

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE****THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD****SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2005**

We remind all parishioners that the Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord on December 25<sup>th</sup> is also a Sunday this year. The liturgy schedule for the day has been made to meet the needs of so many people who will gather with us. The 6:00 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve is especially designed for CHILDREN and we encourage families with children to celebrate at that time. There will also be a 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve. The 10:00 p.m. liturgy that night is the equivalent to the "midnight mass" liturgy of a past generation when there were no eve liturgies. The liturgy schedule on Christmas Day is the normal Sunday schedule of 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

**CHILDREN ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

We remind all parents and guardians that the 6:00 p.m. liturgy on Christmas Eve is specifically designed for the young people of our Parish Family. To help our young children understand the great event of the day, we invite them to be "garbed" in one of the characters of the Nativity Scene. Would they like to come "dressed up" like Mary or Joseph, or a shepherd or one of the Magi, maybe even one of the animals at the crib, like a sheep, cow or donkey? Others may want to look like one of the characters of the Old Testament: how about Moses, or David, or a prophet? Maybe Miriam, or Judith of one of the holy women? We encourage all children to join us at this 6:00 p.m. liturgy to receive their "Christmas Crib Gift" to be given out only at this liturgy!

**CHRISTMAS DAY COLLECTIONS**

There are TWO envelopes in our packet for the Parish Family next Sunday --- one for Christmas and one for the Sunday. We hope that all members will use BOTH of them, even though there will be only one collection for them.

There is a THIRD envelope in our packet for the traditional "Children/Youth" SECOND collection for the needs of those young persons who are less fortunate than we. The amount received in this second collection also helps with our Parish Share. We ask that all members bring all THREE envelopes to the liturgies next weekend.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
(FINAL OPPORTUNITY THIS YEAR)**

The final opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation this year will take place this Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the church. We have invited other priests to join us for the conferring of the absolution of the Lord Jesus. We encourage those parishioners who wish to take advantage of this celebration as an ideal way of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child to join us that evening to experience the forgiveness of the divine Father. The "communal nature" of the sacrament emphasizes that we all are sinners in the eyes of our God, and yet we all come together to seek the forgiveness of our sinfulness. There will be NO CONFESIONS heard this Saturday.

**2006 CALENDARS AVAILABLE**

We remind all parishioners that the 2006 calendars will be given out today at all the liturgies. Since the calendars will be blessed at each liturgy to remind us of the sacred goodness of the Creator for each day of our lives, we should not take one until the liturgy is over. This blessing gives a special quality to the calendar that will be displayed in our homes. We hope to have another blessed year in our lives together as members of the same Parish Family as the same calendar placed in each of our homes indicates that we are all bonded together in our day-by-day experience of our Catholic Faith.

**MUSIC MINISTRY CONGRATULATIONS**

A special congratulations to Bob Kardasz, the Music Minister of our Parish Family, along with Frieda Flaminio and Marie Doerge who assisted him, and all those persons they prepared and coordinated to put together the magnificent performance of "Lessons and Carols" last Sunday evening. It was a spell bounding display of musical artistry by all those involved. Those who attended the evening were given a wondrous feeling of the power of music in preparing our hearts for the great days of the Christmas event. The adults and young people of our Parish Family whose combined efforts provided such a splendid evening should be proud of their accomplishment. Those seeking to give the proper religious aura to this time of year should put this date on their personal calendars EVERY Advent!

**Masses for the Week**

**Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

- 4:00 p.m. Dr. Vincent Londino (M/M Gregory Distilo)
- 6:00 pm James & Mary Regina Cannon (Kelly Cannon Family)
- 7:30 a.m. Bill Cochrane (Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 11:00 a.m. Maxine Deasy (Family)

**Monday, December 19**

- 7:00 a.m. John & Dorothy Glynn (Linda Hutchinson)
- 10:00 a.m. Dr. Frank Flit (Sharon & Kimberly)
- 6:30 p.m. **Advent Reconciliation Service**

**Tuesday, December 20**

- 7:00 a.m. Anna Penezic (Pete & Dolores)
- 10:00 a.m. Rok & Theresa Druzak (Dick & Carrie Druzak)

**Wednesday, December 21 - St. Peter Cansius**

- 7:00 a.m. Carmela Tornese (Son-Albert)
- 10:00 a.m. Jerry DeBaldo (DeBaldo Family)

**Thursday, December 22**

- 7:00 a.m. Joseph Hajenich (Dave Kephart, Jr.)
- 10:00 a.m. James Missenda (Flaire Meier)

**Friday, December 23 - St. John Kanty**

- 7:00 a.m. Betty Schleicher (Mary Ann & Sandy Ondriezcek)
- 10:00 a.m. Jo Gentile (Dolly Gentile)

**Saturday, December 24 - Vigil of Christmas**

- 8:00 a.m. Gladys Coholich (M.J. Cvtkovic)
- 4:00 p.m. John J. Genco (Mom & Family)
- 6:00 p.m. Sarah Owen (Stagon Family)
- 10:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

**Sunday, December 25 - The Nativity of the Lord**

- 7:30 a.m. Werling & Fowkes Families (Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Teresa Malta (M/M Gregory Distilo)
- 11:00 a.m. Catherine Lazzaro (Lazzaro Family)

**A VOCATION VIEW**

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. When do you need to say "let it be" in response to God's call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always.

