

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 18, 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

Youth Ministry Office - 412-492-9344

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

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

NOW: ORDINARY TIME LITURGICALLY

Having completed the first liturgical cycle of the year, which included Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, the liturgy now begins SIX Sundays of ORDINARY TIME as we look forward to the coming of the second cycle, which will include the seasons of Lent, Easter and Pentecost. It will begin on February 25th with Ash Wednesday. Meanwhile the color of green returns to the décor of the church. With the coming of the season of Lent, Ordinary Time will cease until we come to June 21st and the end of the major events of the Easter cycle. Then, we will proceed week by week for a total of 34 Sundays until we arrive once more at the Solemnity of Christ the King on November 22nd bringing the entire Liturgical Year to a climatic conclusion.

RESPECT FOR LIFE MARCH

We remind ALL parishioners that they are invited to join us at 5:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, to celebrate a liturgy that will be the send off celebration for those attending the March For Life in Washington, D.C. The buses sponsored by our Parish Family is our commitment to the wonderful witness that parishioners and their friends will be when they join the thousands who will come from all over the country. We are reminded that our Parish Family always respects the dignity of human life, from the moment of conception to its natural death!

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS SENT HOME

As part of the service that we offer to all those who contribute financially to the Parish Family, the Office Staff sends individual financial statements for the year 2008 home to all those who are registered in our Parish Family. These statements are for your own personal benefit and can be used for taxation purposes. Since the statements are printed from the computer, and then placed immediately in the envelope addressed to the parishioner, no one on the Staff examines the amounts listed on the statements. If your financial statement has an error in the amount you feel was given to the Parish Family due to a glitch in the computer system, simply call the rectory during regular office hours and an adjustment will be made for you by our efficient Office Staff.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY

We remind all parishioners that there is a second collection today to be taken up at all the liturgies entitled "St. Anthony School and Sensory Handicapped Children" as prescribed by the Diocese. The importance of this collection is that it not only goes to help the needy children of our own Diocese, but we also get an equal amount of credit toward our own parish resources. Those parishioners who choose to be generous to the Parish Family might use this collection as a way of not only helping the children who are supported by the Diocese, but also the financial needs of our Parish Family.

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE HRASON

Special congratulations to Joe Hrason, a member of our Parish Family all his life, for being chosen by the Diocese to receive the "Manifesting The Kingdom Award" given to a parishioner who exemplifies a personal commitment to living out the Faith in the service of the Church. Joe will be honored next week at a 3:00 p.m. liturgy to be celebrated at St. Paul's Cathedral in Oakland by Bishop Zubik. All friends of Joe and parishioners in general are welcome to celebrate this liturgy with the Bishop at the Cathedral next Sunday, January 25th.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE FORMING

We are now in the process of adding new members to our Cemetery Committee with an invitation to any parishioner who would like to be considered for this Committee to join us on Monday of this week, January 19th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. One of the important items on the agenda will be the investigation of constructing a mausoleum in our cemetery. Details of this process will be shared with all parishioners as decisions are made by the Cemetery Committee.

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE

All those parishioners who are still paying on their pledges will be asked in letter form to determine the amount of time that they will need to fulfill their original pledge. The CCC must know the extent of our parish debt before we can move on to the Third Phase of the Campaign which will include the development of our field, the construction of a Maintenance Building and garages for the priests.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

Sunday, January 18, 2009 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Frank Warenski - Family
- 6:00 p.m. Walter & Grace Eswein - Keith & Carol Loiselle Family
- 7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 9:00 a.m. Susan F. Lanzino - Harry & Janice
- 11:00 a.m. Leona A. Schell - Rita & Jim Finn

Monday, January 19, 2009 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- 7:00 a.m. Rosalia Derenzo - Nephew, Giuseppe
- 10:00 a.m. Anna Marie Belch - Roberta & Fran Zukiewicz

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 - St. Fabian & St. Sebastain

