

“The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

That’s Lent in a nutshell. Remembering that the kingdom is near and that now is the time to turn from sin, from our earthly ways and desires, focusing instead on the Good News of Jesus Christ. Nothing else in life is as important and everything else will take its proper perspective once we place Christ first.

Besides our personal disciplines of giving something up, augmenting our prayer lives, or performing acts of charity, our parish family is offering a variety of ways in which one can start the process of turning his or her heart closer to God. As always we have the Stations of the Cross offered on Fridays during the season of Lent. In addition we have the parish celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation on March 31st. But I would like to call your attention to an annual event here at St. Agnes, which can really help us to grow closer to Christ as a community of faith.

The St. Joseph’s Novena

Over the years our parish Novena to St. Joseph has become our parish retreat. Using St. Joseph as our inspiration and example, we take time on nine consecutive nights to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and reflect on a variety of themes, which can help us grow closer to Christ, nurturing our relationship with our Lord so that we might carry him to others as St. Joseph did. What better way to bring ourselves closer to God during this season of Lent? As always, the Novena begins this Friday, March 10th at 7:00 pm and will continue daily on nine consecutive nights. Don’t forget that on Saturdays, our Novena is combined with the vigil mass at 5:30 p.m.

This year our theme is one that is both personal and educational on a spiritual level. Our parish has been working on a successful building project in which our Spiritual Home, our Church was changed. You and I know that St. Joseph was a carpenter by trade, building things of wood in order to support the holy family. With this in mind our Novena will involve a spiritual reflection on the different aspects of our new Church. Together we can pray over our oneness in Christ as we reflect upon our baptismal font, or our sustenance in the Eucharist as we contemplate the Altar. No doubt it is good timing for us to reflect on the work of our parish family and to see how it helps us in our relationship to Christ and to one another. Several guest speakers have been lined up to share their thoughts, some of whom you may be familiar with, and some you may be meeting for the first time. Regardless, please join us during this time of prayer. We have always had excellent attendance at this annual event. Let’s keep the tradition going as we turn our hearts closer to God. “Repent and Believe in the Gospel!”

– Fr. John



HOW YOU LOVED US LORD

Beginning with the first Sunday of Lent, we symbolically suggest that we are penitents in procession. Therefore, the cross is carried in silence into the church at the beginning of each Mass on the weekend.

We are still seeking volunteers - as a Lenten action - to participate as cross carriers at one of the weekend Masses. Sign up for a Mass as you leave the church today. Carry in the cross with two other members of your family, friends, or other parish members, place the cross in the front and return to your seat. Simple but powerful! We are in need of 60 persons.

STEWARDSHIP
&
FAITH
Time, Talent, Treasure.
Putting God First?

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that "there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism . . . that people place their gifts, their resources – their selves – at God's service in and through the Church."

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,087.00.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116;
Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10



We wish to **WELCOME** the following who have entered into the faith community through the sacrament of Baptism:

MATTHEW DAVID BUTTELMANN
Son of Henry and Margery

JACOB RAYMOND KOLIBAS
Son of John and Brenda

MARTIN JOSEPH VENEZIO
Son of Martin and Laura

RYAN JAMES ZWIEBEL
Son of James and Christine

BUILDING FUND

*To complete Phase I projects
we still need to raise –*

\$620,054.00

*If you would like to make a donation,
please make check payable to
St. Agnes Church and mail to the Rectory
attention Building Fund,
or drop in the collection basket.
Thank you for your continued support.*

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

It is time once again for the Anniversary Celebration of those couples in our Archdiocese who are celebrating 5, 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage in 2006. These liturgies will be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers and held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

25 and 5 Years
Sunday, March 26, 2006 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline March 16th)

50 Years
Sunday, April 30, 2006 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline April 20th)

It is our desire that every couple in the archdiocese, deserving of such recognition, be present at the appropriate Liturgy. The presence of a large number of couples will give favorable witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in our society today.

Please call the rectory at 732-388-7852 to register before the deadline date. All reservations will be acknowledged by the Archdiocese. Directions to the Cathedral Basilica and a seating chart will be mailed to each couple.





ST. JOSEPH'S NOVENA

A great opportunity for spiritual enrichment is to participate in our annual St. Joseph's Novena. The Novena begins March 10th and ends on March 18th with Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph at 7:00 p.m. On March 11th and 18th the Novena will be incorporated into our 5:30 Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday. This great spiritual devotion inspires conversion during nine consecutive nights of prayers, hymns, sermons and benediction. Plan to be with us each evening and make this a Lenten Devotion for yourself.

Archdiocese of Newark 2006 Lenten Regulations

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

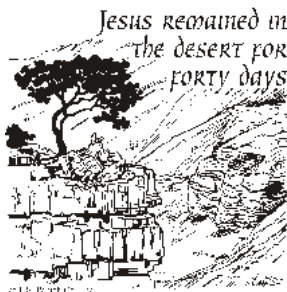
- On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.
- On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2006, to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 11, 2006.**

* Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*



Lenten Schedule 2006

Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 3rd & March 24th - 7:00 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, April 7th - 7:00 p.m.

Communal Penance Service/ Individual Confessions

Friday, March 31st - 7:00 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, April 7th - 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 8th Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9th Masses

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

Holy Thursday, April 13th

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 p.m.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer Service at 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14th

Seven Last Words Service - 12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Main Service - 7:30 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Saturday April 15th

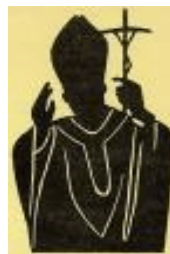
Blessing of the Food - 11:00 a.m.

