

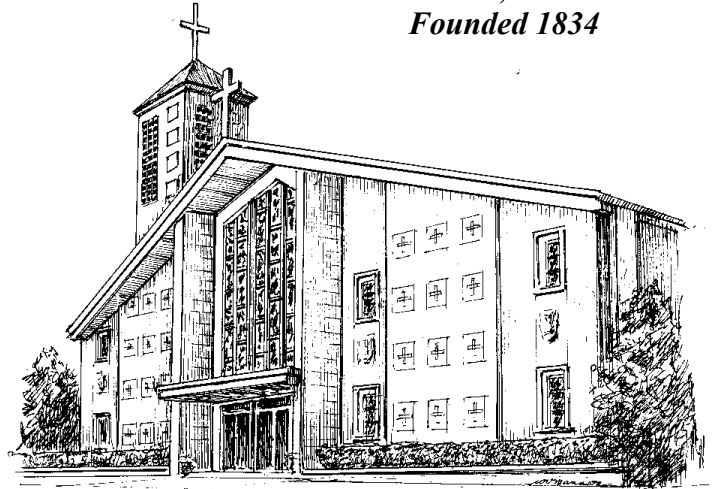
# PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 4, 2011

2510 Middle Road  
Glenshaw, PA 15116  
Founded 1834

## PARISH STAFF

Mr. Francis Dadowski, Deacon  
Father Jay Donahue, Parochial Vicar  
Mr. James Finn, Pastoral Associate  
Mr. Robert Kardasz, Dir. of Music Ministries  
Father John Marcucci, Pastor  
Ms. Antoinette Pilarski, Principal  
Father William Rutledge, Retired in Residence  
Sr. Lois Spinnenweber, CDP, Apostolate Minister  
Miss Rose Stegman, Dir. of Faith Formation



Web Site: [stmaryglenshaw.org](http://stmaryglenshaw.org)

E-Mail: [rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org](mailto:rectory@stmaryglenshaw.org)

Parish Family Administration Office: 412-486-4100

Religious Formation Office - 412-486-5521

Youth Ministry Office - 412-486-4100

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

## THE LITURGY OF ADVENT

As the season of Advent continues to move us closer to the great event of the birth of the Savior, we look to the prophets of the sacred scriptures to deliver the message of joyful expectation. Isaiah of the Old Testament and John the Baptist of the New become the main characters of today's liturgy. We invite all parishioners to set aside the mad rush of the world's shopping frenzy and prepare quietly through the reading of the scripture as sent home in our Quarterly mailing for the religious meaning of Advent.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

#### HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

#### LITURGY SCHEDULE

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

(ADULT ENRICHMENT FOLLOWING)

Thursday at 7:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

**“The Dogma of the Immaculate Conception” which is celebrated on December 8<sup>th</sup> of each year marks the Solemnity that recalls the conception of the baby Mary in the womb of her mother. This beginning began for her, unlike all others who were born into the human race, free from original sin and we come to celebrate this in the action of our liturgy. In 1854, Pope Pius IX made the wonderful belief in the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of Mary a doctrine to be “firmly and constantly .... believed by all the faithful.”**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The next opportunity for the sacrament of Reconciliation in a communal celebration will take place this Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10:30 a.m. in the church. We have invited other priests to join us for the conferring of the absolution of the Lord Jesus. What an ideal way of preparing for the coming of the Christ Child --- experiencing the forgiveness of the divine Father. The “communal nature” of the sacrament emphasizes that we all are sinners in the eyes of our God, and yet we all come together to seek the forgiveness of our sinfulness.

**RED LETTER AFTERNOON  
NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>  
“LESSONS AND CAROLS”  
BEGINNING AT 4:30 P.M.**

## HOSPITALITY SUNDAY: TODAY

### CALL TO CORINTH & PERGA

Our dedicated GIFT Coordinators are setting aside today's Hospitality Sunday for those who live in GIFT CORINTH and GIFT PERGA to join them in Marian Hall after each of the liturgies. There are designated places in the Hall for them to “meet and greet” others from their neighborhood. We hope that all parishioners in these two areas will accept this invitation to participate in this process. The GIFT Coordinators are preparing Christmas Family baskets for those in need. What a beautiful way for those who celebrate the liturgy to become more familiar with those in their neighborhood!

### GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE TODAY

Members of the Development Committee will be at in Marian Hall TODAY with the regular Giant Eagle and Shop and Save gift cards AND GIFT CARDS from a myriad of stores. Simply stop, make your choice and off you go with the card. There is a tremendous advantage in buying GIFT CARDS here: (a) they are immediately activated and can be used on the day of purchase; and (b) can be used in paying off charge purchases already made. Those who wish to get fuel perks in the purchase of gift cards can buy the Giant Eagle or Shop and Save cards here, and then buy their gift cards at the shopping store with these cards. And all of this can be done with a CREDIT CARD in Marian Hall TODAY!

### J.O.I.N. (part 20)

“JUST OFFERTORY INCREASE NEWS” is the campaign that began twelve weeks ago when a Finance Council member spoke about Stewardship. The Council is grateful to all those who have already increased their Sunday offering, and reach out to others possibly to reassess the contribution that they usually give at this holy time of year. Would it be possible to increase this year's contribution over the one given last year during this sacred season?

### FAMILY PICTURE TREE

We invite all parishioners to bring a picture of their family next Sunday to the liturgy to place them on the “Gift Family Trees” that will be shown along the walls of the church. GIFT Coordinators will be on hand to attach these pictures to the proper tree.



# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

**Sunday, December 4, 2011 - Second Sunday of Advent**

4:00 p.m. Marge & Jack Laughlin - Family  
 6:00 p.m. Russell Cvetic - Dorothy Cvetic, Ryce & Maier Families  
 7:30 a.m. Kathryn & Michael Runatz - Family  
 9:00 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family  
 11:00 a.m. Nicholas & Teresa Moyeroff - Granddaughter & Family

**Monday, December 5, 2011 - Advent Weekday**

7:00 a.m. William Mascari - Marie Hunkele  
 10:00 a.m. Peter & Katherine Yasinky - Family

**Tuesday, December 6, 2011 - St. Nicholas**

7:00 a.m. John A. Zajdel - Sophie Martynoski & Family  
 10:00 a.m. Jayna DeLuca - Barbara & Rick Romea & Family

**Wednesday, December 7, 2011 - St. Ambrose**

7:00 a.m. Blanche Black - Rose Stegman  
 10:00 a.m. Shirley Kornick - Family

**Thursday, December 8, 2011 - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

7:00 a.m. Richard Cullinan, Jr. - The Liebert Family  
 10:00 a.m. Giuseppe & Vincenza Derenzo - Their Children & Family  
 7:00 a.m. Rudy Lamagna - Mary & Family

**Friday, December 9, 2011 - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**

7:00 a.m. William & Isabelle Lorkovic - Dick & Carrie Druzak  
 10:00 a.m. Patrick Boyle - St. Mary School Community

**Saturday, December 10, 2011 - Advent Weekday**

8:00 a.m. Lisa Barboun - The Paul Family  
 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation  
 4:00 p.m. Stanly Antoszewski - Bob, Mariane, & Family  
 6:00 p.m. John Giel - Mary Jean Kirby

**Sunday, December 11, 2011 - Third Sunday of Advent**

7:30 a.m. The Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family  
 9:00 a.m. James McGowan - Linda Galrin  
 11:00 a.m. Ray Ciorra - Laurie & David Matera  
 4:30 p.m. Lessons & Carols

## Weekly Activities at a Glance

**Sunday** (Marian Hall) **Hospitality** after all Liturgies  
*December 4* (Church) 9:00AM - Children's Choir Mass  
 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.  
 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Cheers Group

**Monday** (School) 4:30PM - CCD Classes  
*December 5* (Marian Hall) 5:45PM - Daisy Troop Meeting  
 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Classes  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Pastoral Council Meeting

**Tuesday** (CCD Office) 1:00PM - Adult Education  
*December 6* (Church) 2:45PM - Children Choir Practice  
 (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry  
 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - S.M.A.A. Coaches Meeting  
 (Marian Hall) 7:00PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Worship Commission Meeting  
 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice

**Wednesday** (Marian Hall) 9:30AM - Let the Children Come to Me  
*December 7* (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials Bingo  
 (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Grade 8 Cluster Group  
 (Rectory) 7:00PM - Catholics Coming Home  
 (Marian Hall) 8:00PM - Adult Enrichment  
 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Choir Practice

**Thursday** (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice  
*December 8* (Providence Hall) 7:00PM - GIFT Coordinators Meeting  
 (Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice  
 (Marian Hall) 8:00PM - Knights of Columbus Mtg.

