

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Serving Others -September 13, 2009

Reading I: [Isaiah 50:5-9a](#) The Lord Is My Help

Reading II: [James 2:14-18](#) Faith and Works

Gospel: [Mark 8:27-35](#) Take up Your Cross

Gospel Summary - At the point of today's reading in Mark's Gospel, Jesus begins his journey to the cross and resurrection. It is clear that the disciples finally understand that Jesus is the messiah, but they still see this role as one of royal earthly glory. When Jesus corrects this image and explains that the Son of man must suffer rejection and death, Peter takes Jesus aside. Peter can't believe such things could happen to someone destined to greatness and argues with Jesus. Jesus knows these things must happen and tells Peter to get behind him and follow. To follow, Peter, the disciples, and all who have come after them, must suffer as a servant for God, putting others before themselves.

Reflection For Families - All parents want the very best for their children! They willingly make sacrifices to provide the best opportunities for our children. They might sacrifice a career to stay at home with their children, or they might take on an extra job to save for college tuition. Parents often wish we could take the illness or discomfort from their children. They cannot stand to see their children suffer. Today's Gospel cautions us to do that very thing. Like parents, we must give of ourselves for others. Remember, the best way to show each other how to live is by our example.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family - Around the dinner table ask each family member, "Who do you say Jesus is?" As people give their answers, encourage them to include the name of someone who has helped them recognize Jesus and how they did that.

HOPE MEAL & RIDE PROGRAM

September 13th thru 19th

Kelly Hassey – 610-353-1750

SHARE YOUR FAITH GIFTS AND TALENTS

We need teachers and helpers for our PREP program on Wednesdays from 4 PM- 5:15 PM.

Lectors, cantors, musicians, and Eucharistic Ministers are needed for all masses, especially our 5:30 SUNDAY Mass when our new Youth Ministry will begin. Contact Deacon James for training.

CHAPEL FLOWERS

In Memory of Judge Harry Bradley

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, September 12

8:30AM Teresa Campbell

5:30PM Joan Raucht

SUNDAY, September 13

7:30AM Frances M. Reckner

10:00AM Barbara Dzwonczyk

11:30AM Mary Mark

5:30PM Grace Firmani

MONDAY, September 14

6:30AM Pat Davisson

8:30AM People of the Parish

TUESDAY, September 15

6:30AM Sick of the Parish

8:30AM John Kneafsey

WEDNESDAY, September 16

6:30AM Martha Martinicchio

8:30AM Anne Devine

THURSDAY, September 17

6:30AM Inactive Catholics

8:30AM Angelo Schifano

FRIDAY, September 18

6:30AM Intention of the DiCandilo Family

8:30AM Sister Eileen Hughes

SATURDAY, September 19

8:30AM John Calvecchio

5:30PM Annette Touey

SUNDAY, September 20

7:30AM Judy Hamtil

10:00AM Walter Scheuerman

11:30AM Anna & John Ferrantino

5:30PM Theresa Panichi

BOWING INSTEAD OF SHAKING HANDS

Since the flu season is upon us, we strongly recommend that you simply bow to each other and express "Peace be with you!" at the sign of peace instead of shaking hands.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS WITH OUR ST. CHARLES SEMINARIANS

Saturday, October 3rd

at 7 PM Praise and 7:30 PM Mass

Please come and pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and for the perseverance of all priests and religious.

PARENTS OF FIRST COMMUNION, RECONCILIATION AND CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, September 23rd from 7:30 PM- 9 PM

Or on Tuesday, September 29th in church.

Fr Chieffo, Deacon James and Mrs Anita Morro will share a teaching on the Sacraments to prepare you and your children for the Celebration of the Sacraments this school year. At least one parent must attend one of the meetings. Fr. Ralph



From Mrs. Burke's Desk...

This past week St. Mary Magdalen School opened its doors to 401 energetic students. It was great to see so many smiling faces –especially those of the parents. We began our day by reflecting on the gift of priests in our lives as we came together as a school community to celebrate “The Year of the Priest”. We are most grateful to our pastor, Father Chieffo who lovingly supports our school and all of its programs. We thank God for and ask Him to continue to bless Father. This year our renewed commitment to provide a rigorous and relevant program that provides numerous opportunities for our students to grow in their love of God and to enhance their academic skills will continue. We offer a special invitation for you to join us on **Thursday evening, September 17th at 7:15 p.m.** as we hold our **Back-to-School Night**. We look forward to meeting and greeting you at this very special kick-off to our school year.

