

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT****MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sat, Feb. 9, 2008 to Sun, Feb. 17, 2008**

<b>Saturday Vigil, Feb. 9:</b>	<b>4:30 PM Church</b>
Josephine Hanobik (John, Children & Grandchildren)	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 10:</b>	<b>7:30 AM Church</b>
<i>For Parish Family of St. John of God</i>	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 10:</b>	<b>9:30 AM Chapel</b>
Elizabeth Stokes (Richard & Elizabeth D'Loss)	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 10:</b>	<b>11:30 AM Church</b>
Antoinette Presutti (Family)	

**WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH**

<b>Monday, Feb. 11:</b>	Katherine Van Dyke (David Sr, David Jr, Lisa & Marnie Quest)
<b>Tuesday, Feb. 12:</b>	Gertrude Amon (Patricia Kolb)
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 13, 8:15 AM, Chapel:</b>	<i>For Students and Staff of St. John of God School</i>
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 13:</b>	Mary Konecky (Jennie Macosko)
<b>Thursday, Feb. 14:</b>	16th Wedding Anniv - Bob & Cathy McNeilly
<b>Thurs., Feb. 14, Stations of the Cross, 1:15 PM, Chapel</b>	
<b>Friday, Feb. 15:</b>	Angeline Molitoris (Dave & Angie Spinelli)
<b>Friday, Feb. 15, Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM, Church</b>	

<b>Saturday Vigil, Feb. 16:</b>	<b>4:30 PM Church</b>
Anniv - Anthony J. DeAngelis (Wife, Mary)	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 17:</b>	<b>7:30 AM Church</b>
<i>For Parish Family of St. John of God</i>	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 17:</b>	<b>9:30 AM Chapel</b>
John LaCivita (Louis & Jane Bacco)	
<b>Sunday, Feb. 17:</b>	<b>11:30 AM Church</b>
Mary Tomei (Tomei Family)	

**Readings for the Week of February 10, 2008**

Sunday:	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19/Mt 4:1-11
Monday:	Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday:	Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32
Thursday:	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12
Friday:	Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26
Saturday:	Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48
Next Sunday:	Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated in St. John of God Parish every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM in St. Mary's Church and on Thursdays at 1:15 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows.

**Bulletin Deadline: Tuesday Noon**

**Parish Office Hours:**

**9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (Monday thru Friday)**

**ECUMENICAL SERVICES**

The traditional Lenten Ecumenical Services will be held on the Tuesday evenings during Lent in St. John of God Parish, the Church at St. Mary's at 7:30 PM. This year's theme for the services is the "Beatitudes." This Tuesday, February 12, St. John of God Parish will conduct the services with Fr. Al as Celebrant focusing on "Blessed are they who mourn." A social will follow the services in the Gathering Place. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to join us for these spirit-filled evenings.

**PENANCE SERVICE IN OUR DEANERY**

During lent 2008 Bishop David A. Zubik will be holding Penance Services with individual Rite of Reconciliation at nine different parishes encompassing the 16 deaneries of the Diocese between February 7 and March 11, 2008.

In our area, Bishop Zubik will be celebrating at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Moon Township at 7 PM on Monday, February 18. All parishioners throughout our deanery are invited to attend.

**WHY MUST HE DIE?**

The 25 member Teen Chorale of the Tri County Choir Institute will present the Passion Play, *Why Must He Die?* in our Parish of St. John of God, the Church at St. Mary's on Good Friday, March 21, at 12 Noon. The cast is comprised of students from area junior / senior high schools and colleges. This play is a meditation through music, liturgical dance and drama on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. All are cordially invited to come for this spiritually uplifting presentation. A free-will offering will be taken.

**ADULT LENTEN SERIES**

Our sister parish, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Crescent Township, invites all parishioners to an Adult Lenten Series on four consecutive Thursdays beginning February 21, at 6:30 PM in Siena Hall. Fr. Dennis Bradley of Ascension Parish will be the Celebrant at the series and will be speaking on the Passion Narratives. All are most welcome. For more information, please call St. Catherine's at 724-457-7026.