**Friday** (School) 10:00AM - School Liturgy  
*December 9*

**Saturday** (School) 10:00AM - CCD Classes  
*December 10* (Church) 10:30AM - 2nd Grade Reconciliation  
 (Marian Hall) 5:00PM - Grade 8 Cluster Meeting

**Sunday** (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.  
*December 11* (Marian Hall) 10:00AM - Confirmation Cluster Group Mtg  
 (Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
 (Church) 4:30PM - Lessons & Carols

November 26/27, 2011	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	663	\$17,524.75
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$1,081.00
Children's Offertory	29	\$54.00
Retired Religious Fund	40	\$871.00
Christmas Flowers	23	\$385.00
Immaculate Conception	4	\$40.00
Parish Share 2011	10	\$415.00
Christmas Offertory	2	\$45.00
Solemnity of Mary	2	\$15.00
Parish Needy	414	\$1,178.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>\$21,609.25</b>

## DAILY READINGS



**December 5:** Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
**December 6:** Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14  
**December 7:** Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30  
**December 8:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38  
**December 9:** Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19  
**December 10:** Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
**December 11:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

## SACRAMENTAL LIFE



### **Baptized in Christ**

**Cooper Richard Goeller  
Michael David Rihmland  
Tristian Elijah Stewart**

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

### *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 **William Malesky** and **Rita Bauer**, sister of Mary Ellen Dougal. Please remember to pray for the consolation of their loved ones.

### **A VOCATION VIEW**

John the Baptizer appeared in the desert proclaiming the Lord. Who will proclaim him in this generation? (Mark 1:1-8)

**RCIA** - is the process through which non-Catholic adults enter the Catholic Church. This week we will discuss Marriage/Holy Orders. Next week will discuss Church History. We meet in the rectory dining room after the 9:00am Mass. **All are welcome!**

### **LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME**

All families with children under five are welcome to participate in this special ministry. **PRAY and PLAY DAY** will be held this Wednesday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30am in the Children's Liturgy Room in church. All are invited to attend the 6:00 P. M. liturgy on Christmas Eve which is geared especially to the younger members of our parish family.

### **CATHOLICS - COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

It's the journey of a lifetime - yours. But, does it ever feel like you left home without a map? With all the twists and turns and challenges of life, it's easy to feel like we've lost our way. Now is the time to reconnect with your parish family and get the support to help you come home for Christmas! We miss you!

### **WORSHIP COMMISSION MEETING**

Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at 7:00PM in the Rectory. Submit agenda to Tom Goral at 412-487-6244.

### **CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The Second Saturday Men's Group will meet on **Saturday, December 10** following the 8:00 AM Mass in the school. All men are welcome to join us! Call Carl Lichvarcik 412.903.7607 for more information.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We're looking for a few good men to serve as Parish Conference Leaders. PCL's help other men encounter Jesus Christ by encouraging them to attend the annual day-long Gathering of Catholic Men. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS-** The next Gathering will take place the Saturday after Easter on **April 14, 2012**. Call Jim Finn for more information 412.486.4100.

## RELIGIOUS FORMATION

### **Faith Sharing for ADVENT –Week 2: December 4**

“Prepare the way!” we hear John the Baptist cry in the gospel this week. This season is often filled with many types of preparations, foods, decorations, and gifts. Through it all, don't lose sight of the “way” that John is calling us to prepare, the way into our hearts. Getting to “the HEART of the matter”, preparing for the coming of Jesus, entails doing what he mentioned a couple weeks ago, do or did you: feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick or imprisoned, or give drink to the thirsty? These are the true GIFTS of the heart that provide for others. When we do for another, we do for Christ.

**Grade 2 FIRST Reconciliation** opportunities are coming **December 10, 10:30 AM, or December 15 & 19, 6:30 PM.** **Jesus IS coming** for all family members to experience His peace, and healing. Extra visiting priests will be here for each liturgy.

**Grade 2 Cluster Groups meet for the December session:** THIS Sunday, Dec. 4, 10:00 AM in school Providence Hall. Children bring your **Call to Celebrate Reconciliation** book.

