

## Christmas

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Merry Christmas! The world is so beautiful, yet it can be cold and dark at times. Good and evil coexists and faith is the dividing line that makes all the difference. Faith transforms darkness into light, despair into hope, fear into courage, guilt into forgiveness, and love into life. The love story of Christmas leads us to an intimate relationship with God, who loves us so much that he became human to lead us to fullness of life and inner-peace.

The prophet Isaiah foretold – *“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone (Is 9:1).”* In this age of war and terrorism, natural disasters and calamities, extreme wealth and poverty, may we see in Jesus a way out of darkness, for Christ is the light of the world. God does not force us to walk in this light. We are always invited, but the choice must be ours.

Let us follow the example of Mary and say yes to God, even though we do not totally understand the implications of our response. Every faith response brings Christ into the world. Every “yes” to God brings us closer to the Christmas mystery of the Word becoming flesh!

On behalf of the entire St. Agnes Parish Staff, I wish you and your loved ones a spirit-filled Christmas and a New Year full of love, joy and peace. May 2006 be a graced year for us all.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jim  
Pastor



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

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

Your Stewardship in Treasure  
last week was **\$13,120.00.**

Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 -- 2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35  
 Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or  
 Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12,  
 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]  
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
 Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

**LOVE**

*Let those who never loved before,  
love now:  
Let those who always loved,  
love the more.*

--Anonymous



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**BUILDING FUND**

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

**\$643,482.00**

*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 SCHOOL SPORTS  
FUNDRAISER**



**SPAGHETTI DINNER  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2006**

**6:30 to 9:00 PM**

**ADULTS: \$10.00**

**Children: \$7.00**

Includes spaghetti, salad, bread,  
soda, coffee and dessert

*St. Agnes Sports program is fully independent  
of the school and relies on funds raised  
by its members.*

For ticket or additional information, please  
contact David Broadwell at (908) 403-2860

*Proceeds to benefit St. Agnes Sports Program*

**DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING TICKETS  
JANUARY 17, 2006**

Advent is meant to be a time of joy and hope, but for many couples in troubled marriages, the expectations of the season will end in broken promises and disappointment. **RETROUVAILLE** ("Rediscovery") is a program of the Catholic Church designed to provide practical help and support to married couples in difficult or painful relationships. The program, offered by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, begins with a weekend experience on March 24-26, 2006. For program and fee information, please contact the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327. **RETROUVAILLE** can be a lifeline of hope and healing for the New Year.



**STELLA MARRIS RETREAT CENTER**  
981 Ocean Ave., Elberon, NJ  
(732) 229-0602

**New Year Bonus Weekend:**  
**Reclaiming Time to Think and Pray**  
**January 6-8, Friday 5:30 p.m. to Sunday (after dinner)**  
**\$100.00**

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays take some quiet time apart to anticipate the new year. Reflections on meditation and practice in Christian meditation will deepen our understanding of ourselves, God, scripture, community and the world. You will experience an unhurried schedule of meditation, liturgy, and reflection. Greg Ryan is our retreat leader.

**Reformed Church of Linden**  
**Stryker Hall**  
**600 N. Wood Avenue**



**Date: January 7, 2006**  
**Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

There will be a blood drive at the Reformed Church of Linden to support an Eagle Scout Project. New Jersey Blood Services experiences critical blood shortages several times per year. Holiday time is one of those times. Come and donate blood on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Any questions, please contact New Jersey Blood Services at 1-800-933-BLOOD or visit [www.nybloodcenter.org](http://www.nybloodcenter.org).

## **ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!**



**JANUARY 8, 2006**  
**AFTER ALL MASSES**

We offer the following varieties:

Plain	Russian
Cinnamon/Raisin	Salt
Poppy Seed	Pumpernickel
Sesame Seed	Onion
Everything	Egg
Garlic	Wheat

**Cost: .50 each**  
**\$6.00 per dozen (bakers' dozen - 13 bagels)**

*As always, thank you for your continued support!!!*



## **SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB**

The Spiritual Book Club will resume on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in becoming a member, please call Marian Heelan at 732-499-0195. The book of discussion will be The Holy Longing by Ronald Rolheiser.



**NEW JERSEY RIGHT TO LIFE  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US AS WE  
RALLY FOR LIFE**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Roe v. Wade**  
**U.S. Supreme Court Decision**

**STATE HOUSE STEPS, NJ CAPITOL**  
**STATE STREET, TRENTON, NJ**  
**11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

*Various Pro-Life Speakers Will be Featured*

For more information, visit [www.njrtl.org](http://www.njrtl.org)  
Phone: (908) 276-6620  
e-mail us at: [feedback@njrtl.org](mailto:feedback@njrtl.org)

**Stand Up and Be Counted!**  
**Let Us Show The New Governor**  
**The Strength and Perseverance of Those**  
**Who Reverence Life in New Jersey!**



## **NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION WITH JESUS AND MARY**

Come join the Beloved Disciple Charismatic Prayer Group at St. John The Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden for a New Year's Eve Celebration with Jesus and Mary! On Saturday, December 31 the celebration will begin at 9:00 p.m. with Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Charismatic Praise and Worship, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary. The celebration will continue with Holy Mass at 10:30 p.m. Stay for refreshments following Mass. Bring your family and friends! For directions to St. John's log onto [www.sjanj.net](http://www.sjanj.net).



