

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Come and See - January 18, 2009**

Reading I: [1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19](#) Your Servant
Is Listening

Reading II: [1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20](#)
Members of Christ

Gospel: [John 1:35-42](#) We Have Found the
Messiah

Gospel Summary -Jesus begins to call his disciples in this gospel passage. Two of John the Baptist's disciples were standing with him when Jesus approached them. John pointed out to his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God. The disciples may have left John to follow Jesus at first out of curiosity, but soon they knew there was something compelling about his invitation. While they didn't clearly understand all this meant, they allowed themselves to be led by Jesus.

Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Ask each family member to list the five most important things in their lives. These may be possessions, people, or things that can't be touched such as health. As each person explains their priorities, try to help one another see where God is in each item listed. After all, I have had a chance to share their lists and the family has talked together, check with family members to see if they would change their list in any way.

JOIN US FOR PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Praise the Lord for the gift of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in our Parish. Our 24/7 program is back and running smoothly, comfortably nestled in our new Chapel. We are still, however, in need of some loving souls who will adore Our Eucharistic Lord through the night. The hours still available are Friday 1-2 and 2-3 AM and Saturday 1-2, 2-3 or 3-4 AM. Sunday 4-5PM. 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. For questions call **Monica 891-9483 or Shelly 353-7739.**

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, January 17

8:30AM Paul Barone

5:30PM Orlando P. Tedesco

SUNDAY, January 18

7:30AM Intentions of the Coury Family

10:00AM Ralph G. Elefante

11:30AM Richard Brinkman

5:30PM Florence M. Dimick

MONDAY, January 19

6:30 AM Frank Szipszky

8:30 AM Helen Cirotti

TUESDAY, January 20

6:30AM Fr. Joseph Walsh

8:30AM Susan McDevitt

WEDNESDAY, January 21

6:30 AM Sick of the Parish

8:30AM Kenneth Barlow

THURSDAY, January 22

6:30 AM Pro Life Movement

8:30AM William Reilly

FRIDAY, January 23

6:30 AM Fr. Joseph Sensne

8:30AM Marie Ryan

SATURDAY, January 24

8:30AM Lynne Kramer

5:30PM Paul Buckley

SUNDAY, January 25

7:30AM Richard Javage, Sr.

10:00AM Margaret McBreen

11:30AM Marie Ryan

5:30PM Steve Dugan

Candle – In memory of Mary Fanelli

HOPE MEAL & RIDE PROGRAM

January 18-24 – Beth Hallinan – 610-353-1282

PARISH MISSION 2009

SANCTIFICATION OF FAMILIES

Monday March 2 to Thursday, March 5 at 7 PM

Rev. Msgr. George Tomichek

First Penance – Tues. March 3rd at 7:00 PM

PICNIC MEETING- WED., Jan. 21ST AT 7:30 pm

CELEBRATE SMM SCHOOL



You are cordially invited to join our faculty and staff as we begin our Catholic Schools Week 2009 celebration by attending our Opening Mass (January 25- 11:30 AM) and Open House (January 25- 12:30 PM). Our theme this year is **“Catholic Schools-Celebrate Service.”**

We encourage you to join us to rediscover our special qualities as we gather around the Table of the Lord as a parish and school community. Immediately following Mass we will host an Open House, which will give your family an opportunity to take a leisurely walk through our classrooms and hallways. Here you will experience first hand our warm, caring atmosphere and our program rich in faith formation and academic excellence. We look forward to seeing you!

PENANCE SERVICE AT 1:15PM ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 28TH. PARENTS ARE WELCOME- 10 PRIESTS AVAILABLE.

SCHOOL TUITION 2009-2010
1 CHILD 2 CHILDREN 3 CHILDREN
\$2,700 \$4,600 \$6,000
KINDERGARTEN \$2,850
Non Parishioners: double tuition

Registration information: **610-565-1822**
Registration for the 2009-2010 academic year:
Monday, February 2, 2009
New In-School Families K-8
9:30-11:30 AM
Wednesday, February 4, 2009
New Families K-8
9:30-11:30 AM
Celebrate our vision for learning...moral awareness, academic excellence, responsible citizenship and cultural development.

