

# PARISH FAMILY OF ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
September 14, 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](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

Parochial School - 412-486-7611

Youth Ministry Office - 412-492-9344

Marian Hall - 412-684-1112

Social Ministry Office - 412-486-4021

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

## MINISTRIES FAIR: A SUCCESS!

We offer a special round of applause to all those parishioners who made our annual "Ministries Fair" last weekend such a magnificent success. With "**55 different ministries**" being identified, it is quite obvious that many parishioners offer their TIME and TALENT to the work of our Parish Family. We thank all those chairpersons and leaders of our parish ministries for their generous cooperation with Jim Finn, our Pastoral Associate who set the Fair in motion. So many volunteers are needed to allow such a major event to have such an impact on so many others. It is at events such as these that all of us realize how wide spread the influence of our parish life goes in affecting so many people.

(We inadvertently omitted the Money Counters and the Committee to welcome new families off the listing given in last week's bulletin.)

## SECOND COLLECTION: TODAY

All those who gather for the liturgy TODAY are reminded of the second collection that will be taken up at each liturgy. This is the annual "Bishop's Education Fund Campaign" that is taken up in every parish in the Diocese. There is an envelope in our packet for this collection. The funds received in this collection are sent to the Diocese and distributed to those families in the catholic school who are in need of financial assistance. We are all invited to be as generous as possible in this collection.

## CONGRATULATIONS, RON BELSKI

This afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at St. Anne Church in Castle Shannon, our own RON BELSKI will take his next step toward Diaconate as he will receive the Ministry of Lector. Bishop Zubik will be the principal celebrant in this important celebration. Anyone from our Parish Family who wishes to be on hand to congratulate Ron is cordially welcome to join us this afternoon for this liturgical celebration.

## WELCOME, CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

We welcome all the members of our Catholic School's Cross Country Team to the 9:00 a.m. liturgy this morning. We wish the best of another successful year to the young people and coaches who will represent us in the many meets scheduled for this school year, as they join us at the Altar of the Lord!

## "VOX POPULI" (part 1)

The "Voice of the People" has been polled in the survey that was taken at all the Sunday liturgies a few months ago. The Pastoral Council are consulting the results of this survey to determine the "goals and objectives" for our future parish life. Because of the all encompassing nature of the survey, the Council members need time to collate the results. The two major questions on the survey were: (a) Question 8 about "*changing* one facet of our parish life" had **538** responses; and (b) Question 9 about "*adding* one facet to our parish life" had **490** responses. The Council will continue to keep all parishioners abreast of their work in this process.

## FAITH FORMATION PROGRAMS

As the Faith Formation Programs of our Parish Family begin for another year, we offer the appreciation of the entire Parish Family to all those parishioners who serve in one way or another in the many facets of this program. The superb dedication of the catechists, helpers and those who work with the families of our young people is an inspiration to all of us. "Faith Formation" is such an essential facet for a Parish Family forming disciples of the Lord Jesus, and St. Mary of the Assumption has become such a powerhouse in this formation process!

## "MAUSOLEUM" QUESTIONNAIRE

The St. Mary Cemetery Committee is now in the process of determining the possibility that we need to construct a Mausoleum in OUR OWN cemetery to serve the future needs of the members of our Parish Family. The packet sent home last week contained a form for those who would like to offer an opinion on this matter. If you have not done so as of yet, please place this form in the Sunday collection or send it back to the church as soon as possible.

## TEMPORALITIES COMMISSION

Members of the Temporalities Commission are reminded that their meeting has been changed to 8:00 p.m. this Wednesday as the members continue to oversee the temporal needs of our Parish Family. The issue of the school roof is a major consideration of the Commission, as well as the improvements being made in Marian Hall.



# LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, September 14, 2008 - Exalta-

**tion of the Holy Cross**

- 4:00 p.m. Matilda Ferraro - Rachele & Harry
- 6:00 p.m. Joseph Astemborski - Henry & Stella Newland, Jr.
- 7:30 a.m. Agnes Fowkes - Family
- 9:00 a.m. 51st Wedding Anniversary John & Philomena Hoehn
- 11:00 a.m. Paul Duncan - Dona & Tom Hotopp

**Monday, September 15, 2008 - Our Lady of Sorrows**

- 7:00 a.m. Special Intention - Marie & Lou
- 10:00 a.m. Mike Blum - Mary Lou

**Tuesday, September 16, 2008 - Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian**

- 7:00 a.m. George Stankovich - Hayes Family
- 10:00 a.m. Clarence Bittner - Greg & Denise Bittner

**Wednesday, September 17, 2008 - St. Robert Bellarmine**

- 7:00 a.m. Lynn Evans - Russ & Dot Cvetic
- 10:00 a.m. Marge Vistein - Family

**Thursday, September 18, 2008 - Weekday in Ordinary Time**

- 7:00 a.m. Dolores Burns - Beth Panza
- 10:00 a.m. Alma Rygielski - Paul & Kelly Zoeller
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Mothers/Women's Organization

**Friday, September 19, 2008 - Weekday in Ordinary Time**

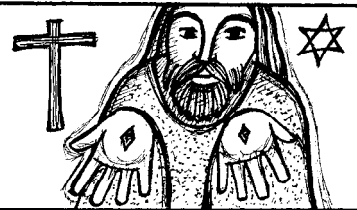
- 7:00 a.m. Anna Pospiech - Nick Vrscak
- 10:00 a.m. Mary Schultz - Schultz Family

**Saturday, September 20, 2008 - St. Andrew Kim Taegon & Paul Chon Hasang & Their Companions**

- 8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Berrang - Family
- 4:00 p.m. Dick O'Leary - Catherine O'Leary
- 6:00 p.m. Phillip Ionadi - Marco & Rose Imbarlina

**Sunday, September 21, 2008 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30 a.m. Margaret Davis - Karolyn & Carl Hunkele
- 9:00 a.m. Grace Milon - Kevin Fitzgerald Family
- 11:00 a.m. Raymond DiPasquale - Family



**CHRIST JESUS...  
EMPTIED HIMSELF,  
TAKING THE FORM OF  
A SLAVE,  
COMING IN HUMAN  
LIKENESS.**

~Philippians 2:7

## Weekly Activities at a Glance

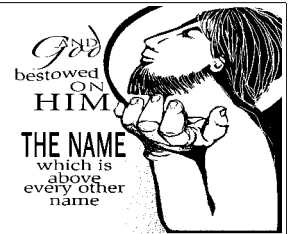
- Sunday Sept. 14** (Church) 9:00AM - Cross Country Mass  
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A. - The Creed  
(School) 10:00AM - Family Program Catechists Mtg.  
(Marian Hall) 11:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
(Marian Hall) 12:00PM - Grade 2 Meeting
- Monday Sept. 15** (Marian Hall) 3:00PM - Brownies #804  
(School) 6:30PM - CCD Catechists Meeting  
(Marian Hall) 6:30PM - Cub Scouts #169
- Tuesday Sept. 16** (Pantry) 6:00PM - Open Pantry  
(Rectory) 7:00PM - St. Vincent DePaul Meeting  
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Parent/Teacher Guild Meeting
- Wednesday Sept. 17** (Marian Hall) 9:15AM - Let the Little Children Come to Me  
(Marian Hall) 1:30PM - 55 Specials - Bingo/Cards  
(Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice  
(Jam Center) 3:00PM - CYM Drop-in  
(Marian Hall) 7:00PM - Knights of Columbus Meeting  
(Church) 7:30PM - Adult Choir Practice  
(Rectory) 8:00PM - Temporalities Meeting
- Thursday Sept. 18** (Church) 2:45PM - Children's Choir Practice  
(Church) 7:00PM - Christian Mothers/Women's Meeting  
(Church) 8:00PM - Adult Hand Bell Practice
- Friday Sept. 19** (Church) 10:00AM - School Mass
- Saturday Sept. 20** (Marian Hall) 9:00AM - Scripture & Prayer Workshop
- Sunday Sept. 21** (Church) 9:00AM - CCD Family Program  
(Church) 9:00AM - Liturgy of the Word for Children  
(Rectory) 10:00AM - R.C.I.A. - The Mass  
(PAC) 7:00PM - Youth Group



