

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the spirit of Advent, I offer for your reflection a prayer composed by Father Joseph Nassal.

Prayer: Hope Is on the Way

Holy and Beloved God,
we are grateful for the gift of hope
you have placed in the middle of our Advent way
in the person of your Son, Jesus Christ.
In the wilderness of our ancestors' exile,
your prophet foretold of a new road,
a highway of holiness,
weaving through the wasteland of their lives,
offering them a new avenue to the promised land.

In lives crowded with despair,
cluttered with broken dreams,
your prophet tells us to make way for the coming of our God.
John burst upon this wilderness scene
proclaiming new possibilities of repentance and renewal
for those whose hope had grown old.
He invites us to slow the pace
and move in the rhythm of your redeeming grace.

This is the season, O Gracious God,
when you invite us to begin again;
to believe again in the promise of your prophets.
On this
Advent avenue,
give us the courage to give comfort to those we meet.
Grant us patience to stand and wait,
to watch and to pray on this Advent way.
Nurture the hope within us
that will afford us the vision to see the beginning of a new day
for all your people.

+ *Amen.*

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim
Pastor

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

John the Baptist's call to repentance is echoed in the US bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship; "Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live – the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards."

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,865.50.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS ED NEWS

There will be no Religious Education Classes on Sunday, December 4th, due to Middle States Evaluation. Thank you.



BUILDING FUND

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

\$654,828.00

*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.*



**ST. AGNES PARISH PRESENTS
"LUNCH WITH SANTA"**

Saturday, December 10th
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Santa Arrives at 12:15 p.m.)
\$8.00 per person

Children under 2 free

Price includes: lunch, activities
for the kids, picture with Santa and dessert.

Ticket Information Call:
School 732-381-0850
Margaret 732-574-3858
Melissa 908-486-5633
Rectory 732-388-7852



PLEASE RETURN W/PAYMENT TO RECTORY

Family Name _____

of Adults _____ @ \$8.00 = _____

of Children _____ @ \$8.00 = _____

of Children under 2 _____ Total enclosed _____

Phone Number _____

**Please Make Checks Payable to
St. Agnes School**



Take an angel (blue & white) from the tree and read the item needed for less fortunate children. Place the blue angel on your wrapped gift...and the decorated white angel on the tree. Please return gifts no later than December 11th. The gifts will be directed to one orphanage in Newark and the Several Sources in Bergen County, a home for young mothers who chose to have their babies and not to abort. Thank you for your generosity. A special thank you to the members of the CYO for their help with preparing the angels and setting up the tree.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE



*“Have Mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.”
Psalm 51*

The Advent season is a perfect time of year to reflect on one's sins and to ask the Lord for forgiveness.

On **Friday, December 16th at 7 p.m.** in the church our parish will celebrate a Communal Penance Service followed by individual confessions. Come as one, come as a family and spiritually prepare yourself for the coming of the Lord by celebrating this beautiful Sacrament of Penance.

WELCOME BACK TO THE ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!



**TODAY, DECEMBER 4th,
AFTER ALL MASSES**

Thank you for your support!!!

***The Elizabeth Ministry
(Ministry for Mothers)***



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)

**FIFTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CHRISTMAS GATHERING**



Will be held on

*Sunday, December 11th
after the 10:30 a.m. Mass
St. Agnes Auditorium - Stage Area*

*All Religious Education Teachers
and their families are welcome*

**ST. AGNES
ROSARY SOCIETY
CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**



**DECEMBER 10th
&
DECEMBER 11th**

AFTER ALL MASSES

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

An Annulment Information Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2005. A canon lawyer from the Archdiocese of Newark will discuss the most recent theology, guidelines and requirements for obtaining a Church annulment. The information will be presented in terms that all can understand. A question and answer period will conclude the session. Pre-registration is not necessary. This evening of information will be held at Our Lady of Peace R.C. Church (Parish Hall), 111 South Street, New Providence, at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, please call the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327.

