CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAM

Our Confirmation Program begins this Sunday, Oct. 4, from 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM at Mother of Sorrows Chapel. This time frame will include Mass at 7:45 PM. Parents and those to be confirmed are required to attend this first session on Oct. 4. The remaining six sessions and the Confirmation Retreat are for the confirmands.

St. Catherine of Siena will hold the exact same class on Saturdays from 4:00 PM to 6:15 PM beginning Oct. 3. If you cannot come to St. John of God you have the option to go to St. Catherine's.

The Confirmation Program is for those in ninth grade and up and any adults who are Baptized and who received First Eucharist. Those in tenth grade and up, including adults, who wish to prepare for Confirmation at this time must contact John Fatula at 412-331-8573 to register.

Bishop Lawrence Brandt will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation for those preparing for this important Sacrament on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009 in St. John of God Parish during the 11:30 A.M. Mass in St. Mary's Church.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

October Devotions will be prayed as they are every Monday evening. Recitation of the Rosary begins at 6:30 PM followed by the Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers in St. Mary's Church. As always, everyone is welcome to come pray the Rosary, especially during the month of October, and honor Mary, our Blessed Mother.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank our dedicated volunteers who have returned from their summer break to work in the Pizza Kitchen. THANK YOU!!

A BIG WELCOME AND THANK YOU to the new volunteers who have stepped forward to join our team in keeping this vital fundraiser for the parish in operation. Thank you & God Bless!

Readings for the Week of October 4, 2009

Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16
Monday: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:1-4
Wednesday: Jon 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13
Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28
Next Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30

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“YEAR OF THE PRIEST” PARISH PRAYER

God, give us worthy priests in sufficient numbers.
**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to a **HAYRIDE and BONFIRE** on Sunday, October 18, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Youthtowne. Spend a fun evening with your friends roasting marshmallows over a fire! Sign-up deadline is Thursday, October 15.

**ST. JOHN OF GOD SCHOOL NEWS**

A **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** to benefit St. John of God School will be held this Sunday, Oct. 4, from 8 AM to 1:30 PM at the Social Hall. Tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children under 12 and are available at the door.

**STEELEYS FOOTBALL POOL WINNERS**

Half Time Score: Steelers 13  Bengals 3
Casey & Allie owned by Carol & Grace Yunker $100
Michael Papaterri owned by Michael Papaterri $100

Final Score: Steelers 20  Bengals 23
Marlene Hawk owned by Marlene Hawk $150
Renie H. owned by Irene S. Hryniewicz $150

CONGRATULATIONS and LET’S GO STEELERS!

**PARISH WEEKEND ATTENDANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Sept. 26 / 27</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>328</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>724</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,052</td>
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**PARISH FINANCIAL TOTALS**

For the Weekend of Sept. 19 / 20

Regular Offertory Collection $5,532.20

(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.)

PSP Assessment for 2009 $93,361.00
Contributions to date (Thank You!) $87,013.15
Remaining on goal $6,347.85

(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.)

**HOSPITAL**

Please pray for all parishioners who are in the hospital, especially: Caring Heights - Stephanie Domka, Mary Pello, Howard Beasock. Also for all 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 Family of Ann Gahr whom God has called. Please remember her and all our dearly departed and their families in your prayers. “May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.”

**HIGH SCHOOL REUNION**

The St. Francis de Sales High School graduation classes of ‘68, ’69, ’70 and ’71 are holding a Class Reunion on Sunday, November 1 from 2 until 5 PM (or longer if you wish to stay) at the Hofbrauhaus Pittsburgh which is located at the Southside Works at 2701 Water Street, Pgh, PA 15203. The cost is $50 per person which includes a dinner buffet and three hours of bar access call drinks. There will also be entertainment with a traditional German beer house band. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Terry Medovitch “69” at 724-353-2548 or by email at tmed@zbzoom.net before October 18.

**PARISH SHARE NEWS**

The second collection next weekend, Oct. 10/11, will be for the Parish Share Program. There is a blue envelope in your packet of envelopes for this purpose. If you forget your envelope next weekend, just bring it anytime that is convenient. Thanks!

**BAPTISMAL PROGRAM FOR NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS**

The program will be held next Sunday, Oct. 11, from 1-4 PM in the Mother of Sorrows Chapel. For more information or to register, please call John Fatula at 412-331-8573.