Academic Achievement

Our Scholarship awards continue to grow. As of this writing our eighth graders have earned more than \$400,000.00 in scholarship monies. Congratulations to our latest award recipient: Anita Morro has earned a partial scholarship to cover 80% of her tuition for 4 years to Archbishop Carroll High School.

Registration information: 610-565-1822
Celebrate our vision for learning...moral awareness, academic excellence, responsible citizenship and cultural development.

ENJOY OUR SCIENCE FAIR JAN. 25TH
Saint Mary Magdalen School's seventh and eighth grade students will be presenting a science fair during Catholic School's week. The projects will be on display on January 25, 2009, in the St. Katharine Drexel Room of Saint Mary

Magdalen School after the 11:30 mass. This event is free, so we hope to see you there.

The students have been preparing for this since September and have been working very hard on their experiment. Every year many students go on to the Delaware County Science Fair and some may go further. The projects are in a range of categories including: botany, health or life science, physics and more. The students would appreciate your support by coming out to see the science fair. **Maura Murphy**

From the office of the School President:

We are beginning to form the St. Mary Magdalen Alumni Association. I am grateful to those who have contacted me with information about alumni from our school. If you are a graduate or have family members who have graduated from SMM, in the back of church is a form that we would appreciate if you complete. You may return it to the parish office mailbox or in the Sunday collection basket. You can also e-mail your information to presidentsmm@comcast.net Thank you for your cooperation in this new endeavor! May our school continue to be **PASSIONATELY CATHOLIC AND ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING!**

SMM Alumni Association -Pat Miniszak
presidentsmm@comcast.net

Name: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone number: _____

SAFE ENVIRONMENT WORKSHOP

All volunteers at SMM School and Parish who have contact with children **must** complete the following requirements. 1. Attend a Safe Environment Workshop 2. Complete a confidential Criminal Background Check. Complete a confidential child Abuse Clearance These requirements from the Philadelphia Archdiocese apply to **all** adult participants at our School, Religious PREP, CYO sports, Scouts and anyone working with children. SMM will hold a seminar on **Saturday, January 24 @ 9:00-11:30 AM in the Cafeteria.** Forms for Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse Clearance will be available at the session or www.epatch.state.pa.us/Hone.jsp. This **one time session** will fulfill Archdiocesan requirements. Please register with Pierina Antonello at www.smmnurse@comcast.net, www.virtus.org or by calling 610-565-1822. **Registration is needed to prepare for workshop materials.** Thank you for your support. If you have any questions please call **Pierina Antonello, R.N. at St. Mary Magdalen School 610-565-1822.**

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 **March 3rd, 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 God parents that they must be registered and practicing Catholics. They 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, Private Chris Lotter, 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: Farnsworth Bisbee, Fred Cambio, John Cammorato, Gianna Campbell, Chick Carman, Rosemary Casey, Daniel Casullo, Gennela D'Orazio, Ann DiDonato, Marcella DiMaggio, Erin DiMartino, Eleanor DiPangrazio, Carla Donato, Frances Dougherty, Baby Cooper Gates, Louis Gentile, Vincent Grasso, Margaret Greto, John & Helen Hartman, Rev. James Hughes, Sister Eileen Hughes, Henry Johnson, Nancy LoMonaco, Joseph Manion, Michael Manganiello, Joe MacDonald, Theresa MacCombie, Peggy Matthews, Kathy Mauer, Francis McCabe, Joe McCarthy, Mary McDevitt, Anna Teresa Moretto, Lucille Noonan, William O'Brien, Alan Okon, Timothy Poole, James Ranieri, Sr, Bobby Ruggieri, Jean Quarto, Carolyn Rock, John Scott, John Shea, Dan Shillington, Gerald Snyder, George Tyson, Samantha Johnston-Twining, Jay Valdes, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, Rev. Bill Wright, Lindy Zwahlen

Please call the rectory if you are sick or want a priest to visit you in the hospital or at home. Remember it is a spiritual work of mercy to pray & visit the sick & bring them the consolation and companionship of Jesus.