## BANN OF MARRIAGE

- I. Jason McKee & Erin McLaughlin (St. Mary)
- II. Kurt Carrozza (St. Mary) & Melissa Peterson (St. Mary)

## Daily Readings



- Sept. 15** 1Cor 11:17-26, 33; Jn 19:25-27, Lk 2:33-35
- Sept. 16** 1Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Lk 2:33-35
- Sept. 17** 1Cor 12:31 - 13:13; Lk 7:31-35
- Sept. 18** 1Cor 15:1-11; Lk 7:36-50
- Sept. 19** 1Cor 15:12-20; Lk 8:1-3
- Sept. 20** 1Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Lk 8:4-15
- Sept. 21** Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

August 30, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	639	\$13,732.00
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$991.00
Children's Offertory	37	\$51.00
School Collection	13	\$251.00
Parish Needy	30	\$544.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>\$15,569.00</b>

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE**



### **BAPTIZED IN CHRIST**

*Carlie Mae Franz  
Rachel Marie Tlachac*

Congratulations to their parents, godparents, and grandparents. Please join us in welcoming them to our parish family!

#### **A VOCATION VIEW**

*Take up your cross and follow Me, says the Lord!  
Have you considered a life of service to the church? Are you willing to follow Christ?*

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

All families with children age five and under are welcome to come to church on **WEDNESDAYS** at 9:30am for **PRAY AND PLAY DAY**. Call Monica to find out more at 412.492.0242. Moms, dads, grandparents and caregivers are welcome!

#### **A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar**

The Law of Christianity in today's gospel is the Law of Gravity in reverse. No one goes up...except the one who has come down." Today Jesus teaches us to lay "down" our self interests so we, and those we love, might have life more abundantly. Self interests can be obstacles to our happiness and the happiness of others.

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

Men from our parish meet twice a month to deepen their faith and relationship to God.

All men and young men are invited to join this group on either the **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30pm in the rectory or on the SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH after the 8:00 am Mass in the school**. For more information call the rectory and ask for Jim Finn our pastoral associate.

#### **RETREAT NEWS**

A good way to deepen our faith is to spend time away from the distractions of everyday life. St. Paul's Retreat Center on the Southside of Pittsburgh offers many weekend opportunities to do just that. **Our women are going on retreat November 7-8-9 and our men in March**. Information on other retreat opportunities is available by calling the rectory.

#### **MARRIAGE MOMENT**

Many spouses share many hours with members of the opposite sex while on their job. Don't be surprised if you're attracted to people at work. It's natural since presumably you share common interests. Naturally, however, set boundaries around the sanctity of your marriage lest anyone doubt that your spouse is your first priority.

## **RELIGIOUS FORMATION**

### **Faith Sharing for 24th Week Ordinary Time**

An out-of-the-ordinary feast replaces the Sunday of ordinary time today - The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The instrument of torture and death of Jesus, the CROSS, has been revered as a sacramental since the horror of Calvary. What does it mean to YOU to sign your self with the cross each day? How intentional are YOU in keeping the cross at the center of your life? Pray often this week:

**"We adore you, O Christ, and we THANK you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."**

**Monday, September 15 – Our Lady of Sorrows.** Look to Mary who "**stood** at the cross of Jesus" then received his dead body into her arms." Cry out to her for help in your most desperate times as well as THANK her for being our loving, protective mother at all times.

**MARTYRS**, are those who bore the cross of torture and death for love of Christ. Cornelius, Cyprian, Andrew Kim and companions are all honored this week. Find out about their heroic lives at [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org) - Saints.

**C.C.D. Faith Formation Families** who did NOT stop at the Faith Formation display at the Ministries Fair LAST week, may stop at the Faith Formation office to get YOUR calendar brochure.

