

# 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

### NEW VESTRY MEMBERS

We thank God for our new vestry members: Jeff Acquafondata, David Bergstrom and Heidi Fay.

### YOUTH EVENT

The Youth of our church will be cooking and serving dinner at Shepherd's Heart on February 8. Anyone who can help us with the event will be greatly appreciated. This is a very rewarding ministry. If you can help, please call Brenda Grundler at 412-321-8512. We will meet here at 4:00 p.m. and leave together.

### VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER PARTY

Saturday, February 14, at 6:30 p.m. Bring your favorite hors d'oeuvre and come for good food, laughs and a fun time!

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ash Wednesday Services will be at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

### LENTEN POT LUCK TEACHING SERIES

Beginning Wednesday, March 3, at 6:30. Five weeks of great teachers and warm fellowship. Suggestions welcomed for this year's pot luck themes. See Fr. Joseph or Pat.

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

11 ..... John & Valerie  
..... Mastren-Williams  
17 ..... Ernie & Caroline Bold

### CORRECTION

In last month's Collard Green Soup recipe the potatoes were left out of the ingredients. Add 2 potatoes, diced.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

14 ..... Patrick Guiste  
18 ..... Caroline Stiehler  
18 ..... John Williams  
19 ..... Kathy Brown  
19 ..... Warren Neiger  
23 ..... Dorothy Donley

*Happy Birthday!*

## The Rector's Message

### Annual Meeting Highlights



The annual meeting was an encouraging display of faith and resolve. No one had to be reminded what a challenging year we experienced in 2003 but the depth of commitment to the church family and desire to carry on the work of Christ was evident. Here are some highlights.

First, the clarification of who we are in relation to the Episcopal Church. As the Bishop has said all along, we are not leaving, they (national church) have left the apostolic faith. We are still a part of the Episcopal Church but are affiliated with the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes that do not adhere to the unbiblical decisions made at the last general convention. We will continue to support the Bishop and adhere to the authority of Holy Scripture for guidance.

With that in mind, we are entering into an exciting new phase at the Church of Our Saviour. There is a tremendous vacuum in our culture for solid, traditional, and authentic Christianity. We have emerged as a church with a solid foundation and a clear message of forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ. Our goal for 2004 will be to unify around that message and strategize how to best share it with others. We need to revisit the sanctuary renovation project, prepare our spiritual houses, and invite people into the fellowship. We have a lot to offer.

Let us continue to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, with our fix on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:1).



- 4 ..... Noonday Prayers & lunch, 12 PM
- 7 ..... Men's Group, 8 AM
- 8 ..... Shepherd's Heart,  
Meet in parking lot at 4:00 PM
- 10 ..... Women's Bible Study, 7 PM
- 10 ..... Intercessory Prayer, 6:30 PM
- 11 ..... Healing Service & lunch, 12 PM
- 14 ..... Valentine Dinner Party, 6:30 PM
- 17 ..... Women's Bible Study, 7 PM
- 17 ..... Intercessory Prayer, 6:30 PM
- 18 ..... Healing Service & lunch, 12 PM
- 21 ..... Men's Group, 8 AM
- 24 ..... Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner, 6:30 PM
- 25 ..... Ash Wednesday, Services at 12 & 7 PM
- 27 - 29 ..... Freedom In Christ Weekend

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Sausage Dip

#### Ingredients:

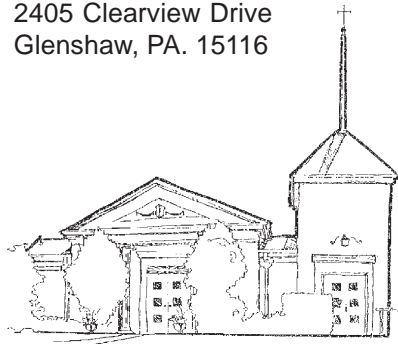
1lb Jimmy Dean Sausage  
2 packages 8oz cream cheese  
1-14oz can of Original Ro-tel tomatoes

#### Directions:

Brown and crumble sausage. In a saucepan melt cream cheese On low heat. Add crumbled sausage and can of Ro-tel tomatoes. Mix well and serve warm with Fritos.

