

Passion Sunday

The Lord's Passion – April 5, 2009

Reading I: Isaiah [50:4-7](#) God Is My Help

ReadII: Phil [2:6-11](#) Christ Humbled Himself

Gospel: Mark [14:1-15:47](#) The Passion of Christ

Gospel Summary - The Passion reading in Mark's gospel is the shortest of all gospel accounts and is known for its swift impact and drama. It begins with an unnamed woman pouring expensive perfume on Jesus' head and continues through the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples praying in Gethsemane, the arrest of Jesus, his trial, crucifixion, death and burial. Of course the disciples scattered and made no claim to Jesus. He was left alone to die a degrading death. Some women stood and watched at a distance and a Jewish man, Joseph of Arimathea, gave him a tomb.

Reflection for Families - It's human nature, even the nature of our own children, to cry out when an injustice has taken place. "I didn't do it," or "It's not my fault," are phrases that wear us thin dealing with infractions in our children's lives day after day. But don't we marvel at how much Jesus suffered without a word. He didn't argue with Pilate. He didn't even express sadness at the desertion of his disciples. In fact, he knew that Judas would betray him and Peter would deny him. Like Jesus, we hope for the best of strength and courage from our children, but things will happen in their lives where they fail. The most important lesson we can learn from Jesus is that of the unconditional love he had for his disciples. Even after they denied and deserted him, he still came to them in love and reconciliation.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Throughout the Passion of Jesus, we see much suffering and disappointment. People accuse Jesus, desert him, betray him and in the end, execute him. There is very little joy in this long account of Jesus' final days on this earth. But as Jesus promised, there was joy and that is truly good news for us. Where are the places in this world, in our community, or even in your family where all you can see is unhappiness and gloom? Take another look at these situations and see where is the hand of God, the Good News, and the hope. Look hard and help one another find the joy. Share what you see.

HOPE MEAL & RIDE PROGRAM

April 5 - 11

Jen Bastian – 610-636-4720

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, April 4

8:30AM Georgia May Fowle

5:30PM Antoinette Settanni

SUNDAY, April 5

7:30AM William P. Holly

10:00AM John McGovern

11:30AM George Schoener

5:30PM Intentions of Terry Campbell

MONDAY, April 6

6:30AM Verino Bucella

8:30AM Mary McGowan

TUESDAY, April 7

6:30AM Patrick Keane

8:30AM Albert Postus

WEDNESDAY, April 8

6:30AM Leo McDonnell

8:30AM Denise White

THURSDAY, April 9 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:30PM People of the Parish

FRIDAY, April 10 – Good Friday

1:00PM- 2 PM The Seven Last Words of Jesus

3:00PM People of the Parish

SATURDAY, April 11

7:00PM People of the Parish – EASTER VIGIL

SUNDAY, April 12 - EASTER

7:30, 10:00 and 11:30AM People of the Parish

5:30PM People of the Parish

FLOWERS IN THE CHAPEL

In memory of Patrick Cotter

BREAD & WINE

In memory of Joseph & Paul Dolan

CANDLE

In memory of Margaret & Paul Bowers

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Rite of Reconciliation

Wed, April 8th 7-8:30PM & Sat, April 11th 4-5PM

Holy Thursday – April 9th, 7:30PM

Mass of the Lord's Supper+Washing of the feet

Adoration of the Repository after Mass until Midnight

Good Friday – April 10th

1-2PM – The Seven Last Words of Jesus

3:00PM Service & Communion

Holy Saturday, April 11th

Easter Vigil -at 7:00PM

Easter Sunday, April 12th

Masses: 7:30, 10:00, 11:30AM and (special note)

5:30PM Sunday Evening.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10TH

ST. CHARLES BORROMEIO SEMINARY

Parking will be at St. Joseph's University (entrance to parking lot is on 54th St. below City Avenue) shuttle buses will be available for transportation to/from the Seminary beginning at 6:30PM (**NO PARKING available on the Seminary grounds**) Candles will be provided at the Seminary (suggested offering - \$2.00 per candle/protector) If you are planning to attend, please call Kathy Kelley at 215-965-8280.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION- Oct. 17, 2009!

PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD
Families Who Have Lost a Child are invited to Celebrate your child's life in a **Mass of Remembrance at St. Mary Magdalen Church** on Wednesday evening **April 29th** **The Welcoming ceremony will begin at 7P.M. with the Mass starting at 7:30 P.M.** All family and friends are welcome to join you. A warm reception will follow to lift and love each other. A Grief Counselor will be available. Families in surrounding parishes are encouraged to join us. **Please register your child's name** to be printed in the Mass Program **by April 20th**. We would like Altar servers to be family members or friends of those attending the Mass if possible. Please email or call Bill and Jean Cotter with your information. J2215c@aol.com or 610-565-3563.

AND WE'RE OFF!

Help us "Groom the Track" for the 2010 SMM Spring Auction and Social (save the date: **March 20, 2010**) "The Kentucky Derby... A Night at the Races"
Step into the Winner's Circle by volunteering your time and talent on one of the committees. Please join us for a Derby Recruitment Party.
Trainers: Joe and Kelly Hassey Track Location: 113 Spring Tree Drive, Newtown Square Post Time: Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 7 PM Silks: Casual. Odds are you'll have a Great time! Kindly RSVP to kellyhassey@msn.com or 610-353-1750. Hope to see you at the Track!

SMM MOMS IN TOUCH

Meet for prayer hour on Tuesday mornings at 9:00AM in the St. Katharine Drexel Room in the school. Even if you are not comfortable praying in a group, just joining us and praying silently in your heart will add to the strength of all our prayers! Small children are always

welcome. Not sure if our group is for you? Call Dana Westby at 610-892-9680.

RELIGIOUS BOOK STUDY GROUP

Celebrate the year of St. Paul by joining the religious book study on **St. Paul & His Epistles**. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening of the month from 7:35 pm – 9PM in our library. Please contact Gina Mesko at 610-872-0876: gagm2002@comcast.net.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Praise the Lord for the gift of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in our Parish. We need adorers for Friday 1-2 and 2-3 AM, Saturday 1-2, 2-3 or 3-4 AM and Sunday 4-5 PM. We would ask that you prayerfully consider one of these times. The graces and blessings of Eucharistic Adoration are incalculable and the AM hours are such a joy. A suggestion would be for a group of 4 to commit to an hour with each member adoring one hour per month. Call **Monica 891-9483 or Shelly 353-7739**.

CHURCH DEDICATION DVD is \$20.

SMM ALUMNI NEWS: Thank you for your response to "finding" and "connecting" our alumni with the parish. Many of the notes and e-mails are very assuring that our alumni are making a difference in our world. Also, they are very interested in renewing old friendships and recalling many memories. We are planning a fall all class reunion. So, alumni forms are in the narthex of the church or you can contact by e-mail at presidentsmm@comcast.net.

SMM Alumni Happenings: Four alumni from our SMM family have landed roles in Carroll's Spring production of "West Side Story"! **Danielle Morro (SMM 2007) will be "Maria"**. Some may remember Danielle in sixth grade as "Dorothy" in the SMM Blue cast production of "The Wizard of Oz". **Skylar Garrison (2007) will be the Jet, "Snowboy"**. **Rachel Comly (2006) will make a lovely Shark girlfriend while Eric Dowrich (2007) will keep things cool as stagecrew.** All are invited to enjoy West Side Story on April 24, April 25, May 1 and May 2 @7P.M. and on April 26 @ 2P.M. Tickets are sold at the door. No reserved seats. We congratulate our alumni who continue to excel. Please keep us informed of their accomplishments at presidentsmm@comcast.net.