Sister Helen Prejean on Capital Punishment

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, author of the books Dead Man Walking and The Death of Innocents, will be speaking at Queen of Peace High School, 191 Rutherford Place, No. Arlington on Thursday, December 8th, at 7:30 p.m. Sister Helen is a lively, engaging speaker. For more information, call (201) 998-7814.



U.S. Catholic Co., Inc.



**ATTENTION WOMEN OF
ST. AGNES!!**

*Drop Everything and
Come for a Quiet Holy Hour
Before our*

Lord in the Tabernacle

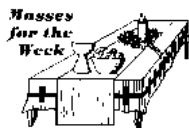
Jesus Waits for You. . .

*Tuesday, December 20th at 7 PM
Will be Refreshed and at Peace . . .*



**CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIA SALE**

The 7th grade class of St. Agnes School will have a Poinsettia sale on December 10th and 11th after all Masses. The Poinsettias will sell for \$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00. This year there will be a variety of colors. Your support is most appreciated by the 7th graders.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005

5:30 Garofalo & Ponterio Families -Maria Yost & Sons

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005

7:30 Angelo Acocella - Phyllis & James Eliff
 9:00 George J. Christensen, Jr. - Margaret Young
 10:30 Matthew Helminski - Marie Carr
 12:00 People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005

7:00 Liam Shackleton - Grandma and Grandpa
 9:00 Earl Hassler - Helen Hassler

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

7:00 Stella K. Zgurzynski - Gerri & Olaf Stiner
 9:00 Marguerite Stringer - Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

7:00 Stella Zgurzynski - Mary Brennan
 9:00 Anthony Marchitto - Family
 7 PM Vigil Mass

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2005

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

7:00 All Souls in Purgatory
 9:00 Grazia & Leopoldo Fierro - Fierro Family
 7 PM People of the Parish

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 2005

7:00 Edward Norvilas - Marie Carr
 9:00 Richard Gamble - Mr. & Mrs. Ziobro

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005

8:30 Memorial Mass - Marie Beauregarde, Anthony G. Pecoraro, Maria Yost, Jesse Rowett
 5:30 People of the Parish

SUNDAY DECEMBER 4

ROSARY SOCIETY BAGEL SALE

9:00 AM No Religious Education
 1:30 PM Baptism
 7:00 PM No CYO

MONDAY DECEMBER 5

3:30 PM Religious Education
 7:00 PM Religious Education
 7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6

6:30 PM Rosary/Holy Name Christmas Party - G.C.
 7:00 PM Religious Education

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7

4:30 PM Brownies - Kindergarten
 5:30 PM Girl Scouts - 6th Grade

THURSDAY DECEMBER 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - NO SCHOOL

7:00 PM Mass
 7:30 PM Adult Choir

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
 7TH GRADE POINSETTIA SALE
 ROSARY SOCIETY COOKIE SALE**

8:30 AM Memorial Mass
 11:00 AM Lunch with Santa - Gymnasium

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

**RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
 7TH GRADE POINSETTIA SALE
 ROSARY SOCIETY COOKIE SALE**

9:00 AM Religious Education
 11:30 AM Religious Education Christmas Gathering
 7:00 PM CYO



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Michael Stabile during the week of December 4th at the request of Mrs. Ruth Christensen.

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Irene Finger during the week of December 4th.

PLEASE PRAY FOR**Those Who Have Died**

Virginia Spatz, Christopher Bonner (son of
Maria and Christopher), Felix "Phil" Martinko

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, Gene Andre, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Maria Conforti, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Alice Bartlomiejczyk, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Andre Kovacs, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Josephine Pugnet, Florence Kempinski, Bart Zucosky, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Theresa Hanselman, Elizabeth Bell, Marie Telesco, Leon Orshak, Annette Drake, Mary Lou Loffa, Craig Allen, James MacConchie, Louise Venezia, William Foderaro, Michael Fedosh

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: December 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: \$23.00

For reservations call:

Tony 388-2315

Joe 381-3395

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

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2005**

Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.

– Mark 1:3