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 January 27th. Deacon Peter Zurbach will offer a scripture reflection and Benediction after the Rosary.

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.

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Cardinal O'Hara H.S. - March 7, 2009

Cardinal Rigali in collaboration with several men's groups from different parishes is calling men together to renew and strengthen their faith. Our theme from St. Paul is: **"Let us...strengthen one another."** (Rom.14:19) Cardinal Rigali states, **"As sons, brothers, fathers, grandfathers and friends we are called to a life which reflects our love for Jesus Christ in all that we say and do."** The primary goal of this conference is to provide an opportunity for men to gather to hear prominent speakers on various topics regarding how Jesus Christ has impacted their lives, to share our various experiences with other men and pray together. Rick Gannon, Marcus Grodi, Fr. Chieffo, Don Saleski, and Eustace Mita are some of the speakers. For additional information please call our Family Life Office staff at 215-587-3529 or on the web at <http://archphila.org/evangelization/famlife/famlife.htm> for registration and payment options

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

All teens in the parish are invited to join us on Sunday nights. We provide the music at the 5:30 liturgy and then meet in the Youth Room afterwards. Each week we have a different activity, but there's always Faith, Fun, and Food! Most recently, we had an engaging small group discussion on St. Thomas Aquinas' Five Ways.

There will be **no meeting on January 18th**, but our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th. Since Pope Benedict XVI has announced that this is the Year of St. Paul, we'll learn more about him through St. Paul Bingo, Conversion Charades, and other faith-filled and fun activities. For more info on any of our programs, contact paul_manion@yahoo.com

Healing and Wellness Ministry: Starting January 29, 2009 we will be offering a monthly Healing opportunity open to all parishioners who are hoping to nurture their spiritual and emotional selves. Call 610-566-8821 X121 or email anitasmm@comcast.net if you would like to participate.

Aspects of Healing Series: This series is for those who have been trying to emotionally and spiritually heal from suffering or loss of any kind. For those who are in the Bereavement support group or have attended the "Wrap and Rap" sessions, this series will focus on ways to heal from the losses that we have already brought to light. For others, these reflections will feed our spirits and send us home feeling supported and hope filled. The Lord sends His angels to carry us through difficult times. Please join us for a teaching on various aspects of healing followed by discussion, music, prayer and ending with reflection in front of the Blessed Sacrament. You may just be someone's angel.

January Topic: Regret and Gratitude: 1/29/09 at 9:30am. 12:30pm and 7pm in the church conference room. **February Topic: Forgiveness.** Great Lenten Reflection Topic. Date and time TBD **March Topic: Caring and Compassion** **April Topic: Fear and Faith**

PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD
We are planning a Mass in April and invite those grieving the loss of a child to prepare the liturgy, social, and engage a grief counselor for a follow up session. If you are interested in helping, we are having a meeting on Thursday, February 5th at 7:30 PM in the parish offices. Call Bill or Jean Cotter at 610-565-3563 or J2215C@aol.com

MARCH FOR LIFE

St. John Chrysostom is sponsoring a bus to the March for Life on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Please contact Pat Lockwood at 610-872-0322 if you would like to join us. We have 47 seats on the bus and we are asking for a \$20 donation per

person. A final head count is due this week. Please call now to reserve your seat.

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. Newcomers welcome anytime throughout the study! Let the word of God grace and guide you to Jesus!

ALTAR SERVING MINISTRY

We invite all students that may be interested in joining the Altar Serving Ministry to attend two training sessions to learn how to perform the role of serving the parish needs. The dates are as follows:

SMM students will train on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 and Tuesday, January 27, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the church.

