

Pastor's Notes

Today we have the special opportunity to “Welcome Home” the St. John the Baptist School Graduating Class of 1986. We’re honored in them remembering the school that gave them such a solid foundation twenty-five years ago. From what I’ve learned, their lives have been rather successful. I understand some have traveled across country just to be with us today.



Having shared some stories with members of this class, we’re also honored that we continue a long tradition of sending young men and women as graduates of SJB to become the tops in their classes in our local Catholic and public high schools. I knew the tradition was long. I didn’t realize how long.

They may be surprised by the many changes they will see in our school — Smart Boards in the classrooms, Wii for phys ed, a super impressive computer room (and computers in all the classrooms), Spanish being taught online, a Weather Bug system connected to KDKA, and so much more. Of course, they will recognize that some things never change — Mrs. Gray at her desk in the library, and the paint on the lockers. We love you Mrs. Gray.

But from those returning, and from our current students, we realize how important Catholic education is. We also realize the extremely high cost of Catholic education, unlike when the great Sisters (whom they remember) taught them for not much more than daily rations and slave wages.

We’re glad this class is back with us today. It gives yet another reason for us to focus on how we need to provide for any child whose parents desire quality education and sound spiritual formation for their children, so essential in the world our students face each day.

God bless all of you and your families.

The words of Pope Benedict during his recent trip to his homeland Germany, addressed some serious issues of the Church in the modern world today. I offer a couple here — without comment. I ask that you reflect on them. What are your thoughts? There’s fodder here for some good conversation. Please read them as addressed to an enormously vast audience — the German people, and the world. Then you can

determine if any of these (from many others) apply. I’ll give my two cents next week.

Concerning what Benedict termed “subliminal relativism” pervading the western countries:

“[It is] ...exerting more and more influence on human relationships and on society. This is reflected among other things, in the inconsistency and fragmentation of many people’s lives and in an exaggerated individualism. Many no longer seem capable of any form of self-denial or of making a sacrifice for others,” and

“God is increasingly being driven out of our society. ...Are we to yield to the pressure of secularization, and become modern by watering down the faith?”

Concerning the lived-out expression of faith by Catholics:

“The Lord concludes his parable with harsh words: ‘Truly, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him, and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him’



(Mt 21:32) Translated into the language of our time, this statement might sound something like this: agnostics, who are constantly exercised by the question of God, those who long for a pure heart but suffer on account of our sin, are closer to the Kingdom of God than believers whose life of faith is ‘routine’ and who regard the Church merely as an institution, without letting their hearts be touched by faith.”

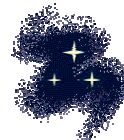
THANKS to those who gave to the Diaper Drive last weekend. Whether a little or a lot, it offers hope to a parent in need. So thanks for lifting up life.

Tuesday was the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The night sky was beautiful, a far cry from the dreary atmosphere that dominated the previous ten days. Entire distant galaxies could be seen with the naked eye (without my glasses). It was almost as if Dear Francis wasn’t going to let the weather dampen his Canticle praising God in all of created beauty.

In reality, it was a simple reminder after experiencing the bleakness of days, and the struggle to see light, that God continues to keep all things in proper order, extending his gift to us each day. Too bad the movement of the day so often keeps us from seeing that same gift continuously.

But we have a loving God who will patiently wait for us to enter into the quiet of the night to show us hope and invite us into His “order” where He governs in absolute love for you and me.

Love and prayers,
Fr. Tom



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Electronic Giving is easier than ever. Go to our website and scroll down to the bottom of the first page. You can browse all you want and you only proceed when you want to. The walk is educational. It is a lot easier than you might think. If you've ever paid your bills online, you can do this. This fits neatly with our Increased Giving Campaign. —The Finance Council

Changes to the Mass

Come Understand the What and Why

On November 27, the first week of Advent, the most extensive changes to the Mass in over 40 years will be fully implemented. Most of the changes will be to the words and prayers of the priest, but there are some significant changes for the faithful as well. Why the changes? In short, because words matter. Because words matter, it's important that we understand what the changes are, why they were made and what they mean.



So that all of our parishioners may be fully prepared for these revisions to the Liturgy and to be flexible schedule wise, the parish is offering a variety of days and times over a period of five weeks to learn

about the changes and provide an opportunity to understand the Mass more fully. The first week we will cover what the changes are and the meaning behind the changes. Over the four remaining weeks we will cover all the parts of the Liturgy in the DVD series *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*. You need only attend one session per week.