- 7:00 a.m. Agnes Wetzel - Gene & Flo Biedrzycki
- 10:00 a.m. Audrey Vecchio - The Yates Family

Wednesday, January 21, 2009 - St. Agnes

- 7:00 a.m. Albert Richert - Bill & Linda Richert
- 10:00 a.m. Jo Gentile - Dolly Gentile

Thursday, January 22, 2009 - St. Vincent; Day of Penance for Violations to the Dignity of the Human Person

- 5:30 a.m. March for LIFE
- 7:00 a.m. Helen Pike - Buddy & Carolyn
- 10:00 a.m. Zerah Perry - Family

Friday, January 23, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Eileen Roczko - Mr. & Mrs. Edward Skirtich
- 10:00 a.m. Fr. Bernacki - Adeline & Russ

Saturday, January 24, 2009 - St. Francis de Sales

- 8:00 a.m. Mrs. Anna Fries - Steve & Mike Adams Family
- 4:00 p.m. Natalie Gubanic Missenda - Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Benvin
- 6:00 p.m. Kathleen Levinsky - Stephen & Coleen Sarosi

Sunday, January 25, 2009 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Anton, Susan, James, & Nora Liebert - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Alexander McLellan - David & Carol Thompson
- 11:00 a.m. Tom Hunter - Albert Gillner

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday Jan. 18** (Rectory) 8:00AM - Parish Breakfast
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- Monday Jan. 19** (School) No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
(School) No CCD
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Assumption Cemetery Meeting
- Tuesday Jan. 20** (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Handbell Practice
(Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
(Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
(Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
- Wednesday Jan. 21** (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Providence Hall) 7:00PM - PTG Meeting
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Temporalities Meeting
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Fish Dinner Meeting
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday Jan. 22** (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - CYM Play Practice
(Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday Jan. 23** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- Saturday Jan. 24** (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
(School Library) 2:00PM - Fr. Ed Adult Education
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - S.M.A.A. "Night at the Races"
- Sunday Jan. 25** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Blood Drive
(Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(School) 10:00AM - St. Mary School Open House
(Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(PAC) 7:00PM - Youth Group

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Marmarosa, Albert A. Boss, John P. Krome, Mary E. O'Connor, James McNalley, father of Jerry McNalley.

The Mass Intentions of the following were celebrated on Friday, January 9, 2009, with Bishop David Zubik.

Intensions: Maribeth Burnikel Eric Maire & Family
Clarence Bittner Jeff & Jane Bittner

January 11, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	780	\$16,932.30
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$790.00
Children's Offertory	55	\$68.23
St. Anthony School	3	\$35.00
Solemnity of Mary	12	\$177.00
Catholic Schools	30	\$463.00
Christmas Offering	3	\$35.00
Children/Youth Charities	2	\$11.00
Parish Share 2008	5	\$215.00
Parish Needy	59	\$800.00
Total	949	\$19,526.53

Daily Readings

LAMB OF GOD



- Jan. 19:** Heb 5:1-10; Mk 2:18-22
- Jan. 20:** Heb 6:10-20; Mk 2:23-28
- Jan. 21:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Mk 3:1-6
- Jan. 22:** Heb 7:25 - 8:6; Mk 3:7-12
- Jan. 23:** Heb 8:6-13; Mk 3:13-19
- Jan. 24:** Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Mk 3:20-21
- Jan. 25:** Jon 3:1-5, 10; 1Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20 or for the Conversion of St. Paul Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 16:15-18

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

Addison Ann Kass

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

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE

is an ongoing project of our parish vocation council. Families, singles and shut-ins are invited to host this prayer tool for vocations in their homes. Call Ron Ondrizek to schedule a time at 412.486.6851. The chalice has been hosted by the Cross family. This Sunday, the Haley family will host the chalice until January 31st. Please call to reserve your time to host.

A VOCATION VIEW

We don't always recognize the voice of God. Spend time in silence regularly to listen to God's voice. God calls, what do you hear?

