

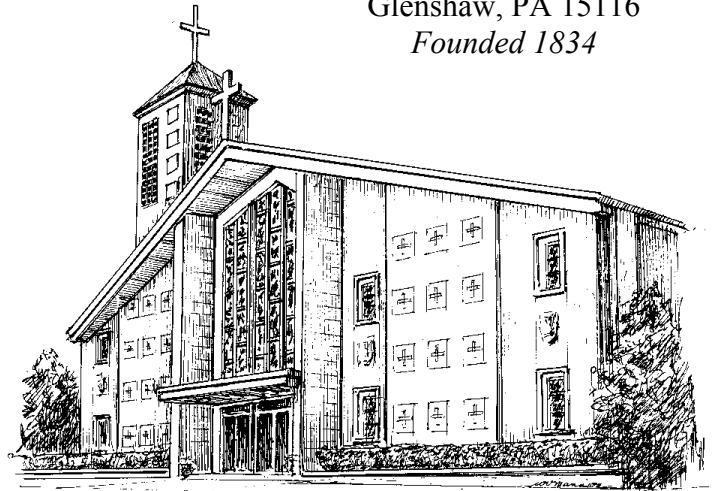
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2008

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

SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS TODAY

Another Liturgical Year begins today with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. We come to this season of “joyful expectation” by turning our attention to the Gospel of Mark, who sets the stage by focusing our attention on the final times. The coming of the Christ Child in the flesh anticipates the coming of the Resurrected Christ in the person of the divine. May we not spend all the time of this wonderful season in the mad rush of the shopping frenzy, but set aside quality time to reflect on the mystery that will prepare our hearts for the incarnation of the divine now present in the Christmas manger!

THE ADVENT PACKET SENT TO EACH HOME

When we come to the very important events of the Advent season, which leads to the Christmas and Epiphany seasons, there are a multitude of celebrations being held at the church. The times for these services have all been listed on the schedule that was sent last week to every registered parishioner’s home in the Advent Home Packet. We invite each home to post that schedule somewhere in a prominent place so that you might have the dates and times at your fingertips. The packet also includes this edition of *“The Bells of St. Mary”* and a meditation schedule of scripture texts that can be used each day, along with other important items such as the budget for the past year and invitations for the Respect for Life March and the Script Program.

PASTORAL COUNCIL ANNIVERSARY

We celebrate the EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY of our Parish Pastoral Council this week as their LAY LEADERSHIP has set the goals and objectives of our parish life during these past years. Their leadership effects the spiritual life of all of us, and their daring adventure of “The Survey” taken at all the liturgies this year gave every parishioner an opportunity to affect the goals of our Parish Family. We ask all parishioners to keep these 10 Council members in their daily prayers --- Chuck Martier, Debbie Schwoegl, Dona Hotopp, Gina Brown, Jack DeAngelis, Laurie Exler, Paul Mitsch, Ron Belski, Sue Ferguson and Tricia Coyle.

RECONCILIATION - “FIRST”

With the arrival of your Advent Home Packet, you will notice the special Reconciliation schedule that has been established for the season. The first of these services will take place this Saturday, December 6th, beginning at 10:30 a.m. as we invite those celebrating their FIRST Reconciliation to join us. Members of their families and other parishioners in general are welcome to come to receive the forgiveness of the Lord Jesus. Because of the importance of this event, we have invited other priests to assist in the administering of the sacrament. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ENVELOPE

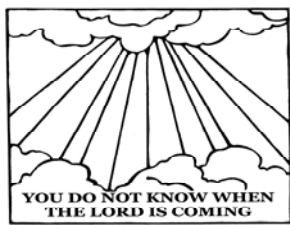
Every parishioner is given an opportunity to help in the purchasing of the wide variety of flowers and other decorations that beautify our church during this season and throughout the year. Thus, you will notice that a “Christmas Flower” envelope has been included in the newest packet of envelopes that we received this month. We ask those who wish to use this envelope to do so as quickly as possible since a listing of the names commemorated must be created.