### **Faith Formation Sessions this Week:**

**Dec. 5 - Monday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent** groups welcome to gather around the Advent wreath for a LIVING wreath of prayer at 4:30 & 6:30 PM

**Saturday, December 10** All gather in church.

**CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES** meet with GIFT Cluster groups. Those groups wishing to gather in Marian Hall will assemble **NEXT Sunday, December 11, 10:00 AM**, to **Grow In Faith Together**.

### **MISSION OUTREACH TWO winners!!**

**RAFFLE of 39 inch Tall Doll with Dolly and Guess the number of Candy pieces in BIG Jar @ 25 cents or 5 guesses for \$1.00.** Proceeds will go to help our adopted students in the Spiritan Mission in Ethiopia. Winners will be drawn and announced at noon on Dec. 18.

### **ADVENT**

#### **Resources at our Faith Formation @\$1.00 each**

Friendly Beasts Activities Booklet; Twirling Mobile; Do You See What I See? Activities; Which Way is Christmas? Booklet.

**LAST CALL to register for the ADULT Enrichment - CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE Workshop** to discuss the spiritual support of sexuality and child personal safety issues. Session will be at **Saint Athanasius Parish, West View, Sunday, December 11, 1:00-4:00 pm** Catechists gain 6 hours in Catechetical Credits in Morality/CVOL Workshop Awarded, **PREPARATION REQUIRED**, get pages 2-5 of the CVOL curriculum from Miss Rose (412-486-5521) at our parish Faith Formation office. To register contact: Mary Reichel, 412.931.4624 x213 **Registration Deadline December 5.**

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

## CHEERS

- ◆ Cheers is the Sunday evening High School friends who come together to discuss the issues of the day. Cheers group is a place where everyone is welcome and they are always glad you came. This past Sunday, Sarah Polito, lead a Eucharistic reflection in front of over 80 St. Mary's parishioners at our Church for Christ the King. She challenged us to be courageous witnesses to the truth of Christ in our life.
- ◆ We invite high school friends of St. Mary's to join us any Sunday evening in the JAM Center from 6 to 8PM.

## COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS

Tonight the Cheers group will be decorating cookies in Marian Hall for our top 50 elderly members of St. Mary's. We will decorate cookies and then be ready to deliver them and meet some of our most wonderful parishioners. Come join in the fun Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Give Mrs. Hollihan a call at 412-967-0842 to let her know how many dozen cookies you can bring. We have lots of icing, tips, and fun sprinkles. Bring some Christmas music to listen to as we decorate cookies, pray, and discuss ways to help our top 50 wonderful people of St. Mary's.

## COLUMBIAN SQUIRES

2012 Free Throw Championship for Boys and Girls  
December 11, 2012

1:30PM the doors will open at the PAC St. Mary's Parish Gym  
Age 10 @ 2PM  
Age 11 @ 2:30PM  
Age 12 @ 3PM  
Age 13 and 14 @ 3:30PM

\*Winner will go on to the District Championship and all participants on our local level will be recognized for their participation.

\*\*For more information please contact Ray Newcomer at 412-767-4870 or [rjdnew@verizon.net](mailto:rjdnew@verizon.net).

## UP COMING EVENTS

**Sunday, Dec. 4,** 6:00 to 8:00 Cheers Group in Marian Hall to decorate cookies

**Friday, Dec. 9-11** God is Calling You! Teen Retreat in Ligonier

**Sunday, Dec. 11** 4:00 The Magical Holiday Christmas Spectacular – Upper St. Clair High School See our own Leah Hungerman dance her heart out!

**Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>** – 6:00 to 8:00 Cheers Group in the JAM

**Sunday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>** – 6:00 to 8:00 Cheers Group in the JAM

## SAVE THE DATE

- ◆ December 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> Teen Retreat - God is Calling You! You can check out the retreat center at [ligoniercamp.org](http://ligoniercamp.org). The weekend will be filled with adventure, fun, friendship, and chance to grow in your relationship with God. The cost is \$95 with checks payable to St. Mary's. Give Father Jay a call to find out more about this great opportunity.
- ◆ Appalachia meeting for anyone interested on January 8, 2012 at 12:00noon in Marian Hall. For more information, call the Rectory at 412-486-4100.