RCIA



Please continue to pray for the individuals who are currently involved in the RCIA experience as they continue their journey. We meet every Sunday following the 9:00am Mass. This week we will discuss: Marriage and Holy Orders and next week Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. All are welcome. Call Fr. Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory 412.486.4100.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

a ministry to parents with young children under age five sponsors a **PRAY AND PLAY DAY** on the first and third Wednesday of the month. All are invited to come to church this **Wed. January 21st** at 9:30am. We will learn one of the gestures involved in the Mass, move to inspiring music, visit Jesus in the tabernacle and join in a parade. No reservation is necessary. Call Monica to find out more (412)492-0242.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Philip told Nathaniel "Come and see." He didn't preach, he invited and Nathaniel became a disciple of Jesus. If our children **SEE** the excitement of our faith, that will be invitation enough. Words will not be necessary.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

PARENTING POINTERS

As we approach Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day, talk with your kids about heroes. What historical female and male do they most admire? What living male and female do they want to emulate? Why?

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

What does it mean to be equal? Are both of you equally good at cooking, mechanical things, sewing, small talk? Probably not. Even though your spouse may have a natural talent for a particular task, try trading chores for a day. Just for fun.

ALTAR SERVER RECRUITMENT

5th and 6th Grade students from our school and faith formation programs interested in serving Mass should sign up with their Religion teacher. Permission slips and training dates will be sent home. Questions? Call Jim Finn 412.486.4100.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The week of prayer for Christian unity from January 18 through the 25th is a time to intercede for those who are no longer united in the gifts that Christ gave and which we celebrate in the Sacraments of the Church. As it concludes on the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, and we are observing this year in his honor, spend some time this week with one of his letters and read it prayerfully as if he's writing it to you personally. Ask his intercession for those of other faith traditions to truly come to be as Jesus prayed, "that all be one, as You Father are in me and I am in You."

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2009 is rooted in the experience of the churches in Korea. In their context of national division the churches have turned for inspiration to the prophet Ezekiel, who also lived in a tragically divided nation and longed for the unity of his people. The prophet prayed, "that they may become one in Your hand." Ezekiel 37:

~Prayer: *Lord*, who gave yourself on the cross for the unity of all humankind, we offer up to you our human nature marred by egoism, arrogance, vanity and anger. *Lord*, do not abandon the oppressed who suffer from all sorts of violence, anger and hatred, victims of erroneous beliefs and conflicting ideologies. *Lord*, reach out to us with compassion and take care of your people, so that we may enjoy the peace and joy integral to the order of your creation. *Lord*, may all Christians work together to bring about your justice, rather than ours. Give us the courage to help others to bear their cross, rather than putting our own on their shoulders. *Lord*, teach us the wisdom to treat our enemies with love instead of hatred. Amen.

Monday Faith Formation, January 19

NO class session; **do lesson at home**. Students who will do a part in the **STARS Talent show** on Monday, January 26 please come prepared next Monday for your part.

Saturday Faith Formation, January 24

Only Grades K thru 4 meet in church. Grades 5-8 prayer included in the Catholic Vision of Love lessons this session.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

were given information and permission forms for participation in the **MARCH FOR LIFE** to be held THIS Thursday, January 22 in Washington, D.C. Permission forms **MUST** be returned to the Faith Formation office **THIS MONDAY**. Youth who attend public school may get a "Released Time for a Religious Event" letter of excused absence from our office.

STAND UP FOR LIFE...

if you missed signing a postcard about our concern for the **FREEDOM OF CHOICE ACT** proposed to be voted on this month, please find cards in a box on the shelf in our church foyer. Your signature is vital to let our senators and president-elect get our word on this issue.



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YOUTH MINISTRY

Parish Bakers

Have A Heart

For our annual CYM performance

Arsenic and Old Lace

Can you help?

