

A FRESH START

“I give thanks to God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched every way, . . . so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

I can't help but apply Paul's words from our second reading today to our parish family here at St. Agnes. I know that Fr. Jim and myself do indeed offer prayers of thanks to God for all of you, for the grace that we receive through you and for the opportunity to be “enriched” by Christ as a family of faith.

Today marks a new beginning. In our liturgy we start a new church year today, and we begin with the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, especially for the return of our Lord and Savior, but often the season gets inadequate attention, being overwhelmed by preparations for Christmas. We also have a new beginning in our parish. Our newly renovated worship space affords us a chance to start new, to take a fresh spiritual approach to praising God at Mass. By doing so we'll be better prepared to greet the Lord upon his return...and to celebrate the Christmas holidays when they arrive.

Let's reflect on some concrete ideas for this fresh start...a fresh approach to Advent and a fresh approach to our Church.

- Try sitting in different areas of the Church for mass. Changing your usual spot offers a new perspective on worship. That can bring a new approach to prayer...you'd be surprised!
- Take advantage of the devotional areas of the church. Stop by the Tabernacle during the day and say a quick prayer. Light a devotional candle to our Blessed Mother. Visit the Baptismal Font and offer to God a prayer of thanks for new life in Him. All of these things can make for a holier experience of Advent...and keep us from getting too busy with the hustle and bustle!
- Read the bulletin and attend special Advent Services. There are Advent Vespers services offered on Wednesday evenings, and an upcoming Reconciliation Service. These are concrete expressions of preparation through community worship.
- Live the beauty we experience in our new church throughout the week. No doubt the Church truly reminds us of the holiness of God. But we know that divine beauty never stops at mass. It has to be reflected in everyday life...in acts of kindness, in caring for the poor and oppressed, and in sharing God's love with all we meet.

May God bless you all. May Advent be a time when you are enriched by Christ in every way. And may our new worship space help you to grow in faith, that you may be ready upon the return of our Lord and Savior.

In His peace,

Fr. John

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

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$15,112.00.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

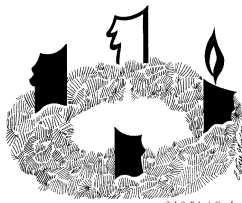


- Monday: Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35 -- 10:1, 5a, 6-8
- Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

ADVENT PRAYER

Mercifully hear, O Lord, the prayers of your people; that as they rejoice in the coming of your only-begotten Son according to the flesh, so when he comes a second time in his majesty, they may receive the reward of eternal life.

— Gelasian Sacramentary, Collect for Advent



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BUILDING FUND

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

\$660,543.00

*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

**DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING TICKETS
DECEMBER 2, 2005**



Merry
Christmas

St. Agnes Rosary/
Holy Name
Christmas Party

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Place: Gran Centurions

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Amount \$21.00

Tickets can be purchased at the Rectory or by
calling Rose at 732-574-0023.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is
Monday, November 28th.

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.

WELCOME BACK TO THE ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!



DECEMBER 4, 2005
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!!!

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.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!**St. Agnes 5th Annual Wine Tasting**

By
Rotundo's Deli & Fine Wines, Clark
Has Been Postponed to
Friday, December 2, 2005

*What wines to serve and give for the holidays
 Vendors will help with shopping
 and decorating ideas.*

Friday, December 2, 2005
St. Agnes Gymnasium - 7:00 PM

\$35.00 Per Person

*Includes wine tasting, fruit, cheese, pasta stations,
 coffee and dessert*

*For ticket information call the Rectory
 at (732) 388-7852
 A selection of premium wines.*

WATCHING, NOT WAITING

In the Gospel, Jesus moves us from passive waiting to the attitude of waiting in its active form—watchfulness. It is possible, when we are merely waiting, to occupy ourselves with other things. What Jesus tells us today is that we must be occupied with the work of the master; we must be alert, we must be met by him upon his return doing right and being mindful of him in our ways. Paul consoles us that this vigilant watchfulness need not tire us out, for Christ himself has enriched us and strengthened us to remain firm in our expectation, our joyful hope. It is in this way that we wait and watch for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, when he is revealed to us in glory.

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**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**

**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.

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

DECEMBER 10th
&
DECEMBER 11th

AFTER ALL MASSES



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2005

5:30 Toni Visconti - Bernie & Carole Hayden

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2005

7:30 Sadie Lagattuta - Tony & Casey Urbanowicz

9:00 George J. Christensen, Jr. - Faith, George,
Gerard & Marylou

10:30 People of the Parish

12:00 Angelina Scaturo - Anne Korn

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2005

7:00 Joseph Cusatis - Mr. & Mr. M. Mega

9:00 Mike Caroll - The Kraus Family

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005

7:00 Michael Versusky - Maryann Meransky

9:00 Marie Apello - Tom Mercadante

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005

7:00 William Macavey - Ashley Renna

9:00 Rose Marchitto - Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2005

7:00 Robert Hahn - Fr. John Chadwick

9:00 Richard Gamble - Helen Paulkowitz

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2005

7:00 Catherine Esposito - Jack Wuagneux & Family

9:00 Robin Helminski - The Telleri Family

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2005

8:30 Memorial Mass - Richard Verrastro, Marion
Kowalewski, Carol Mandorona, Stephen
Fiyut, Ruth Christensen, Maria Yost

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

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION
ADVENT BEGINS

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 27

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION
ADVENT BEGINS

9:00 AM Religious Education

MONDAY NOVEMBER 28

3:30 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29

7:00 PM Religious Education

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 30

4:30 PM Brownies - Kindergarten

7:00 PM Advent Service

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1

3:30 PM Children's Choir

7:30 PM Adult Choir

FRIDAY DECEMBER 2

12:00 PM Dismissal - Faculty Meeting

7:00 PM Wine Tasting - Gymnasium

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26

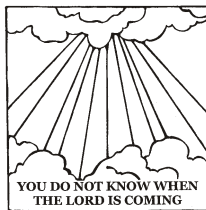
8:30 AM Mass - Marian



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Flo Haas during the week of November 27th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Angelina Scaturo during the week of November 27th at the request of Ruth Christensen.



PLEASE PRAY FOR**Those Who Have Died**

May They Rest in Peace

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



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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.**

**First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2005**

Be watchful! Be Alert!
You do not know when the time will come.

– Mark 13:33