

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Jason Wiggins
11 Dorothy Saladiak
14 Nicholas Lannon
20 Diane Guiste
27 Robert Workman
28 David Bergstrom

ANNIVERSARIES

9 Tom and Diana Murray
12 Frederick and Pat Parker
22 Nicholas and Aya Lannon

Holy Baptism: We welcome Nora Faith into the fellowship of the Church; she is the daughter of Susan and Randy Hosselrode and granddaughter of Pat and Fritz Parker.

We need e-mail addresses

Communication is an important element in our relationships with family and friends. Almost every day, we pick up the phone to talk with members of our families, to share good news and bad, or maybe just to talk about the cold weather or the escalating cost of gasoline.

It's often more difficult to communicate effectively with our church family. When there is news to share in the middle of the week, telephoning every single member of the parish could take days. OR....we could take advantage of the internet and pass along information quickly and accurately. There will be some who do not have access to e-mail, and we'll have to work at another way to get them info quickly, but e-mail is a start for the rest of us.

Please help me compile a list of e-mail addresses for as many members of our parish as possible. Call me at (412) 635-7511, or e-mail momvoo@msn.com. Thank you. Joanne Schoyer

Discipleship Opportunities 2005

One Year Bible Reading

Read the bible through in one year.

Intercessory Prayer

Every Tuesday from
6:00 – 6:30 p.m... at church.

Cursillo

Co-ed – September 29-October 2

Men's Group

1st & 3rd Saturdays, 7:30 am

Neighborhood Welcome Bag Outings
dates to be announced

From the Rector

Recaptured Vision

Dear Friends,

Something very exciting has become clear to me recently. Now, some of you long term members might say, "duh, where have you been for the last three years," but, hey, better late than never. The clarity has to do with the vision and purpose of our church when it was established and how it seems we are recapturing that vision now.

As some of you know, when The Church of Our Saviour was established in 1960, Glenshaw was a growing area with new homes, schools, and neighborhoods springing up all around. The original vision for Our Saviour was to be a mission to the new families in the area. Over the years the church has had successes and failures in fulfilling that vision.

Recently, the vision has come back into focus especially during the Easter Egg Hunt. The massive turnout of kids, the comments from the parents, and the enthusiasm from the congregation, all seemed to confirm our original vision. Even the "safe location" has become an asset.

Not that we've been off track with discipleship, worship, and growing in our faith in Christ, all that is a sure foundation for moving forward as Christians and we will continue to seek ways to help us all grow in our faith. What is helpful now is to have a clear vision and focus for reaching the unchurched and rebuilding the fellowship. And we are well on our way.

We have refreshed our name in the neighborhood with our new signs, we have launched a tremendous website with plans to improve its effectiveness, we are upgrading our office equipment and software to help us communicate better through mailings and email, we will continue to enhance our 10:30 worship service and make it more family friendly, and we will focus on children in our outreach to the neighborhood.



I hope this "clicks" with all of you as it has with me. The seminary team confirmed our vision without even knowing our history. That should be encouraging to all of us. Of course, the major encouragement comes from Jesus himself when he said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these" (Matt. 19:14).

This summer we have an exciting children's program planned for the neighborhood on June 13-17 and we will be rededicating ourselves to our vision when the Bishop comes on June 19. Be encouraged, the Lord had a vision when he established our church and the vision lives on, and so does the Lord.

Blessings in Him,
Joseph



Calendar of Events

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:15 a.m. Adult Education
10:30 a.m. Family Service
& Children's Ministries
Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Intercessory Prayer time
7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays 12:00 noon Healing Service and Lunch
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Contemporary Worship Practice
Saturday 1st & 3rd weeks at 7:30 a.m. Men's Group

SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Sunday May 1 New Members meeting
Saturday May 14 Church Work Day
Sunday May 15 Relay for Life Bake Sale
Sunday May 15 Marriage Builders Fellowship
May 20-21 Women of Faith Conference

Selah Newsletter & Parish Update
is published monthly.

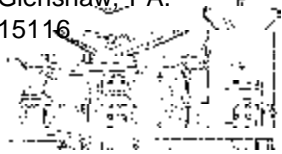
Edited by: Joseph Martin and
David G. Young

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Please pray for the all the parishioners in the bulletin.

The Church of Our Saviour

2405 Clearview Dr.
Glenshaw, PA.
15116



For More Information:

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

Faith in Christ: The Story of the Blue Hydrangea

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a letter that Rev. Martin received from a good friend of his mother's, in Florida. Her story is a true testament to faith in the Lord in the face of adversity. Her faith, and the lessons she has learned are an inspiration.

