

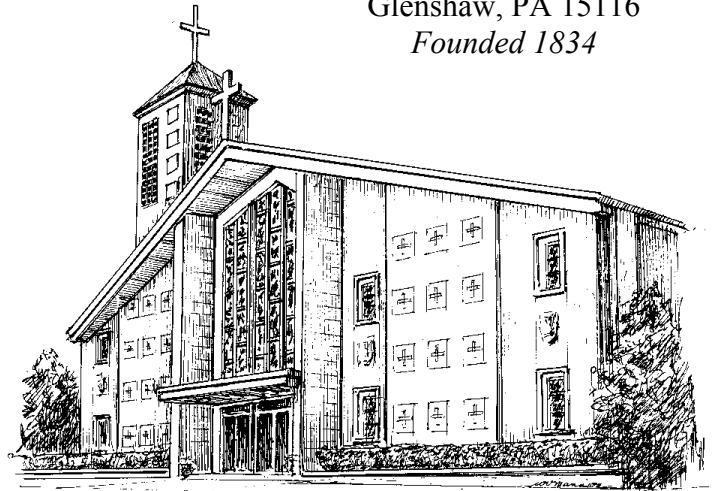
PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 22, 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

TODAY “LAETARE” SUNDAY

Two times a year the Sunday Liturgy offers the possibility of wearing rose-colored vestments. Today, the FOURTH Sunday of Lent, sometimes referred to as LAETARE (so named for the first word of the Entrance Song which is “Rejoice” from Isaiah, chapter 66) is one of those Sundays. The other is the THIRD Sunday of Advent, called GAUDETE, again from the first word of the Entrance Song. The usage of this color of rose simple suggests that we have crossed over the half way mark of the Lenten Season and the joy of Easter is on the horizon. Even though we have set aside the Latin wording of the liturgy, the Church reminds us that even in the midst of this penitential season, when we accentuate the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, there is still a glimmer of hope as we anticipate the coming of the Easter glory.

SECOND COLLECTION: TODAY

There will be a second collection taken up at all of today’s liturgies as we once more reach out to the needs of the Church through the world. Today’s collection once was three individual collections taken up at three different times in the year. Now these three have been combined into one second collection: “Catholic Campaign for Human Development” and “Catholic Home Missions Appeal” and “National Collection for Black and Indian Missions.” There is an envelope in our packet for this collection. This is one of the TEN official collections mandated by the Diocese to be taken up in every parish in the Diocese. We ask for your generosity as today’s collection meets the needs of those less fortunate than we.

“VICARS AND VICARIATES” (part 2)

The Vicariate structure, as now being initiated by the Diocese, would decentralize by appointing vicars who have the authority to act and coordinate the life and ministry of the parishes in their geographical regions. These vicars would become senior leaders of the Diocese. The Vicariate would reorient the diocesan structure to emphasize the approach of servant leadership from all diocesan offices to the parishes. This would eliminate waste and duplication. Those wishing to hear our own Bishop speak about the “Vicars and Vicariates” might log on to the Diocesan website at diopit.org for more information and a clearer understanding of the time line in adopting this process in the Diocese.

LENT “EQUALS” SPRING

The seasons of *Lent* and *Spring* have finally overlapped this weekend as we reached the day in March when the vernal equinox is celebrated in the Northern Hemisphere. It is from this season of new life when blossoms begin to “spring” out of the ground that the season of Lent gets its name. The word Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten” which in itself means “springtime.” Lent is not an end in itself, but only exists to lead us to the Easter feast where life is awaiting each of us. So as we begin to rejoice with the coming of the spring-type weather and the beauty of the buds that spring forth all around us, we come to understand the wonderful liturgical celebrations of Lent that will bring us the eternal life of Easter!

EASTER LITURGY SCHEDULE

All parishioners are encouraged to join us at the Easter Vigil set for Saturday, April 11th at 8:30 p.m. as the most important liturgy in the entire year. Also, we have added a liturgy time on Easter Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the afternoon to help alleviate the great numbers of people who come to the morning liturgies. Parishioners should take advantage of these opportunities to make their Easter Sunday one of unique joy, peace and the celebration of new life.