Prep students will train on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 and Wednesday, January 28, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the church.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday – January 24

5:30PM – M. Campbell, K. Fulmer, Z. Maylish

Sunday – January 25

7:30AM – A. & T. Le, S. Grinnan

10:00AM – P. Belcxyk, C. O'Shea, S. Weyler

11:30AM – K. & M. Doyle, B. McCarthy

5:30PM – Biancaniello, E. Campbell

We are grateful to all our servers and especially Karen Allen and Deacon James for training and scheduling them. God bless you!

H.O.P.E. PRAYER CHAIN

HOPE accepts prayer requests to show our parish spiritual support during difficult times. Contact Maria Flannery at 610-565-3144 for your prayer request and also to be a prayer warrior for SMM. Lift up your fears and anxieties to God and receive his grace for your peace.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
AND BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
6 CONSECUTIVE TUESDAYS FROM
FEBRAURY 10- MARCH 17, 7:30 -8:30PM
CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS
TUESDAY, MARCH 10TH AT 7:30 PM
PRAISE BEGINS AT 7 PM**

**Celebrant: Fr. Ralph J. Chieffo
ALL ARE WELCOME TO PRAISE GOD FOR
HIS COUNTLESS BLESSINGS**

STEWARDSHIP AND TITHING

Wealth makes us comfortable, but only faith in God and service to one another makes us happy. In these times of financial crisis, we are blessed with faith, family, and friends who are true wealth we enjoy now and forever. Fr Ralph

January 11TH - \$20,204.00

Last Year - \$20,845.00

Christmas - \$102,224.00

Last Year - \$98,772.00

Endowment - \$894.00

CENSUS/STEWARDSHIP COMMENTS

Read Sue Fromhold's Thank for your awesome, inspirational stewardship.

BUILDING FUND

Cash received - \$6,185,928.27

Balance due on pledges - \$416,940.67

Total amount spent - \$9,097,965.68

Loan with Archdiocese - \$450,000.00

We stand in praise of God and are grateful to you for your sacrificial generosity in offering your time, talents, and treasure for the glory of God and the good of all.

THANK YOU FROM SUE FROMHOLD

Christmas Giving Tree - A Big Thank You

Maryann Schriver and I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and help this year. 700 balls were taken from the tree - 150 of them for the Bethesda Project. There were 29 children from 11 families on the tree and 6 families were in the Adopt-A-Family program. Of the 17 families, 11 were from the St. Martin dePorres Academy in Germantown. Each of our GT families was given \$75 in food certificates and all families were given a turkey and ham. \$1,620 in certificates went to Catholic Social Services accompanied by food and most of the baby items for their baby cupboard. St. Katharine Drexel Food Cupboard received most of the toys, food, books, throws, sweat suits, and \$315 in food certificates. B.V.M. Church in Darby received most of the hams, books, and some toys.

Thanks to the 6th grade class at SMM who made the "ornaments" under the direction of Lisa Jensen. Kudos to Maureen Patane, Bernadette Currie, Maureen Scheurman, Michele Bramley, Rosemarie Halt, Jude Pazulski, Joe Bodalski,

and Bob Schriver for driving our gifts and food. A hand for Al and Rita Spinelli, Mike and Sheila Mullin, Kathy Gaval, Annette and John Rady, the Halts, Teddy Silva, Mike Fromhold, and Ed McLaughlin and the girls from the Volleyball team for serving as elves and packers. I'm hoping I haven't forgotten anyone.

In case you hadn't heard, the Philadelphia Daily News on December 23 did a human interest story on one of our children from St. Martin dePorres. SMM is mentioned near the end of the article. You can read it at www.philly.com, click on Daily News and Search Love rescues orphaned boy. A heart-warming story for sure.

