

Bulletin # 910038

St. Mary of the Assumption Church
2510 Middle Road
Glenshaw, PA 15116
(412) 486-4100
Attn: Susan

MESSAGES:

SEASON OF ADVENT

Today begins a new Liturgical Year as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent as a time for the preparation of the coming of the Christ Child. It is a liturgical season of “joyful expectation” for all who await the Savior of the world to be born in the humble surroundings of Bethlehem. We hope that all parishioners will not get caught up in the mad rush of the Christmas frenzy, but spend quality moments during this reflective season to prepare their hearts and their homes for the coming of the Christ Child whose birth marks the end of the season.

ENVIRONMENTAL COLORS OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY: Isaiah sets the tone with “..we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind..” Thus, the arrangement of dried grasses and pods are placed near the ambo and at the sanctuary lamp. Shades of purple and winter are around the tabernacle. Winter gray – the gray and icy winter sky. **WATCH:** each week as the prepared décor underscores the entire movement of the liturgical season of Advent!

ADVENT HOME PACKET

Every “registered” home was sent this week our quarterly packet with times for the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. We invite you to post that schedule somewhere in a prominent place so that you might have the dates and times at your fingertips. The packet also includes this edition of “*The Bells of St. Mary*” with a survey open to every parishioner. Please return your survey so that your opinion will be counted. Give a try for the “secret word” if you so choose. Our Parish Staff puts this packet together in an attempt to show the importance of the HOME as the center of spiritual growth for the family.

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 this month. 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.

BEE FALCONIO RETIRING!

A pale of sadness has swept across our rectory this week as BEE FALCONIO, our very dedicated secretary for over 25 years has decided to retire from our Office Staff. Bee has brought a magnificent efficiency to her work as she has served the people of our Parish Family in so many areas of our parish life. She has been the consistency of life in the office, as our Parish Staff has changed faces and personalities. Even during the troubling years when we were being scrutinized by law enforcement agencies, Bee brought a resonance of truth to our rectory life. She has “seen a lot in her 25 years” as she is wont to say --- and through it all she has maintained a marvelous sense of service to all those who have come to our parish office. On the other hand, her option to join her husband who is also about to retire promises to bring new adventures to their life together. Their joined retirement will give them many more years together with their children and their grandchildren. BEE FALCONIO will be greatly missed by all of those who benefited from her unflinching dedication to our Parish Family!

PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

Our Parish Pastoral Council celebrates its SIXTH ANNIVERSARY as we come to this First Sunday of Advent. What a wonderful tradition of LAY LEADERSHIP has been offered by its members over the past six years. This leadership has impacted on each and every segment of our parish so that all of us might develop our spirituality in light of the four pillars of our Vision Statement. We ask all parishioners to keep these Council members in their prayers as they continue to lead us in developing our parish life: Ron Belski, Gina Brown, Tricia Coyle, Jack DeAngelis, Ruth Dollin, Laurie Exler, Sue Ferguson, Dona Hotopp, Chuck Martier, Paul Mitsch, Steve Shadle, and Debbie Schwoegl.

ADVENT ADULT ENRICHMENT

Those adults seeking to make this Advent season a time to deepen our understanding of the Faith are invited to join us on Tuesday of this week, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. in Marian Hall as Father John uncovers the “Importance of Joseph” in the story of the Christ Child. We will explore the “Family Tree” of Jesus of Nazareth to give us a better understanding of the great mystery of the season.

Masses for the Week

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish
- 6:00 pm Marie Frankovski (Richey)
- 7:30 a.m. Kathryn & Michael Runatz (Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Anna & Carl Triola (Isabelle & Joe)
- 11:00 a.m. Francesciantonio Lazzaro (Elisabetta Derenzo)

Monday, December 4 - St. John of Damascus

- 7:00 a.m. Ed & Bert Bittner (Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Sp. Int. John Mitchell (Ed & Rosalie Moan)

Tuesday, December 5

- 7:00 a.m. Josephine Walter (Family)
- 10:00 a.m. Anthony Pugliese, Sr. (Helen Meinert)

Wednesday, December 6 - St. Nicholas

- 7:00 a.m. Helen Lipke (Lipke Family)
- 10:00 a.m. George Tallon (Family)