“VOX POPULI” (part 12)

One of the questions of the survey asked: “How often do you celebrate the Sunday liturgy?”
RESPONSES: 85% responded 90-100% of the time; 11% responded 50-89% of the time; 4% responded less than 50% of the time; and 0% responded 2-3 times a year. These percentages are influenced by the fact that the survey was taken AT the liturgy. Would it not be wonderful if all those who were NOT at the liturgy responded with the same percentages! Watch the bulletin for more information given by the Parish Pastoral Council as they continue to analyze the information on the nearly 1500 surveys.

ADVENT ADULT ENRICHMENT

Those adults seeking to make this Advent season a time to deepen our understanding of the Faith are invited to join us on Thursday of this week, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. in Marian Hall as Father John uncovers the “Prayers of the Seasons” with a special importance given to psalms outlined for us in the celebrations of the Liturgical Year.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 30, 2008 - First Sunday of Advent

- 4:00 p.m. Frank Kosmack - Wife & Children
- 6:00 p.m. Clarence Bittner - The Clarence Bittner Family
- 7:30 a.m. Kathryn & Michael Runatz - Family
- 9:00 a.m. Grace Piano - Mr. & Mrs. Edward Flynn
- 11:00 a.m. Barbara Jean Orsini - Lazzaro/Marinack Family

Monday, December 1, 2008 - Advent Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Russell Cvetic - Charles Scheuble Family
- 10:00 a.m. Clement C. Newcamp - Bud & Karolyn Hunkele

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 - Advent Weekday

- 7:00 a.m. Joseph Wagner - Family
- 10:00 a.m. William J. Settino - Wife & Children

Wednesday, December 3, 2008 - St. Francis Xavier

- 7:00 a.m. Alan R. Pare, Jr. - Friends of the Pare Family
- 10:00 a.m. Shirley Kornick - Family

Thursday, December 4, 2008 - St. John of Damascus

- 7:00 a.m. Paul Berrang - Family
- 10:00 a.m. Janice R. Genco - St. Mary's Fourth Grade Students

Friday, December 5, 2008 - First Friday

- 7:00 a.m. Bernard J. Soeder, Jr. - Wife, Lillian L. Soeder
- 10:00 a.m. Ernest Restori - St. Mary's Fifth Grade Students

Saturday, December 6, 2008 - St. Nicholas

- 8:00 a.m. George Tallon - Family
- 2:00 p.m. Wedding of Michael Rzasa & Christine Rozyczka
- 4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
- 6:00 p.m. William Ferraro - Rachele & Harry

Sunday, December 7, 2008 - Second Sunday of Advent

- 7:30 a.m. Giuseppe & Caterina Cugliari - Cugliari Family
- 9:00 a.m. Adam Warenski - The Paul Kramer Family
- 11:00 a.m. Rudy - Mary & Family
- 6:00 p.m. Gerard Walter - Lois & George Lutz

Weekly Activities at a Glance

- Sunday (Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
Nov. 30 (Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
- Monday (School) No School - Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 1 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
(Rectory) 6:00PM - Pastoral Council
- Tuesday (School) School Resumes
Dec. 2 (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Cantor Practice
(Marian Hall) 6:30PM - CYM Drama Practice
(Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Meeting
- Wednesday (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Little Children Come
Dec. 3 (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
(Marian Hall) 5:00PM - 55 Specials Christmas Party
(Rectory) 7:00PM - 175th Anniversary Meeting
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice
- Thursday (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Advent Class with Fr. John
Dec. 4 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
Dec. 5 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Sweets with Santa
- Saturday (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
Dec. 6 (Marian Hall) 10:00AM - First Reconciliation
(Church) 4:00PM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
(Marian Hall) Hospitality Sunday - After all the Liturgies
- Sunday (Marian Hall) Hospitality Sunday - After all the Liturgies
Dec. 7 (PAC) 7:00PM - Youth Group

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maribeth Burnikel, and Robert Hefferin.