Kindergarten class begins on Monday, September 14.

Registration information: 610-565-1822

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

HOME AND SCHOOL MEETING SEPTEMBER 17TH

At 7:15 PM in the Parish Center - Meet the faculty and join our Home and School organization. Fr. Chieffo, Mrs. Burke, our faculty, and the Home and School Association will invite you to partner with us so that together we communicate our faith and family values to our children and assure them of our sacrificial love.

SMM Kentucky Derby: contact Kelly and Joe Hassey (610-353-1750) to help in our Parish Social and Fundraiser on March 20th at Drexelbrook. Start the fun now by volunteering for one of the committees.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY JOHN & KAREN HOEY

Attention all middle and high schoolers! Did you ever wonder why Catholics believe the things that we do? Did you ever want to know why we do the Catholic things we do? We can't wait to share your ideas and ours to try and have it all make sense. We'll talk in a fun, laid back way about how the Catholic church started, who the important people were (and why they were so important), and where all of these rules came from! That way, when you are busy going to Mass, celebrating a holiday, or expected to follow a rule, at least you will know why you are supposed to do it and

how it can help your life instead of getting in the way of your life. Then, it will be easier for you to do those things if you want to, because you will have a reason that is important to you. The first time we get together, we are going to figure out why there is a Pope, who all of them were, and what they have to do with us. Each week the things we talk about will be different but it will be directed by what you want to understand and how it can all fit into your life now.

SMM JUNIOR YOUTH CHOIR

Our Children's Choir will begin practicing on Thursdays from 3:15 til 4:30 PM with Karen Hoey. All fifth graders and up are eligible. We scheduled practices at this time so that our PREP and Private School students can participate. An exciting time is planned.

We need lectors, Eucharistic ministers, greeters, musicians and singers for the Sunday 5:30 PM Mass. Please register by contacting **John Hoey or Karen at 610-622-6213 OR thejohnhoeyorchestra@juno.com**

HEALING AND HOPE PROGRAM

The Healing Ministry along with the HOPE program, by the power of the Holy Spirit, continued to serve the parish throughout the summer. In spite of decreased volunteers due to vacations, the necessary prayer, communion visits, guidance, counsel and meals were generously provided to our parish families who experienced crisis, death and illness. In September, The Healing Ministry and HOPE program will power up to recruit and train new volunteers. The ultimate goal is to have 100% of our families on the list. To be a volunteer you need only be willing to make a meal a year or stop in and check on a neighbor. Training for other acts of service will be provided as needed. This effort will ensure that when the Lord calls His people to Love and serve Him; we will be prepared to say “yes” to the call.

Remember, “God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called. Hope to have you join the effort. In His Timing, Anita Morro RN BSN 610-566-8821 ext 7.

PREP NEWS

Our PREP school year for Grades 1 through 6 begins with a Parents Meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM. Classes for students will start on Wednesday, September 23rd at 4:00 PM. Registration forms and a schedule for the year can be found in the Church Narthex. We still need 1 or 2 teachers for the coming year. Call Deacon James 610-565-5782.

First Holy Communion for Grade 3 is scheduled for Saturday, October 17 at 10:30 AM in the Church. Please prepare the children by weekly Mass and daily prayer especially at meals and night time.

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 will be September 16 from 7 to 8:00PM in the Gathering room**. 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 die, please pray for the members of our SMM Faith Community who have died, **John Calvecchio, Leonard Orlando**, and all victims of war, hurricanes, and the 4,100 daily abortions. **We thank the Belczyk and Del Sordo family for their donations to the SMM Parish in memory of Edward Belczyk and Anthony Del Sordo.**

A time to heal...PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & OUR SOLDIERS in harm's way: Our Children:

Constance Ashbach, Bernie Brill, Fred Cambio, John Cammorato, Giana Campbell, Rosemary Casey, Tony Chieffo, Daniel Casullo, Lily Ciocca, Dave Clark, Nancy Clay, Christina Connors, Sean Cosden, Regis Cronin, Gennela D'Orazio, Ted D'Orazio, Ann DiDonato, Erin DiMartino, Eleanor DiPangrazio, Rose Dennin, Carol Desko, Carla Donato, Sr. Michael Marie Donnelly, RSM, Robert Franklin, Vincent Grasso, Dorothy Greenwald, John & Helen Hartman, Elliott Johnson, Henry Johnson, Alaina Lafferty, Richard Leighton, Richard Lucente, Joseph Manion, Michael Manganiello, Joe MacDonald, Theresa MacCombie, Debra Marcoux, Peggy Matthews, Mary McDevitt, Patrick McFadden, William O'Brien, Timothy Poole, James Ranieri, Sr, Susan Roman, Bobby Ruggieri, Carolyn Rock, Louise Saar, John Schad, John and Phyllis Scott, John Shea, Dan Shellington, George Tyson, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, Lindy Zwahlen

A time to marry... God bless our newly married **Shannon Coyne and William Marciante and Karla Testa and Gregory Casey.**

WEDDINGS need to be arranged 6 months ahead. You need to be a practicing Catholic and registered.

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 consolation and companionship. You can contact Deacon James or Anita Morro also to provide Communion.

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

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will begin September 22nd 2009. Classes are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 8:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Parish meetings rooms. Individuals who are interested in becoming Catholic or those who have not received all the Sacraments are invited to attend the RCIA program which culminates on the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. Deacon Peter Zurbach conducts the classes. Deacon James and others assist. Please call Deacon James for more information 610-565-5782

THE PRESIDENT'S DESK- By Patricia Miniszak

Our wonderful Marketing Committee has assisted in publicizing our school and one of the results is we are welcoming 397 students of which 57 are new. We are in the process of planning an all class Alumni Reunion for the classes from the first graduating class to the class of 2005. Please pass on the word that the reunion will be on Saturday, November 28th beginning with our 5:30 PM Mass. If you are not on our alumni database and have not received information concerning it, please contact me at presidentsmm@comcast.net or 610-566-8821 X122. In the Spring we will have a reunion for all of our high school students.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

All volunteers at St Mary Magdalen School and Parish who have contact with children must meet the following requirements before any contact with children.

1. Attendance at a Safe Environment Workshop.
2. A current Criminal Background check.
3. A current Child Abuse clearance.

These requirements from the Philadelphia Archdiocese apply to all adult participants at St Mary Magdalen School, PREP, CYO, Scouts and anyone working with children in any capacity. St Mary Magdalen Parish will hold a seminar on Wednesday, September 30th @ 7:00PM in our school. Forms for the two background checks will be available at this session or at www.epatch.state.pa.us/Hone.jsp. This one time seminar will fulfill the Archdiocese requirements. Please register with Pierina Antonello at www.smmnurse@comcast.net or www.virtus.org. Registration is needed to prepare for workshop materials.

CATHOLIC ADULTS LEARNING THEIR FAITH

Need a Huge Return on Your Investment?

Our small Faith Sharing group is more a discussion group with your fellow parishioners using the current Sunday Mass readings as a kick-off point. The time you invest, especially 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. Facilitators and times of meetings are listed below. Please call **Bonnie Clark (610-353-7930)** or one of the facilitators.

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

Twice monthly: Sue Mita 610-566-4819

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

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

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

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

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

Thurs 7:30PM: Bonnie Clark (2nd & 4th wks) 610-353-7930. If you would like to start a group, call Father.

THE ROSARY

Join us every Tuesday in the chapel at 7:15PM to pray the Rosary. Next Benediction will be Sept 29 & Oct 6. The parish family thanks you for your prayers.

DIVINE MERCY CENACLE

For more information, please call Doris 610-325-2876 or Eleanor 610-566-0317.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR

Deepen your relationship with Christ! Take part in a Spirit-filled weekly series of six Life in the Spirit Seminars at Nativity BVM's Conference Room (adjacent to the rectory), September 22nd through October 27th at 7:30 PM. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Paul or Betty at 610-627-1581. Learn to praise God and enjoy Christian fellowship.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY: Angel Visits

Our parish needs individuals who can visit private homes and Nursing Homes with Holy Communion and good cheer for those who are sick or can't come to Sunday Mass. Visits can be made on any day of the week. Some of these visits will be once each week, others may be for a short term only. If you can help us bring God to those in need, please call **Anita Morro and Deacon James** in a ministry that lets you bring spiritual aid and comfort to those in need.