Please donate your favorite home made dessert for our Valentine's Day weekend performances; Saturday is our dinner theatre and Sunday the matinee. We can use the desserts at both performances. And, please, catch one of the shows, we promise a night of entertainment under our new director, Christian De-Filippo. Drop off your donations by 5 PM on Saturday, February 14 to Marian Hall.

CYM contest – The first high school student to tell Mrs. B in person what movie this line came from wins a \$10 certificate of their choice. You must hand a note to her with the exact name of the movie. The first correct answer wins! In what movie would you hear:

“Don't let your past dictate who you are, but let it be a part of who you will become.”

Clean water saves lives.

Our goal of \$8,000 to \$10,000 is getting close – we now have a little over \$7,000. Two of our brother priests in Gulu, Uganda have shared their reflections. Check them out, we update our website frequently.

<http://www.hopemissionuganda.org>

LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FOR OUR SILENT AUCTION:

Last year we raised \$1,085 at our silent auction; so many of you responded that we had to set up extra tables! Examples of donations that have been successful in the past include: Baskets of themed items, such as several items from a university or sports team, wine, specialty coffee, gourmet foods or a lottery ticket money tree. Gift certificates from local businesses or unique jewelry or artisan crafts are also helpful. **Baskets need to be received by Saturday, January 31 at 3 PM.** We certainly do appreciate fully wrapped and ready to auction gift baskets, but we can also assemble gift baskets ourselves, based on the items we receive. An acknowledgement letter for income tax purposes can be provided upon request. Email Barb Belski at belskib@verizon.net or call 412-486-4100, ext. 409.

Cheer on our CYM Basketball teams.

NO ADMISSION CHARGE!

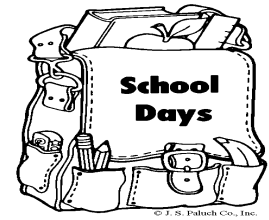
See times below.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sat., Jan. 17	BOY JV vs. St. Catherine – PAC 8 PM
Sun., Jan. 18	PARISH BREAKFAST 8 – 11 AM
Tues., Jan. 20	Play practice 6 – 8 PM Marian Hall
Wed., Jan. 21	10 PM DEPART FOR DC Pro Life March
Thur., Jan. 22	Play Practice 6 – 8 PM Marian Hall
Sat., Jan. 24	BOY JV vs. St. James – PAC 7:30 PM Possible girls game following

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.

ST. MARY



OPEN HOUSE

The school is gearing up to celebrate Catholic Schools Week the last week of January. The week will begin with an Open House on Sunday, January 25th, following the 9:00 AM liturgy. If you are interested in having your child(ren) attend a school of excellence with emphasis on the Catholic faith, please consider attending. St. Mary School is Middle States accredited and ministers to children from age 3 to grade 8. Come and see what we are all about!

MAGAZINE SALE

Our annual QSP magazine sale begins January 12th through February 3rd. If you are interested in ordering a new magazine or would like to renew your current subscription, might you consider doing it through the school? All profit from this sale goes directly to our St. John Neumann Tuition Assistance Fund. Feel free to stop by the office for an order form or contact any student who attends St. Mary's.

PTG AUCTION

The annual PTG Auction will take place on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at the Pittsburgh Field Club. The evening will include a silent and live auction, a sit-down dinner, and special entertainment by Five Guys, featuring our own Drew Martier. Tickets will go on sale beginning in January.

THE ST. MARY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

will hold their annual "Night at the Races" in Marian Hall on Saturday, January 24th, 2009. \$20.00 a ticket includes food buffet, beer, setups, and soda. (BYOB) Doors open at 7:00 pm. Buffet dinner at 7:15. Races start at 8:00. Adults Only. For tickets call Joy Soeder at 412-487-6516.



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BLOOD DRIVE

The **BLOOD DRIVE** will be held on January 25, 2009 from 8:00AM to 1:00PM. Walk ins are welcomed and remember the life you save maybe your own. A volunteer will call you or perhaps already have or you may call Rose at 412.486. 9458. Thank you!

