

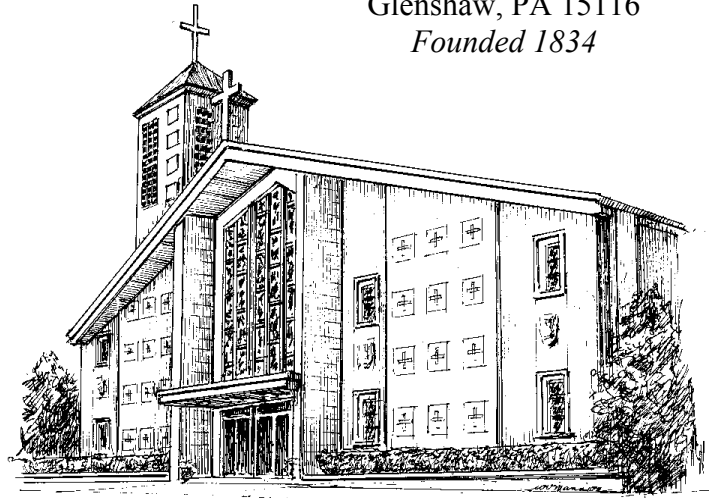
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 22, 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

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Youth Ministry Office - 412-492-9344

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

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

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

We welcome the member of the Finance Council who will speak at each of the liturgies today concerning our 2009 Parish Share assessment. The actual second collection for the Parish Share Program will be taken up NEXT WEEK at all the liturgies.

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRPERSONS

Joe Hrason and Jerry McNalley

We hope that every wage earner will take seriously the responsibility to contribute **at least \$120** to the *Parish Share Program*. Each registered family will receive in this coming week a WHITE pledge card in the mail from our Office Staff. We ask that you return this card next weekend to place in the second collection, or send it back to the Parish Office some time during this next week. The assessment of our Parish Family for this year is \$142,895. If we do not achieve this assessment, then we must take the difference from the regular Sunday collection and thus jeopardize the many needs of our Parish Family.

ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS!

All adult extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, lectors, music ministers, including the adult choir, contemporary group, bell choir, cantors and instrumentalists, and ushers are invited to gather with us for our Mardi Gras celebration this Tuesday, February 24th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. We hope to create a socially friendly atmosphere during which we might meet and greet other ministers who are part of the many liturgical celebrations of our Parish Family. Might we take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the entire Parish Family to all those who serve us in this multidimensional Ministry! All of us are spiritually enriched by the fidelity of all of these ministers to each and every liturgical celebration that we have in our sacred church.

“PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC” SENT HOME

Please note that there are no copies of the “Pittsburgh Catholic” available at the church doors this week. This is another one of those times when the “Pittsburgh Catholic” is sent home to every registered member of the Parish Family. All are asked to note that the daily calendar for Lent is also being included in that mailing to each home.

ASH WEDNESDAY: LENT BEGINS

The 96 holiest days in the year will begin on Wednesday when we open the season of Lent with the distribution of ashes on our foreheads. There are FIVE opportunities for those who wish to begin Lent with this very important sacramental. The eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated at 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. in the morning and 7:00 p.m. in the evening. We will also two Liturgy of the Word celebrations at 12:00 noon and 4:30 p.m. in the afternoon. We remind all those participating in the Ash Wednesday celebration that ashes will be distributed after the Gospel and Homily of each service. A good liturgical outlook reminds us that it is the Word and Eucharist that is the heart of our Catholic Faith, and that the reception of ashes is only a sacramental that draws us closer to the Lord Jesus in the Word and Sacrament.

OLD PALM NOW BEING COLLECTED

Those parishioners who still have their palm from last year are asked to bring it by Tuesday of this week and place it in the receptacle provided in the foyer of the church. This palm will be burned and provide the ashes for this year’s Ash Wednesday celebration. This burning process emphasizes the triumph of last year’s Passion (Palm) Sunday now becomes the suffering of this year’s Lenten season.

“WAY OF THE CROSS” IN LENT

Each week we have two major opportunities to celebrate the *Way of the Cross* – (1) Friday at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, with our Catholic Grade School for their version of the service; (2) Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. for all those who wish to make Friday a special day during the season of Lent.