SMALL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

All parishioners are to become alert to the fact that one of the Pastoral Council goals inspired by the survey that was taken last year is to increase the “participation in the ownership” of the Parish Family by all members. The Council is now in the process of creating twelve geographical areas to give every parishioner a more effective way of taking ownership in the life of the parish. Keep an eye open for how YOU might become involved in this process!

EXTENDED STAFF APPRECIATION

One of the significant ways in which the entire Parish Family extends an appreciation to all the members of the Extended Staff (i.e., all those who receive a paid income from the Parish Family) is to celebrate with them on the Sunday after Easter each year. We remind the Extended Staff to hold open April 19th so we can remind you of how important you are to the effective running of our Parish Family.



LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, March 22, 2009 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. George Williams - Ken & Kathy Goral & Family
 6:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
 7:30 a.m. Francis Werling - Family
 9:00 a.m. Joe & Elma Hollern - Joe & Isabelle
 11:00 a.m. Rosaria Castellano - M/M Nicola Veneziano & Christina

Monday, March 23, 2009 - St. Toribio de Mogrovejo

7:00 a.m. Rita Frollini - Leonard & Gerri Mankowski
 10:00 a.m. Joe Frauenholz - Wife, Mary Ann & Children

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. Alphonse Buzzelli - M/M James Buzzelli
 10:00 a.m. Shirley Kornick - Family
 7:00 p.m. Jack A. Simmen, Sr. - Ed & Rosalie Moan

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 - Annunciation of the Lord

7:00 a.m. John J. Kirby - Mary Jean Kirby
 10:00 a.m. Joseph Giambo - Dr. & Mrs. William Poller

Thursday, March 26, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. Janet Meinert - Trautman Family
 10:00 a.m. Maria Antonia Imbarlina - Marco & Rose Imbarlina

Friday, March 27, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

7:00 a.m. Edward Bittner - Children
 10:00 a.m. Frederick Greene - The Butler Family
 2:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross
 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 28, 2009 - Lenten Weekday

8:00 a.m. Anna Nath Ahearn - Ermy & Lou Monaco
 4:00 p.m. Alexander McLellan - Students & Faculty of St. Mary School
 6:00 p.m. John A. Bell - Don & Joan Hammel

Sunday, March 29, 2009 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

7:30 a.m. Living & Deceased of Our Parish Family
 9:00 a.m. Mary Louise Wagner - Buchwalter Family
 11:00 a.m. For the Intentions of Jim & Rita Finn Family

Weekly Activities at a Glance

Sunday (Church) 9:00AM - Parish Breakfast
 March 22 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Burning Hearts Youth Group

Monday (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - Brownie Troop #034
 March 23 (School) 6:30PM - CCD Program - All Grades
 (Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Market Day Pick-up
 (Church) 8:00PM - Brass Practice

Tuesday (Marian Hall) 2:45PM - School Band Practice
 March 24 (Church) 2:45PM - Children Cantor's Practice
 (School) 8:00PM - Young Adult Night

Wednesday (Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards
 March 25 (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice
 (Marian Hall) 4:00PM - Meager Meal
 (Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice

Thursday (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Fish Fry Dinner Preparation
 March 26 (Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice

Friday (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
 March 27 (Marian Hall) 6:00PM - Burning Hearts Youth Group
 (Marian Hall) 4:30PM - Fish Fry Dinner

Saturday (School) 9:30AM - CCD Program
 March 28

Sunday (Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children
 March 29 (Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A.
 (Church) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children



PRAYER LIST

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

Frank, Mary Lou, Patricia A., Renae Vivaldi/Breskovich, Michael Breskovich, Courtney, Robert A. Deasy, III, Frederick Dollin, Eileen Driscoll, Richard Eisman, Craig Glaser, Amy Mc., Luke Noullet, Josephine Piacentino, Sarah Polito, Howard R., Frank Schmitt, The Schulze Family, Paul Spadafora, Joshua Stanek, Mark Thimons, VAW, Bill Vistein, Frank Vinski, Christine Z., Paul Z.

R.I.P.: Please pray for the repose of the souls of Mary C. Leo, Anna Marie Gillner and Gilbert A. Schnauffer, Sr., father of Elaine Fischer.