**8TH GRADE PROGRAM AT LEO MEYER MANOR**

As part of their program for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the fall, the eighth grade students, both Sunday School and SJG School, will host a Bingo for the residents of Leo Meyer Manor on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 1:30 to 3 PM. More information is being sent to parents. If you have any questions, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**



Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to the "Sundae Monday" ice cream social on Monday, Feb. 18 (President's Day—NO SCHOOL) from 1:00 to 4:00 PM in the Youth Center. We'll be playing games, watching movies, and eating plenty of ice cream! To sign up contact Steve at 412-331-8573 x11 or [sjgyouthmin@yahoo.com](mailto:sjgyouthmin@yahoo.com).

**HOMEMADE GNOCCHI**

The Pizza Kitchen is selling two pound bags of home-made gnocchi on Fridays during Lent. We will gather for the following Monday evenings to make the gnocchi, Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25. If you can help, please join us this Monday, Feb. 11, at 6 PM in the Pizza Kitchen. The Lenten season is always a busy time in the Pizza Kitchen, so please consider volunteering a few hours on a Friday. Men and women of all ages are welcome and no experience is necessary! For more information, please call Linda at 412-771-1418. Hope to see you there!

**COVERED DISH DINNER  
February 19, 2008**

All women of St. John of God Parish are invited to come spend an enjoyable evening with the Women's Guild at their Covered Dish Dinner on Tuesday, February 19, at 6 PM in the Social Hall at Mother of Sorrows. Please RSVP to: Marge Ferraro, 412-331-9983 or Anna Marie Stropkaj, 412-771-2392 (let them know what you will be bringing).

**HOSPITAL**

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **Marian Manor** - Stu Hergenroeder **Veterans/Aspinwall** - Joseph Marczak, Frank Pavlakovich  
*Also for those ill at home, in nursing homes, and shut-ins, may continue to receive the Lord's Blessings.*

**SYMPATHY**

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Families of Loretta Vojtecky and Elizabeth Bearer, MD (niece of Sr. Ruth Bearer) whom God has called. Please remember them and all our dearly departed in your prayers.

*"May the Choirs of Angels receive them and may they with the once poor Lazarus have rest everlasting."*

**BIBLE STUDY**

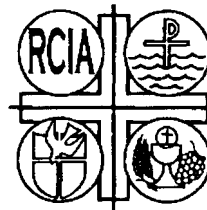
All are invited to a Bible Study, led by John Fatula, on Wed, Feb. 20, 6:30 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows.

**SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF FEB. 10**

**St. Mary's** - In Memory of Frank Zane by Zane Family  
**Mother of Sorrows** - In Memory of William Campalong by Daughter and Grandchildren

**THE P.V. REPORT  
Fr. Al Semler**

I hope you had a good Ash Wednesday. I spent the day at St. Catherine's. We had a good number of people for ashes. It seemed more than last year. The lights went out twice during the evening Mass for about three to five minutes each time. My prayer for you during Lent will be that you grow closer to the Lord and be well prepared for a Great Easter.



**RITE OF SENDING FOR ELECTION**

Next Sunday, Feb. 17, at the 9:30 AM Mass, our candidates preparing for the Easter Sacraments will celebrate the Rite of Sending. In this Rite, their sponsors and formation team speak on their behalf regarding their preparation and the community sends them forth with blessings to the Rite of Election with Bishop Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral at 3:00 PM. In the Rite of Election, the Bishop pronounces them ready for full membership with Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist, again, after their sponsors present them, and gives them blessings for continued conversion in the faith. Please keep Carlos Carrabbia, Calvin Mullen, and Brandt Wilson in your prayers as they celebrate these Rites and enter the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

**ATTENDANCE AT ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH  
FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB. 2 / FEB. 3**

<b>Saturday</b> .....	<b>348</b>
<b>Sunday</b> .....	<b>837</b>
<b>Total Weekend Attendance</b> .....	<b>1,185</b>
<b>Total Weekend Offertory</b> .....	<b>\$6,959.00</b>
<b>Parish Share Assessment 2008</b> .....	<b>\$87,038.00</b>
<b>Parish Share Collected to Date (Thank You!)</b> .....	<b>\$7,544.24</b>
<b>Balance on Parish Share</b> .....	<b>\$79,493.76</b>

Stay tuned for more info about our 2008 assessment.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

- Feb. 11 (Mon.)** - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins at 6:30 PM.
- Feb. 12 (Tues.)** - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's.
- Feb. 13 (Wed.)** - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO** - MOS Social Hall - Doors open 5 PM, Early Birds 7, Reg. Games 7:15
- Feb. 13 (Wed.)** - Cub Scout Meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Gathering Place.
- Feb. 15 (Fri.)** - **PIZZA KITCHEN!** To order call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM-1 PM - Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

**PASTOR'S CORNER***Fr. Lou Vallone*

In today's bulletin there is a letter from the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Here is the story behind that letter.

