

PARISH UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Members of Church of Our Saviour Parish
 2405 Clearview Drive • Glenshaw, PA. 15116 • 412-486-5171 • 412-487-4520

NEWS & NOTES

Happy Anniversary

To our Rector, Fr. Joseph Martin and his wife Heidi Martin.

Join Us Next Wednesday

Our last Lenten Potluck Series evening is slated for Wednesday, March 31, at 6:30 p.m. Speaker Tom Atwood will discuss "The Passion" & Jews. Our meal will be soup & bread. Join us for an evening of "food for thought."

Thirty Hours to Remember

From March 12th through the 13th, Tim Ernst, the kids and leaders of Elfinwild, and I were involved in a moving and important experience. We all abstained from eating for an entire thirty hours in order to greater sympathize with the millions of people world-wide who go hungry each day.

The evening was filled with scripture discussions and activities to learn more about how we are to care for our fellow "neighbors" in need. Tim took away from this experience a greater understanding of really just how many people are "less fortunate" than we are in this world. I learned that if each of us do our part we can really make a big impact.

We raised over \$2000 alone, just think of all the other people involved around the world showing they care with their wallets too. Thank you for your love and support in this event!

In Christ,
 Brenda Grundler

"The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love & something to hope for."

- Joseph Addison

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Rector's Message

A Mind That Changed



Dear Friends,

When was the last time you experienced someone who actually changed his or her mind about an important issue? Someone, for instance, who used to be pro-choice but now is pro-life. Or, someone who was once a racist but now has ethnic friends. Anyone come to mind? Let me tell you about a person who changed his mind and why it is important that we believe it can happen.

John Newton was born in London in 1725 and may best be known for his song, Amazing Grace. What is not widely known is Newton's active involvement in the slave trade. However, while aboard a rickety, storm-tossed slave ship, Newton called out to God in a way that he later recalled was, "the hour he first believed." After numerous struggles and backslidings, he was eventually ordained in the Church of England and became a leading evangelical influence in Britain. One of his key disciples was William Wilberforce, a member of parliament who labored fiercely for the abolition of the slave trade which occurred in England in 1807, the year Newton died.

John Newton changed his mind about the slave trade but it wasn't until after he had a change of heart. My wife, Heidi (story used by permission), was once convinced of a woman's right to kill her unborn baby. After finding Christ

Continued on next page



- Saturday, April 3** Church Clean up Day, 8 a.m.- 12 noon
- Sunday, April 4** Palm Sunday
- Wednesday, April 7** 12 noon Holy Eucharist at Rebecca Residence (no lunch)
- Thursday, April 8** Maundy Thursday Seder Meal at 6:30
- Friday, April 9** Good Friday Service & Stations, 12 noon
 Scripture Reading Vigil from 1 p.m. to 1p.m. Saturday
- Saturday, April 10** Easter Vigil at Trinity Cathedral, 7 pm
- Sunday, April 11** Easter Sunday Holy Eucharist services 8.a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Egg hunt for the younger children following the service
- Saturday, April 17** Men's Group, 8 am
- Saturday, April 24** Strategic Meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Holiday Inn, McKnight Road
- Sunday, April 25** 40 Days of Purpose Begins

Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour
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Rector's Message (continued)

and repenting (changing her mind) of her sin and allowing Jesus to change her heart, she became staunchly pro-life. Similar stories, too numerous to chronicle, infuse all of human history, and provide the sanity necessary for a civilized world.

Why is this important? Because it provides hope for mankind. In a society where human life is devalued, sex is rampant, and money is god, people need to change their mind before they self destruct. Many don't believe they can. They think they're stuck in the rut of their sin. But as followers of Christ, we know that as Jesus changes hearts, he renews and changes minds. The apostle Paul put it this way,

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rms. 12:2).

Oh, "how sweet the sound," that God's Amazing grace can actually change our hearts and minds and turn a foggy thinking wretch (like me) into a righteous, (semi) clear thinking Child of God. What great news for a world racked with stinkin' thinkin'. May we all be transformed by the renewing of our minds and be hopeful about bringing the life changing message of Christ to the world.

Happy Easter,

Joseph Martin

40 Days of Purpose

Some of our members have joined millions of people around the world in reading the New York Times best seller, "The Purpose Driven Life," by Pastor Rick Warren.

Beginning April 25, everyone is invited to join the throng as we begin our own 40 day journey. All are encouraged to read along as study this heart warming and eye opening message of how we have all been fashioned for God's purposes.

We will have a six week sermon series, Christian Ed teaching, and women and men bible studies to help us get the most out of the 40 day season.



Calendar for youth-related events coming up:

- Senior High Retreat (Whitehall) April 2-4
- Scripture Reading Vigil* April 9-10
- Car Wash (Elfinwild) April 10
- Lock-in (Elfinwild) April 16-17
- Acquire the Fire (Mellon Arena)* April 30 & May 1st
- Junior High All Night Bowling May 14-15
- Senior High Hike (Elfinwild) May 22nd
- Ohiopyle Family Hiking/Camping* (all of Church of Our Saviour welcome!) June 11-12
- Relay for Life (Shaler Middle School) Sign up with Barb Grundler! June 26-27
- Senior High Summer Trip (St. Louis) July 10-17
- Junior High Summer Trip (Surf City-Michigan) August 1st-6

*=Some events are subject to change depending upon interest

Any questions ... please call Brenda (412) 321-8512 or (412) 606-8446

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Heidi Martin
- 7 Timothy Ernst
- 13 Robin Acquafondata
- 16 Joanne Schoyer
- 22 Robert Schoyer
- 26 Royanne Mac
- 28 Bonnie Morris

Going Squirrely!

Squirrels had overrun three churches in town. After much prayer, the elders of the first church determined that the animals were predestined to be there. Who were they to interfere with God's will? they reasoned. Soon, the squirrels multiplied. The elders of the second church, deciding they could not harm any of God's creatures, humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back. It was



only the third church that succeeded in keeping the pests away The elders baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

From Reader's Digest

Mel Gibson on his reasons for making *The Passion of the Christ*:

"What I see in this story — and there are no other stories quite like it — is faith, hope, love and forgiveness. And I think we're desperately in need of those things in the world. I think we're out of control. There's genocide happening in places that we rarely even focus on. There are wars. ... I mean, it's crazy."