SPRING FLOWER SALE

Spring is in the air! The Home and School Association will be sponsoring a Flower Sale after all Masses on Saturday, April 4TH and Palm Sunday, April 5TH. Please plan on supporting the school while picking up some beautiful potted flowers for Easter, **TODAY!**

BAPTISMAL PREP CLASSES: Call **Peter or Mary Zurbach** to sign up for class at **610-565-5736**. Sponsor Eligibility Letters from the parishes are needed three weeks before the Baptism. Next Pre Jordan is **May 13, 7:00 PM**. We ask you to come for instructions before you give birth so that you can be prepared in choosing your date and sponsors. We remind all parents and Godparents that they must be registered and practicing Catholics. Godparents must be 16 years of age and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A time to be Baptized... Abigail J. Parker

A time to die... Rev Albert T Kostelnick, Rose Fidale and and all victims of war, hurricanes, and the 4,100 daily abortions.

A time to heal...PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & OUR SOLDIERS in harm's way:
Our Children: Constance Ashbach, Farnsworth Bisbee, Fred Cambio, John Cammorato, Gianna Campbell, Terri Campbell, Chick Carman, Rosemary Casey, Daniel Casullo, David Clark, Nancy Clay, Christina Connors, Sean Cosden, Regis Cronin, Gennela D'Orazio, Ann DiDonato, Marcella DiMaggio, Erin DiMartino, Eleanor DiPangrazio, Carla Donato, Frances Dougherty, Ron Eubanks, Baby Cooper Gates, Louis Gentile, Alfonso Giliotti, Vincent Grasso, Margaret Greto, John & Helen Hartman, Rev. James Hughes, Elliott Johnson, Henry Johnson, Nancy LoMonaco, Joseph Manion, Michael Manganiello, Joe MacDonald, Theresa MacCombie, Elizabeth MacIntyre, Debra Marcoux, ll Joseph Maylish, Peggy Matthews, Kathy Mauer, Joe McCarthy, Mary McDevitt, Lucille Noonan, William O'Brien, Timothy Poole, James Ranieri, Sr, Bobby Ruggieri, Jean Quarto, Carolyn Rock, Billy Saar, John & Phyllis Scott, John Shea, Dan Shillington, Gerald Snyder, Betty Tedesco, George Tyson, Samantha Johnston-Twining, Ron Eubanks, Jay Valdes, Marian Vadino, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, Lindy Zwahlen

WELCOME OUR NEW FAMILIES

See Fr. Chieffo for a Registration Form after Mass. If you would like your family and home to be blessed, please call the parish office. If you are interested in visiting our new families to share about our parish activities, please contact **Joanne Hinkle at 610-892-3998.**

THE ROSARY & BENEDICTION

Join us every Tuesday in the chapel at 7:15PM. Benediction will be on April 7th. Deacon James DiFerdinand will offer a scripture reflection and Benediction after the Rosary.

Need a Huge Return on Your Investment

The many small Faith Sharing groups in our parish are **NOT** a Bible Study. They are more a discussion group with your fellow parishioners using the current Sunday Mass readings as a kick-off point. The time you invest, especially now that Lent is upon us, will return to you a hundredfold in a deeper awareness of your own spirituality and that of your neighbors. Meetings are kept to an hour and a half and are in a relaxed, sociable setting. Some groups will be meeting weekly during lent. Facilitators and times of meetings are listed below. Please call **Lindy Zwahlen, 610-565-0834**, or on of the facilitators.

Sunday evenings, 7:30PM: Terry Campbell 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Mondays at 2 PM: Betty Mulhern 610-353-5035.

Twice monthly: Sue Mita 610-566-4819

Tuesday evenings, 7:30PM (monthly): Mary Ann Foster 610-566-1399.

Men's Group: Jim Dooley (1st and 3rd Tuesdays) 610-892-9684 at 7:30PM.

Wednesday mornings, 7 AM Men's Group: Don Saleski (610-566-3492) in Church Gathering Room.

