

PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 15, 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

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

The Parish Family of *St. Mary of the Assumption* unites with churches across the country as we celebrate World Marriage Day at each of our liturgies celebrated today. This weekend we will congratulate all those who live as married persons in the sacrament of Christ and thank God for the life long commitment they have made to each other.

*A special blessing will be given
to all the married couples
at each of today's liturgies.*

To accent the role of the marriage person in our Community of Faith, we will invite a married couple to proclaim the General Intercessions of today's liturgy, written especially with World Marriage Day in mind. May ALL the married persons of our Parish Family continue to share their sacramental love with each other and all of us!

PARISH SHARE SUNDAY

We will take up the collection for Parish Share in TWO WEEKS --- on the weekend of February 28th/ March 1st --- but the presentation for our assessment for this year will be made NEXT WEEK at all the liturgies. Members of the Finance Council will speak at all the liturgies next week to alert all parishioners to the importance of the Parish Share collection for our Parish Family.

PALM BURNING FOR LENT

Do you still have your palm given out on Passion Sunday of last year??? Would you mind bringing it next Sunday and placing it in the baskets provided at the doors of the church??? We will burn this palm to make the ashes for this year's Ash Wednesday celebration. The liturgy reminds us that Lent is a time for sacrifice as we center ourselves on the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus. The palm of last year was a sign of the triumph of the Christ last year, and this year becomes a fitting symbol in its burning of the reversal of that triumph as we celebrate the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS EVENING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24 th
7:00 p.m. Marian Hall
IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR SERVICE**

MAJOR TEMPORALITY ISSUES

Members of the Temporalities Commission will meet on Wednesday of this week, February 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory and the Commission will be discussing some MAJOR issues that now plague our parish life. The roof on the one whole side of the school needs immediate attention this summer as leaks are springing up throughout and about to ruin the roof deck. The County has reminded us that we must meet the regulations of the law and take our church and other buildings off the SEPTIC system and pump into the public sewer system. Planning for a Maintenance Building, a garage for the priests and flattening out the field area in the front of the property are on the agenda for this night. Any person who would like to share possibilities for any of these needed projects is invited to join the Commission.

CATHOLICS COMING HOME (CCH)

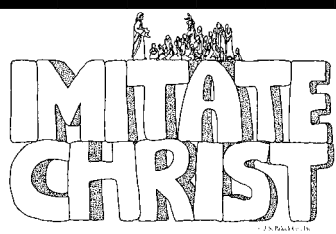
Members of the "Catholics Coming Home" MINISTRY wish to remind all parishioners that Lent and Easter is a wonderful time to invite members of their families who have been distant from the church to begin to return to the Altar of the Lord. In order to help in this process, the CCH Ministry is offering a self help in this week's packet to be sent home to offer ideas to parishioners concerning this process.

NO BAPTISMS DURING LENT

To maintain the spirit of Lent in underscoring the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, we will not celebrate Baptism during this time. Of course, this stipulation does not pertain to an emergency situation where the child is in need of the grace of this sacrament because of some danger. Then, when we come to the Easter Season, when the Church speaks to us of the new life of the Resurrection, we will have baptism almost every Sunday. We remind parents that they can still set up their pre-baptism session during the pregnancy of the mother so that it will not become a last minute rush for their busy.

"BREAK A LEG"

**YOUTH MINISTRY DRAMA TROUPE
AS YOU HAVE YOUR PERFORMANCES
ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
OF THIS CURRENT WEEKEND!**



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, February 15, 2009 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 4:00 p.m. Natalie Gubanic Missenda - M. Lois Crystaloski
- 6:00 p.m. Vincenza Derenzo - Domenic F. Mantella
- 7:30 a.m. Maria Scolieri Distilo - M/M Gregory Distilo
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. James F. Cenci, Sr. - Family

Monday, February 16, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Barbara Jean Orsini - Marinack/Lazzaro Family
- 10:00 a.m. Philip & Carrie Vranic - Dick & Carrie Druzak

Tuesday, February 17, 2009 - Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

- 7:00 a.m. Noreen A. Romano - Raymond Jones
- 10:00 a.m. Louise Sunseri - Pat & Mike