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS & PARENTS

“Burning Hearts”



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Saturday, January 24, 2009, we will journey to Mercy Hospital for a tour of this Catholic hospital, along with a presentation from John Baker, M.D. Ph.D., Interventional Radiologist. We will see and learn about his operating/procedure room. It is amazing with all of the computers making it very progressive and futuristic looking! Permission slips may be obtained in the CCD office and returned in care of Mark Tobin, by noon on Thursday, January 22nd. We will meet at St. Mary's parking lot at 11:30AM.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Sharing Tree Results

My thanks to all who participated in the Sharing Trees this year. Through your generosity, we were able to minister to 600+ people making their Christmas a memorable one. It is such a joy to work with the parishioners of St. Mary's. No matter what the cause, I can count on your help. Thank you and May God Bless All of You. Sister Lois

Teens & Adult Enrichment and On-going Formation

JOURNEYS OF SAINT PAUL with Father Ed Schleicher, began Saturday, January 17. There are 3 more sessions, so come the next weeks to get in on the "trip" till Feb. 7, 2:00-4 PM in St. Mary School Library. A children session of short film, talk-sharing, and game, is being offered at the same time.

MARKET DAY pick up will be next Monday, Jan. 26. Unpacking begins at 5:00 PM-helpers welcome! Pick-up orders begin at 6:30 PM; we'd like to be finished by 7:15PM for another program to begin.

January 25 – Sanctity of LIFE Sunday is being observed nationally. Look on www.nrlchapters.org for details.

ATTENTION ALL MEN AND YOUNG MEN

Mark your calendars! The 4th Annual Gathering of Catholic Men at A. J. Palumbo Center will take place on **Saturday, April 18, 2009!** This year's speakers include Bishop Zubik, Fr. Scott Seethaler, Fr. Larry Richert, Msgr. Ed Burns and Mike Clark. For more details visit www.cmfppitt.org or call Jim Finn at the rectory. He is saving a spot for YOU!

HOLY HOUR FOR MEN

Plan to spend a few hours next **Saturday, January 24, 2009** from 8am until 10am at St. Paul Seminary with Bishop Zubik for adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament followed by a witness talk by Danny Abramowicz former NFL All Pro wide receiver. No cost! Let Jim Finn 412.486.4100 know if you'd like to car pool.



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

Frank Vinski, Bill Vistein, Mary Lou, Mark Thimons, Luke Noullet.

MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, DC THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2009



Please join us as we peacefully rally and march in our nation's capital to petition congress and the new president to protect the right to life of every human being. St. Mary's is sponsoring 2 busses to DC at no cost to our parishioners:

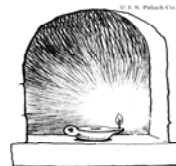
FIRST BUS - leaves St. Mary's at midnight on January 22nd to arrive in DC for 7:00 AM Rally for Life and Youth Mass.

SECOND BUS - leaves St. Mary's after 5:30 AM mass to arrive in DC for noon Rally and March. Both busses arrive back at St. Mary's at approximately 10:30 PM. For information and sign-up, please contact Carol Loisel at carold@zoominternet.net or 724-443-7398

LENTEN FISH DINNER MEETING

Please join us at 7:00PM on January 21st in the School Library to review our dinner plans. We are hoping that all last year volunteers will join us, along with any new volunteers who would like to become part of our team. If you have any questions, please contact Paul & Ginny Penezic at 412-487-5211.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



We have found the Messiah

PARISH BREAKFAST JANUARY 18, 2009 8 – 11AM

We will serve pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, baked goods, fruit salad and fruit juice. FREE REFILLS on the coffee and tea plus PLENTY OF FELLOWSHIP. It is the best breakfast bargain in town. \$6 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors, \$5 for children age 2 – 12 and children under 2 years of age eat for free.