LENTEN PACKET SENT HOME

The jam packed Quarterly mailing has been sent home this past week to every registered home with a tremendous amount of information: (a) the recent copy of the “Bells” with an insert about the entire date line of our 175th anniversary; (b) the entire Lenten schedule; (c) the Pastoral Council summary of the survey; (d) the Rice Bowl and Lenten calendar; (e) a questionnaire from the CCH Ministry; (f) and articles from the Fish Dinner Committee, the Pro Life Committee, St. Vincent de Paul and the Temporalities Commission. What a packet for every parishioner to be formed and keep informed!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 22, 2009 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Anne Ferber - Carol
- 6:00 p.m. Special Intention - Tom & Susan Urso
- 7:30 a.m. Catherine Hart - Jim & Rosetta Kmetyk
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Charles Stepnick - Family

Monday, February 23, 2009 - St. Polycarp

- 7:00 a.m. Matthew C. Mogus - Rita & Jim Finn
- 10:00 a.m. Tim (Tiger) Szazynski - Ann Newill

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Marco & Vincenza Imbarlina - Marco & Rose Imbarlina
- 10:00 a.m. In Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus

Wednesday, February 25, 2009 - Ash Wednesday

- 7:00 a.m. Edward Bittner - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Ann Driscoll - Mary Jo
- 12:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word
- 4:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word
- 7:00 p.m. John Walsh - Jane & Paul Duffer

Thursday, February 26, 2009 - Weekday in Lent

- 7:00 a.m. Agnes Wetzel - Bob & Dolly Stampfle & Family
- 10:00 a.m. Dorothea Macecevic, Shirley - Jody & Rick Fortier

Friday, February 27, 2009 - Weekday in Lent

- 7:00 a.m. Clement Newcamp - St. Mary School Community
- 10:00 a.m. Catherine Streiff - James & Barbara Gualtieri
- 2:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 28, 2009 - Weekday in Lent

- 8:00 a.m. Frank A. Bennardo - Fred A. Ambrose
- 4:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Demeter & Gramme Families
- 6:00 p.m. John A. Bell - Don & Joan Hammel

Sunday, March 1, 2009 - First Sunday in Lent

- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Domenico Castellano - Concetta Liberto
- 11:00 a.m. Mary Schultz - Schultz Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Parish Breakfast
- Feb. 22 (Marian Hall) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- Monday (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
- Feb. 23 (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Market Day Pickup
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Finance Council
- Tuesday (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
- Feb. 24 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Handbells
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Mardi Gras
- Wednesday (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
- Feb. 25 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday (School) 11:45AM - Early Dismissal - Faculty Mtg.
- Feb. 26 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
(Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Fish Dinner Planning Meeting
- Friday (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- Feb. 27 (Marian Hall) 4:30PM - Fish Dinner
- Saturday (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
- Feb. 28 (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend -After all the Liturgies
- Sunday (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend -After all the Liturgies
- March 1

PRAYER LIST



Please pray for all the sick and those recovering from illness. Family and friends have requested prayer for the following:

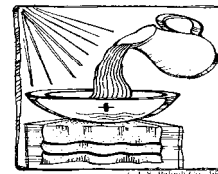
Frank, Mary Lou, Patricia A., Renae Vivaldi/Breskovich, Michael Breskovich, Eileen Driscoll, Richard Eisman, Craig Glaser, Luke Noullet, Josephine Piacentino, Sarah Polito, Paul Spadafora, Joshua Stanek, Mark Thimons, Bill Vistein, Frank Vinski.

MARRIAGE IS A JOURNEY! A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you enrich your marriage and add some pazazz to your journey. Whether you have been married 1 year or 50, a Marriage Encounter Weekend may be just the thing you need to put a breath of fresh air into your relationship. For more information contact Mary & Lou Locante at 412.635.7775.

Families of Persons With Disabilities, mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28 when Father Garry Patriquin, himself wheelchair bound, will celebrate the 4:00 PM Mass here and include a special blessing for those specially challenged.

February 14, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	700	\$16,555.84
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,092.00
Children's Offertory	44	\$48.25
School Education	3	\$30.00
Parish Share 2008	2	\$115.00
Parish Needy	23	\$439.00
Total	772	\$18,280.09

Daily Readings



- Feb. 23 Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9: 14-29
- Feb. 24 Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
- Feb. 25 J1 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Feb. 26 Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
- Feb. 27 Is 58: 1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
- Feb. 28 Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
- March Gen 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



Baptized in Christ

Brayden Michael Dowling
Bella Susan Rozyczka

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

A VOCATION VIEW

God's healing power is at work in you. Who needs your compassion? How will you be an instrument of healing and forgiveness?
(Mark 2:1-12)

MILITARY PRAYER LIST- PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LISTED ON OUR PRAYER LIST NEAR THE SACRED HEART STATUE. A CANDLE IS KEPT BURNING TO REMIND US TO KEEP ALL IN PRAYER. To add a name to this prayer list, call the rectory.

