

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Holy One of God
February 1, 2009

Reading I: [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#) I Will Raise
Up a Prophet

Reading II: [1 Corinthians 7:32-35](#) Free of
Anxieties

Gospel: [Mark 1:21-28](#) Teaching with Authority

Gospel Summary - Much of Jesus' teaching took place in a synagogue and specifically in today's reading, the synagogue at Capernaum was filled with Jewish people from Galilee. Jesus' listeners were surprised by his knowledge and authority. He especially surprised them when he cast out an evil spirit from one of the men. The evil spirit recognized who Jesus was and called him "the Holy One of God." The people didn't understand this meaning. Only the evil spirit recognized Jesus. The people, however, were impressed by Jesus' deeds and brought others to him for healing.

Reflection for Families - It is an awesome responsibility to have authority over another person. Our very use of that authority has the potential of lifting people up or tearing them down. The greatest responsibility we have rests in the authority we have over our children. The words we choose, the tone of voice we use to speak to them and the actions our children see us take, relate to them the authority Jesus has over us. It's often a sobering experience to think back over the day and recall what kind of witness we've been for Jesus. Our hope is that we can try again tomorrow.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family - We may not be able to exorcise evil spirits, but as a family, suggest places in your school, work place, neighborhood or community where evil (or something unjust) exists. Make a plan and take an action as a family to right this wrong.

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**.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, January 31

8:30AM Charles Butterfield

5:30PM Mary Sue Weaver

SUNDAY, February 1

7:30AM Intentions of Vincent & Shelly Zeller

10:00AM Int. of Rita Magliano – 10 yrs Thanksgiving

11:30AM Eleanor MacIntosh

5:30PM Rita Huefner

MONDAY, February 2

6:30 AM Francis Dieter

8:30 AM Elizabeth Nepi

TUESDAY, February 3

6:30AM Tony Pellechia

8:30AM Kenneth Barlow

WEDNESDAY, February 4

6:30 AM People of the Parish

8:30AM Joseph P. Mylotte

THURSDAY, February 5

6:30 AM Michael DiBussolo

8:30AM Daniel Ward

FRIDAY, February 6

6:30AM Michael Doyle

8:30AM Albert DiGregorio

SATURDAY, February 7

8:30AM Frank Szipszky

5:30PM Albert Di Gregorio

SUNDAY, February 8

7:30AM Intentions of Keith Randazzo Family

10:00AM Felix Berardi

11:30AM Maria Fasolak

5:30PM Maria Schuyler

Bread, Wine & Candle - Maureen Applegate

HOPE MEAL & RIDE PROGRAM

February 1 – 8 – Colleen Rogers – 610-565-3425

PARISH MISSION 2009

SANCTIFICATION OF FAMILIES

Monday March 2 to Thursday, March 5 at 7 PM

Rev. Msgr. George Tomichek

Monsignor is a Missionary in the Phillipines and helps us on Sundays as well at St. John Neumann Shrine at St. Peter's (5th and Girard Ave)

First Penance – Tuesday March 3rd at 7:00PM

Please plan to be with us each evening at 7PM so we can partner with Jesus to pass on our faith and values to our families.

Stephanie Piraino Recital – March 14th at 7 PM

Parish Picnic – Sunday afternoon, April 26th



From Mrs. Burke's Desk...

Registration for 2009-2010 academic year will take place this week! Please refer to the following schedule:

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

Please bring a copy of your child's Birth certificate, Baptismal certificate (if not baptized at St. Mary Magdalen), Immunization record, social security number, and a \$100.00 non-refundable registration fee. No registrations will be accepted without the above documentation. Information about Re-Registration for current students will be sent home in the Communication Envelope. Registration information: 610-565-1822 Celebrate our vision for learning...moral awareness, academic excellence, responsible citizenship, and cultural development.

SCHOOL TUITION 2009-2010

1 CHILD 2 CHILDREN 3 CHILDREN
\$2,700 \$4,600 \$6,000

KINDERGARTEN \$2,850

Non Parishioners: double tuition

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!

