

Pastor's Notes

The Assumption of Mary

Through her humility, and her humanness, we receive the loving care and intercession of a mother who shared in our own nature. Through her being raised in perfection, we receive the protection of a spiritual mother who gives us an awareness of our call to perfection in oneness with our God through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

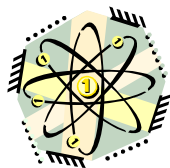


Tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Assumption. The obligation of this feast is removed this year as it falls on a Monday.

However, it behooves us to spend time tomorrow attending mass if possible, and additional time in prayer, seeking the intercession of Mary, the one crowned with glory.

Society's Struggle

Watching "*The Story of Creation*" by Stephen Hawthing on The Learning Channel this past week, I learned that we are an accident of what began with the Big Bang Theory. Mr. Hawthing has a unique theory that an abyss, what he called "dark energy" created the Big Bang, which is the key to all of the universe being created. For Mr. Hawthing, solving the question of why the universe started at all was the ultimate question.



It was quickly apparent that Mr. Hawthing relied solely on physics, that is on the physical realm. There was no mention, and apparently no room for anything beyond what could be explained through the lens of modern day science.

I found it sad for this Mr. Hawthing, as he provided no indication that something larger and more powerful could have had a say in what happened to create the universe we know, and the universe beyond our grasp. He left one staggering question not even raised: "*Who created that which caused the Big Bang? How did these gases or matter come to be?*" It was obvious that Mr. Hawthing did not wish to enter into this debate. He would have had to prove that God does not exist.

If a person is to say that God, who has been acknowledged by every society known to man (including one recently found in Turkey dating back 8,000 years ago), does not exist, it will be his duty to prove that statement. He, nor anyone else, can do that. Therein lies the flaw of Mr. Hawthing's theory. He refused to go back far enough in

history. Instead, he stopped prematurely. His next step backwards in time was God.

The sad part of this commentary is that so often people try to do this in the world today — that is, explain life without any recognition of the God who is capable of helping us, directing us, fashioning us. Too many people direct their lives only by what they see, and by what they hear and choose to believe without validation.

My mind began to race as the show continued, and I found myself thinking about this "dark energy." I can only remember Zorro being the good guy wearing black. The cartoon villain wore black. The devil has always been seen coming from the dark recesses. Even the bible uses the light and dark metaphor for good and evil, the dark energy coming from Satan himself. There was Hitler, who gained power in his own country through dark room actions while keeping the people in the dark concerning the truth of his own schemes. And, of course, there is Darth Vader, the 20th century icon of all that symbolizes "dark energy."



The message shared with us in the story of creation, is that God is the creator of light and darkness, each meant for good. In other words, all things were created by God for good, and placed in an orderly fashion. By the time the gospels are recorded, the darkness had become that which stood (stands) against the good, and desires to overcome the light. We know the truth.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

John's gospel is clear — it was not a dark energy, but light that reveals the glory that is God, the goodness of the Lord. So Mr. Hawthing, I encourage you to go deeper, to the root of all that is, not simply to that which you suppose was — just as I encourage each of us to see today, that which is, the goodness of the Lord, in the truth that we believe. God is active in the creating of all of life.

The Numbers tell the Story

The final tabulation for our Family Festival are included in today's bulletin. Again, congratulations! Last year's total was exceeded. And while our expenses were around 47% of the total income, and better than last year, it is something that we'll seek to improve in years to come. Despite a great effort with the Grand Raffle, the results are not as positive as we'd like them — or need them to be.

But for now we will rejoice and thank God for his blessing us with a beautiful week, for providing open hearts and minds of those who gave of their time and energy, and for the gifts we now have to wisely care for the work entrusted to us by God.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom

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*Are you planning involvement
in school or CCD activities
this year?*

*Do you wish to become involved
as a liturgical minister?*



NOW is the time to prepare and act on what is
required by the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

ALL ADULTS INVOLVED IN PARISH ACTIVITIES
are required to meet the standards of the Diocese of
Pittsburgh for creating a safe environment.
This includes the below-mentioned workshops.

Those planning involvement in the school **MUST**
contact Mrs. Stonebraker.

Those planning involvement in the CCD program
and Youth Ministry program **MUST** contact
Mrs. Tarr in the Religious Education Office.

Those desiring ministry involvement where
children may be present **Must** contact Bonny Welch
at the Rectory Parish Office.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS

St. Bernadette Parish, Monroeville
Wednesday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m.