The Mass is where heaven and earth meet. We are at Calvary where the once and eternal sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ is made present to us. We have a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet promised in the book of Revelation. The Mass is the source and summit of our faith. Please take this opportunity to better understand this greatest of all gifts. *The evening sessions will be in the annex and the morning sessions will be in the rectory meeting room. (one exception the Nov. 2 session at 7:00 p.m. will be in the rectory meeting room)*

**Week 1. October 17 & 19 7:00 PM, October 20 10:00 AM -
Overview of Changes**

**Week 2. October 24 & 26 7:00 PM, October 27 10:00 AM -
Introductory Rites**

**Week 3. November 2 & 3 7:00 PM, November 3 10:00 AM -
Liturgy of the Word**

**Week 4. November 7 & 9 7:00 PM, November 10 10:00 AM -
Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Week 5. November 14 & 16 7:00 PM, November 17 10:00 AM -
Communion and Concluding Rites**

Readings for the Week of October 9

Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Phil 4:12-14,19-20/Mt 22:1-14
Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Lk 11:29-32
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Lk 11:37-41
Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11/Lk 11:42-46
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Lk 11:47-54
Friday: Rom 4:1-8/Lk 12:1-7
Saturday: Rom 4:13,16-18/Lk 12:8-12
Next Sunday: Is 45:1,4-6/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21



Offertory Collections 2011

Last Sunday's Offering	\$ 11,875
Weekly Budget Needs	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Totals	\$145,833
Year to Date Budget Needs	\$646,724
Shortfall to Date	\$500,891

Parish Share 2011

482 Responses \$119,717 Collected

Second Collection

Mission Sunday, October 22/23
Parish Social Ministry, October 29/30

PARKING CONCERNS



Parishioners and friends are asked NOT to park near the school entrance for the 9:00AM weekday mass. Please use the upper lot, as the large lot is used for phys ed (weather permitting) and recess. We need to assure the safety of our children at all times. Thanks!

This Week

Sunday, October 9, 2011

8:00 a.m. Blood Drive, annex
10:15 a.m. Baptism Prep, rectory
6:00 p.m. Den Meeting, cafeteria

Monday, October 10

No Preschool
No CCD
6:00 p.m. Praise Band, music room
7:00 p.m. Bell Choir, music room

Tuesday, October 11

No CCD
7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council, rmr

Wednesday, October 12

Thursday, October 13

8:15 a.m. Intersection Delivery
3:00 p.m. School Cantors, music room
3:30 p.m. Junior Choir, music room
6:30 p.m. Cantors, music room
7:00 p.m. Choir, music room
7:00 p.m. RCIA Inquiry, rmr
7:30 p.m. Scouts, cafeteria

Friday, October 14

4:30 p.m. Girls Scouts, cafeteria
7:30 p.m. Den Meeting, cafeteria

Saturday, October 15

9:00 a.m. Market Day pick-up, cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Junior Youth Ministry, annex

Sunday, October 16

9:00 a.m. RCIA Rite of Acceptance, church
10:00 a.m. Mystagogy, convent
5:00 p.m. Pack Meeting, cafeteria
7:00 p.m. Senior Youth Ministry, convent

PRE-CANA

St. John the Baptist will be conducting a One-Day Pre-Cana Program on **Saturday, November 5th beginning at 9:45AM**. This program meets all Diocesan requirements for engaged couples. Any couple wishing further information or who would like to register can do so by calling Mrs. Tarr at 412-795-6376.

Registration is a must.



YOUNG ADULT THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thursday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Rivertowne Pourhouse, 312 Center Road, Monroeville

Join other young adults in their 20s and 30s for food, discussion and fellowship in a fun and relaxed setting for Theology on Tap East. WAOB 106.7 Catholic Radio personality Fr. Boniface Patrick Hicks, OSB, will be the featured speaker for the night. Free appetizers will be provided. For more information, please contact Lauren at (412) 373-0050.



FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS HEALING MASS

Join the Fraternity of Priests of Pittsburgh and Greensburg for their monthly healing Mass this Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The Mass and intercessory prayers for healing will be celebrated at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Munhall. Mass begins at 7:00PM and the prayers for healing follow. Bring a friend.