CELEBRATING OUR NEW CHURCH

As we celebrate our first year anniversary of our new church, the parish leaders and I invite you to the Parish Picnic on Sunday, April 26th and recital on March 14th. **St. Mary Magdalen** proudly presents: *Sacred Songs and Arias* featuring Stephanie Piraino, *soprano* with special guests, Patrick Davey, *baritone*, Patricia Au, *piano*, Saturday, March 14, 2009 7:00 to 8:00 pm. A Church Reception will follow and Admission is Free. For information please call the parish office 610-566-8821.

SMM CATECHISTS HONORED BY CARDINAL RIGALI

In addition to celebrating the start of Catholic Schools Week, the Archdiocese also honored those who pass on the Catholic faith to others by serving as Catechists for PREP students and teachers of programs like Pre-Cana.

AWARD WINNERS

Eight parishioners from St. Mary Magdalen were given awards on Sunday, January 25 at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. Accepting the Our Lady of Guadalupe award for fifteen years of service: **Ro DiFerdinand, Anne Chillemi; Ken and Sandy Narzikul and Larry and Jean Donato.** For ten years of service: **Bill and Mary O'Shea** who received the St. Pius X award.

His Eminence Cardinal Justin Rigali celebrated the Mass. In his homily, the Cardinal said that passing the faith on to the next generation is at the heart of every parish. He praised all award winners for being so diligent in the Mission of teaching the Catholic faith. Father Chieffo and the entire parish thank these award winners and all parishioners who pass on God's love in our faith community.

FOCA

A Radical Threat to Human Life

We are facing the most serious threat to pro-life policies ever – the "Freedom of Choice Act", or FOCA. This bill would create a right to abortion the government could not limit and bring about a national abortion policy far worse than the US Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. For the first time, abortion would become an entitlement the government must fund and promote. Citizens would lose the freedom they now have to enact even modest regulation of the abortion industry. FOCA would: Eliminate regulations that protect women from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists. Force American taxpayers to fund abortions. Force every state to allow partial-birth abortions – its sponsors have said a primary purpose of the bill is to ensure that killing partially born children will again be permitted nationwide. Run roughshod over the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals that oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds. Strip parents of their right and responsibility to be involved in their minor daughter's abortion decision.

Pick up a postcard available in the narthex and please contact our Senators and US Representative.

**A NATION THAT KILLS HER CHILDREN
HAS NO FUTURE - Mother Theresa**

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, Tony Pellechia, Rennie Skey, Michael DiBussolo, 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, Christina Connors, Regis Cronin, 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, Joseph Maylish, Leo McDonnell, 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, Betty Tedesco, George Tyson, Samantha Johnston-Twining, Jay Valdes, Louise Veit, Catherine Walsh, 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
Matthew & Kristin Shelly. 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**.

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.

YOU CAN GROW IN YOUR FAITH BY LISTENING AND SHARING

Consider joining a small scripture reflection and faith-sharing group made up of fellow parishioners. These groups meet in an informal setting to review the Sunday Mass readings and discuss their relevance to today's world in our individual and collective lives. It is a wonderful way to meet & connect with one another as a community of believers on a journey toward our spiritual home. Meetings are approximately one and a half hours. Facilitators and times of meetings are listed below. Please call either Terry Campbell (610-627-1109) for more information, or one 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.

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
AND BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT
ST. MARY MAGDALEN CHURCH
6 CONSECUTIVE TUESDAYS FROM
FEBRUARY 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**

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.

LAUGH WITH THE PASTOR

When I prayed for the Eagles to win, I wondered whether God would team up with the Cardinals instead. As I watched the players battle back and forth, I became despondent when I realized the Cardinals had a player named “Pope”.

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.

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**.

JESUS EMBRACING OUR SOLDIERS

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.

ALTAR SERVER SCHEDULE

Saturday – February 7

5:30PM – T. Allen, A. Arra, C. Babin

Sunday – February 8

7:30AM – C. Bauwens, P. Belczyk, R. Gargano

10:00AM – B & T Aman, M. Bastion

11:30AM – E. Campbell, K. Natale, E. Poynton

5:30PM – J. Barker, K. Fulmer

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

THE ROSARY & BENEDICTION

Join us every Tuesday in the chapel at 7:15PM. Benediction will be on February 10. Deacon James DiFerdinand will offer a scripture reflection and Benediction after the Rosary.

