

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Third Sunday of Easter
April 26, 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

GROUP FIRST EUCHARIST

The entire Parish Family opens its doors and heart TODAY as our second graders come to celebrate their First Eucharist in one of the groups who will assemble at each of today's liturgies. We ask that all parishioners make room for the many guests who will join us and be alert to the reserved places that have been set-aside for the children and their families. We thank all those catechists and aides who have helped in preparing these children for this day, and we congratulate their parents and guardians for taking such a significant role in the religious formation of their children. What a special day in our Parish Family when so many of our young people join us in receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. We hope that all of us will continue in our commitment to these young people by making sure that they come each Sunday to celebrate this central mystery of our Catholic Faith.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

On Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Paul Bradley, celebrating one of his final Confirmation events in our Diocese before he becomes the bishop of Kalamazoo, Michigan, will be in OUR parish church to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with all those who have been duly prepared. What a wonderful evening to join the Parish Family in welcoming Bishop Bradley to our Parish Family and thanking him for his dedicated ministry to the people in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

BAPTISMS DURING EASTER SEASON

We remind all those parents planning a baptism for their newly born child that a pre-baptism session is necessary BEFORE the sacrament takes place. We ask parents to set up this appointment during the pregnancy of the mother so as to eliminate any last minute issues. Dates for baptism will be given to the parents at this session.

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the Finance Council are reminded of their meeting set for this Monday, April 27th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory as the Council not only reviews this year's budget, but begins to look at the budget for the fiscal year that will begin on the first day of July 2009.

FISH DINNER REPORT

Were you one of the many volunteers who helped to make our Fish Dinners so successful? Would you like to join us on Tuesday of this week, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall for a final report on the dinners? The designated profit from the dinners will be directly aimed at updating the kitchen in Marian Hall that is used by all parishioners. Ginny and Paul Penezic, the chairpersons of the dinners, will be on hand to receive the ideas and suggestions of those who worked so hard at these six Lenten dinners as we look to future possibilities.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Have you noticed the newly-planted Cherry Tree at the end of our main driveway? A special congratulatory note to the Student Council and the "Green Team" of our Catholic Grade School for the donation and planting of the tree at our special prayer service to celebrate EARTH DAY! In cooperation with our Maintenance Department, the students of our Catholic School all participated in the importance of God's creation by selecting and planting this tree under the direction of our Temporalities Commission.

"VICARS AND VICARIATES" (part 6)

Three of the SEVEN goals and objectives of the Regional Vicariate were listed in last week's bulletin. The remaining four include (4) to promote collaboration among parishes and ministers; (5) to resolve problems; (6) to visit parishes regularly to verify the quality of pastoral care; and (7) to facilitate local decision making that affects the spiritual life of the parishioners and local circumstances.



FESTIVAL FLASHES

The Parish Family Festival will be June 25-27 ... soon raffle tickets will be coming with over \$11,000 worth of prizes to be won volunteers to help at the various booths are now needed Parishioners are now being contacted personally to help during the Festival ... are you looking forward to our gigantic Flea Market ... new games and new prizes are on tap for this year ... watch out for this year's new booth of Steeler memorabilia set in the context of a raffle to win the entire bevy of cherished items ...



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, April 26, 2009 - Third Sunday of Easter

- 4:00 p.m. Eleanor Triglia - Family
- 6:00 p.m. Special Intention - Tom & Susan Urso
- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Ralph Costa - The Costa Family
- 11:00 a.m. Nicola & Lucrezia Didomenico - Rocco Didomenico Family

Monday, April 27, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Frank Marchese - Bud & Karolyn Hunkele
- 10:00 a.m. Agnes Patterson McKendreg - Memorial Mass

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 - St. Louis Mary de Montfort & St. Peter Chanel

- 7:00 a.m. John J. Kirby - George & Lois Lutz
- 10:00 a.m. Anna Marie Belch - Jo-Anne & Don Miller

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 - St. Catherine of Siena

- 7:00 a.m. Dorothy A. Bigler - Judith & Edward Zavatchen
- 10:00 a.m. Anna Kasunich - Sisters, Helen & Barbara

Thursday, April 30, 2009 - St. Pius V

- 7:00 a.m. Charles Morrissey - Bob Horn
- 10:00 a.m. Dorothy Pefferman - Norma Pugliesi

Friday, May 1, 2009 - St. Joseph the Worker & National Day of Prayer

- 7:00 a.m. Alice Dalton - Hunkele Family
- 10:00 a.m. Betty Vrscak - Husband, Nick

