

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT****MASS INTENTIONS****Sat., Feb. 28 to Sun., March 8, 2009**

Saturday Vigil, Feb. 28:	4:30 PM Church
Robert Priddy (Wife & Children)	
Sunday, March 1:	7:30 AM Church
Eleanor Nau (Evelyn Bodga)	
Sunday, March 1:	9:30 AM Chapel
Madeline Catanzarite (Husband & Family)	
Sunday, March 1:	11:30 AM Church
Anniv - Albert Gerger (Wife, Agnes)	

WEEKDAYS — 9:30 AM CHURCH

Monday, March 2:	<i>For Parish Family of St. John of God</i>
Monday, March 2,	Stations of the Cross, 1:45 PM, Chapel
Tuesday, March 3:	Victor Salnoris (Helen Salnoris)
Wednesday, March 4, 8:30 AM,	Chapel: For Students and Staff of St. John of God School
Wednesday, March 4:	Mary O'Connell (anonymous)
Thursday, March 5:	Dec'd of Merscher Family (Estate)
Friday, March 6:	Anniv - Frank Wojtkowski (Family)
Friday, March 6,	Stations of the Cross, 6:30 PM, Church
Saturday Vigil, March 7:	4:30 PM Church
Norbert & Elizabeth McDermott (John & Betty McDermott)	
Sunday, March 8:	7:30 AM Church
Mildred Hoffman (Son, William)	
Sunday, March 8:	9:30 AM Chapel
Ernest Funwela (Family)	
Sunday, March 8:	11:30 AM Church
Vivian Herbst Mochnick & William E. Herbst (Elaine Herbst & William Mochnick Family)	

Readings for the week of March 1, 2009

Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15
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 22:1-2, 9a-18/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

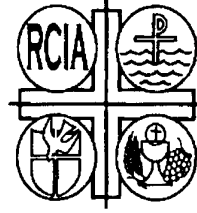
SANCTUARY CANDLE - WEEK OF MARCH 1

ST. MARY'S - IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM HOFFMAN BY SON,
WILLIAM

MOTHER OF SORROWS - IN MEMORY OF JOYCE JULIAN BY
HUSBAND AND FAMILY

RITE OF ELECTION

This Sunday, March 1, at the 9:30 AM Liturgy, our catechumens and 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 David Zubik at St. Paul Cathedral at 3 PM.



In the Rite of Election, the Church makes its "election", that is the choice and admission of those Catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part in the Sacraments of Initiation. Please keep Cathleen Kilonsky, Renee Namisnak, Cynthia Sheets, Dale Warner and Jane Warner in your prayers as they celebrate these rites and enter the Period of Purification and Enlightenment.

USHERS MEETING

This Monday, March 2, there will be an Ushers Meeting for all current ushers in the Gathering Place. Also, all those interested in learning more about the ministry of ushers are welcome to join us.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to a Lenten Bible Study, led by John Fatula, on Tuesday, March 3, from 6:30 to 8 PM in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. All are welcome.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: **West Hills Rehab.** - Ethel Miske, Marie Priore **Willow Lane** - John Hanobik *Also for those ill at home, in nursing homes, and shut-ins; that they may continue to receive the Lord's Blessings.*

SYMPATHY

We wish to extend our sympathy to the Families of Mildred Byrom, Joseph Marczak, and Helen Macasek whom God has called. Please remember them and all our dearly departed and their families in your prayers. *"They whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are."*

BULLETIN DEADLINE: TUESDAY NOON

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM (MONDAY THRU FRIDAY)



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Teens in grades 8-12 are invited to our marvelous **“Movie Night”** on Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:00 PM in the Youth Center. Admission is free so bring some friends! For more info, contact Steve at 412-331-8573 or sigyouthmin@yahoo.com.

PARTYLITE FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who attended the candle party sponsored by the Youth Group. If you missed the party but are interested in ordering some PartyLite items, please call the Youth Office at 412-331-8573.

8TH GRADE PROGRAM AT CHARTIERS MANOR

The eighth grade students, both Sunday School and SJG School, will host a Bingo for the residents of Chartiers Manor (located across the street from the McKees Rocks Post Office) on Saturday, March 14, from 1:30 to 3 PM. If you have any questions, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are celebrated in St. John of God Parish every Friday during Lent at 6:30 PM in St. Mary’s Church and every Monday at 1:45 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows.