We could never have done this ever expanding project without all your help. God bless. - Sue Fromhold

BLANKET COLLECTION

Happy New Year to all. The collection of new and gently used blankets, sleeping bags, and comforters is beginning this weekend and will run through March 2009. The items collected will benefit Catholic Social Services and local shelters. There will be a tub in the Gathering Room (the room across from the Ladies and Men's rooms off the vestibule of the Church). Thank you very much for your support and generosity in past years; the program has grown tremendously and shelters are already inquiring if we will be donating again this year. Questions? Call the Garrison family, **610-566-7748**. Thank you for your kindness.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER

Starting December 15, 2008, "EFT" electronic fund transfer will be available to those 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** from your bank to our bank starting as of December 15th. Our first year's goal is 100 families using the "EFT" system. We hope this format will assist you in budgeting your family expenses as we hope it will help in budgeting the parish expenses.

SCHOOL TUITION

The final tuition payment for school was due on January 8, 2009. If this has not been submitted please drop off the payment at the Parish Office under the Church. A \$25.00 late fee is also due. The Parish Subsidy for 2009-10 is budgeted for \$775,000. The School families thank you for your generosity in the Sunday collections. We need a couple to run the March Social 2010!

ART AUCTION

Save The Date!! *The Hottest ticket in the Cold of Winter:* Join us for the 2nd SMM Art Auction Saturday Evening February 28th @ the Parish Center. Join your neighbors and bring a friend to this fun evening to benefit our school programs, additional details to follow. For more information or to volunteer to help please contact Ed McLaughlin at 610 566-1242. Tickets go on Sale February 1st!

8TH GRADE BAKE SALE – JAN. 25TH

Please support the 8th grade fundraiser by buying baked goods after masses on Sunday, January 25th. These delicious cakes and cookies are made by the 8th graders and their families and help defer the cost for their class trip and graduation expenses.

TRAVEL TO WORLD FAMOUS CHINA

With Fr. Stephen Curry, June 26 – July 7, 2009
Contact him at 610-259-7750 ext 1328 or frscurry@gmail.com.

Gift Card Program

Gift Cards are still available for over 80 local and popular merchants. Please log on to www.stmarymagdalen.net to print out 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. This is an easy and beneficial fundraiser... and there's no extra money out of your pocket. Any questions, please contact Nicky Verna.

nverna@comcast.net or 610-639-3816.

MAKE EVERY PARISHIONER COUNT!

Make every person count is a Lenten parish outreach to every registered household for the purpose of reconnecting with inactive Catholics, conducting pastoral visit and updating parish records. If interested to be trained, see Fr. Chieffo or Deacon James. Training will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd at SS Simon & Jude, West Chester, Parish Center from 7:00 to 9:00PM.

THE ROSARY & BENEDICTION

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

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**. You can also participate by calling your questions or sharing your faith experiences.

EXORCISM AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

HIS Network presents **Exorcism and Spiritual Warfare** with special guest Fr. Thomas Euteneuer. Rev. Euteneuer is an exorcist who will discuss the reality of Satan, his demons, and the fascinating connection between demonic possession and abortion. You will learn the difference between deliverance and exorcism and the reality of the occult as well as the church's very important ministry of delivering people from the devil's influence. Father Euteneuer is also the president of Human Life International, the world's largest pro-life organization. **Sunday, February 1, 2009, 12:30 PM to 4:30PM Ramada Inn, Essington, PA. Cost: \$35.00 per person (includes lunch) Pre-registration is required!**

GO WEST WITH FATHER CHIEFFO TO CANYON COUNTY

Join Father Chieffo on a 9 day tour, June 18 – 26, 2009, including the Grand Canyon, Scottsdale, Bryce Canyon & Zion National Parks and much more. Call Maureen Ward Rennie at Kitty Ward Travel for more details **610-543-0680**. The Collette Tour Director, Bob Koch will be with us on Wednesday, Feb. 4th at 7:00 PM to describe the trip. All are welcome to join us in the Church meeting room.