**RECYCLE!**

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**RECYCLE!**

Our collection drive is off and running for the third year. The success has been better than expected. Remember, this is a fund raiser that does not cost anything . . .

**WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?** Simply collect any used inkjet/laser print cartridges, copier toner containers, and cell phones from your house, from your place of business, and from your family/friends.

**WHERE DO YOU BRING THEM?** Any school, Religious Education day, send them to St. Agnes with your son or daughter and your child can simply drop them in the specially marked container located in the gym, next to the stage on the window side. ( PLEASE REALIZE THAT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION GOING ON, THE COLLECTION BOX MAY BE RELOCATED AT ANY TIME.)

**CAN YOUR COMPANY PARTICIPATE?** Yes, we can also arrange for you to bring a specially marked box to your place of business and have the cartridges shipped "PREPAID UPS" directly to the recycling company. IF YOU WANT TO USE YOUR OWN BOX FOR SHIPPING, WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH JUST THE PREPAID SHIPPING LABELS.

Please keep the items coming because every single one counts. Thank you for all the support. If you have any questions, please call Jeff Dattilo at (908) 486-4480 (daytime) or email [jeff.dattilo@baywaylumber.com](mailto:jeff.dattilo@baywaylumber.com).

## **VISIT OUR RECYCLE WEBSITE**

[www.stagnesschool.com/PrintCartridgeRecycle.htm](http://www.stagnesschool.com/PrintCartridgeRecycle.htm)





<b><u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2005</u></b>	
4:00	People of the Parish
6:00	Pat Castellano - Mom & Dad
12 AM	People of the Parish
<b><u>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2005 (No 7:30 AM Mass)</u></b>	
9:00	People of the Parish
10:30	Helen Parrillo - Larry & Sandy Palmquist
12:00	John Yonco & Anna Yonco - Aldo & Gloria Kosuch
<b><u>MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2005 (No 7 AM Mass)</u></b>	
9:00	James P. Scott - Ronnie & Bill Duffy
<b><u>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2005</u></b>	
7:00	Dorothy K. Flynn - Daniel Flynn
9:00	George J. Christensen, Jr. - Family
<b><u>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 2005</u></b>	
7:00	Patrick & Cecilia Cosgrove - Cecilia Cosgrove
9:00	Alice & Paul Hart - Hart Family
<b><u>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2005</u></b>	
7:00	Pear Cleaveland
9:00	Grace & Thomas Mercadante, Sr. - Joe & Agnes Fusco
<b><u>FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2005</u></b>	
7:00	Angela Maglione - Phyllis Vaccaro & Family
9:00	Gavin James Pukala - Rose Volturo
<b><u>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2005</u></b>	
8:30	Memorial Mass - Joel Berthiaume
5:30	Jack Gigantino - Bernie & Carole Hayden

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 24</b>
4:00 PM	Children's Mass with Children's Choir
6:00 PM	Mass with Bell Choir
12 AM	Midnight Mass - Caroling Begins at 11:30 PM
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 25</b>
9:00 AM	Christmas Mass
10:30 AM	Christmas Mass
12:00 PM	Christmas Mass
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 26</b>
3:30 PM	No Religious Education
7:00 PM	No Religious Education
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 27</b>
7:00 PM	No Religious Education
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 31</b>
8:30 AM	Memorial Mass
5:30 PM	Mass
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>JANUARY 1</b>
7:30 AM	Mass
9:00 AM	Mass
9:00 AM	No Religious Education
10:30 AM	Mass
12: 00 PM	Mass
7:00 PM	No CYO




**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Mauro Pires during the week of December 25<sup>th</sup> at the request of the Family.



**BREAD & WINE** will be offered in memory of Michael McKeon at the request of Mom and Dad.

### *Altar & Rosary Society*

**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Marciano during the week of December 26<sup>th</sup>.



*Just a reminder . . .*

**The Rectory offices will be closed on Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Wishing Everyone a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas Season.**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR*****Those Who Have Died***

Louis A. Ott, Jr., Margaret Power,  
Charles Cargill, Alice Bartlomiejczyk

***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, Maria Conforti, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, 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, 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, William Foderaro, Michael Fedosh, Frank Bonavitacola, Sr., Thomas Wilkinson, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: January 19, 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 388-2315

Joe 381-3395

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

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**The Nativity of the Lord  
December 25, 2005**

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

– John 1:5