OR

Saturday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.

Location: Biedenbach Hall
Contact: Marlene V. Kopper
at 412-373-1797



JUST A REMINDER:

*In your travels this summer, please remember to
stay close to the Lord, especially by attending
Sunday Mass each week. And remember your
own parish here at home by keeping your weekly
offertory up to date.*

Readings for the Week of August 14

Sunday: Is 56:1,6-7/Rom 11:13-15,29-32/Mt 15:21-28
Monday: Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a,10ab/Lk 1:39-56
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ru 1:1,3-6,14b-16,22/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday: Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20



Offertory Collections 2011

August 7 Offertory	\$ 11,342
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Offertory	\$ 63,092
Fiscal Year Goal	\$646,724

Capital Improvement collection \$ 924

Parish Share 2011

455 Responses \$ 100,152 Collected

Collection at the Door

Little Sisters of the Poor, August 13/14

*Reviewing again, our budget for the Fiscal Year
encompasses both the income side and the
expense side. The Diocese will not allow us to
operate in the red. Because of the recession, we
saw a decrease in Weekly Offertory Collections
last year. Our expenses, mostly benefits, which
are provided by a central insurance office at the
diocese, have gone up. The problem is, the GAP
between the increased costs, and the decreased
giving. This is not a new issue. More next week.*

USHERS / MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY NEEDED

We're in need of USHERS for
the 7:30 a.m. Sunday Mass.



Requirements: Faithful Mass attendance,
pleasant attitude and attendance of the
Protecting God's Children Workshop.

*Men and women ages 16 and up are welcome.
Please call the rectory at 412-793-4511 for more
information.*



STAFF MEETING

Tuesday, August 16

The staff is out of their offices between
1:00-3:00PM for the monthly meeting.

This Week

Sunday, August 14, 2011

10:15 a.m. Baptism Prep - rectory

Monday, August 15

Tuesday, August 16

1:00 p.m. Staff meeting - rmr

7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council - rmr

Wednesday, August 17

7:00 p.m. Prayer Group - annex

Thursday, August 18

Friday, August 19

Saturday, August 20

Sunday, August 21

10:00 a.m. RCIA Mystagogy

FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS HEALING MASS

North American Martyrs

Wednesday, August 17 — 7:00PM



All are welcome to join us, asking for God's healing for ourselves and for those in our hearts and lives, and seeking a greater trust in what God desires for us.

What is this Fraternity of Priests

The "Fraternity of Priests" is a group of priests who commit themselves to weekly gatherings consisting of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, spiritual renewal and support among its members and all priests, of growing in ministry, and in sharing dinner.

Once a month the Fraternity members gather for a Healing Mass in one of the parishes to which they are assigned. They believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, call down God's mercy and grace, and listen attentively to God's ever-present Words of Knowledge, which allow them to better understand his will for all people. They acknowledge the gifts of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, including that of healing which the Lord makes known in many wonderful ways. As an international organization, each member also makes a commitment of 10% tithing of income, a portion of which supports priests in need and seminarians in training.

CONTINUING MYSTEGOGIA

SUNDAY AUGUST 21, 2011

Continuing Mystegogia will be held in the convent next Sunday August 21, 2011 immediately after 9:00 AM Mass. As this is the second session for the 2011 "graduates" we can now open the sessions to RCIA "alumni". Bring spouse or friend, children and/or sponsors. Its 45 fast paced minutes of Scripture, Catholic Q&A and world events. Who could ask for more? The sessions are tailored on the fly to meet the needs of the Class of 2011. See you there.



Outdoor Men's Retreat

The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Pittsburgh and The King's Men of Philadelphia are sponsoring a retreat for men called "*Into the Wild*" at Raccoon Creek State Park from September 8 – 11, 2011. This experiential weekend features fishing, orienteering, outdoor cooking, archery, and faith presented in a masculine modality. **Bishop David Zubik** will be coming to the retreat for a Friday evening talk. No experience is necessary and space is limited. "Into the Wild" is excellent for single or married men as well as fathers and sons. More information is available at www.intothewildweekend.com or call Damian Wargo at 215-906-8878 or Jim Zern at 412-818-3226. A 15% discount is being given with the mention of this bulletin announcement. Financial aid is also available based on need.



