

### ***Reflection of today's Second Reading - Romans 11:33-36***

We cannot completely figure God out. God dwells in ultimate mystery. We believe strongly in God's presence, and we experience this divine majesty in spiritual ways. But we do not understand it or fully grasp it.

God created with unending variety. Consider the many plants and flowers in bloom, the various animals that roam the earth, the fish that swim, and the birds that fly. Consider the differences in human beings alive today and in generations past. Consider the stars of the sky and the planets unseen. God's creativity knows no end.

In the course of our lives we sometimes question God's judgments, but we also stand in awe at our blessings. God has given us the gift of life in the midst of a wondrous creation. God has given us freedom to choose our actions, to develop good friends, and to pray in faith.

Life brings its challenges, but in the end, all of life is in God's hands. Saint Paul tells the Romans, "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!"

We cannot completely figure God out. We do not always know why God creates the good and tolerates the evil we see. But it is not ours to know. It is not ours to understand. It is ours to be in awe. It is ours to give glory. It is God's to be rich in wisdom.

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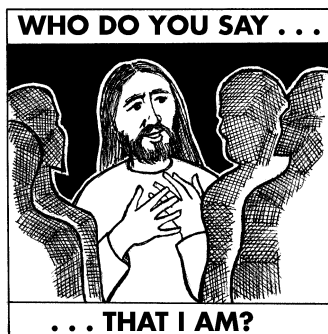
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### ***THE ROCK***

Peter was Jesus' choice to lead the fragile band of Apostles. In today's Gospel, Simon is given a new name--Peter, the "rock." In John's Gospel, Peter is called to be a shepherd. He is expected to lay down his life for his sheep. And tradition tells us that he did just that. But today we think about the durable rocklike quality that Jesus needed in a leader.

Peter was appointed to his leadership position for reasons we are not able to fathom. God knows, and Jesus knew well, that Peter was flawed. We cannot mistake his enthusiasms, though, his manifest love, and his great, exuberant faith. Those virtues saw him through. They are durable, tough, beautiful virtues. They make Peter a sympathetic and lovable person. They provide us with the balance and humor that we need as we consider our own roles in the universal church.

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

In today's readings, St. Paul reminds the Romans – and us – that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that *all* is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

Your Stewardship in Treasure  
last week was **\$10,005.00.**  
Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**



Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22  
 Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26  
 Wednesday: Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51  
 Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51  
 Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13  
 Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30  
 Sunday: Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63; Rom 12:1-2;  
 Mt 16:21-27

***The True Measure***

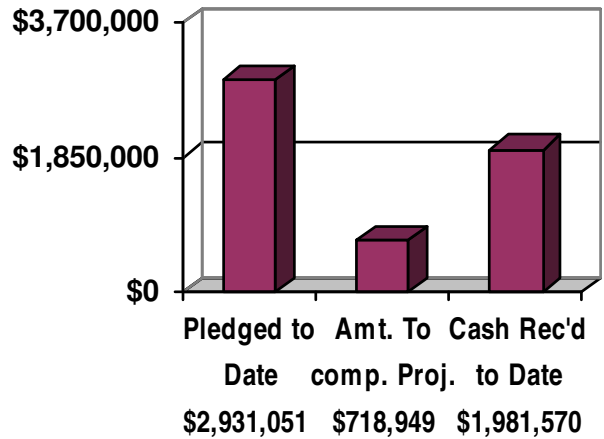
*When I die, God won't measure my head to see how clever I was. God will measure my heart to see how loving I was.*

– Anonymous



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**■ Campaign Progress - Phase I**



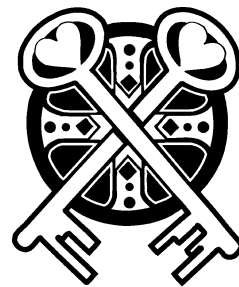
**Total Cost of Project: \$3,700,000**

**Memorial incentives.** Anyone who donates \$3,000 or more will be entitled to one memorial listing, in a decorative display, to be displayed in a public location, at a future date.

The following memorials are available for substantial donations (other larger memorial naming rights have already been secured):

- Church Organ \$100,000
- Tabernacle & Marble Base 50,000
- School Classroom 50,000
- Parish Multi-Purpose Room 100,000
- Parish Conference Room 75,000
- Parish Meeting Room 50,000

**If you are interested in a memorial or would like further information, please contact the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.**



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## *The Elizabeth Ministry*



Motherhood is a beautiful and blessed journey. It's not always an easy one. There was a time when women would rely on family to help them through, but today with grandparents working or miles between families, it might not be as available as it once was.

The Elizabeth Ministry of St. Agnes is a caring group of women supporting other women in our parish. It is built on the foundation of Scripture, looking to Mary and Elizabeth as models of how mothers can support one another in their times of need.

Mothers from St. Agnes have formed a network to help other mothers through prayers, phone calls, cards, providing meals, babysitting and other assistance. People are matched up based on their own experiences. We have moms that have had multiple pregnancies, miscarriages, stillborns, fertility issues and adopted children. We are here to listen and talk about our own experiences and share yours with the hopes of providing comfort and friendship.