Banns of Marriage

III. Michael Rzasa (St. Magdalene) & Christine Rozyczka (St. Mary)

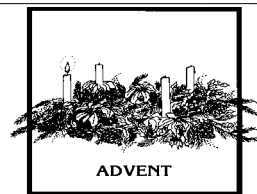
LIKE A CHILD One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's. *St. Nicholas*

Due to vacation schedules and printing deadlines the contributions of November 23, and November 30, 2008, will be posted in the bulletin on December 7, 2008. Thank you for your consideration.

Offertory Collection

November 16, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	808	\$18,351.75
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,619.00
Children's Offertory	39	\$63.56
Religious Retirement	5	\$150.00
All Saints Day	1	\$20.00
Parish Share 2008	5	\$155.00
Parish Needy	40	\$962.00
Total	898	\$21,321.31

Daily Readings



- Dec. 1 **Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11**
- Dec. 2 **Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24**
- Dec. 3 **Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:20-37**
- Dec. 4 **Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27**
- Dec. 5 **Is 29: 17-24; Mt 9:27-31**
- Dec. 6 **Is 30: 19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 - 10:1, 5a, 6-8**
- Dec. 7 **Is 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8**

SACRAMENTAL LIFE

RCIA- Are you interested in learning about the Catholic Church? Would you like to develop your faith? Do you have questions that need answered?

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church and for Catholics who have been baptized but haven't received Eucharist or Confirmation. Because of the Thanksgiving holiday we will not meet today (Nov. 30th.) but will resume meeting next Sunday, Dec. 7th following the 9:00am Mass in the rectory dining room when we will discuss the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas. All are welcome. Call Father Ed or Jim Finn at 412.486-4100 to find out more.

A VOCATION VIEW

Advent is a time of watching and waiting. Are you open to the surprising ways God comes to you? Be attentive to God's call in the ordinary. (Mark 13:33-37)

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME:

all families with children under age five are welcome to plug into the various activities of this post-baptismal ministry. For more information, please call Monica 412.492.0242.

IT'S HAPPENING THIS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD bring your small children to the Children's Liturgy room this Wed. at **9:30am** for **PRAY and PLAY DAY**. Moms and caregivers welcome! Call Jodee (412)267-3027. All welcome!

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel warns about routines and specifically mentions eating and drinking, raising a family, working and preparing meals. **STAY AWAKE** because routines can numb you to God breaking into your daily life, calling you to higher ground, "when you least expect."

WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING

this Tuesday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00pm in the rectory. Submit agenda items to Tom Goral 412.487.6244.

175th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING MEETING

Members of the committee will meet on Wed. Dec. 3rd at 7:00pm in the rectory. Our anniversary will kick off on **MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 2009** the feast of St. John Neumann, C. SS. R. Plan now to attend **EUCCHARISTIC DAY**. Watch the bulletin for more anniversary events!



+ When receiving Holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence and receives the Body of the Lord from the minister responding **AMEN.**

--General Instruction of the Roman Missal, #160

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for First Week of Advent

In this Sunday Gospel from Mark 13:33-37 Jesus urges us to "BE READY". What does Jesus say his coming again will be like? What are some things that YOU will do this Advent to "be ready" for our Lord Jesus? Will you plan to come to our two sessions of ADVENT prayer Dec. 4 & 9?

Faith Formation

Monday, Dec. 1

6:30 PM Grade 4 in church; all others in class.

Saturday, Dec. 6

9:30 AM All in Marian Hall, St. Nicholas film, activity prep for visit to Landmark Manor NEXT Saturday.