Thursday, December 7 - St. Amrbose

- 7:00 a.m. Rudy Lamagna (Mary & Children)
- 10:00 a.m. Nellie Rendulic (Pat & Carl Carfagna)
- 7:00 p.m. Bernadette Green (Mary Louise Betz)

**Friday, December 8 - Immaculate Conception
(Holy Day of Obligation)**

- 7:00 a.m. William Ferraro (Harry & Rachele)
- 10:00 a.m. Bernard Beyerl (Ron & Angie)
- 7:00 p.m. John E. Hoffarth (Jim & Rita Finn)

Saturday, December 9 - St. Juan Diego

- 8:00 a.m. Pete Marietti (Dennis & Evon Kowalczyk)
- 4:00 p.m. Bud Walsh (Wife & Children)
- 6:00 p.m. Robert Sr. & Margaret Deasy (Bob & Marie Deasy)

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari (Cugliari Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 11:00 a.m. Walter Baker (Bob & Marie Deasy)

A VOCATION VIEW

The Lord is near! Am I able to read the signs of the times? What is God asking of me? (Luke 21:25-36)

USHER/GREETER ALERT! Mark your calendars and be sure to come to our **GATHERING on Thursday, December 14, 2006 at 7:00pm in Marian Hall.** It is important that all those serving our parish family in our hospitality ministries come on Dec. 14th. If unable to come, please call either Joe Bosack (412)487-4797 or Keith Loiselle (724)443-7398. Thank you!

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the soul of **William Farmer, father of Rich Farmer, and Arlene Orndoff, mother of John Smolter.**

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 10th, 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. The congregation will join in singing many of the great carols of the season. This is the seventeenth annual lessons and carols celebration, so join us as we, in song and word, prepare for the coming of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS EVE: 6:00 p.m. Children's Liturgy Helpers are needed. Please call Kelli Photopoulos at (412) 492-7501.

Nov. 26 2006	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	781	\$18,250.03
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	830.00
Religious Retire.	37	718.00
Children/Youth	1	5.00
Christmas	2	15.00
Parish Share	8	414.49
Christmas Flower	13	255.00
Parish Needy	36	2,760.00
TOTAL	878	\$23,293.52

DAILY



READINGS

- Dec. 4: Is 2: 1-5; Mt 8: 5-11
- Dec. 5: Is 11: 1-10; Lk 10: 21-24
- Dec. 6: Is 25: 6-10a; Mt 15: 29-37
- Dec. 7: Is 26: 1-6; Mt & 21, 24-27
- Dec. 8: Gn 3: 9-15; 10; Eph 1: 3-6, 11-12; Lk 1: 26-38
- Dec. 9: Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9: 35—
10: 1, 5a, 6-8
- Dec. 10: Bar 5: 1-9; Ps 126; Phil 1: 4-6,
8-11; Lk 3: 1-6

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

R.C.I.A. All are welcome to join us in the rectory on Sunday morning after the 9:00 a.m. liturgy. This week we will discuss Advent and Christmas. Next week's topic will be the Ten Commandments. All welcome!

CATHOLICS- COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!

It's the journey of a lifetime—yours. But, does it ever feel like you left home without a map? With all the twists and turns and challenges of life, it's easy to feel like we've lost our way. Now is the time to reconnect with your parish family and get the support to help you come home for Christmas! We miss you! Call Jim Finn (412)486-4100 and find out how easy it is to reconnect.

SECOND SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP- All men of our parish family are invited to join us on Saturday, December 9th after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING-

Members will meet this Wednesday, December 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. Submit agenda items to Tom Goral at (412)487-6244.



PARISH SHARING TREE: Our Sharing Tree is located in the narthex at the main entrance to the Church. On this tree are the names of women, men and children who are looking forward to the generosity of our parish family for a Christmas Gift. Please return the gifts with the ornament firmly affixed to the top of the package when you come to Mass for the Holy Day on December 8th, or by December 9/10. We need a few volunteers to sort and pack the gifts after the 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses. If you can help, please call Mary Kay Collins at (412) 367-3176.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

FAITH SHARING -Advent, Week 1

What can give YOU hope when you think about the end of the world? What do you think about when considering the end of time and Jesus' second coming? What Advent custom(s) have you decided to observe this season?