Wednesday, February 18, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Petar Penezic - Dolores & Pete
- 10:00 a.m. Jack Walsh - Dave & Charlotte Scott

Thursday, February 19, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. Eileen Golya - Ron & Marie Puzniak
- 10:00 a.m. Becky Wesolek - Family
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Mothers/Women's Organization

Friday, February 20, 2009 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- 7:00 a.m. John Angelo - Ray Jones
- 10:00 a.m. Alena Huber - Gostowski Family

Saturday, February 21, 2009 - St. Peter Damian

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Blum - Paul & Kelly Zoeller
- 4:00 p.m. Anne Ferber - Carol
- 6:00 p.m. Special Intention - Tom & Susan Urso

Sunday, February 22, 2009 - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 a.m. Catherine Hart - Jim & Rosetta Kmetyk
- 9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 11:00 a.m. Charles Stepnick - Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday Feb. 15** (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Marian Hall) 12:15PM - CYM Play Matinee
- Monday Feb. 16** (School) 8:30AM - Confirmation Retreat - 8th Gr.
(School) Snow Make-up Day - School in session
(Marian Hall) 2:45PM - Troop # 1275 Jr. Girl Scouts
(School) No CCD
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Assumption Cemetery Brd. Mtg.
- Tuesday Feb. 17** (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Cantor Practice
(Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry
(Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
- Wednesday Feb. 18** (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Little Children Come to Me
(Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Pantry) 7:00PM - Temporalities Com. Mtg.
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday Feb. 19** (Church) 7:00PM - Christian Mothers/Women's Organization
(Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday Feb. 20** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - SUPER Bingo
- Saturday Feb. 21** (Choir Room) 8:00AM - Knights of Columbus Meeting
(School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
(Marian Hall) 7:15PM - Middle School Dance
- Sunday Feb. 22** (Marian Hall) 8:00AM - Parish Breakfast
(Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
(Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children

RIP: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Adela Ash, and Robert Conner, father of Jon Conner.



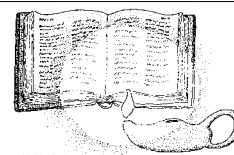
Flowers beautifying the altar are in memory of Mary Clare Arlotti and Dr. Frank J. Flit requested by Kimberly, Sharon, and Gino.

St. Vincent DePaul Society says "Thank You"!

There are two white boxes in the back of church, "Give a little, Get a lot". The money collected is sent to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. The money sent is broken down into grants for different food banks, to pay for their food that is purchased at the Food Bank. This year from January 1, 2008 to January 1, 2009, a total of \$1,580.00 was collected in the name of St. Mary's. We are very grateful to you all!

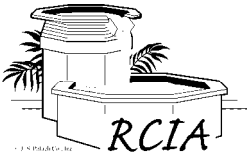
February 8, 2009	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	816	\$17,755.50
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,126.00
Children's Offertory	57	\$84.97
St. Anthony School Program	3	\$120.00
School Colletion	2	\$22.00
Parish Share 2008	2	\$20.00
Parish Needy	48	\$899.00
Total	928	\$20,027.47

Daily Readings



- Feb. 16** Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13
- Feb. 17** Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21
- Feb. 18** Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26
- Feb. 19** Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33
- Feb. 20** Gn 11:1-9; Mk 8:34 - 9:1
- Feb. 21** Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13
- Feb. 22** Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25;
2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12

SACRAMENTAL LIFE



R. C. I. A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more feel free

to call Father Ed or Jim Finn at the rectory (412)486-4100. We will discuss the liturgical season of Lent this week and next week we will discuss the history of the Catholic Church in the United States. All welcome!

A VOCATION VIEW

Proclaiming the gospel is our Christian mission. Jesus proclaimed the Good News and healed because he was rooted in prayer. Take Jesus' lead- pray! (Mark 1:29-39)

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

This weekend at all the Masses a married couple will lead the general intercessions and all married couples will receive a special blessing.



MARRIAGE MOMENT

On anniversaries, the wise spouse always forgets the past, but never the present. What day of the month is your anniversary? If your actual anniversary is a ways away, perhaps you could have a mini celebration next month on that date.