Monthly, 9:30 AM, toddler's welcome: Jeanne Barker 610-627-1009.

Weekly, 3 PM: Eleanor O'Rourke, White Horse Village 610-558-9128.

Thursday evening, 7:30 PM: Bonnie Clark (2nd and 4th weeks) 610-353-7930.

If you want to start a group, call Fr. Chieffo.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

All high school students are welcome to join us on Sunday nights in the Youth Room in the basement of the school for fun, food, and faith. We meet at the 5:30 Mass and head over, or you can just join us around 6:15.

SMM Legion of Mary (PRAESIDIUM)

We will recommence meetings starting on Monday, April 20th, at 7:00 PM,(please note change of start date) in the church basement offices – Conference Room #1. Please pray about becoming an instrument of the Holy Spirit through this balanced program of prayer and service. All are welcome to come and learn more about the Legion as a guest – there's no obligation. For information contact Karen Kelly 610-565-6539 or Mary Brady 610-566-2392.



From Mrs. Burke's Desk...

We have enough interest for an **After School Program from 3 PM- 6 PM.**

We are now looking for a director and staff to begin the program in the Fall. If interested, please call Mrs. Burke at school.

Congratulations to the following students who have received the Followers of Jesus Award for the month of March for being truthful. These students received their award during our First Friday Mass on April 3.

Grade 8- Robert Juliana and Noelle Zampino

Grade 7- Luke Burdsall, Robert Rennie

Grade 6- Anthony Pacitti, Erica Biancaniello

Grade 5- Natalie Stafano, Margaret Anne Hussey

Grade 4- Ryan Gill, Jacob Newsome

Grade 3- Joseph Biancaniello, Matthew Byrnes

Grade 2- Luke Keith, Mia Lucente

Grade 1- Angela Collins, Blake Martin

Registration information: 610-565-1822

Celebrate our vision for learning...moral awareness, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, and cultural development.

Anyone needing Tuition Assistance for next year, please contact the parish secretary or Mr. Antonello for the forms by June 1st.

LITTLE CHURCH SCHOOL

Parents are reminded that **Little Church School** takes place most Sundays during the 10:00A.M. Mass. **Little Church School** is for children from ages 3 to 5. Parents bring children to the Kindergarten room in the school. Children learn about God through stories and arts and crafts while parents are attending the 10:00A.M. Mass. **We need a leader for Little Church School starting this September. If interested, please call Deacon James DFerdinand 610-565-5782**

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

As we begin the New Year the Bereavement Ministry would appreciate help in sending cards a few times a year to those who have lost a loved one. These cards reinforce the concept that we are a caring parish. They mean a lot to those who are grieving. If interested please contact **Dottie Donohue at ddonohue@cohs.com.**

HEALING AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

Together and Making a Difference

The Holy Spirit has been working overtime with **the Healing Ministry and the HOPE team** in assuring that the families of **SMM pray together, stay together and are protected** during times of crisis. In His most perfect timing, The Holy Spirit prompts specific people from over 200 volunteers of both HEALING and HOPE to say "YES" to the call. Through His intercession, these ministries have provided aide to many. Each week The Healing Ministry and HOPE team will share a witness with you so that you too can be enlightened as to the awesome wonders that our Lord bestows upon us when we turn to HIM, stay close to Him and Trust that He is in control.

Witness: I was very concerned when I learned that a diabetic elderly woman on dialysis was going to be alone for 10 days in her home while her family was in Hawaii. I visited the Blessed Sacrament and asked the Lord to take control as I did not know how if we as a church could help her so extensively. Through the divine intervention of the Holy Spirit, the rescue began immediately. When the Healing Ministry volunteers and the HOPE team were notified, Marcia Finisdore, Jennifer Bastian, Christine Lutz, Joanne Hinkle, Annamarie Phillips and the HOPE meal team made up a schedule where she was visited twice a day, prescriptions filled, communion given, meals delivered, phone checkins made, and hugs were freely given for the entire time she was alone. At the last minute a man even answered the ad and was hired by the family to drive her to and from her treatments. On my return visit, with tears in her eyes, she held my hand as we shared Eucharist, prayed and gave Glory and Praise to the Awesome One." (Anita Morro)

If you, your family or your small group would like to join the team, please call **610-566-8821X#121** or anitasmm@comcast.net Anita Morro R.N. Coordinator.