## ST. MARY



### ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Don't forget to get your 2011-2012 Entertainment Books! Now that November is here, last year's book will be expiring!! Sell them to family and friends or get your Christmas shopping done early ... *they make great gifts!* Entertainment Books are on Sale at the Scrip Office in the school, daily, from 8:00-10:00AM and at weekend masses and sell for \$30!

## OUR COMMUNITY

### WHEELING TRIP - 55 Social Group

December 12th - Last trip until March. Cost - \$25 Please call Jane Fabry at 412-487-3091.

### WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

We will meet TODAY, Sunday, December 4, at 4:00PM at Atrias Restaurant, Route 8 in Richland Township. For more information please call Marge Wesolek at 412-486-5621 or Barb Lagiovane at 412-486-4209.

### LIGHTHOUSE CD'S

On our Lighthouse CD rack, in the back of Church, has **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, by *Patricia Bainbridge*. Our Lady's Feast Day is December 12. This is a true, amazing, and miraculous story. Mrs. Bainbridge explains the symbolism contained in the miraculous image and the historical scientific evidence to its authenticity. Pickup your copy!

### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

... from the Christian Mothers/Women's Organization to all who supported our Surprise Auction. The proceeds will help a family have a very Merry Christmas. CMWO wishes our parish community a *Merry Christmas and a Blesses New Year!*



### DID YOU KNOW?

#### TEACH KIDS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AT HOME

We consider our homes to be safe places for our children. But being home alone pose risks for children. Here are a few tips to teach kids that will help keep them safe when you are not with them at home:

- ◆ Never answer the door if alone
- ◆ Do not invite anyone in the house without the permission of a parent or babysitter.
- ◆ Do not tell anyone on the phone that your parents are not at home. Instead, tell them that your parents can not come to the phone and take a message.

For more tips, please visit [www.kidsafe.com](http://www.kidsafe.com)

Diocese of Pittsburgh Abuse Hotline: 1.888.808.1235

## OUR PARISH NEWS

### Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

Please plan on attending this year's Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 11 at 4:30 PM. This year's program features scripture and seasonal music from our Adult Choir, Contemporary Group, Teen/Young Adult Choir and Handbell Choir with a special mini-musical "The Light of the World" performed by the Children's Choir. Since there is no Steeler game, we chose an afternoon starting time this year. Take a break from your Christmas preparations and enjoy some music of the Advent/Christmas season performed by St. Mary's music ministry on December 11 as we "prepare the way" for the coming season of Christmas.

#### Special Days this Week:

**December 6 – Saint Nicholas**, Bishop who cared for the poor and needy, giving gifts to help those in need. Give a gift of kindness or good deed to someone in secret.

**December 7 – Saint Ambrose** had great devotion to Mary. He prayed, "My Queen, My Mother! I give myself entirely to you, and to show my devotion to you I consecrate to you my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being."

**December 8 – Immaculate Conception of Mary** celebrates the privilege of May being free from any sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother.

**December 9- San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin**, a native American man to whom Mary appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico in 1531 .

**Operation Care Package Project** for those serving in the military is being coordinated by Mrs. Anne Mitsch and her Grade 5 Faith Formation class: Items to contribute: Cards of Encouragement and Thanks; Crystal Light® "On The Go" flavor packets for water; Gum, Lifesavers, Mints (blister pack gum is best because of the intense heat); Nuts, sunflower seeds, peanuts, trail mix, dried fruit; Power bars, protein bars, nutritional bars; Crackers & Cheese or Peanut Butter Hard candy (single-wrapped); Sandwich Size Zipper Lock Baggies;; Toothbrushes, Baby Wipes - soft packaged, Hand Sanitizer -Small personal size bottle. Please put items in one of the red-white-blue boxes in the foyer. THANKS in advance for your care.

### Novena for Christmas

( Pray daily untill December 25 )

Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at midnight in a stable in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech You to hear my prayers and grant my desires (mention your request here). Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother. Amen

## OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAPPENINGS

**GPS – A tool for finding one's way**, will be given to each participant coming to the **ADULT ENRICHMENT, THIS Wednesday, December 7** immediately after the 7:00 PM Holy Day liturgy. Meet in **Marian Hall with Father John** till 9:15 PM. Enjoy some refreshments in honor of Saints of the week, Saint Nicolas' staffs, San Juan Diego tortillas, and Saint Lucy cats. Become more **enlightened** thru this experience as a preparation for **Christ's Coming**. Call to sign up in advance: 412-486-5521.