**PARISH WEEKEND ATTENDANCE
February 21 / 22**

Saturday	338
Sunday.....	767
Total Weekend Attendance	1,105

**PARISH FINANCIAL TOTALS
For the Weekend of Feb. 21 / 22**

Regular Offertory Collection\$5,543.00

(This is ordinary income from contributions for the general running of the parish. It is subject to a 17.6% tax to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.)

PARISH SHARE PROGRAM

PSP Assessment for 2009	\$93,361.00
Contributions to date	\$28,826.75
Remaining on goal.....	\$70,773.00

(This is the tax paid to the Diocese. We must remit this entire amount to the Diocese by Dec. 31. Any surplus then remains in the parish, tax free.) (Stay tuned for more information on our 2009 assessment.)

ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS

**The Catholic School Experience:
Education Plus!**

Plus + Academic Excellence
Faith ~~ Values ~~ Creativity
Family involvement ~Community Spirit

Applications for 4 Year Old Preschool; Kindergarten; and Grades 1 through 8 for the 2009-2010 school year are being accepted at St. John of God School. The current 4 year old program offers half-day or all-day sessions. Kindergarten is full day.

- Class size is limited - please call or visit soon.
- Financial Aid is available
- Registration deadline is April 30

For more information, to schedule a visit or to register, call the school office at 412-331-8501.

**MARKET DAY ORDERS FOR
MARCH SWEET REWARDS MONTH**

Orders are due by Friday, March 6. Pick-up date is Monday, March 16, 6:15 to 7:15 PM at the Social Hall. The more desserts we sell this month the more we make. Pick up an order form at the school and see details about receiving a Free Insulated Bag.

**TV MASS FOR SHUT-INS
MARCH 15, 2009**

Every Sunday at 6:00 AM, Mass is televised for shut-ins on Channel 11. On the Third Sunday of Lent, March 15, the celebrant for the shut-in Mass will be Fr. Lou Vallone, and a group of children from St. John of God School will also be there to participate in the Mass.

**CATHOLIC VISION OF LOVE
PARENT MEETING**

A parent meeting for Catholic Vision of Love will be held on Thursday, March 12, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM in Mother of Sorrows Chapel. All parents of students in grades 5-8, both SJG School and Sunday School, are required to attend this meeting. For any questions, call John Fatula, 412-331-8573.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

Our parish will collect non-perishable food products, as well as paper products and soap, for the needy among us. You may bring your donation to any Mass next weekend, March 7/8. Thanks in advance.

March, 2009

Mar. 7 - 8	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Patricia Golembiewski Charlotte Schriener	Tom Burgunder Donna Klocek Spohn	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Mary Ann Scrabis John Friel
Altar Server	Cassandra Cropper Wesley Cropper Brian Benedetti	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Jared Hall Christopher Cercone Emily Halbedl	Alex Adams Tom Adams Matthew DiSanto
Euch. Min.	Donna Placon Carole Yunker Mike Tomsko Alexis Adamchik Gerrie Bayer Rosemarie Litterini	Claudia Hemphill Julienne Giuliani Mark Honath George Wolf	Neve Mell Steve Tomsko Eric Hall Kelly Hall Dominic Puppo Frank Troff	Gizella Fedorka Patsy Mance Eleanor Vith Anne Lutz Zacharias
Mar. 14 - 15	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Terry Fedio Ann Tkacik	Michael Ivosevic Tami Ivosevic	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Joanne Malenock Tracy Olanyk
Altar Server	Anna Marie Kilonsky Michael Roussey Brian Benedetti	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Jacob Scott Kevin Barbour Emily Halbedl	Elizabeth Diehl Victoria Diehl Christopher Linnert
Euch. Min.	George Wolf Alexis Adamchik Gerrie Bayer Rosemarie Litterini Charlotte Schriener Mike Tomsko	Nina Ivosevic Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill Mark Honath	Angela Ciccone Theresa Davis Margaret Ferraro Kelly Hall Eric Hall Dominic Puppo	Edward McNabb Gloria McNabb Wanda Mruzcek Gizella Fedorka
Mar. 21 - 22	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Patricia Golembiewski Charlotte Schriener	Donna Klocek Spohn John Friel	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Julienne Giuliani Joanne Malenock
Altar Server	Cassandra Cropper Wesley Cropper Matthew DiSanto	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Christopher Cercone Eric Hall Jared Hall	Alex Adams Tom Adams Brian Benedetti
Euch. Min.	Carole Yunker Anne Lutz Zacharias Alexis Adamchik Gerrie Bayer Terry Fedio Rosemarie Litterini	Mary Ann Scrabis George Wolf Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill	Mark Honath Theresa Davis Margaret Ferraro Eric Hall Kelly Hall Dominic Puppo	Patsy Mance Eleanor Vith Mike Tomsko Gizella Fedorka
Mar. 28 - 29	Sat 4:30 PM	Sun 7:30 AM	Sun 9:30 AM	Sun 11:30 AM
Lector	Charlotte Schriener Ann Tkacik	Tami Ivosevic Tom Burgunder	Children's Mass Children's Mass	Wanda Mruzcek John Friel
Altar Server	Anna Marie Kilonsky Michael Roussey Matthew DiSanto	Tim McGuillan Dallas Woods	Kevin Barbour Emily Halbedl Jacob Scott	Elizabeth Diehl Victoria Diehl Christopher Linnert
Euch. Min.	Alexis Adamchik Gerrie Bayer Rosemarie Litterini Anne Lutz Zacharias Carole Yunker George Wolf	Michael Ivosevic Nina Ivosevic Ron Amity Sr. Claudia Hemphill	Al Condeluci Liz Condeluci Frank Troff Angela Ciccone Theresa Davis Margaret Ferraro	Edward McNabb Gloria McNabb Tracy Olanyk Gizella Fedorka