OPEN ARMS

Open Arms is a reconciling ministry of Daylesford Abbey whose purpose is to present a loving and welcoming presence to gay and lesbian Catholics, their families and friends. We meet on the third Monday of each month in the Spirituality Room at 7:30 PM. Contact Brother Jack Ginder, O.Praem jbginder1@yahoo.com or parishioners George & Ellen Curran, gdcetired@aol.com.

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.

MEN'S RETREAT

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

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

Cardinal O'Hara High School - March 7th

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.

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. Fr Ralph

January 25TH - \$20,867.00

Last Year - \$18,579.00

FAMILY GIVING - Jan 2008-Dec 2008

Amount Given	#
\$0.00-	\$0.00 373
\$0.01-	\$200.00 225
\$200.01-	\$600.00 260
\$600.01-	\$1,000.00 232
\$1,000.01-	\$3,000.00 405
\$3,000.01-	\$10,000.00 114
\$10,000.01-	\$10,000,000.00 24
TOTAL Contributions	\$2,771,886.34
Our Loan with Archdiocese - \$450,000.00.	
We replaced 5 more doors in school for a cost of \$22,000.00	

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 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.

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

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)**
- WINDOWS IN CHAPEL (\$25,000)**
- #10 The Ascension #14 The Last Day**
- Memorial board- \$5,000**
- CHOIR AND SERVER ROBES- \$100**

COMMEMORATIVES DEDICATED

- Church chair **+ Michael Doyle**
- Church chair **A Friend**
- Reconciliation Room **Kim & Jim Martin**
- Chapel Window (Crucifixion) **Sue & Eustace Mita**

Please review our Book of Remembrance for the correct listing of your name. The book is located in the narthex. Call Mary Lou at 610-566-8821 X109 with any questions.

MAYLISH FAMILY THANKS YOU

Joe and Ann Maylish and family are most grateful for your kindness and prayers especially at our healing Mass for his intention last Tuesday. Joe is now stable and recuperating. There is a fund for the family of Dave Schreffler who died in the accident. **The Schreffler Educational Fund, c/o Richard Cutler 75 Stenton Ave., Plymouth Meeting, PA 194652.**

CYO SPRING REGISTRATION

We are currently registering players for the following Spring Sports – Girls/Boys Track - \$35 (grades 4 to 8), Girls Lacrosse - \$75 (grades 6 to 8), Boys Lacrosse - \$75 (grades 6 to 8), Boys Baseball - \$90 (grades 7 & 8), Girls/Boys Golf - \$95 (grades 5 to 8), High School Co-ed Volleyball - \$30. Please register by February 20, 2009. A \$25 late fee will be assessed after February 20, 2009 and we cannot guarantee a spot in our program for late registrants. Please call Tim Fitzgerald with any questions.

THANK YOU FROM OUR NEEDY

Thank You from St. Martin dePorres School

“I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for all that you did to make Christmas for so many of our families a day of joy! I was overwhelmed every time Steve came to me and said that my mom said she could take a couple more families. With the economic situation being what it is like these days, I knew that Christmas in some of our family homes this year would have been very dark. Because of your efforts, the true meaning of Christmas for me was evident. Giving from the heart for those who would not have was the best gift for me.” Blessings, Sister Cheryl Ann Hillig, DC

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY

A thank you to everyone who had a hand in helping out this past week. Our next hosting week will be the week of March 29, 2009.

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.

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.**

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.

ARE YOU OR A LOVED ONE IN NEED OF HELP DUE TO ALCOHOLISM: Our Rose Tree AA meeting is an Open Meeting every Thursday in the basement of the Rectory – 7PM – 8 PM. See Fr. Chieffo

THE ANGELUS

The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary: And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary...
Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done to me according to Your word. Hail Mary...
And the Word was made flesh: Hail Mary...
And dwelt among us, Hail Mary...
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth; we beseech You, O Lord. Your grace into our hearts that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and cross be brought to the glory of His resurrection through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the office of the School President: I am very grateful to all the graduates or their families that have contacted me about joining the SMM Alumni Association. Thank you for updating our database. **This information is very important to us because we are planning an all class reunion in the fall.** If you are a graduate or have family members who have graduated from SMM, please pick up the form in the back of the church and complete it for us. You may return the form to the parish office mailbox or in the Sunday collection basket. Also, you can 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: _____