RCIA Are you interested in learning about the Catholic Church? Would you like to develop your faith? Do you have questions that need answered? RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. This week's topic is: The Church in the United States. Next week the candidates and their sponsors will come for the Rite of Sending at the 9:00am Mass and then travel to the Cathedral in Oakland for the Rite of Election at 3:00pm. Please continue to pray for those entering the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

is a ministry for children under the age of five and their parents. Information about the activities has been sent to all homes with young children and all are welcome to join us for any or all of the upcoming events. Call Monica 412.492.0242 to find out more. All welcome!

PARENTING POINTERS

During Lent remember to keep your sense of humor. Consider the minister who prayed, "Dear Lord, without you, we are but dust." He would have continued but at that moment a child piped up, "Mom, what is butt dust?" Share a joke with your family today.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Mardi Gras allows us a last fling before the Lenten penitential season. Do something frivolous together today. Eat something decadent, give each other a massage, wear wild make-up, enjoy being foolish. If you're the uptight type, let go. You'll have six weeks to exercise your over-responsible side.

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN

Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the A. J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University is the day men—single or married, young or old, practicing or non-practicing will meet to deepen their relationship with Christ. Bishop Zubik extends an invitation to all and notes that our society desperately needs faith-filled men who are ready and willing to live their faith. Dads consider bringing your teenage sons along! (for only ten dollars!) Pre-register now for only \$35.00 or pay \$40.00 at the door. First come, first served!. Make checks payable to: Catholic Men's Fellowship (CMF) Free bus transportation for those who pre-register with Jim Finn at the rectory (412)486-4100. Jim is ready to take your reservation daily between 9-12noon.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Seventh Week Ordinary Time

"Raise the Roof," an expression sometimes used to denote the fact that there's something special to celebrate. That's what the gospel of this Sunday shows us. Friends of a paralyzed man literally "raised the roof" so they could lower him down to be touched by Jesus. And we are able to not just "touch" Him, but receive him in ourselves in the Eucharist. If there is any type of *paralysis* that keeps you from being nourished with our Eucharistic Lord, seek the means of healing, which is *something to celebrate*.

Monday Faith Formation, February 23

5:00 PM on Grade 8, Room 23 Dr. Coyle's class service at Market Day in Marian Hall; 6:30 PM Grade 2 in Church for Scapular Enrollment. All others in classes. Grades 5-6-7-8 Catholic Vision of Love.

Saturday Faith Formation February 28

9:30 AM All in Church; Grade 7 serve.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES have received an appointment card for their interview with a member of our parish staff. Some are scheduled for this week. Youth need to bring evidence of the ways they have been of **service** as one aspect of discussion with the staff.

GRADE 8 and High School GIRLS

EXPLORE at the St. Joseph Convent in Baden, PA what those Religious Sisters do. Sunday March 15, 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM you, as well as parents and teachers, are welcome. NO FEE for the day. Contact Sister Marguerite Kropinak at 724-869-6585 or visit www.stjoseph-baden.org

Special Days this Week:

Monday, Saint Polycarp, bishop and martyr of the second century. Google **Catholic Saints.com** to read about him.

Fat Tuesday, Mardi Gras is named thus because of the tradition of it being the last day to eat fatty and dairy foods. Many folks still abstain from eating those products during the Lenten season.

ASH Wednesday a time to be reminded that **A-S-H** can be a reminder to **Always Stay Hope-full** because we know the victory that Jesus has won FOR US. Begin Lent with a new intent to walk-the-way-each-day with Jesus.

"Praying Lent", Contact Rosemary Cather Kelly at 412-418-6476 or RCatherK@verizon.net if YOU are interested in learning about guided prayer, Scripture mediation, and reflection based on the Creighton University Online Ministry program. Best to do so before this Wednesday when lent begins.

YOUTH MINISTRY**APPALACHIA REGISTRATION**

We will open our Appalachia mission trip to students who graduate from the eighth grade this June, but they **must** meet very specific requirements. Stop by the **CYM** table at HOSPITALITY after any of the liturgies next weekend [February 28 and March 1]. One requirement - you and your parent/guardian must work at ALL of the remaining CYM fundraisers to help you to catch up with the other students.

A FIRST DEPOSIT [refundable if your plans change] of \$50 is needed to secure a spot on our team. OUR ANNUAL APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP TO PRESTON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA WILL BE FROM JUNE 28 TO JULY 3, 2009

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.