St. Mary Travelers

In keeping with our Parish 175th Anniversary two fun trips have been planned for this year, keeping in mind the history of St. Mary's that began with St. John Neumann. Mark your calendars for May 16th and 17th for a trip to Niagara Falls. We will stop at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima before arriving at the Falls. There you will have an afternoon at the Casino Niagara, or you can spend the day sightseeing and visiting the many attractions. Dinner that evening will be at the Casino with their fabulous buffet. In the morning we will attend Mass at St. Mary of the Cascade Church also affiliated with St. John.

Our second trip is July 18th and 19th to Lancaster for the stage production of "In The Beginning" at the beautiful Millennium Theatre. In the evening we will attend a Dinner Theatre. After breakfast in the morning we board the motor coach for Philadelphia where we will attend Mass at the Shrine of St. John Neumann. Both trips will include transportation, accommodations, breakfast, dinners and all taxes and gratuities.

Respect Life

The members of St. Mary's Respect Life Committee will be collecting donations after all masses today. These funds are used to support our local and national Pro-Life organizations. There will be postcards in the back of church to be signed if you missed the opportunity to do so last weekend. The Pro-Life Committee will mail them to our legislators and ask that they oppose the Freedom of Choice Act which would overturn many exiting policies protecting unborn babies.

175TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

OPEN HOUSE - St. Mary's School has provided students in this parish 162 consecutive years of Catholic education. You are welcome to visit the school next Sunday at 10:00am. Alumni are especially urged to attend to see all of the many changes since they attended St. Mary's.

Anticipating World Day for Consecrated Life celebrated nationally on Feb. 8th, we at St. Mary's as part of our 175th anniversary year, will honor and recognize those from our parish who have entered religious life on Sunday, Feb. 1st at the 11:00am Mass.

Did you know that seven women entered religious life, and four men entered the religious life. See the bulletin board featuring photos of these sisters, brothers, and priests in the narthex. Following Mass all are welcome to greet our guests in Marian Hall.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

There are times when I find myself simply wandering around the many acres of sacred grounds that we have here in the Parish Family of St. Mary of the Assumption. In my meanderings with no purpose in mind I am so often struck by the expressions of LIFE that appear in so many forms. It is the stuff of meditation that takes one out of this world into the mysterious arena of the divine Creator.

In my roaming that sometimes takes place in the pitch black of the night (especially after 12:00 midnight when the brilliant lights leading down through our entranceway automatically go off thus creating an eerie sense for the solitary wanderer), I am periodically startled by the leap of an animal. Most of the time I reconnoiter that it is a deer, or many deer, cruising past my eyes. Other times I turn in fright not being able to identity its movement, and not too concerned to discover more. In my rambling that sometimes take place in the brilliance of the morning sun, I feel the green grass so soft but hearty beneath my shoe. I stop to be awed by the strength of the trees that have been here longer than most of us, making the saying "you cannot see the forest for the trees" so real and apparent. I dream of the first blossoms of the flowers that are not so far off in the distance that will give a grand lifefulness to so many spaces of our sacred grounds.

In my back and forth running that takes place at all times of the day and night, I cannot help to wonder how LIFE speaks so loudly to those who find their spiritual home on our sacred grounds. Even the many bodies laid to rest in the undulating hills of our cemetery remind us of those who once lived in our midst and now live in a world of immortality. When death speaks to us of LIFE, then we are forced to come to grips with it.

On Thursday of this week, the eyes of all Americans who wander, roam or meander in the highways and byways of this magnificent country will be squarely upon the March For Life that will once more make Washington, D.C. the center of the news. We all can be proud that our Parish Family once again is the sponsor of those who go in our name. Seems, does it not, that being members of this Parish Family and experiencing the expressions of life that pour out from every facet of our sacred grounds at all times of the night and day, that the sanctity of HUMAN LIFE cannot be denied?????