

Dear Parishioners,

The responses to our church renovation have been overwhelmingly positive, with minor constructive criticism. Overall, I am very pleased with our new worship space. We are still working out the kinks regarding “how to” serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Ushers, but in time our routine will become smoother and more natural. Thank you for your positive spirit during this time of transition.

Advent challenges us to stop, be alert, and watch! Here at St. Agnes it is hard to stop. A frenetic energy catapulted us back into church on schedule, while continuing construction on the school expansion. Simultaneously, our grammar school conducted a year long self-study for Middle States Accreditation, and the Commission Members were here this past week appraising our operation. Sr. Claire and her staff should be commended for a job well done. Now we are spiritually gearing up for Christmas, and the New Year will soon be upon us. I now know what is meant by *too much of a good thing*. What makes everything good is not what we are accomplishing, but the people behind the success.

Many of us struggle to maintain equilibrium around this time of year. The whirlwind of activity can leave us dizzy. What can we do? In the words of Saint Paul from our second reading today: *“Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.”* Prayer is the great equalizer. Prayer is the tranquilizer for whirlwinds. Prayer is the antidote for dizziness.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. James S. Choma
Pastor



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

All of the people in today's readings – the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$10,449.00.**
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.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings
from the Common of The Blessed Virgin
Mary, nos. 707-712

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36

Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38



**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. Inquiry Sessions are held monthly. Our next Inquiry Session is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m. in the teachers' lounge. If you need any additional information, please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.

PURE HEARTS

*Those whose hearts are pure are the
temples of the Holy Spirit.*

– St. Lucy



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



*Drop Everything and
Come for a Quiet Holy Hour
Before Our Lord in the Tabernacle
Come Let Us Adore Him*

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



The deadline for returning gifts is this weekend. 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. Merry Christmas!

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.

Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children

The Scholarship for Inner-City Children – which provides scholarships for needy inner-city children at parochial schools – will hold its third annual Basketball Festival in January. The Boys Festival features St. Anthony vs. CBA, St. Benedict's Prep vs. Paramus Catholic, and St. Peter's Prep vs. Roselle Catholic on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

The Girls Festival has a triple header with Academy of the Holy Angels vs. Roselle Catholic, Immaculate Heart Academy vs. Mt. St. Dominic Academy, and St. Anthony vs. Paramus Catholic on Saturday, January 14, 2006 starting at 3 p.m. at Paramus Catholic. Call (973) 497-4279 to purchase tickets or order online at www.basketballfestival.com.

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)

MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The annual bus trip to the **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. will be held on **Monday, January 23, 2006**. Cost is \$10.00. You will receive lunch and metro ticket on the bus. The day will begin with Mass at 6:15 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (118 Park Avenue in Linden), followed by light refreshments. The bus will leave the Knights parking lot at approximately 7 a.m. and return to Linden by 10 p.m. Anyone who wishes to go should call St. John the Apostle's Rectory in Linden **ASAP** at **(908) 486-6363** and ask for Marilyn. Seats are limited. Thank you.



**FIFTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION
CHRISTMAS GATHERING**



Will be held

Today, 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 7th GRADE CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIA SALE**



December 10th and 11th after all
Masses. The Poinsettias will sell for
\$8.00 each or 2 for \$15.00. Your
support is most appreciated by the 7th
graders.

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

**DECEMBER 10th & 11th
AFTER ALL MASSES**



**2005 Christmastide
Liturgy Schedule**

Sacrament of Penance

Friday, December 16th, 7:00 pm
Advent Penance Service

All Saturdays throughout the year
1:00 pm and after 5:30pm Mass

Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 24th
4:00 pm Liturgy with Children
6:00 pm Mass
12:00 Midnight Mass
Carols begin at 11:30pm

**Christmas Day: 9:00 am, 10:30 am
And 12 Noon**

Baptisms

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

NICHOLAS JOSEPH CHIRICHILLO

Son of Joseph and Jennifer

DEREK MATTHEW CISTRELLI

Son of Kevin and Doris

JOSHUA THOMAS LAUCIK

Son of Daniel and Sandra

MATTHEW JOSEPH LORDI

Son of James and Alicia

KAITLIN PARENT

Daughter of Michael and Aida

JACOB PERRY TOLENTINO

Son of Julius and Michelle

ADAM LOUIS VARGAS

Son of Larry and Cheryl

JAKE BENJAMIN ZAWACKI

Son of Timothy and Suzanne

**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH
1571 S. MARTINE AVE., SCOTCH PLAINS**

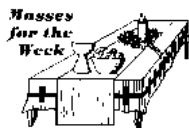
*Invites you to join us for our nine-day
"Simbang Gabi" Christmas Novena Mass*

December 15-23

7:45 PM Novena

8:00 PM Mass

"Simbang Gabi" is a traditional Filipino
gathering for mass and prayer in
preparation for the Christmas Season.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005

5:30 People of the Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2005

7:30 Kaelin - Tamburino Family

9:00 Zukowski Family - Rose & Ed Zukowski

10:30 Barney Clarke, Angelina, Charles, Felice
Perriello - Dolores Clarke

12:00 Angelina Scaturo - Doris Reilly

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2005

7:00 Irene Tyburrey - Frances Bristol

9:00 Richard Gamble - Helen Paulkowitz

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2005

7:00 Mary Imbriaco - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Silvio

9:00 Helen Parrillo & Eleanor Palmquist - Anthony
Parrillo and Larry & Sandy Palmquist

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2005

7:00 Felix & Carolyn Chmiel - Mary & Bart Zucosky

9:00 Erin Holtermann - Mr. & Mrs. F. Luvniewski

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005

7:00 Mary Imbriaco - Doris & George Allen

9:00 Joseph McKeever - Mr. & Mrs. F. Luvniewski

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2005

7:00 Cosmo Arnone - Cathy Campanella

9:00 Charlotte Luongo - Arlene & Tom Foster

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

8:30 Memorial Mass - Christopher L. Bonner,
Wellington Mara, Joseph Parisi, Carmen
Corrado, Charles P. Cordes

5:30 James P, Scott - Ronnie & Bill Duffy

SATURDAY DECEMBER 10

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

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

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

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

MONDAY DECEMBER 12

3:30 PM Religious Education
6:00 PM Sandwiches - Team 2D
7:00 PM Religious Education
7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13

7:00 PM Religious Education
7:00 PM Liturgy Meeting
7:30 PM RCIA Inquiry - Teachers' Lounge

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols with Bell Choir - Church

THURSDAY DECEMBER 15

11:30 AM Holy Name A/C
3:30 PM Children's Choir
7:30 PM Adult Choir

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16

7:00 PM Advent Penance Service
11:00 AM Lunch with Santa - Gymnasium

SATURDAY DECEMBER 17

8:30 AM Memorial Mass



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Marciano during the week of December 11th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of the deceased members of the Urso Family during the week of December 11th at the request of Antoinette Urso.



BREAD & WINE will be offered in memory of William A. Szipszky at the request of Jessica Seib, Julia and Lauren Bonavitacola - 10th Anniversary of his death.

PLEASE PRAY FOR**Those Who Have Died**

Joseph Lucia, Sr., Henry W. Sole

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, Annette Drake, Mary Lou Loffa, Craig Allen, James MacConchie, Louise Venezia, William Foderaro, Michael Fedosh, Frank Bonavitacola, Sr.

**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.**

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2005**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16