Festival 2011 Totals

	Gross Income	Expenses	Net Income
Nightly Totals			
Donations	\$13,103.80	\$ 168.00	\$12,935.80
Food	\$29,021.60	\$ 12,085.27	\$16,936.33
Gambling	\$5,033.14	\$ 1,482.00	\$3,551.14
Games	\$13,901.03	\$11,575.22	\$2,325.81
Kiddieland	\$4,136.00	\$ 2,358.05	\$1,777.95
Grand Raffle	\$25,971.00	\$10,965.00	\$15,006.00
Raffles	\$6,074.58	\$ 2,032.00	\$4,042.58
Rides	\$6,161.00	\$ 5,785.00	\$376.00
Nightly Totals	\$103,402.15	\$ 46,450.54	\$56,951.61

Pre & Post Festival Income

Booth Sponsorship	\$ 3,535.00		\$3,535.00
Donations	\$ 755.00		\$755.00
Total Pre & Post Festival Income	\$ 4,290.00	\$0.00	\$4,290.00

Misc. Expenses

Nightly Entertainment		\$ 300.00	(\$300.00)
Security		\$ 1,640.00	(\$1,640.00)
Capital Improvements		\$ -	\$0.00
Misc. Expenses		\$ 1,705.90	(\$1,705.90)
Total Misc Expenses	\$0.00	\$3,645.90	(\$3,645.90)

Festival 2011 Grand Totals	\$107,692.15	\$50,096.44	\$57,595.71
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YOUTH MINISTRY



• Water Blast- Load up your super soakers and water balloons and join us for a night of water games on Monday August 22nd from 8-9:30. This is for all teens entering 7th and 8th grade.

- Senior High Kick -off --- Sunday, September 4th from 7-9 pm. Mark your calendars and watch for updates on this great event.
- Mark your calendars for these events:
 - Gateway Clipper Dinner Dance Cruise— Sunday, November 13. Money and permission slips will be due soon so please keep looking back for details.
 - Middle School Faith Rally for all 7th & 8th graders November 4th.
- Senior High Youth Ministry will meet the following dates. September 4th and 18th

Preschool Registration is being taken by appointment.

**Please call
Mrs. Anna Mae Newmaster
at 412-793-5130.**



**We're excited since the All-Day
Preschool Program is moving into the
convent for more space and flexibility.**

Room remains available for children in all our preschool programs, but it is limited. Call now!

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY *dates to remember*

Feed the Hungry at the Intersection Inc., August 25

On Thursday, August 25, at 8:15 am, the Food Bank Committee will deliver 6 tuna casseroles to the Intersection. If you wish to help in cooking, please call the P S M office at 412-793-4511.

Social Justice Committee (SJC) Meeting,

Thursday, August 25, 6:30 p.m., Annex

All are welcome to attend the SJC meeting to help build the Kingdom of God through prayers, good works, dialogue and action. See the enclosed P S M column for details.

End of the Summer Food Drive

The Late Summer Parish Food Drive will be **Sunday, August, 28, 2011**. Your donations will be given to local food banks.

SCHOOL NEWS



Can you believe school is going to begin in 17 days?

**The First Day of School is a half day,
Wednesday, August 31st.**

**The Opening School Mass is on
Thursday, September 1 at 9:00AM**

**The School Office is now Open during
the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Before school begins the teachers have some in-service sessions to attend (they're starting school already) for the exciting new Lead 21 Reading Program, for the new Spanish & Computer Program (Max & Max), and the OLWEUS Bullying Prevention Program, which was funded through a special grant.

Congratulations! LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS

Lucky Lottery Winners from June 20 to August 7th:

June 20-June 26th:

Jessica Bucci #923, Patty Joyce #385, Dave Poremba #120, Unsold #056, Unsold #055, Grace Trangle #521, Francesca Zapata #699.

June 27-July 3rd:

Andre Cacciamani #173, Unsold #181, Beth Butler #595, Unsold #939, Unsold #558, Maria Parenti #195, Unsold #775.

July 4-July 10th:

Ray and Cheryl Byrnes #218, Yvonne Plowey #669, Mary Ann Kaiser #858, Unsold #680, Wink and Marianne Wright #949, Dennis Piper #783, Sharon Lawyer #417.

July 11-July 17th:

Tricia Panaia ##926, Karen Schade #082, Katie Lavery #170, Marcella Deemer #288, Barry Carmello #392, Mary Ellen Smutek #123, Debbie Thompson #128.