**MASS AT ST. MARY CEMETERY CHAPEL**

On Saturday, Oct. 10, a Mass will be celebrated for all our beloved dead of our parish and those buried at our cemeteries in the St. Mary Cemetery Chapel, 1 P.M. All are welcome.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT DINNER**

Make plans today to bring your spouse to the Marriage Enrichment dinner at Gilmary Center on Friday, October 9, at 7 PM. Enjoy a six course dinner and the music of Mike Gallagher. Price: $35.00 per couple. Registration is required by this Tuesday, October 6. Call Gilmary at 412-264-8400 or email info@gilmarycenter.org to request complete information.
MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

Our parish will collect non-perishable food, as well as paper products and soap, for the needy among us. You may bring your donation next weekend, Oct. 10/11, to any Mass. Thank you in advance for helping us to help others.

STEEPLE CHASE DRIVE FUN-RAISER
THANKSGIVING DINNER AT ST. WENDELIN’S R.C. CHURCH – CARBON CENTER SHOPPING KRAYNAK’S CHRISTMAS STORE - HERMITAGE

Join us for an autumn drive to Butler County on Sunday, Nov. 8, (no Steeler game) to enjoy a home cooked Thanksgiving dinner like grandma used to make, and yes Virginia, real turkey and all the fixings, including dessert. Take-outs are available. There will be time to visit the Church to offer a few prayers. On the bus ride home, we will pray the Rosary. Before enjoying dinner, we stop at Kraynak’s. The Christmas Store offers shopping in their Toyland, candy and train departments, and browsing through a forest of 85 decorated Christmas trees with different themes. Your purchases may be stored on the bus for the ride home.

The bus will depart at 11 A.M from St. Mary’s Church, returning approximately 6 P.M. Parking will be available in the Church lot. Cost of the trip is $30 for adults; $27 for children 10 years and under. Payment is due by Oct. 20. Space is limited. Don’t delay. Reserve your seat now.

In keeping with the harvest season, we are requesting that all travelers bring a non-perishable food product to donate to our parish annual Thanksgiving baskets distribution. For additional information please contact Terry at 412-331-3443 or Charlotte at 412-331-2453.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY 2009
We Are All In Danger

The “culture of death” philosophy has taken our nation down a slippery slope which tragically promotes death as a solution to social problems. Abortion, infanticide, physician assisted suicide, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell experimentation, and health care rationing, are only some of the threats against innocent human life. Since 1973 more than 50,000,000 American children have died by abortion.

Today, both the U.S. House and Senate are considering legislation which would “reform” our health care system, but tragically it would result in government funding of abortion on demand. The Hyde Amendment would NOT apply to these bills.

Renew Your Commitment to Protect Life

Pray that our national leaders pass legislation that promotes a “culture of life.”
Pray for women faced with difficult pregnancies.
Pray for women and men who have experienced the personal tragedy by having or participating in abortion.
Pray for the unborn children who have died by abortion.
Keep yourself informed by checking on current pro-life information.
Pray for and visit those with serious illness and those in hospitals and nursing homes.
Pray that health care is not rationed.
Assist local crisis pregnancy centers.

For current pro-life information please monitor these sites:
National Right to Life www.nrlc.org
www.nrlactioncenter.com
www.stoptheabortionagenda.com
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
www.usccb.org/healthcare

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STEEPLE CHASE DRIVE THANKSGIVING DINNER

PLEASE PRINT, FILL OUT COMPLETELY, DROP IN COLLECTION BASKET OR IN MAIL SLOT AT PARISH OFFICE. Print STEEPLE CHASE TURKEY DINNER on envelope.

Make checks payable to ST. JOHN OF GOD PARISH. NOT REFUNDABLE IF YOU CANCEL

Number ________ adult(s) @ $30; Number ________ child(ren) 10 & under @.$27
Enclosed is ________ (Total Payment)

Name
Phone
THE WEEK AHEAD

Oct. 6 (Mon.) - Miraculous Medal Novena Prayers recited in St. Mary’s Church - Rosary begins 6:30 PM.

Oct. 6 (Tues.) - St. Anthony Novena Prayers recited following the 9:30 AM Mass in St. Mary’s Church.