**Free Movie: "Once on a Barren Hill"**, 30 minutes to meet **Saint Juan Diego** and the appearance of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** in 1531. A handout with prayer and description of the miraculous divine image Mary left on the *tilma* of this native American, **Cuauhtlatoczin**. **Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 AM** in school Room 23; or **Monday, Dec. 12, 7:20 PM** in Marian Hall. CALL in advance to say if YOU will attend: 412-486-5521

**MARKET DAY** orders due in our Faith Formation office by this Tuesday at Noon. Pick up NEXT Monday, Dec. 12, 6:00-7:00 PM in Marian Hall. Helpers welcome!

**HOMELESS folks** in our own city of Pittsburgh need **blankets and backpacks** as the weather is getting colder. Any donations of said items may be placed in bag, attach sign "for the Homeless", and leave on the last pews in the Children Liturgy Room (cry room).

**"Emmanuel", a Christmas concert** by Tajci,(an escapee from communist Europe) at St. Nicholas Croatian Church, Millvale, Friday, Dec. 9, 7:00 PM. Limited seating @\$20 per ticket; reserve with Janet Kopec at 412-821-4106.

### GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Wondering what to get your husband or wife? Surprise them with a weekend away! Gift certificates for the upcoming retreats at our local retreat houses are available and make excellent gifts. Gifts that change lives! Upcoming retreats at the Martina Spiritual Renewal Center and St. Paul Retreat House are scheduled for the spring of 2012. The Men's Retreat is scheduled for this spring. Call Charlie Fischer at 412.487.4667.

### THE GREATEST MIRACLE



This is a wonderful Catholic family movie to enjoy during the Advent/Christmas season. The movie brings to life the miracle of the Catholic Mass through a simple story of three ordinary people facing difficult challenges in their lives. Mixed with powerful music and creative effects, it's a unique piece of cinema that allows Catholics to enrich their relationship with God and realize the enduring gifts of the new translation of the Mass.

**OPENING:** Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at Pittsburgh Mills and The Waterworks. Check the paper for the show times.

## ***PASTORAL IMPRESSIONS*** from Father John

There is an inherent devotion to MARY that lurks in the heart of every member of our Parish Family of St. Mary of the Assumption, since the “ASSUMPTION” refers to an event in the life of Mary and not simply to one of her many titles. There are many parishes named in honor of Mary, but most of them use titles like “Our Lady” in their name. Not so our Parish Family! The name of our Parish Family is based on the final event in the earthly life of Mary, her assumption into the heavenly kingdom. There is something very special about this event, since it stands as a universal model for every follower of the Lord Jesus. Believing in the Assumption of Mary reminds all of us that we too, if faithful like Mary, may come to experience the resurrection of our body in the final coming of Christ the King, the celebration that ended the Liturgical Year two weeks ago.

Just as the “Assumption” is spiritually significant because it refers to the final event in the earthly life of Mary, on Thursday of this week, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we all will celebrate the **Solemnity of the “Immaculate Conception”** which refers to the first event in her life. Clearly we must be reminded that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Mary in the womb of her mother. Many Catholics erroneously think that the Immaculate Conception refers to the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. Not so! That event is entitled “The Annunciation” as the angel declares to Mary that she will be the Mother of the Messiah and therein the conception of Jesus begins. The Immaculate Conception is not recorded in the annals of the Bible, but rather has been declared in the living Tradition of the Catholic Church.

The celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 8<sup>th</sup> is not only a universal Holyday of Obligation, but it is the patronal feast of the United States. In 1846 the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore made that determination, and the American bishops were very instrumental in petitioning Pope Pius IX to declare in 1854 the Immaculate Conception as a dogma. There are many titles and names given to Mary in her central role in all our lives, but the Immaculate Conception at the beginning of her life and the Assumption at the end hold revered places of honor. On Thursday of this week, December 8<sup>th</sup>, we who live in the Parish Family of the “Assumption” will celebrate the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception. What a wonderful day for all of us who have a special devotion to Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church!