RSVP to Maureen Ward Rennie- 610-543-0680.

God's Extravagant Love

An evening on the Historical background of Franciscan theology will be offered by Patricia Smith OSF, Tues., Feb. 10th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, 609 S. Convent Rd., Aston. **Cost \$30: Registration Deadline: January 30th.** Call 610-558-5372.

LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR

Mrs. Kinslow learned from her PREP class a new sacrament: **The Sacrament of the Annoyance of the Sick.** Rich Polkowski claims that Politicians rob from Peter to pay Paul, so that they can count on Paul's vote.

**FATHERHOOD AND LEADERSHIP
NATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES**

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Malvern Retreat House, 9am-11:30am

Sean Dalton

Director of FOCUS, a Catholic outreach organization that brings the fullness of Catholic truth to college students, and an award winning speaker and father of 5. Sean uses humor, stories, and his own life experiences to communicate the critical role of values in the life of Fathers.

CHURCH DEDICATION DVD

The new church dedication DVD is available. Requested donation is \$20.00. Call the Parish office or see our Scrip salespeople.

COMMEMORATIVES AVAILABLE

Statue of St. Mary Magdalen- \$50,000

CHANDELIERS & PEWS (\$10,000)

RECONCILIATION ROOM (\$15,000)

WINDOWS IN CHAPEL (\$25,000)

#10 The Ascension #14 The Last Day

Memorial board- \$5,000.

CHOIR AND SERVER ROBES- \$100

We will soon put up our memorial board for all who donated for the church next to the painting of Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalen in the narthex. Please review our Book of Remembrance for the correct listing of your name which is located in the narthex. Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109 with any questions.

JESUS EMBRACING OUR SOLDIERS

In our narthex, we have a new statue of Jesus embracing and protecting our soldiers. If you want to order a copy, contact Nancy, our secretary. Timothy P. Schmaltz is the Sculptor. Each Statue is \$30.00. Contact Nancy at 610-566-8821 x107.

MEN'S RETREAT

Men of St. Mary Magdalen, 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), 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 19, 2009. Please consider joining us. You may be pleasantly surprised by the experience.

Blessed Grieving Support Groups

Facilitated by Jean Ustasiewski OSF and Mary Lou Pappolla, will be held Feb. 10th at 7:00-8:15PM, at the Franciscan Spiritual Center, 609 S. Convent Rd., Aston. Free Will Donation. Call (610) 558-5372

OUR GENTLE GOD

God decided to become visible to a king and a peasant and sent an angel to inform them of the blessed event. "O King," the angel announced. "God has deigned to be revealed to you in whatever manner you wish. In what form do you want God to appear?" Seated pompously on his throne and surrounded by awestruck subjects, the king royally proclaimed: "How else would I wish to see God, save in majesty and power? Show God to us in the full glory of power."

God granted his wish and appeared as a bolt of lightning that instantly pulverized the king and his court. Nothing, not even a cinder, remained.

The angel then manifested herself to a peasant saying: "God deigns to be revealed to you in whatever manner you desire. How do you wish to see God?"

Scratching his head and puzzling a long while, the peasant finally said: "I am a poor man and not worthy to see God face to face. But if it is God's will to be revealed to me, let it be in those things with which I am familiar. Let me see God in the earth I plough, the water I drink, and the food I eat. Let me see the presence of God in the faces of my family, neighbors, and – if God deems it as good for myself and others-even in my own reflection as well."

God granted the peasant his wish and he lived a long and happy life. May God grant all of us the same wish!

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION AT SMM

As we celebrate Catholic education and the many inspirational parents, priests, sisters, brothers, and lay teachers who formed our Christian conscience, we can quench our thirst for a closer relationship with Jesus and an adult commitment to our church by joining one of our scripture reflection groups and ministries. Contact Fr Ralph or Terry Campbell at 610-627-1109