[Directions: The dreaded Parkway to the Squirrel Hill exit, following signs to Homestead. Cross the Homestead Grays Bridge and follow straight up the hill until you are faced with a cemetery. We don't want you in the cemetery — that's why we're doing prayers for healing. Nevertheless, turn left, and then right at the next light. This is Main Street. (Now you're between two cemeteries.) Follow Main St. for a couple miles and St. Theresa's is on your left as you crest a hill passing the Steel Valley High School entrance.]



PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY *dates to remember*

Feeding the Poor

On Thursday, October 13, at 8:15 a. m. the Food Bank committee will deliver Mac & Cheese Casseroles to the Intersection in McKeesport. Yours could be one of them! A receipt and baking pans are available in the Parish Office.

St. John's "40 Days for Life" Participation

Wednesday, October 19

Please join us in prayer in front of Planned Parenthood at 933 Liberty Ave. in downtown Pittsburgh on October 19, 2011. To sign up for a time call Rebekah Kozub at 412-874-5941.



The Lord invites us to a banquet, one of the favorite images of messianic times. This banquet is spread before us and can fully satisfy our needs, yet how often have we refused the Lord's invitation to share in the riches prepared for us?

7th Grade Parish Workday

Saturday, October 21 — 9:00AM to Noon

It's our Annual "Workday on the Parish Grounds" for seventh grade students now preparing to live the grace of the sacrament of Confirmation.

WHERE TO REPORT: Students and parents report to the front of the school where assignments will be provided.

WHAT TO BRING:

Work Gloves
Leaf Rakes
Garden Tools
Regular Rakes
Hedge Clippers
(Power and manual)
Weed Whackers
(Heavy-duty if possible)
Chain Saw (parent run only)



We'll be doing a final trim in the cemetery, cleaning up the yards and existing flower beds, and conducting our annual "Attack of the Hill," tackling that ever-imposing hillside facing Miller's Lane.

What to Wear: Clothes that you don't mind getting dirty — because this will happen.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD NEEDS

Leaders, readers, singers, etc. If you are between the age of 12 and 80, and can help out once a month, please call! Jane Tarr, Director of Religious Education, at 412-795-6376

Substitute Teachers are always needed for grades K-8. Certified teachers must have clearances, including the Protecting God's Children Workshop (see below). If interested in teaching our students at St. John's School, please call the school office at 412 793-0555 x235.



ALL ADULTS INVOLVED IN PARISH ACTIVITIES

are required to meet the standards of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for creating a safe environment.

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





PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOP

North American Martyrs Parish, Monroeville
Thursday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Contact: Donna Lew-Buechel at 412-349-0942

YOUTH MINISTRY



- Senior High Youth Ministry will meet Tonight, October 2nd from 7-9 PM. Theme: Common Thread.
 - The next meeting will be on October 16th Theme: Everything Changes. All 9th-12th graders are encouraged to join us for these nights.
 - Junior High- Our first Junior High Youth Group will meet Saturday, October 15th from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Theme: Blast from the Past. This is an evening for 7th and 8th graders and their friends. If you would like to enter the "Baby Race" please bring a wagon, tricycle or Big Wheel.
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- Saints Tour- Candlelight Saints Tour, in Loretto, Pa. gives you the opportunity to take a torch-lit guided walking tour and be introduced to some of the Church's most virtuous and courageous saints. Done in the Spirit of Halloween, and honoring All Saints and All Souls feast days, we believe this truly will be an experience your won't want to miss!! All teens in 7th-12th are invited to join us on Saturday, October 29th for this experience. We will leave St. John the Baptist at 4:45 and return by 11:00 pm. Cost is \$10. If you are interested in going, please turn in your permission slips no later than October 14th.
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St. John's Preschool

Parishioners are welcome to attend any of the Parent Sessions

Four-Year-Olds and Pre-K Sessions, 9:00 a.m.

- Monday, October 10th, NO Preschool
- Monday, October 17th, School Pictures
Pre-K pictures will be taken on Tues. Oct. 18th
- Friday, October 28th, Halloween Party

Three Year Olds Session—9:00 a.m.

- Tuesday, October 18th, School Pictures
- Thursday, October 27th, Halloween Party



*There are openings in all Pre school levels.
Please call Anna Mae Newmaster at 412-793-5130.*

Mary shows us the meaning of following the will of God. She gave her life completely to God with absolute trust and a faith-filled open heart. As stewards, we pray for her guidance as we strive to become faithful disciples of her Son Jesus

SCHOOL NEWS



Monday, October 10

—NO School, teacher in-service

Tuesday, October 11

—Mass with grades 1-8 at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 12

—Picture Day ~ Smile!