When I was appointed your Pastor on December 12, 2005, the Parish was in dire financial straits. With a debt of \$1,250,000.00 it was running an operating deficit of \$350,000.00 a year. In a word, it was bankrupt and could not fund its ministries. While money is not everything, it was the most immediate problem to tackle if the Parish were to survive. Many stringent measures, most hard or sad, had to be taken to allow us to support ourselves. Among the most difficult but most necessary was the trimming of compensation for paid employees.

Using what I trusted were responsible, just and Christian principles, I had a meeting with each employee, witnessed by Fr. Larry. At each meeting I outlined what the Parish was able to offer for compensation for their employment. Some jobs were eliminated, and those individuals had the option of collecting unemployment compensation. All but one employee had a reduction of salary and/or benefits offered (some were slight, others were considerable amounts.) Some employees chose to leave the employ; others accepted the offers with admirable good grace.

One set of employees from the cemeteries opted to take their retirements voluntarily, and the requisite accommodations were made. However, at a later date, after making complaints to the Catholic Cemeteries Association and the Clergy Office of the Diocese (which were deemed by both offices not substantiated), they notified the Parish through an attorney that they intended to sue unless we offered a money settlement to them.

In justice, I declined any settlement, and they filed official complaints with the Equal Economic Opportunities Commission, charging the Parish and the Diocese with violations of Federal Law in the categories of age discrimination, American with Disabilities Act discrimination, retaliation and sexual harassment. I stated categorically and before God that all such charges were absolutely false and fabricated and that they attacked me personally and morally. The Diocese of Pittsburgh retained a lawyer on behalf of itself and the Parish to answer the false accusations. The EEOC consequently dismissed all charges.

Those former employees then through their counsel filed a civil suit in Federal Court on the same charges. As part of the process, a Neutral Evaluator was appointed by the court and agreed to by both sides to hear a summary of the charges and the defense. He too found they had not made a case, but offered according to juridical practice to attempt mediation. To him, and before the Risk Manager of the Diocese, the lawyer who had been retained to defend me and the Parish, and a claims manager used by the Diocese, I asserted that I would not mediate or negotiate. Their claims were utterly false, and inasmuch as they accused me of not only illegal and unethical, but immoral behavior, I insisted that we proceed to trial where I believed testimony from all parties taken under oath, and the threat of perjury, would clear my name. My instructions were "No settlement! Zero dollars! We go to trial for the truth!"

Unknown to me, the Risk Manager of the Diocese and the lawyer in fact reached a settlement that would pay \$4,500 to plaintiffs to drop their suit. When I found out that these actions were taken in contradiction to my express instructions, I through a series of e-mails and a meeting with Diocesan officials protested their actions. Based on my objections, a new lawyer who represented both the Parish and the Diocese petitioned the court to set aside the settlement and to allow the matter to go to trial so that I might be vindicated.

Unfortunately, the court ruled that there was not a "mutual mistake" regarding the authority to settle (the lawyer and Diocesan representative had never communicated my orders to the court during the process, and in fact had never informed me of the meetings.) Therefore, not on the merits of the case, but rather on the basis of the assertions of the Diocese, the court ordered the settlement to proceed.

The reasoning of the Diocesan representative for doing this was that a trial would have cost \$25,000 and that was too much to spend to defend against the charges. It was cheaper to pay the \$4,500. It was a good business decision, he said, for what they considered a nuisance suit.

In this entire process, I feel that my reputation and good name were ruined by false witness, and my rights and responsibilities as Pastor and trust administrator were compromised, even if it were not the intent of the representatives of the Diocese to do so. I have always based my financial administration on the principles of justice, transparency and accountability to the people whose money I steward. The charges iterated by these former employees impugned my integrity, and they financially profited by those lies. I leave them to the judgment of God in these and other matters regarding their employment in the Parish.

To those employees who accepted less and did more for the good of the Parish and its survival: my admiration and commendation.

To Fr. Rege, Fr. Al and Fr. Larry with whom I have lived and ministered: my affection and fraternal support. Living with each of you has been a joy and it is an honor to have my name mentioned in the same breath as yours in serving the people of this Parish.