#### **The sessions BEGIN:**

- ~ **Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 AM – Noon for Parents, Guardians & children - meet in Marian Hall;**
- ~ **Sunday, September 21-Family program at 9 AM Mass, then session till Noon;**
- ~ **Monday, Sept. 22, ONLY Grades 6-7-8 with parent/guardians meet in church;**
- ~ **Monday, Sept. 29 all grades meet, 6:30 PM Kindergarten & Grades 1 thru 5 gather in church; Grades 6-7-8 in classes.**

**CATECHETICAL Sunday**, NEXT Week, Sept. 21, is a day observed nationally to recognize that EVERY baptized Catholic is empowered to proclaim the riches of God's love. **This year's theme: "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church"** invites us to be immersed in the Word of God. We hear it proclaimed at each liturgy and are encouraged to read it each day in our homes. NOW will be a good time to make a new start if attending to the Word of God has not been a priority in your life. Let the GOOD News inform your days and enrich your life.

**TWO MORE WEEKS to prepare for the BIBLE BOWL for The YEAR OF SAINT PAUL -Mark September 29 on your calendar.** Study the passages which appeared in THIS column each week AND were on a salmon colored page in the packet mailed to each home recently. Be part of a game on Sept. 29, 7:15 PM in Marian Hall. From THIS Sunday:

Philippians 2:10 "If I live, it will be for Christ, and if I die, I will gain even more."

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP DON'T MISS OUR FIRST GATHERING ON SEPTEMBER 21 7 - 8:30 PM GAME NIGHT AT THE PAC

You need to sign up for  
Appalachia and NCYC 2009  
**NOW**

We need to start our fund raising!

You may also sign up for the following:

- ~ Serving at the SOAR homeless shelter or East End Cooperative Ministries soup kitchen.
- ~ Participating in our February 2009 drama (auditions will be in November).
- ~ Sign up for our new local home repair program for the needy.

## WE NEED A FEW GOOD.... DONATIONS

We are looking for electronic games for our social nights; might you consider giving us your old games that are in good shape? A donation of Sony Play-Station 2 plus games to be used in the Play Station like **Dance Dance Revolution** and **Wii** would be awesome! Leave a message at the CYM office if you can help our youth program.

## NEXT HOMELESS MEAL

for the ladies at the SOAR shelter will be on Saturday, October 11. Would you consider helping to serve or providing a meal item [enough to serve 16-18]? Please call the CYM line or email Barb Belski [see contact details below].

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, ext. 409 or email at [belskib@verizon.net](mailto:belskib@verizon.net)

## ST. MARY



### PTG Meeting

Our first PTG meeting for the 2008-2009 School Year will be held in Marian Hall on Tuesday, September 16th, at 7:00PM. Come and greet all the teachers and staff members and hear what great plans we have set for this year. Hope to see you there!

### INNISBROOK WRAP

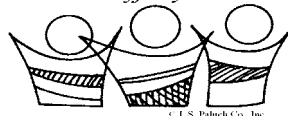
Our annual Innisbrook Wrap Sale is in full swing! We will be actively running our sales through September 25th. Please ask your student to share their sales with friends and family. If you would like a brochure to see the wonderful products they provide, please call the school office for more information.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

Lets get this party started! The first dance of the year for all Parish students in grades 6-7-8 will take place on Saturday, September 27, 2008, from 7:15-10:00 PM in Marion Hall. Tickets are \$5.00 & can be purchased through the rectory or Faith Formation Office during regular office hours. No tickets will be sold at the door. Join the fun, new DJ, dancing, friends, refreshments. This event is sponsored by St. Mary's PTG.



*Shout Joyfully to God*



### CELEBRATING LITURGY WITH CHILDREN

A three hour workshop, Thursday, September 25, 6:30-9:30 PM will be held at St. Francis, Harmarville with Master Catechist, Ms Tina Kendralla. Youth and Adults welcome to this EXCITING, and INFORMATIVE event. Call Marilyn Welsh 412-828-3123, TODAY to register.