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 4 to 5. Parents bring children to the Gathering room in the church opposite the restrooms. Children learn about God through stories and arts and crafts while parents are attending the 10:00A.M. Mass. **Starting date will be Sunday, September 27th.** Please call Deacon James 610-565-5782.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Consider the blessings we have here at SMM to have the Risen Jesus present in our Monstrance just waiting for a visit from YOU. We need an adorer for Saturday, 1-2 AM and there are many hours with only one adorer where two are preferred. Won't you prayerfully consider spending one hour per week or even every other week with the Lord who has done so much for YOU? Call Monica 891-9483 or Shelly 353-7739.

LEGION OF MARY

Come and pray for our Blessed Mother to grant you the peace of Jesus in your hearts and home. We meet Mondays, 7:00PM, Parish conference room. Info: Call **Karen Kelly 610-565-6539.** Our Lady is calling you to this great work!

The **Annual Legion of Mary** day at the National Shrine of the Immaculate heart of Mary in Washington, N.J. will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 10AM to 4PM. Mass at 12:00PM. Rev. Frederick L Miller will be the speaker. Any questions call Karen Kelly at 610-565-6539.

BEREAVEMENT MEETING

The next bereavement meeting will be held on Monday, September 14th at 7:00PM in the Parish office area. For information call Barbara Eubanks, 610-891-8851.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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.**

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our 5th annual evening has been scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2009. If you or anyone you know would like to fill our vendor tables, please contact Nicky Verna at tverna@comcast.net or 610-627-2383. Please mark your calendars for this fun and friend-filled evening.

STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

It is truly more blessed to give than to receive.

Our organist, Dr. Jacqueline Gibbons has volunteered her time and talents for many years serving as our adult choir director. She also makes the schedules and chooses the hymns for most of our liturgies. Please personally thank her for sharing her gifts and love for our parish family. I praise God and thank all who volunteer with the love of Jesus. May God bless your family-team spirit for providing for our material and spiritual needs. Jesus loves you and so do I, Fr Ralph

September 6th - \$18,833.00

Last Year - \$30,506.00

ARCHDIOCESAN CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: We thank four parishioners for pledging \$3,125,000. Our parish capital campaign for the benefit of the Archdiocese and our parish will begin January 2010. If you would like to serve on the committee, see Fr. Ralph

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Please email Sue Fromhold at sfromholdcihn1@verizon.net if you can volunteer. Meals and supplies are needed. Please help us keep the IHN in Delaware County. Donations can be sent to: Delco IHN, P.O. Box 2384, Aston, PA 19014 Sue will make an annual appeal at our Masses in September.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

St Mary Magdalen School is asking for donations to the **Sponsor a Student Program**. Over the past few years we have been able to assist some of our parish families with financial aide who have fallen on bad times. This year we are especially in need of help for 4 or 5 families. We know many of our parish families have suffered set backs over the last couple years but if you can, we would be most grateful to anyone who is able to help a needy student attend our parish school. Any amount is appreciated. Please forward your donation to the parish office attention Mary Lou. We assure you that the families receiving this aid are truly needy and practicing our Catholic Faith.

ELECTRONIC TITHING – EFT

Help yourself and us.

Back in December we established an electronic Funds Transfer program for Sunday giving. Several families have signed up for the program. It is a monthly withdrawal on the 15th of each month. This program provides a simple, convenient and time saving service for you and us. Please consider using this method of contributing. Forms are available in the Narthex or you may call Mary Lou in our office at 610-566-8821 X109.

CHURCH BOOKLETS ARE AVAILABLE

For \$5 at the parish office or SCRIP table.

Please thank Peter Lerro and our benefactors.