PENANCE SERVICES

During Lent, 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 26 and March 18. In our area, which is the Southwest Deanery, Bishop Zubik will be celebrating at St. Barbara Parish, Bridgeville on Wednesday, March 4 at 7 PM. All parishioners throughout our deanery are invited to attend.

LADIES OF CHARITY - 50TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

In September of 2009, the Ladies of Charity of the Diocese of Pittsburgh will host a National Assembly to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their founding. To help defray costs of this gathering, the Ladies of Charity is having a Cookbook fundraiser. The cookbooks, comprised of a collection of recipes by the Ladies of Charity, Diocese of Pittsburgh, sells for \$15.00 each and are available by calling Joann Lex at 412-331-5043. The cookbook also makes a great gift!

THE WEEK AHEAD

March 2 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited, St. Mary's Church - Rosary begins 6:30 PM.

March 3 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary's.

March 4 (Wed.) - **WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO** in MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM, Early Birds 7 PM, Reg. Games begin at 7:15 PM.

March 4 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Meeting, 6-7:30 PM in the Gathering Place.

March 6 (Fri.) - Mother of Sorrows Novena Prayers recited following 9:30 AM Mass, St. Mary's Church.

March 6 (Fri.) - **PIZZA KITCHEN AND IT'S FALAGONE FRIDAY!** To order please call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM – 1 PM. Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

ECUMENICAL SERVICES

The traditional Lenten Ecumenical Services will be held on the Monday evenings during Lent at Christ Community Church, 900 Chartiers Ave., McKees Rocks beginning this Monday, March 2, at 7:30 PM. The theme for this year's Lenten series are the Cardinal Virtues. Everyone is most welcome and encouraged to attend these spirit-filled evenings.

THE LENTEN SEASON

AN INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER

Hello, my name is Mike Ivosevic and I serve the Parish as an Eucharistic Minister, a Lector, and as the Treasurer of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You can also see me helping the Ushers at Sunday's 7:30 AM Mass when I'm not scheduled to do anything else at that Mass and during the Festival running food up and down the stairs. Some time ago Father Lou suggested that I should do something to help our parish energize our volunteer programs. I felt that I could delay no longer and the Lenten Season provided me with an opportunity. This is my plan. We as Catholics are called to fast, abstain, and perform acts of penitence, charity, and spirituality during Lent. Consider volunteering to help out as an act of either penitence or of charity. Each Sunday during Lent I will provide a description of one or more of our volunteer programs and a point of contact for you to call. Help is needed from the Altar Servers to the Women's Guild. As a start, consider that the Pizza Kitchen will be going at full tilt during Lent and they could use some extra help. They make sauce on Thursdays from 7:30 AM until about 10:00 AM and the Pizza Kitchen runs on Friday from 6:00 AM until about 3:30 PM. If you want to give it a try, call Linda Honath at 412-771-1418 or just show up and lend a hand. You will be welcome! If you have a question about a particular organization, feel free to call me at 412-474-3008 or Jan at the Parish Office, 412-771-5646. God bless you all in advance for volunteering to help our parish. Thank you.