July 18-July 24th:

Melissa Costa #095, Carol Robinson #303, Emily Houston/ Esmeralda Houston #868, Caitlyn McConnell #205, James A. Binkley #411, Joe Fagan #856, Christine Liptak #579.

July 25-July 31st:

Jim McClure, Sr. #928, Unsold #181, Ginger Vannucci #449, Janice Trumpie #875, Unsold #943, Mary Lou Bowen #549, Ron Mason #710.

August 1-August 7th:

Unsold #350, Unsold #892, Joe Webster #461, Mr. & Mrs. William Trozzi #425, Unsold #776, Karen Mercalde #286.



SUNDAY - Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (08/14)

5:00 p.m. *(vigil)* Joan Berardo
(Marlene DiBello and Eleanor Oleniacz)
7:30 a.m. Shelly Marie Domen (Ron and Janet Domen)
9:00 a.m. William E. Vingin (wife, Helen and Family)
11:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish

MONDAY - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (08/15)

9:00 a.m. Cathy Lynn Ashley (Family)

TUESDAY - Saint Stephen of Hungary (08/16)

9:00 a.m. Helen Vandzura (Clarence and Family)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday (08/17)

9:00 a.m. Laura Zalenski (Patricia Stansbury and Family)
9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

THURSDAY - Weekday (08/18)

9:00 a.m. Jimmy Mann (Susie and Alan Pate)

FRIDAY - Saint John Eudes (08/19)

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Fowkes (Don and Pat Kiefer)

SATURDAY - Saint Bernard (08/20)

9:00 a.m. Elmer A. Volzer (Brother)
5:00 p.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish

SUNDAY - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (08/21)

7:30 a.m. Charles Cosnotti (Fred Vaccarelli)
9:00 a.m. Georgeann Coyne (David and Michele Walton)
11:00 a.m. Sam Cariati (Nancy Cariati and Family)

Ministry to Separated/Divorced

In September, Our Lady of Joy Parish will host a Divorce/ Separated Support Group on Friday evenings. The Group begins with a thirteen week faith based educational series called Divorce Care. Anyone who is experiencing difficulties from a separation or divorce is welcome to attend. It is not necessary to attend all the sessions as each session deals with a different topic. Some of the topics discussed are: depression, anger, healing, loneliness, relationships, finances and forgiveness. Please call Karen Dolan at 412-517-8343 or email kdolan59@gmail.com for more details.



Registration Opens for Catholic Women’s Conference

Registration is now open for the inaugural diocesan “Catholic Women’s Conference: A Caring Quilt,” which will take place on Saturday, October 22, at the Marriott City Center, Pittsburgh. Keynote speaker is Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the Rwandan genocide and renowned speaker on faith and forgiveness. The day includes five workshops from which to choose and concludes with Mass with Bishop Zubik. The registration form is available on the diocesan website: www.diopitt.org. Registration brochures for the conference are also available by calling 412.456.3129

Peach Festival on Saturday, August 27th at the United Presbyterian Church of Universal from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. There will be crafts, baked goods, mini-flea market, lots of food and peach sundaes. Take-out will be available. The Universal U.P. Church is located at 2545 Main Street (Universal Road) in Penn Hills. For more information, call 412-793-1335.

Parish Mission Statement

Saint John the Baptist Parish is located in Plum Borough, Pennsylvania and is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

As a faith community, we strive to imitate our patron Saint John the Baptist who led others to Christ. We are committed to keeping our faith alive and growing through prayer, sacraments, faith formation and service. Through evangelization and stewardship we encourage full and active participation of all members.

We hope to reflect the life and love of Christ by strengthening the faith of our parishioners while reaching out to all God’s people.

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us!

Pray for our Seminarians

Please pray for all our seminarians as they serve in their various assignments throughout the diocese this summer. These weeks in parishes provide these men with opportunities to experience pastoral ministry firsthand. They will return to their studies later in August.

VOCATION CROSS



Please join the Scott Family in prayer this week as they display the Vocation Cross in their home to pray for Religious Vocations.

Questions regarding our parish vocation cross may be directed to Suzy Adamonis at 412-793-6110.

Prayer for Vocations

Lord, You told us that “The harvest indeed is great but the laborers are few. Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His fields.” We ask You to strengthen us as we follow the vocation to which You have called us. We pray particularly for those called to serve as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons:

Those whom You have called,
Those You are calling now,
Those You will call in the future.