COMMEMORATIVES AVAILABLE

PAINTING OF ST. MATTHEW (\$5,500)

PAINTING OF ST. MARK (\$5,500)

Reconciliation Room - \$15,000

Chandeliers & Pews (\$10,000)

Windows in Chapel (\$25,000)

Memorial Board- \$5,000

Processional Candle(s) - \$300 each

Robes, Crucifixes - \$100

Be part of our new statue of SMM with any donation you can afford. Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109 **We thank Mike Quarto for a donation for the SMM Statue in memory of his wife, Jean Quarto. Joe and Daniela DiCandilo Family in honor of Clotilde Liberatore. Two crucifixes were donated in memory of Augustino Agate by Charles and Mary Dittmer.**

COMMEMORATIVE BOARD

All donors for our new church and offices are recorded in our BOOK OF GRATITUDE located in the Narthex. For those who made a significant donation and their names are not on a plaque (for instance our pews and chairs), we will install a BENEFACTOR BOARD in the Narthex.

ADULT CHOIR

We invite any parishioners who would like to sing to the glory of God to join us. You do not have to have a solo voice in order to be a part of our ministry; choir members are best as blenders! Please consider coming for your own edification as well as the benefit of the choir and the parish.

SMM CYO ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Edgemont Country Club

October 1st - 1:00PM Tee Time

50/50 tickets will be available in the back of church starting September 5 through September 27. Hole sponsors (business or families) are available for \$100. For registration or sponsor info please contact Jim Natale at 484-442-8314 or Paul McCarthy at 484-574-3993. Please support SMM CYO

ACME RECEIPTS

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR Acme receipts with you to church and place them in the box in the Narthex. These receipts help our school obtain new equipment. Thank you for all who do so faithfully.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday – September 19

5:30PM – M. Szipszky, A. Wilson

Sunday – September 20

7:30AM – A. Le, T. Le

10:00AM – J. McLarney, J. DiDomenico

11:30AM – A. & J. Lombardi

5:30PM – S. & J. Weyler

SMM MENS MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

We meet each Wednesday Morning from 7AM to 8:20 for prayer, scripture reflection on the Sunday Readings in the gathering room near our church restrooms. We also sponsor an evening or recollection with pizza, a talk, confessions, and Mass the last Monday of the month from 6:30 PM. Contact Don Saleski at 610-566-3492 or just come by and enjoy a lively change of views and learning from the scriptures.

FATHERHOOD AND LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

Contact Eustace Mita, Jr at 610-497-9700 for a program for developing parenting virtues for you and your children. www.fatherhoodandleadership.com

MUSIC WORKS COMES AT SMM

MusicWorks is a nonprofit, music therapy service provider working with children (3-20) and young adults (21+) with autism spectrum disorders, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and other special needs. In September 2009, SMM is offering small group music therapy sessions on Tuesday late afternoons & early evenings. MusicWorks will be offering financial assistance for families who qualify. MusicWorks also works with Magellan Behavioral Health Clients. Please call us at 610-449-9669 to register for sessions. For more info, go to www.musicworkswonders.com today!

LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor” thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?” Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, “Thou shall not kill.”

SACRED SONGS & ARIAS-CDs & DVDs

The CD and DVD recordings of the Sacred Songs & Arias recital performed at SMM on March 14th by Stephanie Piraino, Patricia Au and Patrick Davey are now available. Those who reserved CDs or DVDs can pick them up from Lee Gardella at the Script Table in the church lobby after the 10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Masses. Please provide your name and telephone number to Mr. Gardella and you will be contacted when your recording is ready for pick-up.

NEW SMM SCHOOL SPIRIT STORE

Located in Sr Kathleen Hall adjacent to GYM lobby. Hours: Mondays and Fridays 7:45 AM to 8:30AM & Noon to 1:20PM. On sale will be SMM Hawks tee shirts, sweatshirts and novelty items, etc. All proceeds benefit SMM School. Check us out! We thank all who will help.

WELCOME TO ST JOSEPH’S IN THE HILLS

Malvern Retreat House invites you today to attend the upcoming Our Lady of Peace Women’s Retreat Weekend on September 25-27, 2009. Call 610-644-0400 for additional information and visit the web site www.malvernretreat.com for photos and more details. Only 20 minutes from our parish!

