

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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

A MAJOR PARISH EVENT

This Thursday May 7th at 7:00 p.m., our parish church will be filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit as we celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We extend an invitation to all parishioners to join Bishop Paul Bradley, priests of the area and the guests gathering with our Candidates to welcome the incoming of the Holy Spirit. Our Parish Family has been intricately involved in the preparation process of these young people as we have prayed with them when they made first commitment in our presence at a Sunday liturgy, and applauded them when they signed their Book of Commitment at another Sunday liturgy. We congratulate their parents and guardians, their sponsors and friends, and all those catechists who have brought the Catholic Faith to their hearts. The Holy Spirit will enlighten their lives, fill their hearts with new love and allow them to stand fully initiated into the Parish Family of the St. Mary of the Assumption. What a magnificent night for our entire Parish Family to witness in person! Come, join us, as we congratulate Bishop Bradley on his new assignment as the Ordinary of the Diocese of Kalamazoo, as he celebrates one of his last Confirmations in our Diocese!

THE "TONGUES" OF PENTECOST

Would you like to proclaim the Word of the Lord in a language other than American English? What a way to make the "many tongues" of Pentecost come alive for those in our parish church. Once more we are looking for those who might read some of the Word in a foreign language. Interested? Please call the rectory to make your request known.

FISH DINNER REPORT

A special thank-you to all the volunteers and all those who patronized our fish dinners this year as a profit of \$12,207.64 was gleaned. A written report for the dinner is available in the foyer for those who might be interested. The profit for the dinner will be used to continue to upgrade our Marian Hall kitchen.

SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2009
A "RED LETTER DAY" with the
WEARING OF THE RED OUTFIT!

GROUP FIRST EUCHARIST

Congratulations to all those who assisted in making last weekend's celebration of the Group First Eucharist for so many young people a wonderful experience of a Community of Faith at liturgy. We applaud the parents and guardians of these young people with the dear hope that they will bring their children EACH week to receive the Eucharist. We thank the catechists and aides who have worked so tirelessly to catechize the candidates. We recognize the acceptance of the entire Parish Family in opening their hearts to remember these young people in prayer. Another great moment of PARISH LIFE!!!

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING

Pastoral Council members are reminded of their monthly meeting set for Monday of this week, May 4th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. Under the inspiration of the "parish wide survey" taken last year, the Council is now forming the major GOAL of 2009 --- to create Twelve Communities of Faith within the geographic boundaries of our Parish Family to invite all parishioner "to take ownership" by an increased participation in parish life. All parishioners should be alert to the development of this process as it unfolds during this current year.

"VICARS AND VICARIATES" (part 7)

The Vicariate Structure now being planned for the Diocese would (a) decentralize the diocesan structure by appointing vicars who have the authority to act and coordinate the life and ministry of all the parishioners in their geographical regions; and (b) reorient the diocese to emphasize the approach of servant leadership from diocesan offices to parishes; and (c) reorganize other pastoral/ministerial functions driven by the needs of parishes, taking care to avoid duplication and waste.



**FESTIVAL
FLASHES**

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The Parish Family Festival will be June 25-27 ... delicious meal set for each night ... new rides are coming ... the BIG train will return ... volunteers are always welcome to offer their time and energy ... watch for this year's Steeler Booth ... to celebrate our 175th anniversary year ... FIREWORKS (real ones this time) will be aglow on Saturday night!



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 3, 2009 - Fourth Sunday in Easter

- 4:00 p.m. Natalie Gubanic Missenda - Tony & Joanne Kramer
- 6:00 p.m. Carmella & Nicola Tornese - Family
- 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

Monday, May 4, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Jessica Mitsch - Grandparents
- 10:00 a.m. Anna Cannon - Josephine Blythe

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Regis B. Huber - Wife & Children
- 10:00 a.m. Coby Urban - David & Carol Thompson & Family

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Edward & Josephine Walter - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Tim (Tiger) Szazynski - Ann Newill

Thursday, May 7, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Edward Lupone, Sr. - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Ralph Costa - Paul & Kelly Zoeller
- 7:00 p.m. Confirmation with Bishop Paul Bradley