Saturday, May 2, 2009 - St. Athanasius

- 8:00 a.m. Jack Scheller - Joe Slagel
- 4:00 p.m. Natalie Gubanic Missenda - Tony & Joanne Kramer
- 6:00 p.m. Carmella & Nicola Tornese - Family

Sunday, May 3, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 7:30 a.m. John Fowkes - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Barbara Jean Orsini - Marinack-Lazzaro Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday April 26** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Calliope Concert
- Monday April 27** (Catacombs) 5:00PM - CYM Youth Nite
(School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Finance Council
(Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Market Day Pick-up
- Tuesday April 28** (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
(Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor's Practice
(Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
(School) 6:00PM - School Science Fair
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Fish Dinner Appreciation Meeting
(Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
- Wednesday April 29** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday April 30** (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday May 1** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- Saturday May 2** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after all Liturgies
- Sunday May 3** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after all Liturgies



CONGRATULATIONS to our children being welcomed to First Eucharist this weekend. Their anticipation in coming to receive Jesus' is celebrated with pride by our entire parish family and many visitors whom we warmly welcome. Our wishes and hopes for many blessings are extended to all the families who show by their example the importance of being nourished at the table of the Lord who said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no LIFE in you." John 6:53.

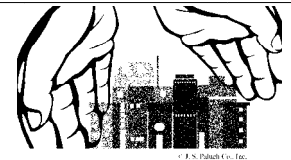
At Home with the Lord

Remember Lord and welcome into your Kingdom those who have died and have gone before us marked in the sign of faith, especially Gary Pavlecic, father of Matthew, David and Jonathan and Rita Martini.

Offertory Collection

March 8, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	745	\$16,473.15
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$982.00
Children's Offertory	41	\$55.06
Easter	29	\$730.00
Holy Land	2	\$25.00
Parish Share 2009	42	\$2,685.00
Parish Needy	26	\$424.00
Total	885	\$21,374.21

Daily Readings



YOU ALONE, O LORD,
BRING SECURITY TO MY DWELLING.
PSALM 4:9

- April 27:** Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29
- April 28:** Acts 7:51 - 8:1a; Jn 6:30-35
- April 29:** Acts 8:1b - 8; Jn 6:35-40
- April 30:** Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51
- May 1:** Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59 or Gn 1:26 - 2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58
- May 2:** Acts 9:31 - 42; Jn 6:60-69
- May 3:** Acts 4:8-12; Ps 118; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

Grace Elizabeth Fischer
Nicole Ellen LaGrotteria

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Next Sunday, May 3, is a special Easter celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated this day as **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**. Our parish will join the universal church to ask for God's blessings that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocation. This would be a good time to request a time to host the **Traveling Vocation Chalice** in your home. The Proviano Family will host the chalice on April 19th through May 5th. Call Ron Ondrizek, a member of our parish vocation council to schedule a time. He can be reached at 412.486.6851.

VOCATION VIEWS

Jesus opened the minds of his followers to understanding of scripture. He pronounced them as his witnesses. Be the hands and feet of Jesus today.
(Luke 24:35-48)

A GATHERING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD will be held on **Thursday, May 7, 2009** at St. Paul Seminary. Priestly ministry brings men in direct contact with people of every age and in so many different situations. It is a great lifestyle and one which brings a spiritual reward. Plan to attend. The gathering begins at 4:30 p. m. and ends with a Holy Hour at 7:00 p. m. Call Jim Finn (412)486-4100 at the rectory to find out more .

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

All parents with young children under the age of five are invited to participate in the various pray, play and service activities of this post baptismal ministry. We meet for Pray and Play Day on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room. **PRAY and PLAY DAY will be held this Wednesday, May 6.** Call Monica 412.492.0242 for more information. All are welcome including grandparents and care-givers.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

The gospel description of the Good Shepherd is a job description for parenting. Parents must "know" their children and "freely lay down their lives" each day by sacrificing for their children. Even when they don't want to listen, children must "hear our voice." Like Jesus, it is our job to "lead" our children to the Father.

PARENTING POINTERS

April 22 was Earth Day. Of course we want to be good stewards of the earth locally and in our own home, but sometimes it helps to see the big picture. For inspiration watch the mini video, *Miniature Earth* at www.minature-earth.com, with your child today. Learn anything new?