(Luke 1: 26-38)

**R.I.P.** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Marlene Harvey and George Vinski of our Parish Family.

**USHERS & GREETERS:** There is a sign-up sheet in the Usher's Room for all Liturgies on Christmas and New Years. Please sign-up for the Mass of your choice. Thank You.

**HELP NEEDED FOR THE HOLIDAY**

**LITURGIES:** Please sign-up for the Liturgy you will be attending on Christmas and New Years. We need to cover all of the holiday weekend Liturgies. The Sign-up sheet is for: Altar Servers, Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The sheet is located in the Sacristy.

December 11, 2005	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	871	\$16,894.00
Cash/Loose Cks.	—	985.00
Children's Offer.	21	27.90
Immac Concep.	62	552.00
Flower Donation	75	1,143.00
Christmas Offer.	7	185.00
Parish Share	17	3,645.36
Children/Youth	1	10.00
Parish Needy	28	816.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,082</b>	<b>\$24,258.26</b>

DAILY



READINGS

- Dec. 19: Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1: 5-25
- Dec. 20: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1: 26-38
- Dec. 21: Sg 2: 8-14 or Zep 3: 14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
- Dec. 22: 1 Sm 1: 24-28; Lk 1: 46-56
- Dec. 23: Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24; Lk 1: 57-66
- Dec. 24: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
- Dec. 25: **Vigil:** Is 62: 1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25; Mt 1: 1-25{18-25}  
**Midnight:** Is 9: 1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2: 11-14; Lk 2: 1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20  
**Day:** Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18 {1-5, 9-14}

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE**

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

Julia Rose Bigante

We congratulate her, her parents, godparents and grandparents!

**R.C.I.A.** meets today following the 9:00 a.m. Liturgy in the rectory. Today's topic is: "The Our Father." We will **NOT** meet the next two week-ends. Our next class will be held on January 8th, 2006 Our topic for the next class is: "Baptism/Confirmation." Any questions, please call Jim Finn or Father Ed at (412) 486-4100.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** The regular Reconciliation time of 11:00 a.m. on Saturday morning will begin again on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing to celebrate the sacrament before that time should simply call the rectory and the priest will meet the person in church at a convenient time.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** All couples planning a baptism in the future are reminded of the pre-baptism session with the priest or deacon. During that session the schedule for the baptism dates for 2006 will be given to the couple. We remind all parents that we do not celebrate Baptism during the Lenten season, but other Sundays are added to the calendar before and after Lent. This pre-session may be made during the pregnancy of the mother so that it does not become a last minute rush.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Since this is the time of the year when many couples begin to make a commitment to each other for the Sacrament of Matrimony, we remind them to notify the church as soon as possible. The Diocese of Pittsburgh requires a six-month notification period before any marriage date can be reserved in the church. The couple is asked to make an appointment with one of the priests or deacon so that the entire process may be shared with them. There are three basic requirements: (1) a series of preparation sessions; (2) a time to sign all the papers necessary for recording in the church; and (3) a liturgical preparation that includes meeting with the Music Minister. Wedding times on Saturday are at 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon.

## **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

**Faith Sharing Fourth Week of Advent**

Luke's gospel shows us Mary and her visitor. What are some of the feelings Mary may have had when hearing the angel? Mary was troubled, then perplexed, and then accepting.

Do you know anyone who is currently struggling with similar feelings? What kinds of angels does God send into your life to reveal wondrous deeds? When have you said, or might you say, "Be it done to me according to God's will?"

This is a good week to pray, as scripture gives Mary's words: "My soul magnifies God's greatness; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... (see Luke 1:46-55) This is used in the official prayer of the Church every evening.

**Monday Faith Formation** -check the message brought from your child's last session. Some classes meeting Dec. 19, at 6:30 PM in church to participate in the Reconciliation service. **NO session on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.**

**Saturday Faith Formation** not meeting Dec. 24 or Dec. 31; next session on January 7 for parents and children, 9:30 AM IN church.

**THANKS for GIFTS** for the children at the " Potential Development" inner city school for autistic children. Families of the Saturday, Monday and Family Programs have made a tremendous impact on the team who ministers with these special needs children.



## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARIA PROJECT**

All luminaria kits that were taken at last weekend's Liturgy should be assembled using the directions in each kit. **Your assembled kits should be returned between 1:30 – 2 PM on Christmas Eve** where our team will be there to receive them. If you have questions, please call our office at 412/486-5521.

### **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**

**Tues. Dec. 20** Play Practice in Providence Hall 7-9 PM

**Thurs. Dec. 22** Play Practice-Marian Hall 7-9 PM

**Sun. Jan. 8** T-ROC ((Time depends on Steeler game)

### **APPALACHIA 2006**

At our November meeting the goals for our summer work camp were established with a **strong focus on development of faith and a sense of community.** Youth who will be eligible to attend must be age **16** by June 26, 2006; must attend our high school faith formation sessions [**T-ROC**]; participate in our major fund raiser-the **Friday Lenten fish dinners** and must attend a **fundamental skills** session if they missed Brandon Goeller's Skill Workshop in September. A **deposit of \$30** must be sent in by **Friday, December 30-** check payable to St. Mary Church CYM.

**Contact Barb Belski or Lisa Rulis Ross**

at 412-492-9344

email us at [cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org)

Check out our website! [www.stmaryglenshaw.org/cym](http://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. **Teens have their own site for questions.**

**Alex Lamers** is our new **communications guru.** All high school students who have given us their e-mail address will receive his e-letter. **Check out his Pink Floyd laser show idea for January 2006.** If you want to receive Alex's newsletter contact him

at [cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:cymoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org)

## **ST. MARY SCHOOL**

**ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE:** Please join the School community in prayer at an Advent Prayer Service that will take place on **Thursday, December 22, at 10:45 a.m. in Church**

**SCRIP SALES** - There will be NO Giant Eagle or Shop 'n Save sales at church on the following weekends: December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> as well as December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your continued support of this great program.

**BAND CONCERT** - St. Mary Instrumental Band will hold their Christmas Concert on **Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15 PM** for the teachers and students and at **7:00 PM** for family and friends in Marian Hall. All are welcome to attend!

**SCHOOL OFFICE CLOSED** - The school office will be closed from December 23, 2005 through January 2, 2006. The staff and students will be on Christmas break. School will resume on Tuesday, January 3, 2006, at the regular time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**SMAA:** The St. Mary Athletic Association is sponsoring a Night at the Races on Saturday, January 28th in Marian Hall. Horse racing, poker, blackjack and other games of chance will be available that evening. Doors open at 7 p.m. with a buffet that begins at 7:15 p.m. and horse racing at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Tickets and horses can be purchased at all home basketball games. You can also contact Joe Natoli at (412) 486-0850 or at [jnatoli@federatedinv.com](mailto:jnatoli@federatedinv.com) to purchase tickets, horses or to reserve a table for your group. **Adults only.** Thank you for your support. **GO CONDORS!**





**PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS** from Father John

It is almost here! As a matter of fact, it will officially be here on Wednesday of this week, December 21<sup>st</sup>. In the everyday language of the four seasons, it is called “Winter.” In the technical language of the world of astronomy, it is called the “Southern Solstice” by those who plot the paths of the celestial events. The clearest and most evident indication that the solstice has arrived is the length of DARKNESS that it brings to our world. For some, we call in the “shortest” day in the year since there is only a little over nine hours of daylight on that day. With nearly fifteen hours of darkness, the world seems lost in the depths of the night.

Primitive people who worshipped the SUN as their god became deathly afraid at this time of year because of their belief that the sun was going out, and therefore dying. Without the sun, they would have no life. Our modern day world does not posit the sun as a deity; but from a purely scientific point of view, if the sun were to be extinguished, we would surely die since the fullness of life is dependent upon sunlight. These primitive people were not far from the truth! So, for them, the WINTER SOLSTICE was a glorious day for it spoke to them that the sun was in a process of being reborn. There was more light coming into their lives each day, and the fear of darkness and the death of the sun were now over. So, it was a natural for them to celebrate “The Birthday of the Unconquerable Sun!”

With the coming of Christianity, those who came to believe in Jesus could not ascribe to this pagan custom of the sun’s birthday. So, like Christians did for most of their feasts, they simply “changed the meaning” of the celebration. Instead of celebrating the birthday of the SUN of the heavens, Christians began to celebrate the birthday of the SON of God.

But the Church went even more deeply into the astronomical cycle. Since John the Baptist, one of the main characters of the Advent Season, had said that “I must decrease and Jesus must increase” in his pointing to the coming of the Messiah, the birthday of John the Baptist has been liturgically set on June 24<sup>th</sup> --- around the time of the Northern Solstice (“summer” in our understanding), when the days begin to get shorter. The image is clear! The birthday of John is celebrated when sunlight is decreasing; the birthday of Jesus when sunlight is increasing. Even the wonder of the celestial bodies speaks of the coming of the LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

	<b>Ads will appear here</b>			