Friday, May 8, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Agnes Wetzel - Cody Family
- 10:00 a.m. Maureen Gessler - Mom & Dad

Saturday, May 9, 2009 - Easter Weekday

- 8:00 a.m. Thaddeus Bober - Wife & Children
- 4:00 p.m. Clementine Heintz - Harry & Rachele
- 6:00 p.m. Nellie Kirzcy & Bobby Pawlowski -
Daughter & Cousin

Sunday, May 10, 2009 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 7:30 a.m. Vincenza DeRenzo - Family Friend
- 9:00 a.m. Jeffrey Schneider - The Balestrino Family
- 11:00 a.m. Karen Lynn Mickus - St. Mary's Adult Choir

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday** (Marian Hall) Hospitality Weekend after all Liturgies
May 3 (Church) 9:00AM - Children's Choir Mass
- Monday** (Marian Hall) 2:30PM - Brownie Troop #205
May 4 (Catacombs) 6:00PM - CYM
(Church) 7:00PM - Adult Education
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Pastoral Council
(Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice
- Tuesday** (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
May 5 (Church) 2:45PM - Children Hand Bell Practice
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Mtg.
- Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Little Children Come
May 6 (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Rectory) 7:00PM - 175th Anniversary Mtg.
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday** (Church) 7:00PM - Confirmation with Bishop Bradley
May 7
- Friday** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
May 8 (Hampton SMAA Varsity Banquet
Banquet Hall)
- Saturday** (Marian Hall) 7:15PM - Middle School Dance
May 9
- Sunday** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Marian Day Breakfast after all
May 10 Liturgies

National Day of Prayer

on May 7 theme is "Prayer ... America's Hope!" It's based on Psalm 33:22, which says, "May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in You."

CONGRATULATIONS to our youth and young adults coming to Confirmation this Thursday, May 7, 7:00 PM by Auxiliary Bishop Paul Bradley. Their being strengthened in THE SPIRIT is celebrated with pride by our entire parish family and the many sponsors and visitors whom we graciously welcome. Our wishes and hopes are that the newly confirmed will go forth realizing the Gifts of the Spirit in daily living and serving in our parish family and the wider community.

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 Eileen Driscoll, Mother of Maura and sister of Sandy Dziubek.

March 8, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	717	\$14,513.98
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$1,777.00
Children's Offertory	39	\$82.00
Easter	6	\$250.00
Holy Land	3	\$35.00
Parish Share 2009	32	\$2,145.00
Parish Needy	26	\$451.00
Total	823	\$19,253.98

Daily Readings



- MAY 4:** ACTS 11:1-18; JN 10:1-10
- MAY 5:** ACTS 11:19-26; JN 10:22-30
- MAY 6:** ACTS 12:24 - 13:5A; JN 12:44-50
- MAY 7:** ACTS 13:13-25; JN 13:16-20
- MAY 8:** ACTS 13:26-33; JN 14:1-6
- MAY 9:** ACTS 13:44-52; JN 14:7-14
- MAY 10:** ACTS 9:26-31; 1 JN JN 3:18-24; JN 15:1-8

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

COMMUNAL ANOINTING OF THE SICK

will be celebrated during the 10:00 A. M. Mass on **Tuesday, May 19, 2009**. As stated on the front of our bulletin, this sacrament is administered twice a year in a communal celebration. This sacrament can be received more than once and if you are anticipating surgery or have a serious illness or are feeling the effects of age, please plan to receive this sacrament. All who request this sacrament should receive it with full faith and devotion. Do not delay in receiving this sacrament. If you need a ride, call Sister Lois (412)486-4021.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, is a special celebration of *World Day of Prayer for Vocations*. The world-wide Church honors all Christian vocations. Jesus gives his life for us that we might know fullness of life. We pray for openness to God's call and to accept the gift of our Christian vocation. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is with us to guide and protect us on our life journey.

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE

A prayer tool to help us pray for an increase of church vocations is available to host in your home. Thanks to the Proviano family for hosting. They are able to display this chalice in their home for two weeks. Any parishioner interested in hosting the chalice is welcome to call Ron Ondrizek at 412.