MARRIAGE MOMENTS

It's so tempting when another insults or hurts you to reply in kind words. Tempting, but not helpful to your marriage. It may seem counterintuitive to suck it up, but it's not a new idea. Consider the scripture "do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult." (1 Peter 3:9)

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 3rd Sunday of Easter

"PEACE " is Jesus' greeting to the frightened disciples whose story is continued in this weeks' gospel. We hear that the Risen Jesus shared bread and fish which is a hint about his risen body—still enjoying tasty food. Where do YOU get food for your journey How can you have trust in the outcome of your journey in this life? What is your relationship with others on the journey? Is Jesus your daily companion as you travel the roads and halls in your home and workplace?

Monday Faith Formation

Everyone will meet for their final formal session this Monday, April 27. ALL families meet in Church to BEGIN at 6:30 PM. Bring a snack to share.

Children/Youth who attend PUBLIC SCHOOLS & Faith Formation Families of Monday, Saturday, and our Sunday Family Program have been given the **Registration Form for our 2009 – 2010 Catechetical Season**. If YOU want a copy, contact our office at 412-486-5521 or email our office at ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org.



Grades 5-6-7 Youth and Parent/Guardians

are welcome to meet with Mr. Ron Stone of our Middle School Ministry during a portion of our final formal session for this season's Faith Formation.

Grade 1 Children and Parent/Guardian

Please plan to meet at ONE of the assemblies for a Rite of Enrollment as we look forward to the coming year on the journey toward **First Eucharist and Reconciliation**. Meet in Marian Hall on Sunday May 17, 12:05 PM, or Monday, May 18, 4:00 or 6:00 PM.



Grade 7 Youth and Parent/Guardian

Please plan to meet at ONE of the assemblies for a Rite of Enrollment as we look forward to the journey of CONFIRMATION as a disciple of the Lord Jesus. Meet in Marian Hall on Monday, May 18, 7:00 PM or Sunday, May 24, 10:00 AM.

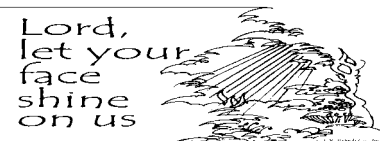


CONFIRMATION CLUSTERS

May Gathering for ALL clusters will be May 30 at the 6:00 PM, the Pentecost Eve Liturgy, followed by refreshments and a DECATHALON: teams + ten games=ten TROPHIES to the Champions. Sign up lists for teams have been given to the Cluster Leaders and are to be returned at the reception the evening of Confirmation.

NATURE'S LESSONS

Believe one who has tried, you shall find a fuller satisfaction in the woods than in books. The trees and the rocks will teach you that which you cannot hear from the masters.



YOUTH MINISTRY

CLASS OF 2009

BOTH HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE
SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL PARISH BACCALAUREATE
SUNDAY, JUNE 14
9 AM LITURGY

REPORT TO CHURCH AT 8:45 AM
BRING YOUR CAP & GOWN
OR ONE WILL BE PROVIDED
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN MARIAN HALL
You should soon receive a formal invitation,
but in the meantime, save the date.

PARENTS OF THE CLASS OF 2010

PLUS OUR CURRENT ELEVENTH GRADERS

You are the planners and hosts for our annual parish baccalaureate. We need you to help with preparing and serving the meal and also decorating Marian Hall. We require few meetings to prepare for this awesome event and it will be your turn to receive recognition and prayers from the faith community next year when you graduate.

THE CATACOMB

In ancient times, a catacomb was considered, in part, a place of refuge. Today, through many generous donations of time, talent and treasure, our new room for high school and young adult gatherings becomes a unique space for the vital young life of our parish family. Located on the lower floor of the school across from the Faith Formation office, this space provides an opportunity for fellowship and relaxation; an outside access door and picnic table placed in a secluded area at the end of the parking lot offer an extended space for outdoor recreation. We have not yet completed our renovations but have already started to use the space. Stop by during posted hours or call the CYM office for a special tour.

APPALACHIA MISSION WEEK NEWS

Our next major fundraiser event is the Marian breakfast on May 10. Maura Kelly will be speaking at all of the liturgies next weekend, May 2 & 3. We will need CYM parents and teens to help with tickets sales at any of the five weekend liturgies on May 2 or 3.