Oct. 6 (Tues.) - Adult Choir Rehearsal, 7-9 PM, MOS

Oct. 7 (Wed.) - WEDNESDAY NIGHT BINGO in MOS Social Hall - Doors open at 5 PM Early Birds, 7 PM and regular games begin at 7:15 PM

Oct. 7 (Wed.) - Cub Scout Mtg, 6-7:30 PM, Gathering Place - Call Jeff Kotek, 412-855-1933 for information.

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

Oct. 9 (Fri.) - PIZZA KITCHEN! To order please call 412-331-8530 on Fridays, 8 AM – 1 PM. Orders must be picked up by 3:45 PM.

BINGO KITCHEN HELP

The Bingo KITCHEN needs a few volunteers to help at our Wednesday Night Bingo (say 5:30 to 6:30 PM or 6:30 to 7:30 PM). The Bingo Kitchen closes around 8:30 PM. If you can spare any time between the hours of 5:30 and 8:30 PM, please call Carol Rippole at 412-331-2420.

The Father Ryan Arts Center
420 Chartiers Ave, McKees Rocks
Presents

An Oldies Dance Party

Featuring the music of ‘Doo Wop Dan’ Hogan (doowopdan.com)

Saturday, October 10, 2009
7:00 PM to 11:00 PM
Doors Open at 6:30 PM

Tickets are $20 per person
(Only 120 tickets available)

Admission includes pasta dinner w/salad, roll and butter, coffee, soft drinks and beer
BYOB
50’s & 60's Music

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations:

Personality Hair Designs
1190 Island Ave. (412-771-4557)
Mike Roussey’s Tomchak Tires
600 Broadway Ave. (412-331-5333)

Friday Night Oldies Party at Remember When Chartiers Ave. at Windgap (412-331-2234)

ASCENSION FLEA MARKET

A Flea Market will be held on Saturday, October 10, from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Church of the Ascension, 114 Berry St, Ingram. There will tables with donated items for the benefit of the Church. For information, please call 412-922-8820 or 412-922-1187.

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY

Duquesne University’s Fall Open House will be held next Sunday, October 11 from 8 AM to 1:30 PM (Registration begins at 8 AM). Duquesne’s 2009 Fall Open House is an opportunity for current high school seniors to speak with representatives from admissions, financial aid, academic departments and administration. During the day, there will be many opportunities to learn about college admission procedures, classes, majors and career possibilities. Register with Duquesne’s Office of Admissions online at www.duq.edu/admissions or call 412-396-6222.
At some point without my knowing it (and quite definitely without asking my permission), somebody snuck Autumn in on me. The almanac claims that it was done on September 22 at 12:01 AM, the official autumnal equinox; but I really didn't notice it until last night when I awoke in the dark to see my breath escaping from my lips in clouds of steam and feeling my body shivering under the covers. I had to admit that it was Fall as I trundled downstairs to turn the furnace on.

Summer is over, fun and recreation are hereby to be irrevocably abandoned, and it is time to get to work. Of course, nobody notified me that summer had begun, and that it was time for me to have fun and recreate, so I have been working straight through. But that's alright, when I turn 75 and am allowed to retire, I'll just take off a couple of weeks early as compensation time. Remember, it's owed to me!

An important order of Fall business is a thing called the "October Count". Each year, the diocese requires that we count every person at every Sunday Mass during this month and submit to them our average attendance. (As you know from the bulletin, we do this all year round anyhow.) This becomes the official basic statistic that goes on record when decisions are made in regards to parishes. It is important in determining the number of week-end Masses a parish may schedule, how many priests are assigned to the parish, what the status of the parish is in terms of clustering, how many Pittsburgh Catholic newspapers we have to pay for, what we are assessed for diocesan contributions, etc. It is not a figure to be taken lightly, since it is seen as an indicator of the health of a parish. Now, I know that all of our St. John of God people attend every Sunday (when they aren't on vacation), since they are good Catholics and well aware of the precept of the Church to publicly praise God in the community weekly. However, if even "more all" people came even "more every" Sunday this month, it wouldn't hurt our claim to be cooperating and progressing in our revitalization and renewal of the parish.

Just for comparison sake, the count for 2008 was 1123. Let's see if we can beat that! (It wouldn't hurt to drag a few friends in as well!)

St. John of God Parish Membership Form

Name ___________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ________________________  Zip _________  Phone _______________

CHECK ONE:
☐ New Registration  ☐ Change of Address  ☐ Moving out of Parish  ☐ Want Envelopes

Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to Rectory.