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16th Masses

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark



Mass to Commemorate the Death of Pope John Paul II and the Election of Pope Benedict XVI

To commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop John Myers will celebrate the 6 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 22nd at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Please call the Rectory if interested at (732) 388-7852.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Go Godward; you shall find a road.

— Russian proverb

Coming Events

St. Agnes CYO - proudly presents the Living Stations of the Cross. Join us for this moving production on Friday, April 7, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

St. Agnes Clothing Drive - Saturday, April 22, 2006, rain or shine, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More information to follow.

Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 22, 2006, 11:00 a.m. weather permitting. More information to follow.

ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY BRINGS TO YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS



A TASTE OF ITALY *(Un Gusto di Italia)* **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

SUNDAY: MARCH 26, 2006
TIME: 1:30 TO 4:30 PM
**PLACE: ST. AGNES AUDITORIUM
CLARK, NJ**
TICKETS: ADULTS: \$9.00
CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$5.00
(Please make checks payable to
St. Agnes Rosary Society)

MENU

Salad, Italian Bread
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Dessert
Coffee/Tea/Soda
(B.Y.O.B.)



**ITALIAN MUSIC PROVIDED BY OUR
STROLLING MUSICIAN**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO
PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CALL
ROSE AT (732) 574-0023 OR
THE RECTORY AT (732) 388-7852**

**DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING TICKETS:
SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH**



St. Agnes 50/50 Raffle Winners

The winners of the 50/50 Raffle were:

1st Place - \$5,950.00 - 35%
Smith Family

2nd Place - \$1,700.00 - 10%
DiLollo Family

3rd Place - \$850.00 - 5%
Orshak Family

Congratulations to all of our winners! Thank you to all parishioners who participated in our annual 50/50.

**Mother Seton Regional High School
Clark, New Jersey**

On Friday, March 10th, the Parents' Guild of Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, will sponsor a Gift Auction – "That's Entertainment". Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tables may be reserved in advance. Tickets may be purchased at the school office from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily until March 8th.



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| SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2006 | |
| 5:30 | Frances Miele - Mr. & Mrs. D. Cook |
| SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2006 | |
| 7:30 | People of the Parish |
| 9:00 | W. Ed Ross - John & Gina Ross |
| 10:30 | Stella Zgurzynski - Flo & Tom Haas & Family |
| 12:00 | Michael Caterino - The Dobbin Family |
| MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2006 | |
| 7:00 | Elizabeth Cordes - Family |
| 9:00 | James P. Scott - Mom & Dad |
| TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2006 | |
| 7:00 | Stephen Fiyut - Bette Thornton |
| 9:00 | Anthony Lombino - Rose Brinker |
| WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006 | |
| 7:00 | Carmello Lacopo - Mrs. Angela Ciarlone |
| 9:00 | Andrew Balak - Mary & George Kolibas |
| THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006 | |
| 7:00 | Vincent & Rosario Barilla - Mr. & Mrs. Peter Koscica |
| 9:00 | Virginia Crawford - Mary Ann & Paul Cahill |
| FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006 | |
| 7:00 | Edgar Fischbach - Kane Family |
| 9:00 | Garry Geertsma - Lee Elischberger |
| SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006 | |
| 8:30 | Memorial Mass - Rita Orenczak, Charles Cargill, Matyas Kovacs |
| 5:30 | Anella Giannobile |

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| SUNDAY | MARCH 5 |
| ROSARY BAGEL SALE | |
| 9:00 AM | Religious Education |
| 9:00 AM | Mass - RCIA Rite of Commitment |
| 7:00 PM | CYO |
| MONDAY | MARCH 6 |
| 3:30 PM | Religious Education |
| 7:00 PM | Religious Education |
| 7:00 PM | Spiritual Book Club |
| 7:30 PM | Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge |
| TUESDAY | MARCH 7 |
| 7:00 PM | Religious Education |
| 7:00 PM | Liturgy Meeting |
| 7:30 PM | Rosary Society Meeting - Gymnasium |
| THURSDAY | MARCH 9 |
| 3:30 PM | Children's Choir |
| 3:30 PM | First Penance Rehearsal |
| 7:30 PM | Adult Choir |
| 7:30 PM | Bereavement |
| 7:30 PM | HSA Executive Board Meeting |
| FRIDAY | MARCH 10 |
| 12:00 PM | Dismissal - Faculty Meeting |
| 7:00 PM | St. Joseph's Novena |
| SATURDAY | MARCH 11 |
| 8:30 AM | Mass - Memorial |
| 1:00 PM | First Penance Celebration |
| 5:30 PM | Mass - St. Joseph's Novena |

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Helen Paulkowitz during the week of March 5th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Betty Felauer during the week of March 5th at the request of The O'Grady and Matthews Family.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Have Died

Gennaro J. Marciano, Maria J. Squillace,
William F. Tierney

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, Joe & Irene Margeton, Ann & Michael Dudek, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Anna Manigold, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Michael Denora, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Wayne Tribble, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Florence Kempinski, Bart Zucosky, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Theresa Hanselman, Elizabeth Bell, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Mary Lou Loffa, Craig Allen, James MacConchie, Louise Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness

Atlantic City Bus Trip

WHEN: March 16, 2006

TO: Caesar's

TIME: 11:30 AM Coffee & Buns

LEAVE: 12:30 PM From Gran Centurions
Parking Lot. Please park in back of lot.

COST: \$23.00

For reservations call:
Tony (732) 388-2315
Joe (732) 381-3395

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 1 BUS.
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**

**First Sunday of Lent
March 5, 2006**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths.

– Psalm 25:4