May they be open and responsive to the call of serving Your people. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY (PSM)



Ensure Inclusion, Freedom, and Respect for All

“All the people have a clear duty to do what lies in their power to improve living conditions for all people with disabilities, rather than ignoring them or attempting to eliminate them as a burden not worth dealing with. (9) Defense of the right to life, then, implies the defense of other rights to enable the individual with a disability to achieve the fullest measure of personal development of which he or she is capable. They include the right to equal opportunity in education, in employment, in housing, as well as the right to access to public accommodations, facilities and services. Those who must be institutionalized deserve decent, personalized care and human support as well as the pastoral services of the Christian community. (10) It is not enough merely to affirm the rights of people with disabilities. We must actively work to make them real in the fabric of modern society. (11) ---- Pastoral Statement of U.S.C.B on People with Disabilities, 10/16/78

Social Justice Committee (SJC) Meeting, Thursday, August 25, 6:30 pm

A meeting is scheduled for parishioners who work serving those in need, who pursue justice, work for peace, and defend the dignity of life from conception to death.



ALL THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES should have at least one representative at this meeting. All involved are encouraged to attend:

Parishioners who are cooking for the Intersection, parishioners who have worked at the Jubilee Kitchen; Food Bank Committee; Respect Life Committee; Advocacy for the People with Disabilities; Advocacy for the People Opposing the Death Penalty, Advocacy to a Healthier Living and the Committee for a Better Environment. The Social Justice Committee kick off meeting will be held in the annex on Thursday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

End of the Summer Food Drive, Sunday August, 28

Sacred Scripture manifest God’s special love for the poor and the needy. (cf. Mt 25:31-46). Let us embrace the Love of Christ and remember the “least of our brothers and sisters” for the upcoming food drive. Your generosity in donating food allows the Penn Hills Food Service and Plum Food Bank to labor in their mission of service for the people in our community.



Fellowship Sunday in Two Weeks, August 28

All parishioners and visitors at St. John’s are welcome to join us for fellowship Sunday in two weeks, following the 9:00 a. m. Mass, in the annex.

Welcome to St. John’s

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to St. John’s:

*Phillip Edwards
Nicholas Edwards*

Baptism

We welcome into our faith community with great joy the newly baptized: Adrienna Siena Arrigo, Anthony Michael Bradley, Hunter Michael Gabor, Leah Nicole Prunty, Benjamin John Quaglieri, Maura Jade Quaglieri.

Rest In Peace

*Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of the dearly departed, especially **Dolores Dopico, and Anne Ristway***

Praying for the Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home and requesting our prayers: William Duffy, Rachel Faas, Raymond Milleman, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkush, Betty Telles, John Truxal, Hayward Markham, Matt Drop, Maxine Drop, Joan Yushinski, Suzanne Skillen, Carolyn Szydlowski, Pat Guerriero, Betty Lawson, Ruth Gorczynski, Jennie Molcsan, Madeline Ferragonio, Dominic Mollica, Sister Janet Barnicle, Delores L. Serre, Rosemary Koontz, Lucille Perhac, Ralph Genella, Sr., Martha Jo Faircloth, Tillie Holiday Allsopp, Mary Thompson, Jim Abel, Lucille Brose, Dawn Kelly, Jean Guerriero, Anna Urick, Marian Brownhill, David Marshall, Thomas Kuntz, Chris Russo, Bertha Subic, William Bradley, Mabel Dancu, Don Kitchener, Ruth Sarich, Paula Titus, Nick Roman, Betty Beckett, Amy Carmichael, Dorothy Kokal, Jean Duffy, Jane Truxal, Mabel Barlich, Christina Rosignoli, Joseph Telles.

Sanctuary Candle

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of
Stella O’Block
requested by
son, Ron and daughter, Florence*

WORSHIP CONCERT benefiting 40 DAYS FOR LIFE PITTSBURGH!

If you enjoy contemporary Christian music and want to support Pittsburgh’s fall 40 Days for Life effort, you are invited to attend a free concert on Sunday, August 14th at 7:00pm at Word & Worship Church, 1200 Wolfe Avenue, North

Braddock PA 15104.

Music will be provided by the worship bands *Intent* (www.IntentWorship.com), and *Love Becomes Us* (www.LoveBecomesUs.com), as well as an a Capella singing group! BE Taylor has also donated a gift-basket of his CD’s to be auctioned off at the event. If you have any questions, please call Nikki Bruni at 412-926-9413.



40 Days for Life is a real “Life Preserver”