SSM MEN'S RETREAT AT MALVERN

The Malvern Retreat League invites you to experience the benefits of a weekend retreat at St. Joseph's in the Hills. Retreats are conducted most weekends of the year at Malvern and information may be obtained by logging on to their website (www.malvernretreat.com), or telephoning Dr. Jack Colombo (610-891-0731) or Vince Zeller (610-353-7739). Remember also, that several men from our own parish will be gathering for our special retreat weekend this year on June 12, 2009. Consider joining us. You may be pleasantly surprised by the experience.

CELEBRATING OUR NEW CHURCH

As we celebrate our first year anniversary of our new church, the parish leaders and I invite you to our **Parish Picnic on Sunday, April 26th**. If you want to be a sponsor for our Picnic, you can donate a gift certificate for your business or make a donation of \$100 or more for our Sponsor Advertisement in our parish bulletin from now until April 26th. **Everyone should have received an invitation to the picnic with raffle tickets. Please forward them to the parish office.**

PARISH PICNIC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS -

Give some of your time and still enjoy the picnic. Contact Alisa Czachor 610-459-3925 or Alisa@Czachor.com

PICNIC SPONSORS WE THANK YOU!

Inside Jewelers

Nick Giovanangelo -610-359-0800

Rigby, Harting, Hagan Funeral Home

Bill & Gigi - 610-566-3755

Moppert Brothers Auto Collision

Experts - 610- 544-4444

Richard Bondurant Plumbing
610-566-0288

Robert and Mary-Jo Goldhorn
Goldhorn Electric 610-259-2529

Meissnerauto.com -

Doug and Lynn - 610-532-1400

D'Anjollell Memorial Homes

Robert D'Anjollel 610-356-4200

Rafferty Subaru - 610-353-6900

Dorothy and Robert Rafferty

Dr. David and Joanne Thomas

Dr. Anthony and Pierina Antonello

Susan and John Klusarits

Creative Financial- 610-325-6262

Eileen and Ray Wilson

Safe Co. 215-495-0795

Trattoria Giuseppe Restaurant 610-353-4871

Rose Tree Inn 610- 891-1205

Patty and Rob Rottensteiner

Elizabeth and Ray Bewley

Dr John and Gail Pron

Dr Eric and Kimberly Deppert

Oliver Heating & Cooling 610-544-4884

Murphy Architectural Group – 610-696-3843

Keenan Auto Body

Don Keenan 610-325-9210

Hart Builders

Chris Meinhart 215-350-5502

Thomas A McFadden-Attorney & Counselor

610-891-7910

Title Alliance, LTD

Jean & Bill Cotter 800-220-3901

Jean & William Boundy

Edgemont Flower Shop 610-566-6227

Hon & Mrs Joseph T Labrum, Jr

Elizabeth MacIntyre

Karin & Bruce LaMonaca

Mostardi Nursery

Cecelia & Stephen Mostardi 610-356-8035

Great American Pub – 610-964-9535

Mary Lou & Bob Mayer

SMM Healing & Wellness Ministry

Organization & Design Consulting

Sanka Coyle 610-724-3442

Household Staffing

Rosemary Giannone – 610-888-0395

Anne & Rudolph Chillemi

Dr Alphonse & Rose DiGiovanni

Barbara & Ronald Eubanks

Centennial Electric

Paul J Kelleher

Maryann & John Babin

CONSIDER ADVERTISING AND SUPPORTING

OUR PARISH PICNIC

CALL FR. CHIEFFO- 610-566-8821

ENCORE! SACRED SONGS AND ARIAS - Did you miss our special recital, Sacred Songs and Arias on March 14th? Perhaps you were among the 350 + who attended and want to share the experience with others or just hear the stirring performances given by Stephanie Piraino, Patrick Davey and Patricia Au again (and again). If so, you can reserve a recording of the entire program, including Father Ralph's pre-show, on CD (for a suggested donation of \$10) or DVD (for a suggested donation of \$20). Sign the order sheet in the lobby or contact Dr. Tony Piraino (e-mail: Anthony.piraino@comcast.net) for more information. Proceeds benefit Saint Mary Magdalen Church.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 9