March 15, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	820	\$18,122.01
Cash/Loose Checks	-	\$735.00
Children's Offertory	57	\$76.08
Easter Flowers	58	\$891.00
Catholic Campaign/Mission Appeal	7	\$86.00
Parish Share 2009	94	\$10,395.00
Parish Needy	32	\$532.00
Total	1,068	\$30,837.09

Daily Readings



March 23: Is 65: 17-21; Jn 4:43-54
 March 24: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
 March 25: Is 7:10-14; 8-10; Heb 10; 4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 March 26: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 31-47
 March 27: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
 March 28: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
 March 29: Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

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. If interested please join us in the rectory following the 9am liturgy. Call Fr. Ed or Jim Finn for more information at (412) 486-4100.

A VOCATION VIEW

God loves the world so much and blesses us with the gift of his son, Jesus. How do you receive and share this gift of love? (John 3:14-21)

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME

A ministry to parents with children from birth to age five years of age offers programs geared to be spiritually supportive of parents. All are invited to come to church on Holy Saturday morning at 10:30 A. M. for the Family Blessing followed by the **Easter Egg Hunt**. Register your children by calling Monica at (412)492-0242.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

Notice in today's gospel: "God so loved us, He GAVE his Son." Love is about GIVING, not getting! Love is not selfish. Lovers are givers with no strings attached.

PARENTING POINTERS

Sometimes we can get so caught up in taking care of our kids that we think it all depends on us. "If you frequently empty yourself for others, it's important not to be full of yourself." Parents, if you can, take a break today. If not today, soon.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

What puts passion into your marriage? For newlyweds this may come easily. For others perhaps it's been awhile. Often rekindling romance is a matter of doing something new together. Start a new hobby, learn a new language, or at least a few loving words in a different tongue.

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. Bob & Marie Deasy will host the chalice on March 15th through March 31st. To schedule a week of prayer in your home, call Ron Ondrizek 412.486.6851.



God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:17

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Faith Sharing for Fourth Week of Lent

The Pharisees in this week's gospel were "blind" to seeing Jesus. Do we ever keep people from seeing Jesus? Are there systems, policies, and practices in our society that make it difficult to see Him? What will you do about helping Him be seen?

Monday Faith Formation, March 23

5:00 PM on, Grades 7-22 service at Market Day;
6:30 PM Grade 1 in church for "A Walk with Jesus"- Stations of the Cross. All others in classes.

Saturday Faith Formation, March 28

9:30 AM Grades 1-2-3 in church for Stations of the Cross; all others in class.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES who missed the Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion will join the parish family at this **Tuesday, March 24, 7:00 PM** liturgy to affirm their intent to be committed to the journey of faith.

April 4 Family Event - Activities for the Holy Season in Marian Hall: All welcome to visit our \$1.00 Sale for the Missions, then visit activity tables hosted by our Saturday Faith Formation classes:

- Kindergarten & Grades 1 & 4 - Easter Foods Basket
- Grades 2 & 3 Resurrection Eggs
- Grade 5 - Palm Crosses
- Grade 6 - Resurrection Cookies
- Grade 7 - Paschal Candle
- Grade 8 - the Seder Meal

ALL present will join in the "adapted" Seder Meal 10:20-11AM Call 412-486-5521 or e-mail ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org to "register" by March 31 to say how many of your family will participate.

ADULT ENRICHMENT: "Revelation in a Day" Saturday, April 18 at Good Samaritan Church, Ambridge. Jeff Cavins of EWTN Life on the Rock will discuss the Book of Revelation, how the Mass is really heaven on earth, the Church's teaching about the antichrist, the Second coming of Christ, and the Final Judgment. Bring your Bible. 8:00 AM Registration till 4:00 PM Mass with our own Father John Marcucci. To register, call 724-266-6565 or www.goodsam1.org

ADULT ENRICHMENT: SAINTS for Lent, Easter, and Pentecost- Part 2 will be discussed with Mr. Jim Finn, Monday, April 6, 6:30-8:00 PM in Marian Hall. All are Welcome! Call 412-486-5521, ASAP to give your name so sufficient handouts will be available.

MARKET DAY orders will be ready for pick up THIS Monday, March 23, 6:30-7:30 PM in Marian Hall.

MEAGER MEAL Come join the Middle School kids in a **MEAGER MEAL THIS WEDNESDAY**, while we remember all those less fortunate. A light dinner of soup and bread will be served. A free will donation will be collected and given to a local food bank.