A VOCATION VIEW

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we celebrate World Day of Prayer for vocations. What love God has bestowed on us in calling us his children! Pray that you may be faithful to your vocational call.

(1 John 3:1-2)

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 attend. Please call no later than tomorrow, Monday, May 4th.

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 usually on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room. Call Monica (412)492-0242 for more information. All are welcome including grandparents and care-givers. NEXT PRAY and PLAY is this Wednesday, May 6th at 9:30am.

PARENTING POINTERS

Are you as smart as your teen- about the internet and social networking? Even if you don't like to mess with computers, learn enough about the internet to guide your children and set boundaries. Insist that your teen "befriend" you and be a silent partner.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Resolving an argument: Strategy #1 CONCEDE. Seldom is it this easy but if the issue is really important to one partner and not to the other, consider this a gift to your spouse that will be returned in time. Next week: COMPROMISE.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for 4th Sunday of Easter

How is the image from this week's Gospel, of Jesus as a **Good Shepherd**, meaningful to YOU? How do you lay down your life for others as a follower of Jesus? Read Psalm 23 and reflect on each of the images and how each is applicable to your own life now, eg. "He restores my soul." What restores and refreshes you?

NEW Times for Faith Formation next season our Saturday group will meet 10:30 AM till Noon, and an additional time Mondays 4:30-6:00 PM in response to requests from families with young children.

CCD MAY NEWS CARDS will be sent out on your email that you have provided. If you do not have email, and need a printed copy, please call the CCD office to receive May's CCD news!

Children/Youth who attend PUBLIC SCHOOLS and 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 ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org



Grades 6-7-8 Youth and Parent/Guardians welcome to meet with Mr. Ron Stone of our **Middle School Ministry** to attend the **Pirate's game with Huston Astro's, Friday, May 29**. Tickets for grandstand or bleachers only \$9.00 per person. A carpool will leave St. Mary's at 5:45 PM. The game begins at 7:00 PM. Send name(s) and payment to "Mr. Ron Stone-Burning Hearts" c/o St. Mary Faith Formation Office. Checks payable to "St. Mary CCD"

Grade 1 Children and Parent/Guardians 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, five after Noon, or Monday, May 18, 4:00 or 6:00 PM

Grade 7 Youth and Parent/Guardians 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

Grade 7 Youth and Parent/Guardians 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

Gathering for ALL clusters will be **May 30** at the **6:00 PM** 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.

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. We need help in the following areas: assembling the mailing of invitations, baking for the breakfast meal served to the seniors and their guests, serving the meal and clean up afterward. Call the CYM office or email Barb Belski with your area of interest.

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 THIS weekend. We will need CYM parents and teens to help with tickets sales at any of this weekend's five liturgies. Report to the CYM table after Communion. **Appalachia bound teens must sign up for an interview and pick up their application and consent form for the 2009 mission trip at the CYM table THIS WEEKEND. Keep in mind that a good time for scheduling the interview is on Mondays at the Catacomb.**

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sat., May 2	CYM at 4 & 6 PM liturgies
Sun., May 3	CYM at all three liturgies
Mon., May 4	The Catacomb open 6-8 PM Gr.9-12
Thur., May 7	Confirmation
Sun., May 10	Marian breakfast

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



DID YOU KNOW... that St. Mary School is one of the largest, Catholic, Middle States accredited pre-kindergarten through 8th grade schools in the diocese of Pittsburgh?

...that the standardized test scores of our students consistently exceed national and diocesan averages?

...that we have one of the top grade school bands and children's choirs in the diocese?

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

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS - Miss Sandra Ondriezek, one of our 8th grade teachers, has been selected as one of the recipients of the Golden Apple Award, an honor established in the diocese of Pittsburgh to recognize outstanding teachers. We congratulate Miss Ondriezek and are honored to have her on our wonderful staff of teachers.

SCIENCE FAIR - A Science Fair was held in Providence Hall on Tuesday, April 28th.. The 6th and 7th graders had the opportunity to display the research and findings of their scientific investigations. What a wonderful display of investigative research. Great job!