**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS** & Parent/Guardian invited to meet with Mark Tobin to discuss the next step of the BURNING HEARTS process. Be part of the Core Team to offer suggestions for future experiences. Meet for a "continental breakfast" and discussion after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, Sept. 28. Call 412-486-5521 if YOU or your YOUTH in Grade 6-7-8 will come on Sunday Sept. 28, 10-11 AM in Marian Hall.

### MARKET DAY

**MEAL-IN-A-BAG, YES ! Complete, Tasty Meals, easy to cook in less than 10 minutes are available from MARKET DAY.** Internet orders still being taken till Noon THIS Tuesday, 9/16. Helpers on pick up day needed Sept. 29, 5:00 PM on; call Lee at 724-443-1147.

## OUR PARISH NEWS

### Welcome new & returning Sunday Family CCD members

The Sunday Faith Formation Session resumes September 21st, beginning with the 9:00 am Liturgy (Grade 8 serves). Following the Mass, parents will accompany their children to classrooms in the school building to meet with their children's catechists. The adults will return to Marian Hall by 10:30 am for the planned informative program until 12:00 noon.



### BEGINS TODAY!!

The journey of a lifetime begins today after the 9:00am Mass in the rectory dining room. Take a journey with our RCIA team and inquirers. If you want

a greater understanding of the Catholic faith, if you wish to accompany someone who has questions about what Catholics believe, if you want to complete your initiation into full membership into the Catholic church by preparing to receive Holy Communion and or confirmation, come as you are and join us on Sunday morning from 10am until 12 noon. To find out more, call Father Ed or Jim Finn at 412.486.4100. This week will be a general overview and next week we will discuss THE CREED. All are welcome!

### ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT here soon:

(Call 412-486-5521 to register to attend)

- ~ **Are YOU Desperate for the Word?** Come to our Bible Study, Tuesdays, 1:00-2:30 PM in our Faith Formation Conference Center, lower floor of the school building, begins Sept. 9. Call Dori Monahan, 412-492-9891 for details.
- ~ **Scripture and Prayer** A three hour workshop for any & ALL adults and youth, Saturday, September 20, 9:00 AM till Noon with Sisters of Saint Joseph, Marguerite Kropinak and Melanie Polenski. (Children welcome for Bible games outdoors during the workshop. Call to advise if child(ren) will attend; 412-486- 5521.)
- ~ **Parables of Jesus**, Tuesdays, 6:30-9:00 PM Sept.23-Oct. 14 in Marian Hall with Father Ed. Find out why and how the stories of Jesus have significance for we of the twenty-first century.

### Christian Mothers Women's Organization

Prayers have been answered. Please welcome our newest member and also our new vice president, Beverly Kohan. Beverly has graciously offered to serve CMWO for the next two years as our vice president. Thank you Beverly! Ladies, our meeting is just around the corner, Thursday, September 18th. Please contact Lois Krieg at 412-486-3611 if you are able to help with the calendar party. Any women who would like to be installed as new members at our October meeting, please contact Marilyn Buck - 412-492-8367 or jambuck@verizon.net. Thank you.

September 7, 2008	Envelopes	Contributions
Offertory	921	\$19,905.37
Cash/Loose Cks.	-	\$1,041.00
Children's Offertory	42	\$60.15
Bishop's Ed. Fund	5	\$80.00
School Collection	4	\$265.00
Assumption of Mary	3	\$25.00
Parish Share 2008	37	\$1,317.00
Parish Needy	165	\$2,460.00
Total	1,177	\$25,153.52

GOOD  
NEWS  
TO  
SHARE



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### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The worldwide "Knight of Columbus" organization is looking to establish a council in our parish. We need thirty men to start a council. If you are interested in knowing more about the Knights, a former knight, or would like to transfer into our "newly" established council, please attend the meeting on September 17, 2008, at 7:00 pm in Marian Hall. The men that picked up COAL [Chance of a lifetime] tickets, at the MINISTRY FAIR, please return them at this meeting. Any questions, please call Joe Hrason, 412-486-5403 after 5:30 pm.