All teens planning to participate in our Appalachia mission trip need to schedule an interview with Mrs. B. Call or email to schedule an appointment. Keep in mind that a good time for the interview is on Mondays at the Catacomb.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun., Apr. 26 Calliope concert begins 5:30 PM
Mon., Apr. 27 The Catacomb open 6-8 PM Gr.9-12
Wed., Apr. 29 Open Gym HS and YA in PAC 7-9 PM
Sat., May 2 CYM at 4 & 6 PM liturgies
Sun., May 3 CYM at all three liturgies

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.

School
News



ST. MARY

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

St. Mary School is now accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year. We offer a 3 and 4 year-old preschool program as well as kindergarten through 8th grade programs. Children MUST be five years old by September 1st in order to register for kindergarten. Parents/guardians are asked to provide the child's birth certificate, baptismal certificate, and copy of the child's social security number when registering. A \$100 registration fee, which will be applied to the child's tuition, is also required at the time of registration.

For more information or to arrange a tour, please call the school office at (412) 486-7611. Come and see what we are all about!



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Casual/Relief Nurses Aides for steady daylight and evening shifts Saturdays and Sundays. Also Fridays overnight in facility caring for geriatric religious sisters. Improved salary range. Call Sisters of Divine Providence at 412.635.6302 or fax resume to 412.318.3325.

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ The Planning Committee will meet on **Wednesday, May 6, 2009** at 7:00 P. M.
- ◆ Plan now to attend the Anniversary Trip coming up in July, the weekend of **July 18-19** and take advantage of the opportunity to visit St. Peter's Church in Philadelphia and pray at the tomb of Saint John Neumann, C.S.S.R. who we have been reading about and who served here in the early days of the parish. Call Mary Ann Coholich to make find out more and to make a deposit at 412.486.0165.
- ◆ Historic records indicate we have veterans buried in our cemetery dating back to the Civil War. During this anniversary year we would like to honor all veterans interred in our cemetery. If you have a photo of a loved one and would like them to be honored in the Memorial Day presentation, please send the photo to the rectory with identification of the photo. Questions? Call Mary Ann Coholich at 412.486.0165.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Calliope Pittsburgh Songwriters Concert
TODAY, Sunday, April 26
Marian Hall beginning at 5:30 PM

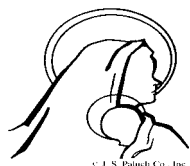


The performances are by local songwriters of the adult contemporary genre, meant to entertain audiences of all ages. Proceeds will go toward our 2009 Appalachia mission fund; suggested donation at the door is \$7.50. Dinner items will be sold at the concession stand.

Summer Bible Program opportunities:

1. Four evenings - June 28 - July 1, 6:30-8:30PM - "Paul in Rome and the Underground Church"
2. Tuesday evenings in July, 6:00-8:30PM - "POWER ZONE" - summer sports camp!
3. Son Rock Kids' Camp, August 10-14, 9:30 AM till Noon.

REGISTRATION FORMS will be available at a preview event after each Liturgy, May 2 & 3, 2009.



MARIAN DAY BREAKFAST/BRUNCH
Sunday, May 10
Marian Hall after all three Liturgies

Come celebrate the women in your life and enjoy a special menu of breakfast and brunch foods. This is a leadership project for Hampton High School sophomore, Maura Kelly. Advance tickets will be sold after all liturgies the first weekend in May.

CHRISTIAN MOTHERS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Thank you to all who participated in our Gold Rush Fundraiser on April 16th. So far we have raised \$550 for Christian Mothers! A special thank you to Bev Kohan and Mary Ann Coholic for their help in coordinating the evening. Any parishioners who would still like to participate by selling their gold, please call Joe Buck at 412-492-8367. Proceeds will benefit Christian Mothers. We will be having a Tea Party May 21st for our last meeting before summer break. Guests are welcome. In honor of Mother's Day we will once again hold a diaper drive to benefit the Pittsburgh Adoption Support Group - If you are able, please bring a package of diapers (size 1,2, 3 or 4) and/or wipes to the May meeting. If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Buck at 412-492-8367 or e-mail jambuck@verizon.net.

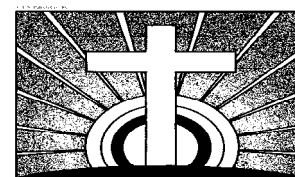
MARKET DAY will be this Monday, April 27, helpers needed at 5:00 PM on to help unpack and sort. PICK UP orders 6:30-7:30 PM in Marian Hall.