The 8th graders made videos and submitted them to the Westinghouse Energy contest. We wait to hear of the results.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE - The last middle school dance of the year will take place on Saturday, May 9th in Marian Hall from 7:15 - 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the Faith Formation office, rectory, and school. Thanks to all who participated this past year. They were a great success.

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

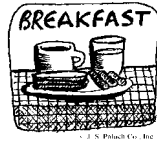
- ◆ The **BIG EVENT** for the month of May is the Anniversary Concert that will take place on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009 following the 11:00am liturgy. Plan now to stay after Mass, enjoy some refreshments and then be treated to a concert by members of our very talented music ministries.
- ◆ During our 175th Anniversary year we would like to honor the veterans buried in our cemetery. If you have any relatives from any of the wars buried at Assumption Cemetery, please contact Tom Politylo 412.486.5030. If you have a photo of the veteran, please send it in to Mary Ann Coholich so that it can be included in the Memorial Day audio-visual presentation on Monday, May 25th during the 10:00am Mass.
- ◆ Members of the Planning Committee for the 175th Anniversary are reminded of the meeting at on Wednesday evening, May 6th at 7:00PM.
- ◆ **YOU HAVE IT & WE NEED IT-** talent for the 175th Anniversary Historical Musical coming this fall is needed! Check out our needs and let Tom Politylo 412.486.5030 know how you can help:
 __ sound tech, __ lighting, __ vocalist, __ dancer,
 __ actor, __ soloist, __ costume design,
 __ stage manager, __ set design, __ ass't director.

OUR PARISH NEWS

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 this weekend. \$75 VALUE GIFT BASKET ESPECIALLY FOR THAT FAVORITE WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE. TICKETS ARE \$2 EACH. DRAWING WILL BE AT 1 PM ON MAY 10. Tickets for the meal and also the basket will be available at the CYM table after all liturgies this weekend.

ENRICHMENT-ADULTS/FAMILIES

Mondays, 7:00-8:00PM in Church

This week, May 4, "What is *Lectio Divina*" and hands-on experience to prepare for next Sunday's Gospel. ALL welcome!



**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. August 10-14, 9:30 AM till Noon -
"Son Rock Kids' Camp."

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

GENESIS OF PITTSBURGH will conduct a Baby Bottle Campaign this year in place of their annual "Tag Day" Collection. Empty baby bottles will be placed in the church narthex on Sunday, May 10th. Donors take the bottles home and deposit loose change, bills or checks and return the filled bottles to the same location on Sunday, May 24th. Genesis thanks you for your continuing support.

Festival Happenings

CRAFT BOOTH

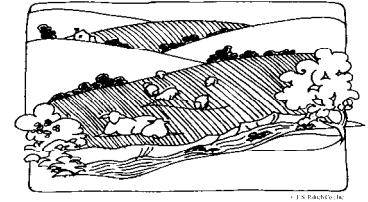
Thank you so much to all crafters who have donated wonderful homemade items to our booth year after year. We do appreciate your generosity and the craft booth as made a lot of money for the church as a result. We are again asking for all types of new craft items that we can sell at the festival. Please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



SILENT AUCTION

The Silent Auction Committee is now searching for donations and volunteers. In order for the Silent Auction to be successful we need your assistance. We invite you or anyone you know who would like to donate their time and/or talent to assist our committee with soliciting donations, setting up or the selling of tickets to contact: Anne Zies. Please let us know if your ministry wants to donate. We will accept donations through June 5, 2009. Thereafter, will we only accept cash donations.

**GOOD
NEWS
TO
SHARE**



AWARD WINNERS

Rev. Kris D. Stubna, Secretary for Education, officiated in the Ad Altare Dei Emblem at the 55th Annual Scout Convocation which was held on April 26th at St. Paul Cathedral. The recipients of this award were Boy Scouts from Troop 380. Congratulations to Craig Genser, A. J. Golio, Graham Gorgas, and Taylor Schriver.