First Reconciliation

Welcome to Grade 2 children coming to experience Jesus' healing in the Sacrament THIS Saturday, **Dec.6**, 10:30 AM or Thursday, **Dec.11**, 6:30 PM or Mon., **Dec.15**, 6:30 PM. Parents/guardians and other family members welcomed to participate in the time for "confession" as we **Prepare the way of the Lord!**

Confirmation Candidates are preparing packets of WHEAT seeds to be available at our Church entrances NEXT weekend, Dec. 6-7. Many like to continue the tradition of planting the seeds on the feast of St. Lucy and have fresh wheat grass to place in the manger for Jesus at Christmas. THANKS to our youth who get the packets ready.

FAMILY TREE OF JESUS – those who lived as LIGHT in our world whom we celebrate:

Dec. 1 St. Edmund Campion, a convert from the Anglican church who became a Jesuit and became a hero of Catholic resistance to the Church of England. After months of imprisonment and torture, he was executed Dec.1, 1581, a martyr.

Dec. 3 St. Francis Xavier, missionary to India.

Dec. 4 St. John Damascene, Doctor of the Church for his clear teaching amidst political and theological turmoil.

Dec. 6 St. Nicholas, patron saint of children.

HUMAN LIFE of MARY

Mary began in the womb of her mother Anna. Youth are reminded to come to the 7:00 PM liturgy celebration of her Immaculate Conception on December 8. This is a wonderful feast to pray specially for pregnant women and the protection of all life from the moment of conception.



YOUTH MINISTRY



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HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING. NO CYM ACTIVITIES WILL BE SCHEDULED OVER THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND SO THAT ALL TEENS AND ADULT LEADERS CAN RELAX AND ENJOY TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

GOD BLESS AND HAVE A GREAT DAY!

CALLING ALL BASKETBALL FANS!

Support our CYM basketball team at the first home game of the season on Sunday, December 7. Attend the anticipated Holy Day liturgy for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and then walk over to the PAC to cheer on our boys JV team.



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NEW HIGH SCHOOL TEEN HANGOUT

We still need help from parents and teens to clean up, design and actually create a great atmosphere for our high school teens. Located across the hall from the CCD office and with a separate entrance outside, it is a perfect hangout. Our high school teens have already started to use the space, we just need to spruce it up a bit. A computer, furniture, microwave and a flat screen TV have already been donated. Find out how you can help turn this into a great teen space – call the CYM office and let us know how you can help.

OUR NEXT OUTING WILL BE TO THE CRÉCHE

and

PPG Ice Skating

Sunday, December 14

Late afternoon to early evening

Sign up at all liturgies on Hospitality weekend at the CYM table.

WE NEED A FEW GOOD...

electronic games. **Help us to furnish our new youth room with games for our teens.** We are specifically looking for a Wii, Play Station 2 and also Guitar Hero.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 30	NO CYM ACTIVITIES
Tues., Dec. 2	Play practice Marian Hall 6:30–8 PM
Thur., Dec. 4	Play practice Providence Hall 6:30–8 PM
Sat., Dec. 6	CYM table at Hospitality after both liturgies
Sun., Dec. 7	CYM table at Hospitality after all liturgies 6 PM Holy Day liturgy with Fr. Ed CYM game for JV boys after liturgy

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



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Thanksgiving Vacation

St. Mary School will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving. Classes will resume on Tuesday, December 2, 2008. Happy Thanksgiving!

ONE-SIDED PAPER

We are still accepting donations of one-sided paper for school use. Please check that no personal information is included on the printed side. Donations can be dropped off in the school office Monday through Friday. Thank you!

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

If you look closely on the labels of Campbell's soups, Spaghetti O's, Prego spaghetti sauce, V-8 juice, or Swanson products, you will see a UPC label "Labels for Education." We ask that you simply clip the UPC code, put them in an envelope, and drop them off in the school office. Our school receives points for each item that allows us to purchase educational materials for the school. Once again: thank you, thank you, thank you!