DECEMBER NEWSCARDS have been sent to all the families enrolled in the Faith Formation process for Family Program, Saturdays and Mondays.

SAINT NICHOLAS DAY, December 6. Many cultures still observe the tradition of setting out a shoe or hanging a stocking on the eve of December 5 so that Saint Nicholas will leave a treat. Saint Nicholas of Myra, Turkey whose day we observe in liturgy, is remembered for his generosity and kindness. BE generous with someone on Dec. 6 in his memory.

Saint Lucy Day, December 13, is the day to plant wheat seeds so the fresh green wheat grass will be grown by December 24 to make a soft bed in the manger for the Christ child. SEEDS will be distributed after each liturgy NEXT weekend. Thanks to the youth who prepared the seed packets for others to share the custom.

Prayer in anticipation of Christmas:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe Oh my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of our Savior, Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother. Amen.

ADVENT Resources for Families available at the school entrance this Saturday, 5-6 PM, Sunday, 10-11 AM or our Faith Formation Center through the week. Call 412-486-5521.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

Comin' up:

- **T-ROC on Saturday, December 9**
After the 6 PM liturgy
- Fr. Jerry will speak to parents of high school and middle school youth and to students in grades 9 – 12.
- George Salamacha will present his plan for developing leadership skills in our high school team.
- All families are asked to **bring canned goods, especially fruits and vegetables**, for our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry. Items will be sorted by Miss Erin Meyer and her team of 9th and 10th grade boys.
- **Social activity after T-ROC is being planned**
Snack to bring if Last Name begins with:

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

Teens collect for children in need

Central Catholic senior, Aidan Kelly, will be working with his T- team leader, Miss Susan Meyer, and his team of 11th and 12th grade boys to collect donations for our needy children mission efforts at **all of the liturgies next weekend, December 9 – 10**. Your donation toward a luminaria that will be lit on Christmas Eve will help our youth in their efforts to support children in need.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GETS ON THE SERVICE BUS!

Middle School Movie night on **Friday, December 8** begins immediately after the 7 PM Holy Day liturgy and Covenant House vigil to pray for homeless teens. Movie will be "**Remember the Titans**" and our activity will be making pillows for the homeless. You **must** bring a **clean pillow** and pillowcase, **needle and thread and scissors sharp enough to cut through the pillow**. PARENTS NEEDED FOR THIS GREAT SERVICE PROJECT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Thank you to those generous parishioners who donated money to offset the cost of our retreat this weekend. Pray for the retreat staff as we step back to allow the Holy Spirit to transform the hearts of our young people this weekend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CALENDAR

Fri., Dec. 8 Middle School Vigil and Movie Night 7 PM

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec. 1, 2 & 3 Diocesan Retreat in Elwood city
Sat., Dec. 9 T-ROC after 6 PM Saturday liturgy
Sun., Dec. 19 Semi-formal at St. Ferdinand's (no charge)

BAND CONCERT: Our instrumental band students, under the direction of Mrs. Susan Chambers, will hold their annual Christmas Concert on **December 11, 2006, in Marian Hall at 8:00pm**. All are welcome to attend.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE: The PTG will be sponsoring a Christmas Dance for the Middle School students on **Saturday, December 16th** in Marian Hall. The time for this event will be from 7:15 - 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door only. The dress code will be strictly enforced as always.

SCRIP SALES: Avoid the Holiday Shopping rush and help our school at the same time. Purchase gift certificates through our Scrip Office for your gift giving. The office is located in the rear of our school and is open daily from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

ENJOY Books are still available for purchase for \$25.00 each at the Scrip Office. They also make great Christmas Gifts.

APPLES FOR STUDENTS: Giant Eagle began their "Apples for Students" program on October 29th, and will run through Saturday, March 17th, 2007. If you have not already registered for this program, please show your support of our school by registering online at www.gianteagle.com or by calling 1-800-474-4777. You must enter our SCHOOL ID NUMBER 1131.