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

A post baptismal ministry to parents with young children under age five. Why not check out the many different activities we offer by coming to church this Wed. Feb. 18th at 9:30am for **PRAY and PLAY DAY**. We meet in the Children's Liturgy Room. Parents, grandparents, care-givers and older siblings are welcome. Call Monica for more information at 412.492.0242.

PARENTING POINTERS

"My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you." (Luke 2:48) Just as Jesus confounded his parents when he stayed in the temple talking with his teachers, sometimes our children worry us. OK, maybe a lot of the time. Put your child in God's hands. Sometimes that's all there is left to do.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

The key words in today's gospel were spoken to Jesus by the leper: "IF YOU WISH, YOU CAN!" How many people are waiting to be "made clean" by your understanding and forgiveness? Remember: IF YOU WISH, YOU CAN!

TRAVELING VOCATION CHALICE

Our parish Vocation Council sponsors an ongoing project to assist those who wish to pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. All are invited to host this prayer tool in their homes. The Balestrino family will host the chalice on February 15th to March 1st. To schedule a week of prayer in your home, call Ron Ondrizek 412.486.6851.

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Sixth Week Ordinary Time

The gospel today shows Jesus, a Jew, angered that the Temple in Jerusalem was not being respected and the outer court had become a market place. Our own Church offers guidelines to help live out faith. These precepts are meant to help strengthen spiritual growth. As stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2041-2043 the precepts state:

1. Attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile work.
2. Confess your sins at least once a year.
3. Receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. Observe days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. Contribute support to provide for the needs of the Church.

Monday Faith Formation, February 16

No session; all do the lesson from the February 22 - Gospel Weekly at home.

Saturday Faith Formation February 21

9:30AM Grades K-1-2-3-4 in Church - Grades 2-3 serve; Grades 5-6-7 & 8 gather in Faith Formation Conference Room for Bake Sale, then to class for Catholic Vision of Love sessions.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

will be participating in a Retreat at Kearns Spirituality Center this Monday. Please keep our candidates in prayer as they continue to be challenged to live in the Spirit of Jesus.

LOVE WALK AMAZEMENT!!!

was experienced by the 50 plus members of our parish family who represented us last week at the liturgy with Bishop Winter and then walked with items for the poor served at the Catholic Charities Rosalia Center and East End Cooperative Ministries. THANKS and God's blessings, for your support.

Meeting Saturday, Feb 21 at 11:15 am in St. Mary School Library for anyone interested in being part of our Rome and Paul and the Underground Church Bible program for families. An event to search, discover, sing, dance, enjoy baking and building together will be four evenings June 28 - July 1, 7:00-9 PM. **Come, be part of the planning team.**

Special Days this Week:

Monday, Feb. 16 - George Washington's Birthday observed. A day to pray for our country's past, and our current, president.

Tuesday, Feb. 17- Seven Holy Founders of the Servants of Mary. Find out more about the seven young men who were counter-cultural in the 1200's and whose work continues today in many countries with the Servites.

Saturday, Feb. 21 - St. Peter Damien, Doctor of the Church.

Adult Enrichment: "Praying Lent" is opportunity for guided prayer, Scripture mediation, and reflection based on the Creighton University Online Ministry program. Contact Rosemary Cather Kelly at 412-418-6476 or RCatherK@verizon.net if YOU are interested in meeting BEFORE Ash Wednesday for an introduction to this enriching format for spiritual growth.

YOUTH MINISTRY

ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

Congratulations to the fine actors and crew: Lu Bur-ranti, Steve DeFilippo, A.J. Golio, Jayna Kavel, Matt LuPone, Sean O'Connor, David Schwoegl, Bill Smolter, Sammi Spagnoletti, Nicole Thens, Katie Walters and Jess Weaver.

Thanks to all of those who supported the cast and crew for our 2009 CYM drama for charity, especially:

Christian DeFilippo	...	as director
Cathy Emala	...	as his assistant
Tricia Dougherty	...	as his assistant
Jennifer Walters	...	as parent support
Richard & Cynthia DeFilippo	...	with the set
Beth Blumer	...	with the program
Emily Stokes	...	with art
Bob Kardasz	...	with sound
Paul Dausch	...	with the t shirts

Certainly many thanks to the parents of the actors for their efforts throughout this long rehearsal period [since last November!] and for all of their help over this weekend.

LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Upcoming service opportunities:

Making pillows for the homeless
 Help at the CYM fundraisers
 Helping at Fish Dinners
 Joining our Good Friday Crosswalk team
 Helping at the Aspinwall VA Hospital

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

Open to any youth in Grade 8 - 12 wishing to participate in our annual Crosswalk with Epworth Methodist on Good Friday, April 10. **Drama background is not needed, only a desire to bring the Passion of Christ to the public at this annual community and ecumenical event.** Call the CYM office at 412-486-4100, ext. 409. As always, parent support will be welcome.

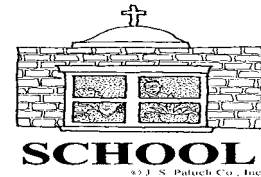
CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

<u>Sat., Feb. 14</u>	Arsenic and Old Lace 8 PM
<u>Sun., Feb. 15</u>	Arsenic and Old Lace 12:45 PM
<u>Sat., Feb. 21</u>	Boy JV time TBA
<u>Sun., Feb. 22</u>	Parish Breakfast 8 - 11 AM Girl Varsity 6:30 PM Boy JV vs. St. Alexis 7:45 PM

APPALACHIA REGISTRATION AND FIRST DEPOSIT [DEPOSIT \$50 TO SECURE A SPOT] FOR OUR ANNUAL APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP FROM JUNE 28 TO JULY 3, 2009 are due now.

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



SUPER BINGO

Another Super Bingo will be held on Friday, February 20th. Advance tickets are \$35.00 each or can be purchased at the door for \$40.00. Admission includes twelve cards for each regular game and four specials; forty games at 50 points each, two specials at 100 points each, two other specials at 200 points each, one jackpot for 500 points and one jackpot for 1000 points. Bingo begins at 7:00 PM. The evening also includes raffles, quickie and instant bingos, and lots of delicious food. Proceeds benefit St. Mary School. Call Coleen at 412-486-6622 for tickets or more information.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

A dance for middle school students will take place on Saturday, February 21st, from 7:15 - 10:00 PM in Marian Hall. The cost of tickets is \$5.00 and can be purchased through the Faith Formation office and the rectory from February 18th -20th. No tickets will be sold at the door. The dress code will be enforced and appropriate dancing and behavior is expected. This event is sponsored by St. Mary's PTG.



PTG AUCTION

The annual PTG Auction will be held at the Pittsburgh Field Club on Saturday, March 7th, at 5:30 PM. It is a wonderful event, filled with a sit-down dinner and entertainment, along with the silent and live auctions and raffles. Tickets are available at \$50 per person by calling Melissa Battaglia at 412-492-9349 or emailing her at melissabattaglia@verizon.net. The theme this year is: "Focusing on the Future." The PTG, who sponsors this great evening, will focus on the future of the school in providing funding for science and technology needs. We are exploring the possibility of a new science lab and new computers. We appreciate any and all support that will benefit the children, our future, of St. Mary School.

175TH ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ The 175th Anniversary Planning Committee will meet on **Wednesday, March 11, 2009** at 7:00 P. M. in the rectory.
- ◆ Thanks to the **PITTSBURGH CATHOLIC** for their excellent coverage of our anniversary. Did you notice the articles appearing in the Jan. 30th and Feb. 6 issues. Extra copies are available at the rectory.
- ◆ **Mark your calendars!** As part of our 175th Anniversary celebration, we have invited priests who are natives of this parish or who were stationed here to conduct our Lenten Enrichment Series beginning on Tuesday, March 3rd. Watch the bulletin for details.
- ◆ **Is Music your cup of Tea?** Are you one of those persons who always seem to have music swirling in your head? Are you one who loves to sing, even if no one is around? Are you a person who still remembers your favorite music and bursts into song every once in a while? Then maybe you are the EXACT person who would like to be a member of cast of our "175th Historical Musical" set for the month of October.

OUR PARISH NEWS

ASSUMPTION CEMETERY OF ST. MARY

Please remove all Christmas wreaths and decorations in our cemetery before March 1, 2009. If you are unable to do so, our maintenance crew will remove and discard. Thank you.