### 64th International Rosary March

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 5, 2008. Let us march with solidarity, with love in our hearts, with Mary, Queen of Peace.

#### Schedule of Events

- Noon - Mass at Epiphany Church - Fr. Carmen D'Amico
  - 1:15pm- Rosary March from Epiphany Church (Centre Avenue) to St. Mary of Mercy Church (Stanwix St.)
  - 2:00pm- Holy Hour with Benediction - St. Mary of Mercy Church with Fr. Daniel Vallecorsa, Pastor of St. Regis Church and Chaplain of the Latino Community
  - 3:00pm - Crowning of Our Lady - Refreshments to follow in Lawless Hall.
- Those who cannot march are welcome - there is also a noon Mass at St. Mary of Mercy Church followed by the Prayer of the Rosary and Holy Hour.

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN** will be performed by internationally renowned actor, Leonardo Defilippis, Wednesday, Sept.17, 7:00 PM at Saint Edward Church, Blawnox. \$15.00 admission 2 for \$25. Family rates arranged by calling 412-828-4066.

### MASS INTENTIONS

Since the great number of MASS INTENTIONS that are given to our Parish Family cannot be satisfied in our parish church, we remind all parishioners that some intentions will be sent to the Missions. Not only does that mean that the intentions will be said long before they could be said in our parish church, but the stipend connected to the intentions goes to help the work of the missions in needy areas of the world. The following intentions have been sent to the Missions and those who requested them can be assured that these masses will be celebrated shortly.

#### Mass Intention

Ralph Costa  
Clarence Bittner  
Clarence Bittner  
Clarence Bittner  
Clarence Bittner  
Marcella Tarasi  
Marcella Tarasi  
Regis Klein  
Mary Lou Blum

#### Requested By:

Harry & Rachele Heinel  
Betty Boser  
Ed & Laurie Moan  
John & Joanne Reiger  
Gloria & Bob Duffy  
Family & Friends  
Children & Grandchildren (2)  
Family & Friends (3)  
George M. Massie &  
Patricia Brandstetter &  
George M. Massie, Jr. (5)

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

Where has the liturgy for the “TWENTY-FOURTH” Sunday in Ordinary Time” gone??? Have you noticed the red vestments that were part of today’s celebration?? What happened to the green that is supposed to be used on all of these Sundays leading up to the Solemnity of Christ the King in November? Well, today is September 14<sup>th</sup>! On the liturgical calendar, it is called the “FEAST” of The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The fact that it is a “feast” is the operative word in this case, since a “feast” takes precedence over the simple remembrance of Ordinary Time. Therefore, the entire liturgy surrounding The Exaltation of the Holy Cross will be celebrated by all of us today.

Why so? Because the “Exaltation of the Holy Cross” is about the Lord Jesus! We are always reminded that the reason for the liturgical cycle of events is to bring us into contact with the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Sometimes we Catholics fill the calendar with other events concerning secondary characters in our Faith. The divine liturgy of the Catholic Church never does --- it always places the events concerning the Lord Jesus front and foremost for those who come to celebrate. The importance of the “Holy Cross” is seen in the fact that all four gospels proclaim the death of Jesus on the CROSS as the first half of the central mystery of his “dying and rising.” This particular day is chosen to accentuate the importance of the CROSS since September 14<sup>th</sup> was the date of the dedication of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. The tradition that has been handed down since the time of Constantine in the fourth century is that this basilica was build on the very spot of Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion.

The wearing of the RED vestments in today’s liturgy commemorates the shedding of blood in the horror of the crucifixion. There is an integral connection between the eternal salvation won for us by the Lord Jesus, and the offering of himself on the cross. The shedding of his blood emphasizes the “sacrificial” nature of the cross. We enter most deeply into this sacrificial mystery when at each liturgy we drink of the precious blood from the Eucharistic cup. So we look upon the Lord Jesus, who has been lifted up on the cross, and come to believe that we are destined for a world beyond this life. So we EXALT the Cross as the instrument of our destiny --- a destiny that will take us to a world of no more crosses!!!