7:30PM - M Verna, R McFadden, T Allen & R Allen

Good Friday, April 10

3:00PM - S. & J. Weyler, S. McCabe

Easter Vigil, April 11

7:00PM - T. & T. Le, A. Battista. L. Croquette

Easter Sunday April 12th

7:30AM - O. Patane, M. Szipazky

10:00AM – L. Tortella, D. Javage, B. McCarthy

11:30 AM – M. Gilligan, J. Fratoni, R. Campbell

5:30PM – L. Trevlyn

STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

In these times of financial crisis, we are blessed with faith, family, and friends whose true wealth we enjoy now and forever. God bless your family-team spirit as we praise God together for providing for our material and spiritual needs.

Jesus loves you and so do I, Fr Ralph

March 29th- \$22,234.00

Last Year - \$19,339.00

Church in Europe - \$1,120.00

St Ignatius Parish - \$3,926.00

Please call the rectory if you are sick or want a priest to visit you in the hospital or at home. Please pray and visit the sick & bring them the consolation and companionship. We are grateful to the many adults and children who are visiting our sick and home bound. What a blessing!

COMMEMORATIVES AVAILABLE

We thank **Anthony and Carolyn Truscillo** for the new walk way in front of the church. Please use it. We are grateful to **Fred Hagendorf** for building the beautiful pedestal for the new statue of SMM being carved in Italy. We thank **Joe Tumelty** for the restored pews. **Virginia and Caesar Crognale** for donating for the Nativity Painting by Rafael. **Lynn & Robert Sundo and Robert, Jr.** for a crucifix. We thank **Phyllis and John Scott** for donating a piano.

STATUE OF ST MARY MAGDALEN-

\$50,000

WINDOWS IN CHAPEL - \$25,000

#10 The Ascension #14 The Last Day

CHANDELIERS & PEWS - \$10,000

MEMORIAL BOARD- \$5,000

RESTORED PEW IN NARTHEX - \$1,000 each

CHOIR FRONTALS - \$600

CHURCH CHAIRS - \$500

CHOIR AND SERVER ROBES- \$100

CRUCIFIXES FOR OFFICES - \$100

Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109.

LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

FATHER CHIEFFO ON THE RADIO

Each Thursday on AM Radio 800, 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Fr. Chieffo explains the Catechism of the Catholic Church on In His Sign Radio.

PREP News -Two PREP students have been inducted into the National Junior Honors Society. Eighth grader **Gianna Campbell** and her brother, **Eric** (6th), will be inducted on April 24th at the Walden School.

The PREP May Procession will be on May 13 at 7:00 P.M. The Safe Touch program will be presented to all PREP students on April 15. **No PREP class on Wednesday, April 8.**

All PREP Families should have received a re-registration form. Please help us plan for next year.

WALK THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

How much does Jesus love us? He stretched his arms on the cross and embraced all of mankind. As we listen to the passionate love and mercy Jesus offers us this Holy Week, I invite you to embrace the mystery of the Cross rather than question why our God is willing to suffer for us. True love always demands sacrifice and Jesus assures us that He stand ready and willing to die with us so that we can share his divine glory. The cross is our ladder to heaven and the bridge that connects us to Jesus who graces and guides with the power of the Holy Spirit to free us from sin and enjoy his divine friendship.