Date: Wednesday, March 25
Time: Soup will be served between 5:00pm and 7:00pm
Place: Marian Hall
RSVP: leeanntrout@verizon.net or 412-492-8043

YOUTH MINISTRY

POSITIVELY DANGEROUS

FOR TEENS IN GRADES 9 – 12: April 24 - 26. Not your ordinary experience of faith. Space is limited so please call Mrs. B. ASAP. Cost is \$75; scholarships are available for those in need.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS

CROSSWALK: Open to any youth in Grade 8 - 12 wishing to participate in our annual Crosswalk with Epworth Methodist on Good Friday, April 10 – public school will not be in session. Drama background is not needed, only a desire to bring the Passion of Christ to the public at this annual community and ecumenical event. **NEXT PRACTICE IS TODAY, MARCH 22, IN THE CHURCH AFTER THE 11 AM LITURGY.**

LENTEN ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

PRAYER AND SOCIAL: We will meet after ALL of the weekly Lenten Enrichment evenings for discussion and fellowship. Remaining dates for Lenten series: Tuesdays, March 24 [Fr. Phil Farrell] at 7 PM & March 31 [Fr. Bill Dorner] at 6:30 PM.

OVER 21 YOUNG ADULTS – BRING A SNACK TO SHARE AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE LENTEN SESSION CONCLUDES IN THE CHURCH. Your “over age 21” friends are also welcome.

APPALACHIA REGISTRATION ENDS ON FRIDAY, MARCH 27.

WE CANNOT TAKE ANY LAST MINUTE TEENS THIS YEAR. OUR FOREMEN WILL BE MEETING WITH THE CREW FROM ST. GEORGE NEXT WEEKEND TO FORM THE WORK TEAMS. A MEETING WILL FOLLOW SOON, SO KEEP CHECKING YOUR EMAIL AND THE BULLETIN. YOU MUST WORK ALL OF THE REMAINING BREAKFASTS AND APRIL CALLIOPE CONCERT ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 26 PLUS HELP CYM AT THE FISH DINNERS AND THE PARISH FESTIVAL.

SERVICE opportunities with our St. Vincent de Paul Society guys or on Sunday, with Mr. & Mrs. Wisser:

Every Saturday AM - shave the veterans at VA Hospital in Aspinwall. Can you spare 2 hours for our veterans?

Every Sunday AM - escort veterans to liturgy and stay to celebrate with them; you will be done by 11:45 AM.

CALL THE CYM OFFICE IF YOU CAN HELP OUR VETERANS.

CYM WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun., Mar. 22 PARISH BREAKFAST
Crosswalk practice after 11 am mass
Mon. Mar. 23 High School Nite-new Youth Room 5-8 PM
Tues., Mar. 24 Young adult – Over 21 [see above]
Fri., Mar. 27 Fish dinner

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 SCHOOL

REGISTRATION FOR 2009-2010

If you or any interested family is looking for a faith-filled, value-centered school, look no further. St. Mary School offers a 3 and 4 year-old preschool program as well as kindergarten through 8th grade. Tours can be provided as well as more information by calling the school office at (412) 486-7611. Come and see what we are all about!

FORENSICS FINALS – St. Mary's Forensics Team had their best showing ever at the Southwestern Pennsylvania Forensics League Finals Tournament last Saturday. Our team placed 2nd out of 25 teams. Congratulations to Vincent Balestrino, Angela Battaglia, Aaron Todorowski, Mary Anna Ebbert, Annette Faith, Maria DeRenzo, Charlie Hayes, Kat Omecene, Katie Sarosi, and Matthew Wisneski. We are extremely proud of you!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Please join our school children and families when they come together to pray the Stations of the Cross. Grades 1 through 3 will meet in church at 1:50 pm on March 25th. Grades 4 through 8 will meet in church at 2:00pm on March 27th and April 3rd. Come and pray with us!

HELP THE SCHOOL - The school continues to collect empty ink cartridges (especially HP, Dell, and Lexmark), all Campbell's products, and Shop 'N Save receipts. Another need that we always have is for one-sided paper. Please drop off your donations in the designated boxes in the back of church or at the school office. As always, we appreciate your help.

