

Bulletin # 910038

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

Attn: Bee

MESSAGES:

PARISH SHARE - TODAY

The SECOND collection at all the liturgies today is for our pledge or contribution to the 2006 *Parish Share Program*. We hope that all parishioners will make an honest effort to help us meet our assessment of \$133,101. We ask that each wage earner give *at least* \$100 to the Campaign. Those who forgot to bring their response card today may send it to the rectory anytime this week. Those who wish to wait for another time so that they can make a larger pledge or cash payment than they are able to do at this time may certainly do so. We hope to make a report on the amount of the pledges as soon as possible so that the Parish Share Team may have a better idea of the success of the Campaign. Recall that once we meet our goal, the overage amount will be kept in our own Parish Family for our own needs.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY

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

WAY OF THE CROSS EACH FRIDAY

A very special liturgical service during the season of Lent is the *Way of the Cross*. This journey of the stations allows us to relive the final steps of the Lord Jesus in his suffering and death. Each week we have two major opportunities to celebrate this service. On Friday at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon, we are invited to join the students of our Catholic Grade School for their version of the service. Then, on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. we will celebrate the *Way of the Cross* for all those who wish to make Friday a special day during the season of Lent.

ALL LITURGICAL MINISTERS!

All adult extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, greeters, lectors, music ministers, including the adult choir, contemporary group, bell choir, cantors and instrumentalists, and ushers are invited to gather with us for our Mardi Gras celebration this Tuesday, February 28th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Marian Hall. We hope to create a socially friendly atmosphere during which we might meet and greet other ministers who are part of the many liturgical celebrations of our Parish Family. Might we take this opportunity to express the appreciation of the entire Parish Family to all those who serve us in a Liturgical Minister role? All of us are spiritually enriched by the many parishioners who offer themselves so generously to each and every liturgical celebration we have in our sacred church.

LENTEN PACKET SENT HOME

The second of our quarterly packets that is sent to every registered home each year has been mailed during this past week. This Lenten Packet includes a variety of items that hopes to bring a personal spirituality to each home. Included: the entire Lenten schedule, a daily calendar for Lent, an article about Lent. This packet also has some items of pertinent information for all those committed to our parish life. We encourage families to make use of this packet to deepen the spirituality of their home.

LIST OF ALL CONTRIBUTORS

The Lenten Packet also contains a listing of all those who have pledged or contributed to the Pledge Campaign. Please check to make sure that your name has not been omitted or misspelled. This list will be of great value when we create a Memorial Booklet for all those who have been part of this very important project to benefit the entire Parish Family.

FINAL SUNDAY FOR BAPTISMS

Today is the final Sunday for Baptisms before Lent. Baptisms will not be scheduled during Lent, except in an emergency case, as we concentrate on the suffering and death of Jesus. During the Easter Season, celebrating the new life of the Resurrection, baptisms will be celebrated every Sunday, except the weekend of the Group First Eucharist.

Masses for the Week

Sunday, February 26 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 4:00 p.m. Ann Driscoll (Mary Jo)
 6:00 pm Matthew Guardalabene (Dorothy Guardalabene)
 7:30 a.m. Nanette Kowaleski (Children)
 9:00 a.m. Ed & Bert Bittner (Family)
 11:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
 6:00 p.m. Jason Coleman (Faith Formation Youth Ministry)

Monday, February 27
 7:00 a.m. Special Intention Toni Korbe (Friends)
 10:00 a.m. Nicola Didomenico (Rocco Didomenico) (from 1-4-06 funeral)

Tuesday, February 28
 7:00 a.m. In Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus (Carolyn Peternel)
 10:00 a.m. Special Intention Dan & Shirley Stepnick (Lil Viscio, & Lynn Scott & Family)

Wednesday, March 1 - Ash Wednesday
 7:00 a.m. Sam Bennardo (Family)
 10:00 a.m. Mary Schultz (Schultz Family)
 12:00 noon Liturgy of the Word Service
 4:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word Service
 7:00 p.m. Domenico Castellano (Daughter Concetta Liberto)

Thursday, March 2
 7:00 a.m. Jackie Doughty (Paul & Anne Mitsch)
 10:00 a.m. Jim Soeder (Diane Titterington)

Friday, March 3 - St. Katherine Drexel (World Day of Prayer)
 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Staniszewski (Richey)
 10:00 a.m. Bill Riedinger (Marge & Family)

Saturday, March 4 - St. Casmir
 8:00 a.m. George Vinski (Kathryn Frankovich)
 4:00 p.m. Persons with Disabilities (Faith Formation Families)
 6:00 p.m. Joe Frauenholz (Wife Mary Ann & Children)