Holy Communion Ministers, Readers and Altar Servers

The next schedule for your ministries will be mailed out before the end of February. Please contact Susan Urso, Parish Secretary, in the Rectory Office by Wednesday, February 18, if there are dates that you will not be able to serve due to unavailability in March & April.

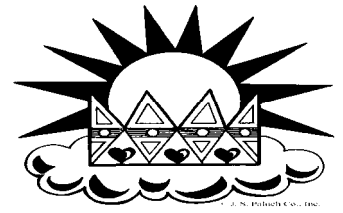
Christian Mothers Women's Organization

Please plan to attend our meeting on February 19th. Guest speakers will be from Comfort Keepers, an organization that helps with in-home, non medical care and Gateway Hospice. Gateway Hospice is providing cookies for the evening. If you were scheduled to bring a snack/appetizer for January, please plan to bring it for February's meeting. Thank you. Any questions, please contact Marilyn Buck 412-492-8367.

EVENING OF REFLECTION

The semi-annual Evening of Reflection for those who are separated or divorced, sponsored by the Office for Family Life and Catechesis will be offered on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 7-9pm at St. Paul Seminary, (Domenec Hall) Crafton. The presenter will be Father Eugene Lauer. The topic for the evening will be: "Unanswered Prayers: An Ongoing Christian Mystery." There is no charge but a free will offering will be accepted. For further information call 412.456.3160 or www.familylife@diopitt.org.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



**PARISH BREAKFAST - FEBRUARY 22
8 - 11 AM - MARIAN HALL**

We will serve pancakes, (plain & specialty) sausage, scrambled eggs, baked goods, fruit salad and fruit juice. FREE refills on coffee and tea plus PLENTY of fellowship. **It is the best breakfast bargain in town.** \$6.00 for adults, \$5.50 for Seniors, \$5.00 for children age 2 - 12 and Children under 2 years of age are free.

WIDOW & WIDOWERS GROUP

will meet on February 22, at the Middle Road Inn at 4:00PM. All are welcome. For more information call Marge at 412.4863.5621 or Barb at 412.486.4209.

MARKET DAY

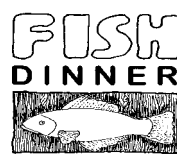
Pizza, Alfredo dishes, Cod, Flounder, Salmon, Shrimp, and Tilapia easy meals will be delivered February 23, in time for Lent. **Help obtain books for our School Library.** Your purchases in February are needed for us to reach our goal of **\$4,180.00 in sales.** Barnes & Noble will give our school \$250.00 gift cards to purchase books for our library IF our goal is met. Order forms are still available at the Church entrances, and in the Scrip and Faith Formation offices in the school building, or **order on-line at www.marketday.com** Orders due by THIS Tuesday at noon.

BACK TO THE FAMILY

Struggles and difficulties are part, but not all of what comprises, family life. Hear some reassuring advice by father, psychologist, author, and radio host, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:00-8:30 PM at Aquinas Academy, 2308 W. Hardies Rd., Gibsonia. For details call 724-444-0722.

Families of Persons With Disabilities, mark your calendar for Saturday, February 28 when Father Garry Patriquin, himself wheelchair bound, will celebrate the 4:00 PM Mass here and include a special blessing for those specially challenged.

LENTEN

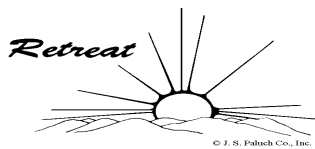


Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners during Lent. We are still in need of volunteers. Please call the Penezic's at 412-487-5211 to offer your hand of service. Desserts will be needed for our Fish Dinners as well. Please consider bringing your favorite dessert to share. Drop off your creations in Marian Hall the night

before the dinner from 7:00-8:00PM or on Friday by 4:00PM. A schedule for your night of donation follows; last name beginning with the letter:

- A - D February 27
- E - H March 6
- I - L March 13
- M - P March 20
- Q - T March 27
- U - Z April 3

Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!