### **For support or more information about The Elizabeth Ministry you can contact:**

Marianne English 732-382-5221  
Linda McKenna 732-382-3007  
Cheryl Vargas 732-381-3822  
(Or call St. Agnes Rectory at  
732-388-7852)



## **Coming Soon!!!**

### **St. Agnes School Tricky Tray**

Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

The Gran Centurions

Tickets go on sale in August

Check the bulletin for information

**Now accepting donations**

(baskets or monetary)

Mark all donations St. Agnes School Tricky Tray

Drop off at the Rectory

For more information please contact:

Maria O'Connor (732) 882-1893



### *Week of Prayer for Healing*

*Fr. John Rea, SM*

*September 6-9, 2005*

*4 Evening Events, 1 Daytime Event*

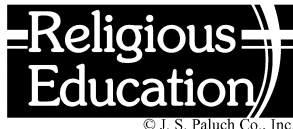
*"I just pray with people for healing, the rest is up to the Lord." Fr. John Rea*

<b>Tuesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Veronica's, Howell</b>
<b>Wed. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>St. John's, Linden</b>
<b>Thurs. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Our Lady of the Mount</b>
<b>Thurs. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>St. Bernard's, Bridgewater</b>
<b>Fri. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Koinonia Academy, Plainfield</b>

Fr. John Rea is an internationally known Marist priest featured on New Zealand's Evening News Programs.

*"I confidently recommend Fr. Rea as a priest of very real integrity and extraordinary commitment...he is greatly respected for his commitment to the priestly ministry, and particularly for his dedication to the preaching and healing apostolates."*  
Cardinal Thomas S. Williams, Archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand.

For events, times and directions contact The People of Hope at [www.peopleofhope.net](http://www.peopleofhope.net) or call (908) 222-9722.



The Religious Education Program begins on September 11<sup>th</sup>!! If you have not registered or re-registered your child yet, please do so immediately. Classes are reaching capacity. Late registration creates confusion and added work for our office and teachers. Thank you.



*Playball for Miracles*  
to benefit Children's Miracle Network

On September 17, 2005, men's and co-ed softball teams will be gathering in Warinanco Park in Elizabeth, N.J. to take part in a charity softball tournament to benefit Children's Miracle Network. *Playball for Miracles* is a double elimination slow-pitch softball tournament being sponsored in part by the Elizabeth N.J. Firemen's Federal Credit Union.

Eight teams are needed to take part in the tournament and other sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information, please contact Erin Kelly at 908-347-7421 or [shublue2000@earthlink.net](mailto:shublue2000@earthlink.net).

Children's Miracle Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids by raising funds for 170 premier hospitals across North America. Each year these non-profit hospitals provide the finest care, research, and community outreach to help millions of children with diseases and injuries of every kind.

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### INSTANT DECISION DAYS AT



**Dates:** Aug **15-20** and  
September 6-8

**Time:** Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Place:** Admissions Office/Kirby Hall Building  
262 South Main St., Lodi, NJ 07644

For more information, call Office of  
Admission at 201-559-6131



## *Right of Christian Initiation of Adults*

- *Is the Lord calling you to a closer relationship to Him?*
- *Are you interested in formally joining the Catholic faith?*
- *Do you have questions about what it means to be a Catholic?*
- *Do you know anyone who would like to be a Catholic?*
- *Are you presently an adult Catholic who has not received Eucharist or Confirmation?*

If you answered "YES" to any of these, the RCIA process is for you.

New sessions are starting very soon.

Please call St. Agnes Rectory at (732) 388-2560 for further information.

Plan on attending the Inquiry Session on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Another Inquiry Session will be held from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Both Inquiry Sessions will be held in the Rectory living room.

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### *St. Agnes' 6th Annual Golf Outing*

Due to a poor response, we regret to announce the cancellation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Agnes Golf Outing, which was scheduled to take place on Monday, September 26, 2005. Thank you for your interest. Payments and donations from those who supported this year's event will be returned promptly. Sorry for our need to cancel. We will keep you advised of future plans for this event. Thank you for your understanding.



**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005**  
 5:30 Pat Castellano - Mom & Dad

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2005**  
 7:30 Michael Versusky - Family  
 9:00 Debra Davis - Telleri Family  
 10:30 Anthony Lombino - Rose Brinker & Jeanne Danatzko  
 12:00 People of the Parish

**MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2005**  
 7:00 Mary Cusatis - Mr. & Mrs. M. Mega  
 9:00 Erin Holtermann - Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Lubniewski

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2005**  
 7:00 Elizabeth Cordes - Family  
 9:00 Mike Elko - Joe & Pat Runk

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2005**  
 7:00 Jennie Szmerda - Family  
 9:00 Billy Metz - Frances Veltre

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2005**  
 7:00 Primo Romero - Vincent & Arlene  
 9:00 Ludwik Deren - Anna Deren & Family

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2005**  
 7:00 Lillian Fleming - Sister  
 9:00 Anna Alacqua - Antoinette Bucca

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2005**  
 8:30 Memorial Mass - Loretta Burd, Nicholas Deloretto  
 5:30 People of the Parish

**SATURDAY AUGUST 20**  
**MAINTENANCE COLLECTION**

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**SUNDAY AUGUST 21**  
**MAINTENANCE COLLECTION**

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**SATURDAY AUGUST 27**  
 8:30 AM Memorial Mass  
 9:00 AM St. John's Soup Kitchen

### Altar & Rosary Society


**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Angie Plesh during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Magdalena & Julian Ciuba during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> at the request of Mom and Dad.



**BREAD & WINE** will be offered in memory of George & Jane Howell at the request of the Howell Family.



**SOUP KITCHEN**

Volunteers will be going to St. John's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off at the St. Agnes kitchen Friday or before 9 a.m. Saturday morning. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

***Those Who Have Died***

Buenaventura Galarza

***Those Who Are Sick***

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, George Heindel, 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., Louise Venezio, Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Wayne Tribble, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Gene Andre, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Maria Conforti, Mary Scott, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Alice Bartlomiejczyk, Ronald Francisco, John Cardoso, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Barbara Steinberg, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Michael Newman, Andre Kovacs, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Richard Palumbo

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: September 15, 2005

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: \$22.00

For reservations call:

Tony 388-2315

Joe 381-3395

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 2 BUSES.  
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE  
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time  
August 21, 2005**

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- Matthew 16:19

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