**The Church Of Our Saviour**

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Glenshaw, PA. 15116



**For More Information:**

Office: 412-486-5171 • Fax: 412-487-4520 • Email: coosglenshaw@juno.com • website:www.churchworthfinding.org

## Joe's Story: Prayers and Miracles

*By David G. Young*

When I first began attending services at Church of Our Saviour more than a year ago, I came to hear the name of one of our fellow parishioners nearly every Sunday. Joseph Martin, our Rector, invariably took a few minutes in the middle of services each week to give us an update on Joe Goncar's medical condition.

For months the news wasn't encouraging. Week after week, despite the prayers of many, Joe Goncar's health seemed to decline a little bit more. Finally, one Sunday, Joseph informed us that the desperately ill man had asked his doctors stop to heroic measures to save his health. Joe Goncar was ready to die. But, that wasn't going to be the end of Joe's story.

The story actually began around 25 years ago, when Joe suffered his first

heart attack. It was a serious medical problem and Joe was given two options to deal with it. He could either opt for heart bypass surgery or skip the surgery and let his doctors treat the condition with medications. Some time later the doctors also installed a stent to keep his arteries unblocked.

But, a little more than a year ago Joe began to suffer again and this time doctors insisted on surgery to unblock 6 arteries that were 90% clogged. That's when Joe's siege began.

He ended up spending more than three months in Shadyside Hospital. His condition worsened as he first came down with pneumonia and then later developed a serious infection. Joe said he was expected to die more than once during this harrowing period.

But, throughout this ordeal, there were still those prayers; prayers said by parishioners of St. Catherine's both during mass and between masses. There were the prayers said at the churches attended by the Goncar's two sons and daughter.

As Joe puts it, "The only reason for me even being alive today are the prayers. So many people sent cards and prayers, and those prayers got answered and let me live."

Joe also credits those prayers with the creation of more than one miracle.

There were several points in Joe's long recovery where it was virtually – or actually – a miracle that his health took a turn for the better. One particular miracle not only surprised and impressed Joe Goncar, it also surprised and impressed his medical team.

"At one point," Joe explained, "I was put on a ventilator with a trachea tube. The tube was causing difficul-

ties and it was very uncomfortable. I prayed that by some miracle the tube could be removed, but the medical team couldn't do it. Then, one night my nurse came in to check on the tube and found that it was gone. She asked me if I had removed the tube and I told her no. The nurse looked around the room and found the trachea tube on the floor ten feet away."

"She paged the doctors and they came running, because there was no way I could survive without the tube.

But upon examining me, they were surprised to find that I was doing fine without it. They were amazed, but I believe it was a miracle."

Joe's rehabilitation since leaving the hospital several months ago has been challenging. When he left Shadyside Hospital he had to spend four months in a nursing home. Joe started his recovery in a wheel chair, progressed to a walker and eventually graduated to a cane. When I saw him at the Wednesday Healing Service last month he looked good, I thought, considering everything he's been through.

To members of Church of Our Saviour, Joe's story should be a testament to hope. It should also be a testament to the power of prayer. Joe expresses his thanks to all of the people in our parish and elsewhere who prayed for him during his protracted illness.

And please continue your prayers for Joe, as he is not quite out of the woods yet. This past Friday he had to return to the hospital for an outpatient procedure. But overall things are looking up for Joe Goncar, thanks to prayers and miracles. If we all keep Joe in our prayers the miracles will probably take care of themselves!



### MY FAVORITE THINGS

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting  
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings  
Bundles of magazines all tied up with string  
These are a few of my favorite things

Cadillacs, cataracts, hearing aids, glasses  
Pollident, fixodent, false teeth in glasses  
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings  
These are a few of my favorite things

When the pipes leak, when the bones creak  
When the knees go bad  
Then I remember my favorite things  
And I don't feel so bad

Hot tea and crumpets and corn pads and bunions  
No spicy hot food, no food cooked with onions  
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring  
These are a few of my favorite things

Back pains, confused brains, and no fear of sinning  
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinnin'  
And we won't mention our shrunken frames  
When we remember our favorite things

When the joints ache, when the hips break  
When the eyes grow dim  
Then I remember the great life I've had  
And then I don't feel so bad

Then I remember the great life I've had  
And then I don't feel so bad!

*Submitted by Ginny Russell*

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