NEWS

Men

Our men are anxious to have you join them at St. Paul Retreat Center for a weekend away, spending quality time with God. It's not too late to make a reservation for the **MARCH 13-14-15** retreat. Refer to the flyer in last week's bulletin or call Charlie Fischer 412.487.4667 or Jim Karcher 724.444.5798. This is an opportunity you owe yourself...it's a time of quiet to listen to the voice of God! Wives-encourage your husbands to make a weekend retreat. He'll come back a changed man!

Women

Christian Women's Day of Reflection- Sunday, March 1, 2009 at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center from 9:30am-4:00pm. Theme: Living in the Mercy of God. Cost: \$25.00. Registration required. Call 412.931.9766.

CATHOLIC MENS FELLOWSHIP

More and more events are being scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009 but the **one** event that all men and young men desiring a deeper relationship with God are planning to attend will take place at the A. J. Palumbo Center on the campus of Duquesne University. **Pre-register for the 4th. Annual Gathering of Catholic Men on Saturday, April 18th, the Saturday after Easter,** for the low price of \$35.00 which includes a FREE bus ride. High School and College young men pay ten dollars. If you send your registration in the mail to the CMF the cost is \$40.00. Call Jim Finn for the discounted registration fee and free bus ride at 412.486.4100. First come, first served!

What's love got to do with it?

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

In 1985, Tina Turner launched that question and earned the Song of the Year. Now that I have Internet at home I found Tina belting it out on YouTube. Wow, that woman can sing... but in writing this column I decided to reflect on her questions in light of this Sunday's Scripture readings. Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken? What's love but a second hand emotion? Tina, Valentine's Day weekend and the readings for this Sunday...hang on, here we go. I love the Hospitality weekends; Bob and Gloria Duffy do such a great job with their ministry team. The past few months we have set up a table for youth ministry each Hospitality weekend just to touch base with a lot of our teens, parents and supporters. So, one of our supporters, Pat Rafferty, stopped by the table and asked me when I would be writing again in Pastoral Impressions. Seemed to be as good a time as any.... but then I checked out the liturgical readings for this Sunday. Great. Leviticus. Be honest, how many of you enjoy reading Leviticus? The basic premise of the book is solid. "You shall be holy, because I the Lord, am holy." Legalistic in form, this book teaches how to maintain a state of legal purity via outward signs of intimate unity with God. Solid? Yes. Easy read? Not for me.

Fr. Sean Kealy, one of my professors at Duquesne University, always said, "The Scripture passages that you don't like are the ones that are most meaningful to you." Well, Chapter 13 addresses leprosy, and our First Reading for the "B" cycle in this Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time instructs the person with a scab or pustule to find the priest, who will then examine the lesion and determine whether the person is clean or unclean. OK, as a nurse, now I am struggling with the visuals invoked by that reading...kind of gross, really. I want to stop right there, but Fr. Kealy was probably right, there is a message in that First Reading, I need to pray and continue.

Then we move into Psalm 32. "Happy the sinner whose fault is removed, whose sin is forgiven... I declared my sin to you; my guilt I did not hide. I said, "I confess my faults to the Lord," and you took away the guilt of my sin." Now we begin to walk in the familiar territory known to us Catholics with our powerful imagery connected to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our intimate relationship with God, marred by the "lesions" of sin will indeed find love and restoration in sacramental forgiveness and healing.

In this Year of St. Paul, how appropriate on this weekend of Love and Valentines, that we read in 1 Corinthians 10, "Avoid giving offense...just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." Loving even to death and sacrifice, we are called as followers of Christ, to love everyone. Yes, in spite of their "lesions" and yes, even when it hurts.

In our Gospel of Mark today, a leper falls to his knees in front of Jesus and begs him "If you wish you can make me clean." Yes, Lord, even when we fail...when we hurt our Valentine...when we look at others in disgust or hatred...when we ignore those in need...when we set our life course with greed and selfishness...forgive us, Lord and we beg you, please make us clean.

Hey, Tina, love ya...but we do need our hearts to help us to follow the path of Christ. Our hearts can and will be broken at times, especially when we factor in human imperfections. We must give love. If it breaks our hearts then we open our hearts. We surrender to God. No second hand emotions here; just pure trust in God as imitators of Christ.

**WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?
EVERYTHING.**