For those interested in experiencing the faith experience of a Retreat but who have family obligations over most weekends, there is a mid-week retreat group – Pope John XXIII – that will meet 6PM Tuesday, October 6th and ends after breakfast on Thursday, October 8th. Mid-week retreats are an excellent way for family men to refresh their souls while not disrupting their family. For further info call Chris Sowa at 610-891-8971 or Bill Cotter @ 610-675-8003, or www.malvernretreat.com.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST

We ask Ever-living God and father of us all, you give to Your Church the Priesthood of Your Son, Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, You provide holy priests for holy people. We pray for all our priests, who announce the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments, for those who are young and those who are old, for those who serve in difficult and trying circumstances, for those who are faithful and those who are faltering, and for those who have died. We entrust all our priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary that they may persevere with fidelity to you and to Your Church. With Saint John Vianney, patron of priests, we pray that our priests may never fail to lead us to you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILD CARE WORKER: wanted

Reformation Church (located @ RoseTree Rd & Sycamore Mill Rd) is seeking a dependable, child loving adult to watch children from infant to age 4 on Sunday mornings from 8:15AM to 12:15PM. Competitive wage. Pleasant site. Call 610-891-0600X108 or email rlc@relcmedia.org for more information.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
AND BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Seminar attendees recommit themselves to Jesus while others are welcome to witness this event.

WHERE: Nativity BVM Church in Media

WHEN: 6 consecutive Tuesdays from September 22nd to October 27th at 7:30- 8:45PM. (Sign in Session at 7:30PM on September 22nd)

Come with expectation as you receive Eucharist and have hands laid on you to receive the Spirit. God truly hears our prayers and acts on them with His loving wisdom. In Matt. 21:22, Jesus says, "Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive."

Bring a friend and an open heart. Reservations or questions, call Paul or Betty at 610-627-1581. "Do not be afraid of abandoning yourself to God" - Pope John Paul II talking to youth at St. Peter's Square.

ARE YOU READY FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

Christianity is losing the Spiritual Warfare to the secular world. We are approaching the Final Confrontation when Jesus will come again as the Divine Mercy to confront and conquer Satan. We need more apostles to spread the Divine Mercy message. For more information on how you can help in this battle, please call George Hudson at 610-565-8098.

**MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT
September 18 – 20TH**

When was the last time you had the opportunity to have a getaway with your spouse? Hosted in the Family Life Center you will be pampered with a private room and bath, delicious meals and inspirational talks. Popular retreat director, Fr. Jude Michael Krill, OFM will direct this refreshing retreat. He is currently a chaplain, Campus Minister and teacher at Neumann University, Aston, PA. All of the scheduled talks and exercises are a la carte; you may choose to attend all aspects of the retreat or spend leisure time with your spouse. The choice is yours! Register early.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

The next couples experience will be October 2 – 4, 2009. For more info call 1 800 456 8330. Have you done anything to enrich your marriage or renew your commitment to your spouse, family and others.

**THE CREIGHTON MODEL FERTILITY CARE
SYSTEMA ND NOPRO TECHNOLOGY**

Authentic Catholic Health Care for Women and Couples To be held on October 21, 2009 at St. Mary Magdalen, 2400 N. Providence Road, Media, PA. The cost is free. To register call 610-789-4547. Sponsored by Friends of Fertility Care Philadelphia.

THOUGHTS OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY

With a humble person, whether he is laughed at or esteemed, praised or blamed, honored or despised, whether people pay attention to him or pass him by, it is all the same to him. Catechism on Pride.

**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION
PLEASE HELP THE RESEARCH**

Fr. Chieffo is "going behind bars for good" and he needs your help to raise money for the MDA. Father will be "locked up" on October 14th at 3:00PM and taken to his "maximum appreciation prison site" – Brodeurs Restaurant in Media. Please help "bail Father out" by making a tax-deductible donation to MDA. You can make a cash donation or submit a check payable to MDA. All contributions should be dropped off or mailed to the SMM church by October 7th.

PUBLIC ROSARY RALLIES

This will be held nationwide on October 4th to commemorate the 92nd Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima in 1917! You are cordially invited to join in prayer with us at St. Andrew's Church in Drexel Hill at 11:45AM on that day. Please join us for an hour to pray for the conversion of our beloved country. More info: Call Raphael at 610-622-9027 or 610-613-7481. You may also go to americancedsfatima.org and click on "Rosary Rallies by State" for other Rosary Rallies in our area.

