THE WORD AMONG US, SPECIAL ADVENT

EDITION: still available on the pamphlet rack at the rear of our Church. Take and use one to help recognize the "GLORY" of the Lord among us.

CANDLE LIGHT for those who will remain after the 4:00 p.m. Liturgy, Wednesday, December 7th. Each year on December 7th, a candlelight vigil is held by the Covenant House community to pray for the homeless. In union with the vigil, we will join in the pedestrian plaza for a short time of prayer for the homeless.

OPLATKI: Christmas wafers are available at the Rectory for \$1.00 per package of 4 wafers. Get yours early. Supplies are limited.

North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center is seeking a Masters Level Therapist (State Licensed and HMO certified) to work part-time in a Christian Ministry environment. Send or email resume to:
North Hills Youth Ministry Counseling Center
802 McKnight Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Nym@nhymcc.org.

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 Christ the King.

Just as the "Assumption" is spiritually significant because it refers to the final event in the earthly life of Mary, on Thursday of this week we 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 reverent places of honor. On Thursday 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!