"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can't take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage."

. . . Saint Francis of Assisi



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Next weekend, March 7/8, you are reminded to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour before going to bed on Saturday night so you won't be late for Mass on Sunday morning!

BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

The program will be held next Sunday, March 8, from 1-4 PM in the Chapel at Mother of Sorrows. To register or for more info, call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

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

A regularly scheduled Town Hall Meeting was held following the evening Mass on Ash Wednesday. Following are some of the issues considered that evening:

1. The most glaring and obvious one is the scaffolding blocking the Church Avenue entrance of the Church at St. Mary. The hard winter and vigorous wind storms have done considerable damage to the roof of the church. In fact there is a huge hole in the center spire where the flashing just blew away. The area is too high to use a lift, and so the scaffolding is going up. We do not know the full extent of the damage, nor how much will be covered by insurance. We certainly cannot afford a new roof, but since we are going to so much trouble to get up there, we will do as much repair as we can during this phase, which means that the cost will be beyond our deductible. We have already spent over \$100,000 in roof repair throughout our entire plant (Mother of Sorrows building, rectory, St. Mary Church) in the past year, and it may double with these repairs. Stay tuned and I will share the information with you as it comes in. I remind you that we began a Capital Campaign 3 years ago when I came that is Parish Share exempt up to \$500,000. We are no where near that limit, so all contributions are gratefully (and at this point, desperately) accepted.

2. Speaking of Parish Share, we will announce our 2009 campaign in a couple of weeks. The diocese called and wanted to know how we can have paid over almost 1/3 of the assessment before the campaign has even begun. Let's keep them guessing!

3. Speaking of the diocese, the auditors will come this month on their regularly scheduled triennial visit to audit all of our finances. They will go over every single contribution and expenditure with a fine tooth comb to verify the integrity of the pastor's stewardship, to make sure that I have been honest with the financial affairs of the parish. They will also try to squeeze some extra Parish Share assessments out of us by disallowing some of the categories that we have coded things to. I've been to this dance before, am not overly concerned, and we will publish the results when they come in.

continued next column . . .

4. In general, we are feeling the economic crunch in terms of giving here at SJOG. Donations are down a bit, but mostly in terms of second collections and not our ordinary income. We know we ask a lot of you in terms of supporting the ministry here. Please do what you can when you can. We are operating in the black since I have been pastor, and we even have some reserves for emergencies, so I believe we can make it through the impending down times. Remember delayed giving, such as remembering the parish in your will, or establishing an annuity in favor of the parish, or making the parish a beneficiary of an insurance policy. If you have any questions about how to do those things, just call and ask.

5. Our biggest issue is of course the debt. By the sale of St. Mark, we brought it down to under \$1 million, but with unpaid interest it has crept back up to that figure. I have begun a series of discussions with the diocese on some strategies for perhaps addressing the debt if they would give us some help and relief. If anything breaks in those discussions, I will let you know.

6. In terms of our school, we are doing well under the reorganizational leadership of our interim principal, Sr. Anna Marie. We have formed a School Advisory Board which is now functioning (you have read about it here before, and will read about it again in a couple of weeks.) Plans are afoot for an Athletic Association and a Parent/Teachers Guild for next year. Money, of course, is the biggest concern. We are trying to run our fund-raising as a year-round effort, not just September till June. So there will be hoagie sales and perhaps other activities over the summer months. We need to form a stronger sense of identity between the school and the parish at large, which is difficult because of the physical separation of the two plants. We do attempt as best we can to have activities at both sites so that we think of them as one, but it is an attitude adjustment. We will keep working on it. It is our parish school for St. John of God and we all need to take ownership of it.

7. Overall, our spiritual health is just fine: sacraments, liturgies, educational programs, social service programs, organizational and recreational activities, though not perfect, are still functioning at a higher level than when I first came three plus years ago. We are a living and vibrant parish, and have every intention to remain such with God's grace and your cooperation. Thank you!