Sunday, March 5 - First Sunday of Lent
 7:30 a.m. Betty Vrscak (Husband Nick Vrscak)
 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish
 11:00 a.m. Patricia Akanowicz (Bill & Jean Eckert)

A VOCATION VIEW

God will lead you and speak to you. Are you willing to be led? Listen to God speaking in your heart. (Hosea 2: 16-17, 21-22)

R.I.P. Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Anthony Pugliese, Sr.** of our Parish Family, **Robert Marshall, father of Bill Marshall** of our Parish Family, **William Porter, father of Glenn Porter** of our Parish Family, **Louise Sunseri, mother of Michael Sunseri** of our Parish Family, and **Edward Kramer, brother of Paul Kramer** of our Parish Family.

CEMETERY: CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND DECORATIONS- Please remove all Christmas Wreaths and Decorations before March 1, 2006. If unable to do so, our maintenance crew will remove and discard. Thank you.

BID PROCESS TO BEGIN SOON: The "Bid Process" for the Parish Activity Center (PAC) will begin soon and every contractor who has contacted us will be given the plans for the building. Also, we invite other parishioners who might be able to offer an IN KIND contribution to the plans to make their generosity known at this time. This would include those who are sub contractors, vendors, and suppliers of any materials that we might need for the PAC. These contributions will make the "shovel in the ground" for the building come much more quickly.

February 19,2006	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	764	\$14,709.00
Cash/Loose Cks	—	697.00
Children's Offer.	60	61.50
Religious Form.	144	1,816.00
School Collect.	1	5.00
Human Develop.	1	10.00
Parish Share	2	75.00
Parish Needy	14	190.00
TOTAL	986	\$17,563.50

DAILY



READINGS

Feb. 27: 1 Pt 1:3-9; Mk 10: 17-27
 Feb. 28: 1 Pt 1: 10-16; Mk 10: 28-31
 March 1: Jl 2: 12-18; 2 Cor 5: 20 — 6:2; Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18
 March 2: Dt 30: 15-20; Lk 9: 22-25
 March 3: Is 58: 1-9a; Mt 9: 14-15
 March 4: Is 58: 9b-14; Lk 5: 27-32
 March 5: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3: 18-22
 Mk 1: 12-15

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

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

Mason Adam Coone Parker Dombowski Fox
 We congratulate them, their, parents, godparents and grandparents!

R.C.I.A. Meets each Sunday following the 9 a.m. Liturgy in the rectory dining room. This Sunday's topic: The Liturgy. Next Sunday's topic: The Liturgy, (Eucharist). If you have any questions, please call Father Ed or Jim Finn at (412) 486-4100.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS of Grades 5-6-7-8 If you are INTERESTED in joining with other parents in ministry for and with other youth, and are WILLING to participate in some strategic planning at a session on Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m., call our Faith Formation Office at (412) 486-5521 for further details.

LENTEN NIGHT OF REFLECTION: All women of the Parish are invited to join us on Thursday, March 16, 2006. The evening will start at 5:30 p.m. with Reconciliation and praying of the Rosary. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and presentation by Fr. Lester Knoll. The cost of the evening is \$15. If interested, please call Kathy at (412) 486-0588 or Elaine (412) 4876777. Deadline for reservations is March 10th.

GRIEF AND SUPPORT IN YOUR PAIN OF LOSS: with neighbors of St. Bonaventure Church, meets Friday, March 3rd thru Friday, April 21st, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Call (412) 486-2606 for details.

BIBLE ADVENTURE: Join the path through the history and spirituality of God's Chosen people at a full day adventure Saturday, March 18th at Good Samaritan Church, Ambridge. Call (724) 266-6565 for registration information.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 8th Week in Ordinary Time
 Jesus asks this question in Mark 2:19, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they?" Do you understand your own participation in the Eucharist as being at a wedding feast? Do YOU know Jesus as THE bride-groom? Do you consider yourself as His bride? He started that NEW thinking long ago. Has it stayed in old wine-skins? Or could you be intoxicated with the reality of being intimately His?

Monday Faith Formation. On Feb. 27, bring PALMS from last year to place in the fire-can BEFORE all Parents/guardians and all classes meet IN the education building rooms, 6:30-6:55 PM; 7:00 PM Adults meet in Marian Hall for assembly on "Internet Safety" presentation by the Hampton Police. **Students welcome to wear purple, green, and/or gold** in anticipation of MARDI GRAS.