Gift Cards and Giant Eagle Cards

Start your holiday shopping early at St. Mary School by purchasing Gift Cards for those on your shopping list. If Giant Eagle Fuel Perks are important to you, purchase your Giant Eagle cards here and use them to buy your other gift cards at Giant Eagle. Doing so still helps St. Mary School. A complete list can be found in our Parish Mailing. The Scrip Office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 28th and Monday, Dec. 1, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Middle School Students and Parents "Burning Hearts"



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Perhaps there will come a day when we find ourselves far from home and feeling the distance of family and friends. Wherever there is a Catholic Mass, offered in whatever language, the universality of the Church can bridge the gap.

Join me as St. Mary's Burning Hearts representation at St. Paul Cathedral for a Spiritual and cultural experience on Friday, Dec. 12, as Bishop Zubik honors the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Along with a mariachi band, the Mass will be celebrated in the Spanish language, followed by a reception with the Latino Community of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Permissions slips may be picked up at the Faith Formation office and returned there by Wednesday, December 10th. On December 12, we will depart Saint Mary's parking lot at 5:15 PM. Friends are welcome, but those who come without a parent/guardian MUST have a signed permission form as well. The visit with the Hispanic community will be an opportunity to make some new acquaintances or *amigos*. If we have 40 reservations from our 300 Middle School youth, we may be able to take the bus. A full bus promotes great camaraderie!

Muchas Gracias, Mark Tobin, Middle School Coordinator

OUR PARISH NEWS



Our **Sharing Trees** are located in the main entrance of the Church. This year there are two trees; one designated "Children" and one designated "Adults." On the trees are ornaments with the names of men, women and children who are looking to the generosity of our parish family for a Christmas gift. If you can

help, please take an ornament of your choice. Return your gifts on the weekends of December 6/7, or December 13/14, with the ornament firmly affixed to the top of your wrapped present. No packages can be accepted after December 14, 2008, since the agencies requesting help have a deadline. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please call Sr. Lois at 412.4786.4021.

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Please plan on attending this year's Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols On Sunday, December 14th at 7:00PM. This year's program features seasonal music from our Adult Choir, Contemporary Group, and Hand bell Choir with a special musical drama "Carriers of the Light" performed by the Children's Choir. This promises to be a very special evening of music and scripture. Please join our music ministry on December 14th as we "prepare the way" for the coming season of Christmas.

Sweets with Santa

News just in from the North Pole

Santa Claus is planning to visit the children of St. Mary's! The PTG Fundraiser, *Sweets with Santa* is scheduled for Friday, December 5, from 6:00 to 8:30PM in Marian Hall. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. They are \$5 per person. Ticket price includes games for the children, crafts and cookies, as well as other merry surprises. Pictures can be taken with Santa for a nominal charge. A remarkable auction with family items and children's items will also be featured. Please contact Pamela Morris at pamelaleemorris@hotmail.com with any questions you may have.

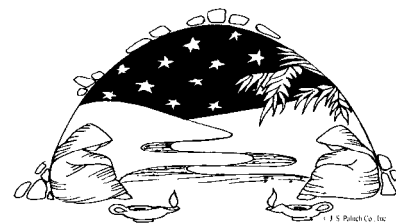
MARKET DAY HOT CHOCOLATE packets provide tasty, warm-the-tummy treats on a cold day. See the order form to get such treats for the season. Orders due by NOON Dec. 9.



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

Norma, Michael Ackman, Braden Bork, Frieda Boss, Renae Vivaldi Breskovich, Kenneth Conger, Robert A. Deasy III, Robert Druga, Roberta Evankovich, Lauren German, John Hoehn, Olivia Hutchenson, Helen Kolek, Evelyn Livingston, Mary Lou, Amy McT., Kitty Murphy, Margie Nist, Frank Ranalli, Judy Ranalli, Courtney Ryce, Elaine Settellaier, Patricia Sovek, Joshua Stanek, Shirley Stepnick, Maureen T., Mark Thimons, Virginia Thompson, V.A.W., Harry Vidmar, Bill Vistein, Archie Wharton, James Wilson, Christine Z., Paul Zoeller.