**Cheer on our CYM Basketball teams.
NO ADMISSION CHARGE!
See times below.**

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sat., Feb. 21	Possible Boy JV at 7:30 PM
Sun., Feb. 22	PARISH BREAKFAST 8 – 11 AM Girl Varsity 6:30 PM Boy JV at 7:45 PM
Mon., Feb. 23	Drop In at Youth Room 4 – 8 PM
Wed., Feb. 25	ASH WEDNESDAY
Fri., Feb. 27	FISH DINNER CYM drama reunion 7PM
Sat., Feb. 28	CYM at Hospitality after all liturgies
Sun., Mar. 1	CYM at Hospitality after all liturgies

**ONLINE DONATIONS FOR
HOPE Mission Uganda:**

You are now able to make online donations to our mission efforts. During the war, thousands were kidnapped, maimed or killed. Scattered reports of violence from rebel activity persist, but the **real enemy** of the people today is disease and malnutrition. In a refugee camp housing 17,000 people, the reports indicate that most of the **30 or so deaths of men, women and children every month** are due to disease and malnutrition.

<http://www.hopemissionuganda.org/>

Call the CYM line for current information on our social, spiritual and service activities for teens and young adults at 412-492-9344 or email at belskib@verizon.net

ST. MARY**St. Mary PTG Auction**

Saturday March 7th-Tickets on sale after all masses this weekend. The Annual PTG Auction will be held at the Pittsburgh Field Club beginning at 5:30pm. The evening includes a sit-down dinner, silent and live auction, raffles and music and dancing by "Five Guys-featuring Drew Martier". This year's theme is "Focusing on the Future" as we look to the science and technology needs of our school. Tickets are \$50/person. Purchase your tickets after mass today or call Melissa at 412-492-9349 or melissabattaglia@verizon.net for more info.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join our school children and families when they pray the Stations of the Cross.

Grades First through Third, will meet in church at 1:50PM to 2:30PM on the following dates:

Wednesday, March 4,
Wednesday, March 11,
Wednesday, March 18,
Wednesday, March 25,
and

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Grades Fourth through Eighth, will meet in church at 2:00PM to 2:30PM on the following dates:

Friday, February 27,
Friday, March 6,
Friday, March 13,
Friday, March 20,
Friday, March 27,
and

Friday, April 3, 2009

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- The 175th Anniversary Planning committee will meet on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the rectory.
- John Neumann was twenty-four years old when he left his father's house. When he was born in 1811, his father Philip Neuman, had been so proud that spring morning when his wife, Agnes Lebis, had presented him with their third child and first son. The baby was baptized John in the village church of Prachatitz, Bohemia (Czechoslovakia), the very day of his birth, March 28, 1811. John's father, of German descent, and his mother, a Bohemian, were both Catholic and raised their six children to love God and their Faith. John deeply absorbed his parents' faith, and now that faith had brought him to this time of new and difficult decisions. He began to pray for the grace to give his priestly life to America's German immigrants.
- Mark your calendars! Our music ministry is planning to help us celebrate 175 years of presence with a special concert on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009 following the 11:00am Mass.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Sunday before Ash Wednesday

As part of our faith community's Lenten observance, we will participate in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program. A Operation Rice Bowl. Since 1975, Operation Rice Bowl has inspired Catholics in the United States to pray, fast. Learn and give as we increase our understanding of our global community. We will connect this understanding with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching throughout our Lenten journey. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones. A bowl and calendar were included in the packet mailed to each home.

WIDOW & WIDOWERS GROUP

will meet today, February 22, at the Middle Road Inn at 4:00PM. All are welcome. For more information call Marge at 412.4863.5621 or Barb at 412.486.4209.

ASSUMPTION CEMETERY OF ST. MARY

Please remove all Christmas wreaths and decorations in our cemetery before March 1, 2009. If you are unable to do so, our maintenance crew will remove and discard. Thank you.

MARKET DAY

patrons come to Marian Hall between 6:30-7:30 tomorrow to pick up your order. **THANKS for your support.** The "commission" we receive is helping to refurbish equipment in our Marian Hall kitchen.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

for anyone frail from age, disability, or those preparing to have surgery will be offered after the 4:00 PM Liturgy this coming Saturday, February 28 when Father Garry Patriquin, himself wheelchair bound, will be here to celebrate with our parish family.