Take time this week to rest and be renewed in his Sacred Heart and arms stretching out to you. Meditate on the saints depicted in our Stations and know that we too can become holy and grow in the love and mercy of Jesus.

I am grateful to all of you who offer so much of your time, talents, and treasure so that we can enjoy a vibrant faith family and the joy of serving each other in the name of Jesus. A blessed Easter, Fr. Ralph

COMFORT CARE PACKAGES

If anyone would like to donate items for those serving in the military, here are some suggestions: Spring, summer & early fall month temperatures are very warm. Desired items are: chap stick, sun block, insect repellent, white cotton tube socks (can be cheap), travel pillows, baby wipes soft packaging, soap.

For games/entertainment: Frisbees, cards, dominoes, dice, music CDs...make a copy, movies...any kind, books, magazines: sports Hollywood, local papers, snack packs, candy, gum, canned chips

If you would like to assist with the cost of packaging and shipping there will be a basket for donations. For information call Marian Moran at 610-892-0255 or email marianLmoran@hotmail.com

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

“EFT” electronic fund transfer is available to parishioners who wish to make regular **Sunday** contributions on a **monthly** basis. Bank forms are available in the church narthex. Complete the form and turn it into our church office, located under the church. Call Mary Lou for information, 610-566-8821 X109, if needed. Your **monthly** contribution will be electronically transferred on the **15th** of every **month**.

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

For over 80 local and popular merchants. Please log onto www.stmarymagdalen.net to print an updated order form or you may pick one up at our Scrip Sales table. This is an on-going program and orders are taken monthly. Merchants return on average 7% of our sales and all monies go directly towards our school tuition fund. Any questions contact Nicky Verna. tnverna@comcast.net or 610-639-3816.

ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Anniversary Masses will be celebrated on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 11 AM and 2:30 PM, at the Cathedral Basilica of SS Peter and Paul, 18th PA. In order to accommodate the large number of couples and their families attending, we ask that you attend the Mass designated for your county.

Couples celebrating **50 or more** years of marriage from **Philadelphia** and **Montgomery** Counties are invited to the **11 AM Mass**.

Couples celebrating **50 or more** years of marriage from **Bucks, Chester, and Delaware** counties, as well as couples celebrating **25 or more** years of marriage from **all counties**, are invited to the **2:30 PM Mass**.

No registration required. Family members and friends are most welcome and will be seated with the anniversary couple.

Parking: Limited parking is available on the Cathedral parking lot and on the street. Additional parking is available at the Gateway Parking Garage located at 16th & Vine streets (Fee Charged)

Arrival and Seating: Anniversary couples and their families will be seated together on a first

come basis; therefore, please allow ample time for arrival and seating. Everyone is asked to be seated 15 minutes before the beginning of the Mass.

Handicapped Access: An access ramp is located from the Cathedral parking lot, chapel side. (Limited handicapped parking spaces are available). Please call the **Family Life Office** if someone will be attending in a wheelchair. 215-587-3516.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The next couples experience will be June 19-21. For more info call 1 800 456 8330.

DOMINICAN RETREAT WEEKEND

A Weekend Retreat for Women from Friday, May 1st to Sunday, May 3rd will be held at the Dominican Sisters at Our Lady of Charity Convent. The theme for the retreat is “I am with you always.” (Mt. 28:20) The retreat begins Friday evening at 8:00PM and will end Sunday at 11:30AM. Please call 610-874-0172 for more details or to make a reservation.

THE SNEEZE

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears. This class would NOT pray during the commencements ---not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it. The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation. A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, SNEEZED!!!!

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU'. And he walked off stage. The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

Isn't this a wonderful story? Pass it on to all your friends and GOD BLESS YOU!!! This is a true story. - It happened at the University of Maryland.

**WHEN YOU GET TO YOUR WITS END,
YOU WILL FIND THAT GOD LIVES THERE.**