Catholic Vision of LOVE for Grades 5-6-7-8, 7:00-8:00 PM, Feb.27.
 Family Program youth welcome to participate with grade on Monday eve.

Saturday Faith Formation, March 4 ,9:30 AM Grade 2 and Parents meet IN Church.

FIRST EUCHARIST: Assemblies for Parent/guardian AND child come to ONE of the sessions: Saturday March 4,9:30 AM in Church; Saturday, March 4, 3:00 PM in Marian Hall, or Monday, March 6, 7:00 PM in Marian Hall.

Confirmation Candidates - we are proud of YOU, and so blessed that you are showing responsible leadership in various aspects of our parish life. **THANK YOU** for supporting one another with your prayer and works of service at the retreat.

Family Program participants, look forward to being able to have your pre-school through Grade 2 children participate at a Liturgy of the Word with Children at the March 19 , 9:00 AM Mass. If YOU will like to assist with the children liturgy that Day, please contact our Faith Formation office, 412-486-5521 to give your name and contact information.

Sunday PRE-SCHOOL children meet in school Room 7 while Parents participate at 9 AM Liturgy. Stories, songs, crafts for little ones to enjoy. Children participate at the Liturgy of the Word for Children when celebrated each last Sunday of the month. For further details call Megan Kemmler at 724-444-4545.

Lenten Season

YOUTH MINISTRY

TONIGHT ...

Don't Miss ...

T-ROC – FEBRUARY 26th

Our topic is the mission and organization of our Catholic Church.

Gather for Liturgy in church at 6 PM; bring a parent night and a snack to share. We'll munch as we EXPLORE THE MEANING OF CHURCH and the evening will conclude around 8:30 PM.

Look for a sign-up sheet for our Fish Dinners and our Crosswalk at our February 26th T-ROC.

WHY COME to T-ROC?

To learn about your faith... with other teens... develop community...form relationships with our young adult T-team.

We are committed to making **FAITH COME ALIVE** for our parish youth. Think about how you prepare for other milestones in your life...like your driver's license...jobs...college.

Should your soul be any less significant?

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sun. Feb. 26 T-ROC – 6:00 – 8:30 PM-Meet in Church

Wed. March 1 Ash Wed. Lenten Experience for Teens 4:15 PM

Crosswalk

Calling all Teens...Get ready for the Good Friday Crosswalk! St. Mary's will be working with Epworth Methodist and Stoneridge Covenant to plan this year's Crosswalk. **SIGN UP WILL BE POSTED AT TONIGHT'S T-ROC.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

We are encouraging all teens to come to the 4:30 p.m. service on Ash Wednesday. Gather as a group in the right front pews for this powerful Lenten experience.

Our Fish Dinners:

Friday March 10, 17, 24, and 31st. Unlike previous years, we are looking for teens (grades 8-12) who need service hours and can work from 4:45 to 8:45 p.m.

ST. MARY SCHOOL

REGISTRATION - Registration for students in preschool (3 and 4 year-olds), kindergarten, and grades 1 through 8 for the 2006-2007 school year will take place the weeks of February 27th through March 10th. Parents/guardians may come to the school office between the hours of 11:00 AM through 1:00 PM to register.

Children registering for kindergarten **MUST** be 5 years of age by September 1, 2006.

Requirements for registration include your child's birth and baptismal certificates and the child's social security number. A \$100.00 non-refundable registration fee is also required at this time which will be applied to next year's tuition.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS -Come and pray the Stations of the Cross on the Fridays during Lent with the school students in grades 4-8 beginning March 3rd through April 7th at 2:00 PM in church. Primary students (grades 1-3) will pray the Stations on the following Wednesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 at 1:50 PM.

INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM - All parents and guardians of the school and parish are invited to attend a program on internet safety sponsored by the Hampton Township police department on Monday, February 27th, at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will focus on websites being used by our young adults which are inappropriate websites. It would be very worthwhile to attend this program if you have concerns or just want to be informed. This program will take place in Marian Hall, but no children are permitted to attend—this is for parents/adults only.