LENTEN

Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners 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:

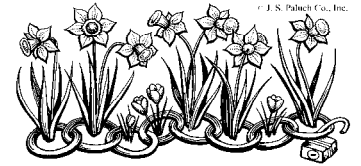
A - D	February 27
E - H	March 6
I - L	March 13
M - P	March 20
Q - T	March 27
U - Z	April 3

Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

We are in search of talented individuals who are just itching for an audience! If you are one of these people, please contact Marie Doerge at 412.487.2977, for she is looking for entertainment during the Lenten Fish Dinners. There is no age limit and this could be your big chance! Please call!

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



It is I, who wipe out, for my own sake,
your offenses; your sins I remember no more.

Isaiah 43:25

PARISH BREAKFAST TODAY! Please stop by Marian Hall between 8:00-11:00AM for the BEST BREAKFAST in town. \$6.00 for adults, \$5.50 for Seniors, and \$5.00 for children, 2-12, children under 2 years - free.

RETREAT NEWS

MEN

All men and young men of the parish are invited to make a Lenten retreat at St. Paul's Retreat Center on the Southside **MARCH 13-14-15**. It isn't too late to call Charlie Fischer 412.487.4667 or Jim Karcher 724.444.5798. They will give you more information and even offer you a ride to St. Paul's. This is the year to do it! Try it, you'll like it!

WOMEN

There are many opportunities to spend time on retreat for either a weekend or a day. Martina Spiritual Renewal Center, Kearns Center, St. Paul's all offer abundant opportunities. Call Jim Finn, our pastoral associate at the rectory 412.486.4100 for specific information.

ADULT LECTURE SERIES

This past summer we witnessed the drama of the Olympics. We see that St. Paul uses the analogy of a race to illuminate the deeper drama of the life of Faith. On Wednesday, March 4th, Dr. Anthony Esolen will talk on **Catholicism: the Last Hope for a Dying Culture**. We invite you to join us for Dr. Esolen's presentation to be held at St. Paul's Seminary Auditorium, **Wednesday, March 4th, 2009 at 7:30 PM**. The lecture is free and open to all. Come and bring a friend!

EVENING OF REFLECTION

This evening is for those who are Separated or Divorced, sponsored by the Office for Family Life and Catechesis of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Place: St. Paul Seminary Auditorium

Presented by: Rev. Eugene Lauer.

There is no charge for the evening but a free will offering will be accepted. For further information call: 412.456.3160 or www.familylife@diopitt.org

Do you know someone who is divorced, separated, or widowed?

A Beginning Experience weekend March 20-22, 2009 at the Gilmory Center in Moon Twp, Pa. 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.

55 SPECIAL GROUP

We will be traveling to the **Mountaineer Casino**, on Monday, March 9, 2009. The cost will be \$24.00 per person. We will be picked up at St. Mary's lower parking lot by motor coach at 8:30AM. Please call Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091.



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PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

These are the days of Lent and the entire atmosphere of the Church creates for us a time of reflection and meditation. The liturgical spotlight shines directly upon the Cross of the Lord Jesus. During the course of the year, the Cross sometimes is placed in the background, or merely looms almost surreptitiously on the back wall of the church. Not so during Lent! During Lent, the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus is front and foremost in all that we do. Suffering catches us in its web. It stings some in every fiber of their being. It haunts others with each of their waking days. It is all around us.

A day does not go by without someone in our Parish Family needing our prayers because of untold suffering in their lives. Cancerous tumors are robbing this person of life, heart disease is confining that person to an unwanted hospital stay, and viral dysentery seems to be touching everyone with uncomfortable moments. Pain cries out for relief! But suffering is not confined simply to our bodies. For some of us, our hearts and minds are full of agony and torment. Our prayers are also sought for all those persons who experience the torturous distress of the mind. For some, it becomes a mental disease that makes every day a struggle; for others days no longer have meaning because they have lost the only one they love; while others simply find all their days filled with worry and concern about every issue in life from the bombing of terrorists to the fluctuation of the stock market to the bad news they received about a family member.

The Cross of Lent reminds all of us that suffering was also integral to the life of Jesus of Nazareth. This divine Son of God took on every feature of human life, except sinfulness. Suffering was as much a part of His life, as it is ours. His ignominious death on the Cross was simply a final reminder that His life too experienced pain. Not only was His body poured out in a martyr's death; but also His heart felt the pain of being rejected, unloved and misunderstood. Lent centers our reflection upon the Cross of the Lord Jesus. It is the season when dying in Jesus' name becomes the hallmark of our discipleship. Suffering is to be avoided at all cost; we must do everything in our power to eliminate it from the face of the earth; it must not have rule over us. Someday it WILL end. And when that day arrives, we will enter into the glorious kingdom of the one who died on the Cross where there will be no more suffering, no more pain, no more death!