—Young Rembrandts at 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 13

—School Cantors at 3:00 p.m., music room

Saturday, October 15

—Market Day pick-up from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME, MISS KERRI POLLOCK

Please welcome **Miss Kerri Pollock** as the new music instructor at St. John's! Miss Pollock graduated magna cum laude from Duquesne University in May with a Bachelor's degree in music education. Her primary instrument is clarinet, and she participated in the wind symphony and the symphony band ensembles while at Duquesne. Her experience includes student teaching in the Fox Chapel and Mt. Lebanon school districts. On top of working at St. John's, Miss Pollock currently serves as a day-to-day substitute teacher in the Mt. Lebanon, West Mifflin, and West Allegheny school districts on the days she will not be teaching at St. John's. She is also an assistant marching band director for West Mifflin high school's marching band. Miss Pollock is a native of and currently resides in West Mifflin. She says, "I'm excited to be here and everyone has been very welcoming! I look forward to teaching at St. John's!"



"Just in Time for Christmas" Progressive 50/50 Raffle

tickets available at the rectory and school

SJBS MONTHLY DINNERS

Saturdays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

October 22 (Octoberfest)

November 19



LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS

from September 26th through October 2nd

Mary M. Mastylak #180, Unsold #402, Unsold #087,
Flo Budzik #480, Terri Wiedenhofer #279, Unsold #011
Unsold #641

*A child makes the family ties stronger,
days and nights shorter, bank accounts smaller,
clothes shabbier, homes happier, life busier and the
future worth living for*



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY - Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/09)

- 5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) Robert McCabe, anniv (Family)
- 7:30 a.m. Raymond L. Police (Nancy and Children)
- 9:00 a.m. John Loftus (Celine and Family)
- 11:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish

MONDAY - Weekday (10/10)

- 7:00 a.m. Bernice Koch (Barb and Bill Volzer)
- 9:00 a.m. Spiritual Blessings for Lori Duncan (Jacqueline Noca)

TUESDAY - Weekday (10/11)

- 7:00 a.m. Peggy Dlugonski (Walt and Mary Haluck)
- 9:00 a.m. Antoinette Guastafarro (Pacifica Palombo)

WEDNESDAY - Weekday (10/12)

- 7:00 a.m. Dorothy Peternel (George and Mary Sasek)
- 9:00 a.m. George Galla (Family)
- 9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

THURSDAY - Weekday (10/13)

- 7:00 a.m. Helen Vandzura (Clarence and Family)
- 9:00 a.m. Evelyn Komisak (First Catholic Slovak Ladies Assoc. Branch 597)

FRIDAY - Saint Callistus (10/14)

- 7:00 a.m. Dolores Burns (The Burns Family)
- 9:00 a.m. M/M August Stadler (Stadler Family)

SATURDAY - Saint Teresa of Jesus (10/15)

- 9:00 a.m. Anthony and Helen Holodnik (Ed and Pauline Holodnik)
- 9:30 a.m. *Eucharistic Adoration until 11:30 a.m.*
- 5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) Living and Deceased of the Parish

SUNDAY - Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/16)

- 7:30 a.m. Joseph and Laura Zalenski (Patricia Stansbury and Family)
- 9:00 a.m. John, Sr. and Matilda Contreras (Son, John)
- 11:00 a.m. Joseph J. Cybert (Katherine Cybert and Family)



Wedding Anniversary Mass Requests

If you will be celebrating a 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary in 2012, and would like to schedule a Mass for the occasion, please do so now.

All other Mass requests will be taken on Tuesday, November 1st in the annex from 9:00 a.m. to Noon and in the rectory thereafter. Please call Susan at 412-793-4511 (M-W) to schedule a Silver or Golden Anniversary or for more information.

PRAYING ONE ROSARY A DAY DURING OCTOBER

and meditating on the mysteries of Christ.

Pray for our country, our parish, for the dignity of life, for our families or for a special intention.

To Jesus through Mary



Infant Jesus Respect Life Group



will meet on Monday, October 24, at 7 PM, at North American Martyrs parish in Monroeville, in DeLuca Hall.

Speaker: Mrs. Helene Paharik of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will present, "The Church's Teaching on Human Dignity," a perfect topic for Respect Life Month. Refreshments. All parishioners are invited to attend.