JOB OPENING

Security/Maintenance – 3rd shift – full time – send resume or complete application in person at Divine Providence Village, Catholic Social Services-686 Old Marple Road, Springfield, 19064 – fax 610-544-1710.

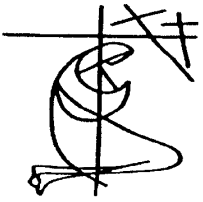
**OUR LADY OF PEACE WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 25TH – 27TH**

Hosted in the Main retreat house, Fr. Edward (Ned) Murphy, SJ will be directing this annual retreat. You will have time allotted to you for private adoration in one of our magnificent oratories, hear inspirational talks, have the opportunity to go to Reconciliation, pray the rosary, the Stations of the Cross and so much more! This is a traditional women's retreat weekend which offers women an opportunity to make new friends, pray and renew their spirituality through the retreat experience. "Meeting Jesus One is Never the Same" is the theme for this retreat.

Communion Breakfast on Sunday, October 4th at Malvern Retreat House; special guest speaker will be Don Saleski, former player for the Philadelphia Flyers. Delicious brunch, Mass and talk by Saleski.

RELIGIOUS BOOK STUDY GROUP

Are you interested in how you can live a more Spiritual life in such a secular world and find a deeper meaning to life's hardships and sufferings? Come join us as we commence the book, **Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World**, by the late Father Henri Nouwen. We will meet starting Tuesday evening, October 6th @ 7:35PM at St. Mary Magdalen's School Library in Media. We will meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday evening of the month for approximately 3-4 months. It's a very casual, informal and enjoyable setting. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Gina Mesko @ 610-872-0876. New comers are most welcome!



WHY I AM A CATHOLIC?

Have you ever felt like you were wasting your time being a Catholic? So many people say that the Church is a fraud and that we can find God without all the drama and hypocrisy.

Why can't we just find God on our own? After all, the only thing that really counts is being a good person, right? Life for a Catholic these days is pretty tough, especially when you interact with people of different religions or no religion at all. You think it's hard for you, try walking around in a priest's collar these days. Based on the ugly stares and loaded questions from total strangers, it seems that many folks have formed opinions not only about our religion but also about us as individuals. To be honest, these folks have some reasons for what they do. Something terrible has happened in the Church and we can't just wish it away. We have to confront it.

We begin by confronting ourselves. Why am I a Catholic? Why am I remaining one even in the midst of scandal, frustration and disappointment? The answer is to be found in the teaching of the faith itself.

- I am a Catholic because I believe that Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son of God made flesh.
- I am a Catholic because Jesus died on the cross in obedience to His Father's will to pay the price for my salvation.
- I am a Catholic because Jesus established His Church upon the Rock of Peter, first Bishop of Rome, first pope, and endowed His Church with all the means necessary to attain salvation.
- I am a Catholic because of the seven sacraments that Jesus gave to His Church to communicate His divine life to me, in particular the Holy Eucharist, the real and true body, blood, soul and

divinity of Jesus, which nourished me with eternal life.

- I am a Catholic because Jesus has given me, and all others who so desire, the gift of the forgiveness of sins in the sacrament of penance.
- I am a Catholic because the Church has taught me, fidelity to the teaching of Jesus and His Apostles.
- I am a Catholic because the Church has led me to the arms of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom Jesus gave to me and to all as a mother in the spirit.
- I am a Catholic because the Church has introduced me to the communion of saints, the friends of Jesus in heaven who pray for me and souls in purgatory who rely on my prayers.
- I am a Catholic because the Bible bears witness to the Catholic faith of the Church
- I am a Catholic because for two thousand years, the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church has proclaimed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world.
- I am a Catholic because every time scandal and sin has weakened the public face of the Church, God has raised up saints-ordinary people like you and me, called extraordinary witness-to heal and restore His church.
- I am a Catholic because the faith of the Catholic Church is true, guaranteed by Christ's promise of the Holy Spirit, and against the Church of Jesus Christ, in spite of the perennial weakness of its shepherds and sheep, the gates of hell

SHALL NOT PREVAIL!!

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY & FAMILIES

**In Flanders Field the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place and in the sky
The Larks, still bravely singing, fly;
Scarce heard amid the guns below**

**We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Field**

**Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; Be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies
Grow in Flanders Field.**