Festival Happenings

CRAFT BOOTH

Thank you so much to all crafters who have donated wonderful home-made items to our booth year after year. We do appreciate your generosity and the craft booth as made a lot of money for the church as a result. We are again asking for all types of new craft items that we can sell at the festival. Please call Debbie Boyd at 724-449-5790 with questions for pick-up! Thank you!

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



Live as Witnesses to the Risen Lord

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SERIES

You are invited to an evening lecture given by Bishop David A. Zubik this Wednesday, April 29th at 7:30 P. M. at St. Paul Seminary auditorium. This is the last lecture in this year's Adult Lecture Series. It is free and all are welcome! Continuing education credit is available to priests, deacons, and catechists.



MAIFEST

May Festival Dinner-Dance, Saturday, May 2nd celebrate the traditions of Catholic Bavaria & the Maypole dance held at Teutonia Maennerchor Club House, North Side. German Buffet dinner served 5:00-8:00 p.m. German Band 7:30-11:30 p.m. D'Lustigen Isartaler Bavarian club dancers and chorus will perform. Tickets/RSVP - \$10, call Theresa Goeller at 412-487-1870. For more information, see web-site: www.isartalerpittsburgh.org

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS GROUP

This group will meet today, April 26, at 5:00 PM at Atrias Restaurant, Route 8 in Richland Township. For more information call 412-486-5621 or 412-486-4209.

FISH DINNER RECAP MEETING

We will meet in Marian Hall on Tuesday, April 28th at 7:00PM for a recap on our Lenten Fish Dinner sales. ALL volunteers are welcome to attend. Snacks and beverages will be served. Please call Paul or Ginny at 412.487.5211 to R.S.V.P.

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN Thirty-seven men from St. Mary's joined the nearly 2,000 men at the A. J. Palumbo Center for the 4th Annual Gathering held on Easter Saturday. Thanks to Deacon Francis for driving the bus and getting us there and back safely. Bishop Zubik charged each of man to bring at least one friend to next year's Gathering on **April 10, 2010**. Mark your calendars!

FOOD DRIVE

Letter carriers on Saturday, May 9, will be collecting non-perishable food donations along their routes for delivery to the local food banks and pantries. It is the annual "Stamp Out Hunger" drive conducted by the National Association of Letter Carriers - the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Please place a food donation by your mailbox on Saturday, May 9, before your mail is delivered. Your letter carrier will deliver it to the local food bank or pantry. Help us help our community. Thank you.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL BULLETIN

For Dominion Peoples Plus Customers, please phone 1.800.400.5648 to acquire new lower commodity charges for the rate of \$7.99 per MCF effect until April, 2010. When calling also request a 10% discount for your electric bill.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

A TABLE FEAST! These words evoke images of a loving family celebrating a delicious meal around the most important table in their lives. For some it is a reminder of Thanksgiving Day --- for others it is a birthday party or anniversary dinner at their favorite restaurant --- for still others it is a regular Sunday afternoon at grandma's with the whole family. In many houses the room with the "meal table" is the most important space in the entire home. It is the place where the whole family gathers to share the important moments of the day as they consume the specially prepared food of the home's cook. This table becomes highly decorated for every major feast throughout the year, as outside family members and other guests join the family of the home.

TODAY the Parish Family of St. Mary of the Assumption celebrates one of the most significant days in the entire year as we welcome our "First Communicants" to the FEAST TABLE OF THE LORD. The splendid décor of the Easter Season gives a festive atmosphere to this all-important day in our Parish Family. We welcome these young people to the living presence of the Lord Jesus as the Body and Blood of the Christ now becomes the sacred food of their spiritual journey in life. "Eucharist" itself derives its meaning from the word "thanksgiving" as this celebration becomes the central mystery of our lives as disciples of the Lord Jesus. The entire Parish Family expresses its gratitude each time we gather at the Table of the Lord in the living out of this mystery within the context of our Catholic liturgy. Nothing that we do is more important than that which we do when we celebrate the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus in liturgy. The hope and prayers of every member of the Parish Family is that these young people who come for the first time will gather with us every Sunday to share this most significant event in our Christian lives.

Eucharist is a TABLE FEAST beyond any that we celebrate in this world. It brings together our Community of Faith around the Altar Table of our sacred church building. It continually sets the tone for our lives and unflinchingly directs us to the eternal kingdom where one day we will sit at the heavenly banquet and sup with the Lord Jesus in a kingdom that will last forever. Today we cordially welcome those who join us for the first time with a joy and gladness in all our hearts that touches the very core of who we are as the People of God on the spiritual journey to the eternal kingdom.