“You may worship God anywhere, at anytime, but the chances are that you will not do so unless you have first learned to worship Him somewhere in some particular place at some particular time.” - Theodore Roosevelt

THE STOCK BOY AND THE CHECKOUT GIRL

In a supermarket, Kurtis the stock boy was busily working when a new voice came over the loud speaker asking for a carry-out at register 4. Kurtis was almost finished and wanted to get some fresh air, so he decided to answer the call. As he approached the checkout stand, a distant smile caught his eye-the checkout girl was beautiful she was an older woman (maybe 26; and he was only 22) and he fell in love.

Later that day, after his shift was over, he waited by the punch clock to find out her name. She came into the break room, smiled softly at him, took her card, punched out, and then left. He looked at her card, Brenda. He walked out only to see her start walking up the road. Next day, he waited outside as she left the supermarket, and offered her a ride home. He looked harmless enough, and she accepted. When he dropped her off, he asked if maybe he could see her again, outside of work. She simply said it wasn't possible. He pressed and she explained she had two children and she couldn't afford a babysitter, so he offered to pay for the babysitter. Reluctantly she accepted his offer for a date for the following Saturday. That Saturday night, he arrived at her door only to have her tell him that she was unable to go with him. The babysitter had called and canceled to which Kurtis simply said, "Well, let's take the kids with us."

She tried to explain that taking the children was not an option, but again not taking no for an answer, he pressed. Finally, Brenda brought him inside to meet her children. She had an older daughter who was just as cute as a bug, Kurtis thought, and then Brenda brought out her son, in a wheelchair. He was born a paraplegic with Downs Syndrome. Kurtis told Brenda, "I still don't understand why the kids can't come with us." Brenda was amazed. Most men would run away from a woman with two kids, especially if one had disabilities – just like her first husband and father of her children had done. But Kurtis was not ordinary - he had a different mindset.

That evening Kurtis and Brenda loaded up the kids and went to dinner and the movies. When her son needed anything, Kurtis would take care of him. When he needed to use the restroom, he picked him up out of his wheelchair, took him,

and brought him back. The kids loved Kurtis. At the end of the evening, Brenda knew this was the man she was going to marry and spend the rest of her life with. A year later, they were married and Kurtis adopted both of her children. Since then they have added five more kids.

So what happened to Kurtis the stock boy at a grocery store in Cedar Falls, Iowa and Brenda the checkout girl? Well, Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Warner now live in Arizona where he is currently employed as quarterback for the NFL champion Arizona Cardinals on their way to Tampa Bay for the Super Bowl XLIII. Is this a surprise ending or could you have guessed that he was not an ordinary person?

It should be noted that he also quarterbacked the Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI...and he has also been the NFL's Most Valuable Player twice and the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player. He established the First Things First Foundation in the spring of 2001 with wife Brenda to promote Christian values and bless the lives of those less fortunate with projects such as trips to Disney World for ill children, building recreation centers in children's hospitals, helping single moms achieve the dream of homeownership and teaching Special Olympians the football basics. All projects are centered on Kurt and Brenda's life theme: faith and family come first. The official website is: <http://kurtwarner.org>.

A FAMILY PRAYER FOR LIFE

MOM OR DAD: God of compassion and patient love, be with all who are afraid and give them the courage of the Gospel of Life.

AN OLDER CHILD: Be with all mothers, especially those who are young or alone, abused or abandoned; heal their broken hearts and seal them with your love.

A YOUNGER CHILD: Be with all children, those who are yet unborn, those who are tiny and frail; cradle them with your love.

MOM OR DAD: Be with all fathers, especially those who are young, those who are confused, angry or afraid. Give them strength and wisdom, and heal them with your love. We ask through Christ our Lord ALL: Amen.

READING: Matthew 18:1-5 REFLECTION: How can I promote respect for the dignity of all human life?

CLOSING PRAYER - MOM OR DAD: From the beginning, O God, you have blessed creation with rich and abundant life. Pour out the same rich blessings upon our family that joined in mutual love, in holiness and commitment to each other we may proclaim the Gospel of life in all that we do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. - ALL: Amen.

The parent(s) then bless each child by making the sign of the cross on their forehead.