MARKET DAY order forms with scrumptious meals and treats are available with our BULLETIN this week. Won't you take a look and order something for you and your family today? Summer is right around the corner! Be ready for your all your picnic's and parties with Market Day delights!

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.

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.

Stress in Your Marriage?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriage. In today's busy world, many couples experience anger, coldness, frustration, and loneliness. For confidential information please contact Retrouvaille at 412.277.3434. More information is available at www.helpourmarriage.com.

Camp Kon-O-Kwee

Children and GRIEF, a delicate meld. A child who has experienced the death of someone special often has a difficult time. Good Samaritan Hospice will sponsor Camp Good Sam-Supporting, Affirming...Me", for children ages 6 thru 18 who have experienced a significant loss. Campers participate in a combination of fun recreational activities, crafts and supportive discussion. The camp, held August 13 -15 in Camp Kon-O-Kwee, Fombell, PA (30 miles north of Pittsburgh) is designed to build trust, develop self-esteem, and strengthen coping skills. Cost for camp is \$15.00 per child. Volunteer teachers, counselors, and coaches also welcome. Call 1-800-720-2557 or aolewski@goodsamaritanhospice.org.

SPINE AS WE AGE

Kearns Spirituality Center, Sister of Divine Providence

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

9:00-11:00AM; Doors open at 8:15AM

Spine and neck pain? Four out of five adults experience back pain at least once during their lifetime. Ranging from mild discomfort to severe injury, back pain can prevent you from performing many daily activities. There is help. Hear Dr. Matt El-Kadi discuss the latest advances in back care. To register call 412.367.6643

The Stone Rejected

Pastoral Impressions by Barbara Belski BSN, MA, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

In the past few years I have frequently heard the expression “inaction is also making a decision”. Choosing to ignore what Scripture is telling us in today’s liturgy is as strong a personal statement as taking the time to reflect on how the readings fit into your everyday life. Will you accept or reject what God is saying to you today? Look, you took the time to get yourself here for liturgy. Now that you are here, for crying out loud, listen to the readings and reflect on their meaning in your life. I pulled out a few passages, but don’t stop there. Listen as the readings are proclaimed...look them up again when you get back home...find a quiet space and reflect on how God’s Word fits into your daily life.

“...he is the stone rejected by you, the builders,...” Acts 4:11

How quickly do we tend to reject the person who holds us accountable to a higher standard? Listen, if you think that Jesus had a “warm and fuzzy” message to deliver, you are in the wrong church. He came to deliver a message that challenged the status quo...and still challenges us today if we really listen.

“The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” 1 John 3:1

We just returned from a weekend retreat with high school teens and the primary focus was on developing personal prayer forms. Guess what? If you want to know God, you must take the time to pray to God. Making that time to pray requires discipline; in fact, if your first conscious action of every day is anything other than prayer to our God then you are off track...and you will never know God.

“No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down on my own.” John 10:18

Who has been a good shepherd for you? Who would give up their life for you? Who knows you intimately, loves you unconditionally, sacrifices for you totally and appreciates your uniqueness? A true Good Shepherd cares for all, not just the cute and fluffy creatures, but also the misbehaved sheep straying from the fold. [FYI – that’s you and me!]

But, if you have never experienced a nurturing relationship with your parents then you may have a very difficult time integrating this Gospel into your life. Childhood should be our first and primary “Good Shepherd” experience. Lacking that first introduction to total love is an incredible hurdle to overcome; many never get beyond that deep pain of their childhood. However, you can still relate to this Gospel if you have ever been lost. Who hasn’t experienced that moment of panic and fear or just plain frustration? How did you feel when you finally found your way? Relief, calmness, a renewed sense of direction and purpose...these are all common responses when we find ourselves “back on track and following the Good Shepherd.”

Will you be like the builders and reject the stone? Or, will you find a way to connect today’s readings to yourself and make the changes needed to construct a solid life on the foundation of God’s love? And since we are on the subject of love, you can help us to celebrate the Blessed Mother and all special women in our lives at our May 10 Parish Breakfast. In case you haven’t heard, the meal is awesome! Stop by our CYM table today after any liturgy. Share your response to this article and share a memory of a special woman in your life.