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.

ADVENT Evenings with Father John...

Come to let the **GIFT of prayer** help to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Gather round the Advent Wreath **in Church at 6:30 to begin** the session which will conclude by 9:00 PM Thursday, Dec. 4 & Tuesday, Dec. 9.

Volunteers Needed

The **ARTS & ENVIRONMENT** Committee needs volunteers to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please help us give back to the Lord the beauty he bestows on us all year long. Call Joan Kinder at 412.417.4549 for details. Thank you!!

GRADE 2 CLUSTER GROUP FOR NOVEMBER

If your child missed the November session, you're welcome to come Nov. 30, 10-11 AM in Marian Hall. Call Miss Rose at 412-486-5521 if you will participate.

55 SPECIALS

There will be a bus trip to **Wheeling Casino** on December 8th. The cost is \$24 which includes tip for the driver. We will leave St. Mary's parking lot at 8:30AM and will be returning approximately 7:00PM. If you are interested, please contact Jane Fabry at 412.487.3091.



CANDLES, set of 4, @ \$3.00 and some ring candle holders available at our Faith Formation office. Also, some Family-friendly activities for the season for sale. Stop in or call 412-486-5521 to order.

Christian Mothers Women's Organization

Thank you to all who made our covered dish dinner/surprise auction a great success. We raised \$500 for St. Vincent DePaul families. Thank you to Ginny & Elaine our faithful, entertaining auctioneers. Have a very blessed Advent. **O God, You willed that, at the message of an angel, Your Word should take flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary; grant to Your suppliant people, that we, who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her intercession with You. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HOMELESS AND OUT-IN-THE-COLD

is the reality of many people in our own city and country. Each year a candlelight vigil is held by the Covenant House community to pray for the homeless. After our 7:00 PM liturgy **Monday, Dec. 8** we welcome everyone to come to the pedestrian plaza for a short time of focus and prayer for the homeless.

PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS from Father John

“HAPPY NEW YEAR” to each and every one of you! Seems strange, does it not, to wish “happy new year” on November 30th? Well, there is one very important word omitted in this expression: it should read “Happy New Year LITURGICALLY!” Today, the First Sunday of Advent, is the beginning of a new year on the calendar of the Church. Today begins another liturgical year when we will relive the mystery of the Lord Jesus over the next 52 weeks. This mystery will become the center of our lives together as we look forward to another year of spiritual development that will bring each of us closer to the presence of our God.

The ADVENT Season is four Sundays in length. Sometimes we have a tendency to say “four weeks” long, but the fourth week is not always complete. As a matter of fact, in this year of 2008, since Christmas is on a Thursday, the Advent Season is *three weeks and four days* in length. We must keep in mind that the FOUR of the Advent Season really relates to the number of “Sundays” in the season, and not to the number of weeks.

It is during the days of this season, irrespective of its length, that we are given time to get ourselves ready for the coming of the Christmas event with the birth of the Christ Child in our midst. Advent is a season of PROMISE! It is a time when we should prepare ourselves for the arrival of our Savior into our hearts. The promise of our God will be fulfilled in a way that goes way beyond our human expectation as the divine becomes human in the earthly person of Jesus of Nazareth.

Many of us get entangled in the commercial advertising of the world around us and begin to lose sight of the true meaning of the event. Advent gives us an opportunity to set aside such commercialism and place ourselves in the presence of the divine. However, this does not become easy. It is a great challenge to keep ourselves focused on the coming of the Christ Child in the wondrous event of Christmas with all that is swirling in the world around us. Be assured that your intentions are in my prayers, and in those of the entire Parish Staff. We will continue to remember how significant you are to the life of this Parish Family and we will hope that the best of this Advent season will allow your new year to be a time of spiritual wonder and growth!