About a week before Easter, a good friend brought me a blue hydrangea. I already had a couple of pink ones, and I had seen many beautiful pale blue ones in the garden shops, but the vivid color blue of this hydrangea took my breath away. It was, and still is, awesome. Each morning during the past week I began my day with a walk out to the porch off our living room to see if the hydrangea was still as vividly blue as it has been the day before. It was like God affirming this incredible source of comfort and beauty for me each morning during Easter week. More about the blue hydrangea later.

Living with Uncertainty

Due to some serious health issues, I have been living in total uncertainty. God has been teaching me so much being in this state, because uncertainty is the natural state of life anyway. We just don't realize that until something happens to teach us that we are not really in control of anything except our openness to God, and the way we use each day that God gives us.

Medically, I have had some disappointments since January. We learned that the small cell lung cancer in my liver was still growing and spreading. Several weeks ago I entered a clinical trial which seeks to develop a cancer vaccine. On April 1st, I received the third of three rounds of vaccines, manufactured with my own white cells and injected back into my body.

The vaccine is not expected to slow the growth of my cancer, but the doctors hope it might enable my body to tolerate another round of chemo. A few weeks later I



expect to have a CT scan and the doctors will determine if there is a chemo that might be productive for me.

At the very least, I feel good about the clinical trial because I feel it will contribute to the knowledge base being developed for an eventual cure for cancer.

I have had one side effect from my first round of chemo, which is a hearing disorder called hyperacusis. It is quite troublesome, but something I can live with. I still feel good.

Learning To Trust God

In the summer of 1942, when I was seven years old, my mother died suddenly of an undiagnosed brain tumor. This was the first year after Pearl Harbor, and by summer the whole country was getting mobilized to fight the Second World War.

My father, a National Guard Officer, had already been called to active duty even before Pearl Harbor, and when my mother died he was training troops in Texas. He came to Tampa for her funeral and to try to explain things to his little girl. This is what he told me:

"We can't explain why your beautiful mother has been taken away, we can't explain why this terrible war is going on or why I have to leave you and go and fight in the war. All we can do is trust god." I did, and I somehow got through this

chaotic time, living with different relatives, living for a year at the Academy of the Holy Names. Life for most people was chaotic because of the war, but mine was especially so. My gift from God during this time was learning to TRUST Him, and learning to live with uncertainty.

The experiences I had when I was seven years old prepared me well for this time in my life, living with the uncertainty that goes with having cancer. Still, it has been a shock to be reminded I really have no control. But again, God has given me wonderful gifts to get me through this time. One gift is my connection to all of my friends, sent through messages of love, caring and prayer.

This connection has been life sustaining for me, and I feel it more powerfully each day.

Another gift I've received from God is this: to learn to live for EACH DAY, not to look beyond this day, but to relish every moment of THIS day.

The Gift of Today

So I begin each day with a look at the blue hydrangea! It reaffirms all the beauty of God's world. I didn't create it, I don't control it in any way, I don't know how long it will last. But I know that THIS morning there it is ... a vivid, vibrant, creation of God's. When it is gone, God will provide something else.

The following prayer, is taken from a small devotional titled "Do Not be Afraid. I am With You" by Edmund C. Lane, SSP. This is the perfect start for my days now. It always was, I just didn't realize it. It may be a perfect start for your day, too. I think you will like it:

Thank you God for this new day in my life. This is a day that will never return again, a day that will have as much meaning as I choose to give to it. Much will depend upon my attitude towards what is happening to me. By giving me this day, Lord, you are giving me time to deepen my relationship with you, time to get my priorities straight, time to grieve, time to laugh, time to hope. My tomorrow will be shaped by how I handle myself today in the midst of crisis and opportunity. So be with me, Lord, and help me to make good use of my time by treasuring the blessings you bestow on me this day. Thank you for this time to give and to receive, to be silent and to speak, to hold on and to let go, to be involved and to withdraw, to reflect and most of all to pray. Let me never forget, Lord, that in your eyes a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. Help me to keep things in perspective. Amen."

NEWS & NOTES

ENK Club This Summer

All kids welcome! This summer, with the help of Student missionaries from Christ Church Grove Farm, we will be conducting our first ENK, (Every Neighborhood Kid) Club at the Church of Our Saviour. This will be a week of fun, bible teaching, and food for ages k-6. Mark your calendar for June 13-17 from 10-11:30 AM. We need volunteers to assist the students.

Spring Work Day

All hands on deck. May 14 from 8 am to noon. We will do painting, yard work and general cleaning. Everyone welcome.