GENERAL PARISH NEWS

Let The Little Children Come To Me: Each week a different Family Perspective by Bud Ozar will appear in the bulletin courtesy of the Core Team of our post baptism ministry to young children (birth to age five) and their parents. **There is a good parenting lesson in today's Gospel. As children face new challenges, parents need new parenting strategies. Many methods that previously worked don't make sense to children today. This Lent examine your parenting style so that you are not "putting new wine into old skins."**

NOTE - There will not be a PRAY and PLAY DAY on Ash Wednesday, March 1st.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE: Our men will be going to St. Paul's Retreat Center next weekend, March 3-4-5. **WHY NOT JOIN THEM?** What a wonderful beginning to LENT! We all need to be led out of fear into the faithful loving arms of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Making a retreat will help you find out how to do this! Call Charlie Fischer (412) 487-4667, Jerry McNalley (724)443-6161 or James Karcher (724) 444-5798 to find out more or to get a ride to the Southside Retreat Center. **YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF!**

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR MEN: You are invited to join men from here and all over the Diocese on Sat., April 1st, at the A. J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University for the **First Annual Gathering of Catholic Men**. Make a reservation today. Specially priced admission tickets are available on a first come, first served basis for the special price of \$30.00 if purchased before the March 10th deadline. Call the Rectory at (412) 486-4100 or stop by the Rectory Office to purchase a ticket. Justin Pizzella (724) 274-7474 has more information. If enough from St. Mary's attend, we will have a bus. **COME and SEE how your life can be changed!**

LENTEN ENRICHMENT SERIES: Mark your calendars and plan to participate each Tuesday evening during Lent in this special series. Father Tom Sparacino will kick off the series on Tuesday, March 7th, at the special 7:00 p.m. liturgy. All are invited and encouraged to attend!

LENTEN WORD AMONG US BOOKLETS: Are available in the bookrack located in the back of our Church.

AROUND THE TOWN

ST. MARY'S MIDDLE ROAD: is hosting a trip to Washington, D.C. We have a full itinerary scheduled, including the new WW II Memorial, the Pope John Paul Cultural Center, Franciscan Monastery and Catacombs, Arlington Cemetery etc. An extra highlight is the Sunset Parade and Concert performed by the Marine Corps Band. Trip cost of \$366.00 per person (double occupancy) includes transportation, accommodations at Marriott in Virginia, admission fees, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, all taxes and gratuities, including tour guide and driver. Dates: May 25, 26, & 27. For details call Arlene Nath (412) 487-1891 or Mary Ann Coholich (412) 486-0165.

VERONICA'S VEIL: In its 87th season of presentation, "Veronica's Veil," America's Passion Play, will be performed for only two weekends. Friday, March 24th and Saturday, March 25th at 8:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 26th at 2:00 p. m.; Saturday, April 1st at 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in the Veronica's Veil Auditorium, 44 Pius Street on the South Side Slopes. This famous production is a live, spoken drama of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ and the perils of the early Christians.. An inspiration to audiences of all faiths and ages. Due to the limited number of shows, we suggest that you make your reservations early by calling (412) 431-5550, faxing orders to (412) 431-3463, or visiting our website at www.veronicasveilplayers.org. Come and journey with us this Lenten Season. There will also be a special presentation of the Living Stations by the Veronica's Veil Players on Friday, March 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the Veronica's Veil Auditorium, 44 Pius Street, on the South Side Slopes.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND: We won't promise you the healing of a paralytic on a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** as in today's Gospel. However, so many couples have said of their Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends that they have never or rarely experienced anything so positive for their marriage. The next Worldwide marriage Encounter Weekend is March 31 through April 2, 2006 located at the Days Inn in Butler, PA. Additional weekends are planned for September and November. For more information or to register, contact Mary & Lou Locante at (412) 635-7775 or check us out on the web at www.mepittsburgh.org.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

These are the days of Lent and the entire atmosphere of the Church creates for us a time of reflection and meditation. The liturgical spotlight shines directly upon the Cross of the Lord Jesus. During the course of the year, the Cross sometimes is placed in the background, or merely looms almost surreptitiously on the back wall of the church. Not so during Lent! During Lent, the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus is front and foremost in all that we do. Suffering catches us in its web. It stings some in every fiber of their being. It haunts others with each of their waking days. It is all around us. A day does not go by without members of our Parish Family needing our prayers because of untold suffering in their lives. Cancerous tumors are robbing this person of life, heart disease is confining that person to an unwanted hospital stay, and viral dysentery seems to be touching everyone with uncomfortable moments. Pain cries out for relief!

But suffering is not confined simply to our bodies. For some of us, our hearts and minds are full of agony and torment. Our prayers are also sought for all those persons who experience the torturous distress of the mind. For some, it becomes a mental disease that makes every day a struggle; for others, days no longer have meaning because they have lost the only one they love; while others simply find all their days filled with worry and concern about every issue in life from the bombing of terrorists to the fluctuation of the stock market.

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

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