175th ANNIVERSARY HAPPENINGS

- ◆ **A Reminder!** 1st Communion Photos, that we will display, can be put in the box in the Children's Liturgy Room.
- ◆ Bishop Dubois assigned his newest missionary, Father John Neumann to assist the thousands of immigrants settling along New York State's Niagra frontier. John took an overnight steamboat up the Hudson to Albany. At Albany he took passage for Rochester on the Erie Canal packet "Indiana." It was pulled by mules along the canal towpath. The canal, main artery between the east and west of the pre-Civil United States, was a living channel of American talents, initiative, and drive. His first missionary work was with a German congregation in Rochester, N. Y. He saw how little education these Germans received and made a promise to set up little schoolhouses. He also met the Redemptorists in Rochester. This friendship would have a profound effect on John's future. Moving along, Father Neumann established his mission headquarters just outside Buffalo. He worked tirelessly with 400 hundred families, mostly German, with a scattering of Irish, French, and Scottish farmers. Next week we'll read about a scary experience in the forest and what the Indians did for Father Neumann.
- ◆ The 175th Anniversary Historical Musical needs your help. If you would like to volunteer for a reading, dancing or singing part, call Tom Politylo at 412.486.5030. This event is scheduled for the fall on October 17th in the PAC.

OUR PARISH NEWS

Journey with Jesus, Holy Thursday night, April 9. Deacon Fran will take the bus to visit six other local worship sites where we recall the places Jesus was led after leaving the upper room of the last supper. The journey begins immediately after the 7:00 PM liturgy and returns to our church around 11:15 PM. Reserve your seat(s) on the bus; call 412-486-5521 or ccdoffice@stmaryglenshaw.org.

Family Bible Nites:” Rome- Paul and the Underground Church” Second planning meeting will be held on Saturday, April 1st at 11:15 in the school Library. Male and female ACTORS are needed for this program. Contact LeeAnn 412-492-8043 or email leeanntrout@verizon.net.

EASTER EGG HUNT ON HOLY SATURDAY

All families with children under age 10 are invited to come to St. Mary’s on Holy Saturday, April 11th beginning in church with a family blessing at 10:30 A. M. Afterwards all will search for eggs on the parish grounds (weather permitting) We will use Marian Hall in case of inclement weather. We welcome donations of plastic eggs and candy to stuff the eggs. Bring a basket and meet new friends! Call Donna Polito 412.492.9312 to register your child. Leave name/s, age/s and telephone number.

SUMMER BIBLE PROGRAMS - Planning for teams.

Meet in our school library. Announcing the August theme! **Son Rock Kids Camp** with a twist to celebrate our 175th anniversary. Our first meeting will be Sat. March 28 at 11:15 am in the school library. Please call if you are interested in planning but cannot make the meeting. We would like to encourage those that have an interest and knowledge in ST. MARY HISTORY be please consider helping us to plan this special vbs. Questions call LeeAnn 412-492-8043 or email leeanntrout@verizon.net

SPORTS CAMP! Calling all sports fanatics!!! Come spend a few days this summer teaching our youngsters about sports and how to have a heart of a winner. Adults needed to mentor teens and coach the younger participants. MIDDLE SCHOOL and HIGH SCHOOL leaders are needed to develop this program. Those teens with great organizational skills that would like a LEADERSHIP position in planning and implementing this fun and energetic summer program please contact Mrs. Trout. First planning meeting is on Tuesday March 24th in the school library at 8:00pm. Questions? Call LeeAnn 412-492-8043 or email leeanntrout@verizon.net.

LENTEN

Our parish will be serving weekly fish dinners on Fridays from 4:30PM to 7:00PM 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:

Q - T March 27
U - Z April 3

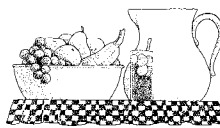
Please know that we have “Take-Out” as well as “Sit-Down” dinners. For your convenience, we have reserved “Take-Out” parking immediately outside the doors of Marian Hall. Thank you in advance for your participation and consideration. See you at our Fish Fry!



GOOD NEWS TO SHARE



PARISH BREAKFAST



Featuring homemade cinnamon buns and crumb cake along with eggs, sausage and free refills on coffee and tea.