To the people of St. John of God Parish who remained loyal to their faith and their worshipping community, who labored and loved so long, hard and generously (whether you liked me or not, agreed with me or not) but remained committed to the continuing life of the Parish: my blessings and gratitude for the privilege of being your Pastor.



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**DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH**[www.diopitt.org](http://www.diopitt.org)GENERAL SECRETARIAT111 BOULEVARD OF THE ALLIES  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222  
(412) 456-3131 FAX (412) 456-3197  
e-mail: [gensec@diopitt.org](mailto:gensec@diopitt.org)

Dear Parishioners:

Recently, representatives of the Diocese of Pittsburgh reached a nominal settlement in an employment lawsuit against not only Saint John of God Parish but also the Diocese of Pittsburgh. The settlement acknowledged no wrong doing whatsoever on the part of Father Lou Vallone, your pastor, and was made only to put an end to this matter in the courts without a prolonged and costly trial.

Unfortunately, in agreeing to this settlement, representatives of the Diocese of Pittsburgh mistakenly did so without the full knowledge of Father Vallone. This may have given the false impression that Father Vallone had acted in error in this matter, or that he had personally agreed to the terms of the settlement. Neither is true.

While motivated by the best of intentions, the diocesan representatives erred in making the settlement without Father Vallone's knowledge. Although this matter was settled with the interest of the parish and the Diocese in mind, the good intentions of that action were not completely achieved. On behalf of the Diocese, I apologize for any misconceptions this may have created in the parish, and to Father Vallone for what might appear to be a dilution of his rightful authority as pastor.

Father Vallone is a trusted pastor who continues to have the full support and confidence of the Diocese that he serves so well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Paul J. Bradley, M.S.W., D.D.  
Auxiliary Bishop/Vicar General  
General Secretary

<b>ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH</b>	<b>11/30/2005</b>	<b>12/31/2006</b>	<b>12/31/2007</b>
OPERATING LOAN – PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST	624,906.00	920,562.45	952,836.34
UNPAID ELEMENTARY EDUCATION GRANT	21,707.00	16,477.25	0
UNPAID INSURANCE AND BENEFITS	216,976.00	207,577.54	0
UNPAID CATHEDRAL RENOVATION ASSESSMENT 2007 = 16,000.00	0	0	0
* UNPAID/(SURPLUS) PARISH SHARE	48,668.00	0	0
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>912,257.00</b>	<b>1,144,617.24</b>	<b>952,836.34</b>
CATHOLIC INSTITUTE SAVINGS	91,713.00	235,804.73	382,173.06
CAPITAL FUND	5,536.00	106,808.13	123,687.00
ORGAN FUND	4,748.00	4,867.55	7,232.47
OPERATING ACCOUNT	21,433.13	104,777.74	56,233.79
FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT	5,442.81	74,858.81	18,823.75
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>134,872.94</b>	<b>527,116.96</b>	<b>588,150.07</b>
<b>EXPOSURE</b>	<b>-777,384.06</b>	<b>-617,500.28</b>	<b>-364,685.64</b>

## FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED AS OF 1/31/2008:

1. SALE OF ST. MARK'S COMPLEX COMPLETE WITH PROCEEDS OF SALE ALLOTTED TO PAY OFF 2007 UNPAID INSURANCE AND BENEFITS, UNPAID BISHOP'S EDUCATION FUND AND UNPAID UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROGRAM SINCE 2002.
2. ALL OPERATING BILLS HAVE BEEN PAID.
3. INSURANCE AND BENEFITS BILL IS PAID ON A MONTHLY BASIS.
4. 2006 AND 2007 PSP PAID IN FULL WITH SURPLUSES EACH YEAR.

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
* PSP ASSESSMENT	104,894.00	95,160.00	89,147.00	87,038.00
* PSP COLLECTED TO DATE 1/31/2008	56,206.00	96,023.44	115,144.92	20,475.24
* PSP DUE / (SURPLUS) AS OF 1/31/2008	48,688.00	(863.44)	(25,997.92)	66,562.76

**IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE FINANCIAL REPORT, WE HAVE MADE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TOTALLING \$304,793.05. ALL OF THIS WAS PAID IN FULL AS THE PROJECTS WERE COMPLETED.**