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 Seminararians

Anthony J. Ferguson

*Fourth year College at Saint Paul Seminary
2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205*

David G. Rombold

*First year Theology at Theological College
401 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017*

The Seminararians like hearing from our parishioners and are grateful for all encouragement and prayers

VOCATION CROSS



Please join the Noca 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

Compassionate Heart of Jesus, graciously listen to our prayers. Give this world generous hearts which will respond to your call of a religious vocation.

Lift up courageous men and women willing to follow after your heart as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons.

Help parents, grandparents and all Catholics to share the faith and to encourage young people to explore religious vocations.

Guide all people, Lord, in your ways of compassion, truth, and peace, that we may find happiness in fulfilling our vocation. Amen.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY (PSM)



October Respect Life Month

“I would like also to call the attention of everyone to the importance of defending and promoting the *human rights of every person*, based on the natural law written on the human heart, which, as such, are ‘universal, inviolable and inalienable’ The Church expresses the hope that by the recognition of these rights they will be more effectively acknowledged and universally promoted, in as much as it is a distinctive mark imprinted by the Creator on his creatures, taken up and redeemed by Jesus Christ through his incarnation, death and resurrection. The spread of the word of God cannot fail to strengthen the recognition of, and respect for, the human rights of every person.” 331-333

— Pope Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini (The Word of God)*, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, November, 2010

September 25, 2011 Clothing Drive, Final Report

WOW! The Fall Clothing Drive was very successful. You were very gracious in donating 210 bags of clothes for the St. Vincent De Paul Regional Center. I wish to thank Terry Snyder who organized members from the Christian Family Movement and the Catholic Men’s Fellowship to assist in this corporal work of mercy. Nine adults and six children completed their mission of charity in good order. Thank you.

Feed the Poor in McKeesport, its “Mac & Cheese Time”



The Food Bank Committee will deliver six half trays of Mac & cheese to the Intersection in McKeesport. The delivery date will be Thursday, October 13, at 8:15 a. m. If you wish to bake a tray of Mac & cheese, please call the PSM office at 412-793-4511. As of today, we have 15 bakers, we would like to get two or three more bakers, and then we could deliver a meal three days a month instead of two per month. This stepping and stretching out in faith will be a confirmation that we are doing the Lord’s will, for “He hears the cry of the poor.”

The Parish Participates in the “40 Days for Life” in Pittsburgh

St. John the Baptist Parish will participate in the “40 Days for Life” on Wednesday, October 19. To sign up, please call Rebekah Kozub at 412-874-5941. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the campaign, it has been a way to pray for 40 consecutive days at the site of the abortion clinics in our area.



Baptism

We welcome into our faith community with great joy the newly baptized: Brennen Matthew Vantine.

Rest In Peace

*Lord, grant eternal rest to the souls of the dearly departed, especially **Richard P. Mowry**, who died on September 30th.*

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, Matt Drop, Maxine Drop, Joan Yushinski, Suzanne Skillen, Carolyn Szydowski, Pat Guerriero, Betty Lawson, Ruth Gorczynski, Jennie Molesan, 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, Amy Carmichael, Dorothy Kokal, Jean Duffy, Jane Truxal, Mabel Barlich, Christina Rosignoli, Joseph Telles, Eva Ignelzi, Dave Thomas, Regis Kozusko, Patricia Coto.

Sanctuary Candle

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of
Quentin and Patricia Fischer
requested by Mark and Patty Grabowski*

Flowers at the Altar

*are given in the honor and glory of our Lord, in loving memory of
John Loftus
requested by Wife and Children*

You may be interested:

St. Bernadette’s Church will have a public Rosary on Saturday, October 15 at 12:00 noon in the parking lot of the Esta Esta Restaurant on Rt. 22 in Monroeville [next to Wendy’s]. Please park in the St. Bernadette’s parking lot and carpool to Rt. 22. The Catholic organization, “America Needs Fatima” is planning to hold 7,000 public Rosaries across the United States on this day. Please come and pray to Mary with us. If you have any questions, please call Joan at 412-372-4394. May God Bless You!

Plum Creek Presbyterian offers Hospice 101 is on Wed., Oct. 26, *Grief During the Holidays* is on Wed., Nov. 16, and *Christian Approach to Addiction* is on Wed. Dec. 14. Each seminar will occur from 6:15-7:30PM in our sanctuary (NO charge for the seminars). Childcare is provided from 5:30-7:30PM without charge (toddler nursery is available, elementary kids’ activities available). We DO need participants to RSVP for dinner and childcare to the church office at 412-793-4525.