March 22
8 – 11 AM
Marian Hall

\$6 for adults, \$5.50 for seniors, \$5 for children age 2 – 12 and children under 2 years of age eat for free.

Widows & Widowers Group will meet on March 29, at Lins Garden Restaurant, Route 8 and Route 910, at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. For more information call 412-486-5621 or 412-486-4209.

40 Days for Life

Members of St. Mary’s Pro-life organization will be participating in the “40 Days for Life” by doing a prayer vigil in front of Magee Women’s Hospital every Monday from 9 to 10 AM, starting March 2 through March 30. We invite all members of our parish to join us. If you would like to carpool please phone Ginny at 412-486-8241.

Knights OF COLUMBUS

On Thursday, March 26, 2009, the Knights of Columbus will meet in Providence Hall at 7:00PM. We will choose our council name, elections of officers, and plan our calendar. Any questions, please contact Joe Hrason at 412.398.7185 or 412.486.5403.

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN AND YOUNG MEN

It’s not too late to catch a FREE ride on our bus to the A. J. Palumbo Center on Saturday, April 18, 2009. You are invited whether you are a grandfather, father, single man, or son, whatever your level of faith or whatever your level of spiritual needs, fill out the form below and join us.

PRE-REGISTRATION

GATHERING OF CATHOLIC MEN SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

Enclosed is a check made payable to: C.M.F. for \$_____.

\$35.00 ... Adults
\$10.00 ... High School/College Students

Please reserve _____ seats on the bus.

Please pre-register the following:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Please return to Rectory Office c/o Jim Finn.

Come to the light

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

“...whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” John 3:21

How do we “live the truth”? And how do we avoid that misunderstanding that springs from the days of the Reformation – appearing to be all about our works with little regard for the saving Grace of Christ?

As I contemplate the Gospel for today, I can’t stop the stream of thoughts...the aching heart just won’t go away. Pain and emotion swirl around me, both in my personal life and my ministry. In my previous jobs in health care and my current position in church ministry I have encountered pain, so much pain that sometimes it is overwhelming. And, there are so few people who have the courage to help others through their pain. **Is it because we have lost our sense of the mission of the Church?** What do I tell our St. Vincent de Paul Society when I cannot find a single volunteer to help them at the Veteran’s Hospital? How do I convince parents that their teens are so overburdened with school and extracurricular activities that they have absolutely no time to explore their role in the mission of Church? Teens can be so unselfish...if they are given the time to live the truth.

One thing I can do now is to be able to relate to others who have lost both of their parents. It should not have come as such a shock to me when my mother died...but it did...maybe because I didn’t always have the best relationship with her. Years ago, Bee, our parish secretary [now retired], challenged me to make a change. Fr. Phil suggested that I ask Mom to volunteer in our youth ministry program. Astounding in its simplicity, here was the bridge that never existed before in our relationship. The teens that I loved also loved my mother; they called her Grandma B. Mom would sit in the rocking chair at the JAM center, teens everywhere at once...for awhile anyway...until they realized that there was someone who would actually sit still and listen to them...smiling occasionally or just chatting. In her own way, my mother was responding to God’s call to reach out in love by giving her time to the youth.

Mom was always an anxious person, even more so near the end. But, if I would start talking about the teens, she would get distracted from her pain or anxiety. She would smile as we remembered some of the crazy stunts the teens would try to pull. Mom knew them by name, attended their CYM plays, taught one of them to crochet and worried about them just like I did. Quite a few of the teens came to the funeral home when my Dad died four years ago. My mother never forgot their extraordinary support; she knew how hard it was for teens to “comfort the sorrowful.” Under the direction of Rosemary Cather-Kelly, those incredible teens came for a prayer service and forever etched a place in my mother’s heart. **Having the courage to help others in pain is a good way to respond to God’s call.**

Listen to the Word of God this weekend. There are so many aching hearts in this world. We hear from John 3:16: “God so loved the world that he gave his only son.” What extraordinary love! Free will is a gift from a loving God, but what choices do we make in our daily life? How do we respond to the Gospel when we leave the church building? And what happens if we walk away from the call and abandon the mission of the church, distracted by wicked things instead of living the truth?

“And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light...but whoever lives the truth **comes to the light**, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

John 3:19-21