COMING SOON By mid-December, two bins will be placed by the St. Vincent dePaul boxes into which you can place catalogs, magazines, newspaper, junk mail, fax paper, notebooks, and folders. NO phonebooks or cartons of any kind, please. This paper recycling program benefits the school.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME- This unique ministry for parents with young children from birth to age five provides many opportunities for parents and children alike to come together at the parish for play and pray activities and mutual support.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar
 In today's gospel Jesus advises: "Stay awake, watch out, and pray for the strength to hold your ground" when "fearful and bewildering signs" appear threatening your family. Resist being "fearful;" fear cripples! Instead "pray for the strength" to be courageous.

PRAY AND PLAY DAY- this Wed. Dec. 6th, the feast of Saint Nicholas we will meet in the Children's Liturgy Room in the church at 9:30am. Hear the Christmas story and meet Saint Nicholas. Call Jodee at (412)267-3027 to find out more! All are invited and welcome!

CHURCH TOUR BOOKLETS- A project completed by the Let the Little Children Come To Ministry provides all interested persons with the chance to purchase a beautiful, detailed booklet featuring our parish church. These little booklets sell for **only five dollars** and are excellent stocking stuffers and gifts for grandparents. Pick one up in the narthex after Mass or stop by the rectory! For more information call Jim Finn (412)486-4100. Special thanks to Anne Holtz and Edith Borza for putting this booklet together...thanks also to John Novosel and Tri-Ad Litho, Inc for producing it for us.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- with the upcoming holidays, there is a great need for those serving as readers, altar servers, ministers of Holy Communion and greeters to sign up to assist at the weekend and holyday liturgies. **PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD** in the sacristy and in the Usher/Greeter room and let's try to fill all the slots! Thank you!

HOWARD HANNA, ALLISON PARK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FREE CARE BENEFIT LUNCH: On Thursday, Dec. 14th, the Allison Park Office of Howard Hanna Real Estate Services will host their annual Chow Chow Luncheon to raise money for the Children's Hospital Free Care Fund. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Middle Rd. Volunteer Fire Dept., on Middle Rd., just minutes from Route 8. The festivities will include a buffet lunch for a \$5.00 donation, a Silent Auction, Chinese Auction, and Bake Sale. In addition, tickets will be sold on a 2007 Pontiac G-6 Convertible. For advance tickets and more information call (412) 487-7787.

Adult Enrichment Opportunity:
ADVENTure with Father John to discover the wonders of Jesus' Family Tree, Tuesdays, December 5 & 12, 6:30 - 9:00 PM in Marian Hall. Call NOW 412-486-5521 to be assured of a seat for YOU at those evenings.

GET HOLIDAY TREATS from MARKET DAY... DECEMBER Order Forms are available at the church exits, at the Scrip and Faith Formation offices, or order online at marketday.com
COME to assist on the Market Day team; call Lee at 724-443-0673

FIRST RECONCILIATION NEXT WEEKS:
 December 11th & 19th. Monday Dec. 11 will include welcome to a special event with Saint Nicholas and activities at places he visits in our world. Call 412-486-5521 for details.
ADVENT RESOURCES at Faith Formation Center:
 Candles for wreath...4 for \$3.00
 Ring with 4 candle holders...\$3.00
 Ring with Greens & 4 candle holders...\$6.00
Booklets & Activities - \$1.00 each:
 Family Calendar 2007; Family Prayer Traditions; What can I GIVE for Christmas? ; Symbols & Traditions of Advent ; Family Devotions; Road Work Ahead - for Teens
 Chain of Stars OR Chain of Angels - to make Twirling Toward Bethlehem—Mobile What Child is This? Seek and Find.



Nov. 19, 2006	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	842	\$18,862.00
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	70.00
Children's Offer.	69	111.00
Religious Retire.	388	10,502.30
Parish Share	11	411.00
Parish Needy	93	1,557.00
TOTAL	1,403	\$32,093.30

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

*A TRIBUTE TO
BEE FALCONIO*

FOR HER 25 YEARS
OF DEDICATED SERVICE
TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

YOU WILL TRULY BE MISSED!

AD MOLTOS ANNOS!

	Ads will appear here			