

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Lent is a time to intensify our prayer, fasting and charitable works. May I ask a favor of you? Will you please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and offer up your fasting for this intention? I truly believe that the Lord is *calling* young men to serve the church as priests, deacons and religious brothers, and women to serve as religious sisters. However, a secular din is generating prevailing distractions and illusions for happiness is distorting this special “call”.

The opportunities for priests and religious to build the kingdom are tremendous and exciting. My biggest complaint is that there are not enough hours in the day to respond to the expectations and needs of parishioners. When I pray, I always ask the Lord to send more priests and religious into the vineyard. The harvest is rich, but laborers few.

As pastor of St. Agnes, I am eternally grateful to our lay volunteers. Stewardship has set our parish on fire. Please do not think that I am undermining the commitment of lay people. We need every parishioner to catch the stewardship fire and get more involved. Notwithstanding, we also need young men and women to prayerfully consider ordained and religious vocations.

Whenever a priest or nun is transferred, it is common to ask the questions: Will another priest or nun replace them? If so, will they be young or old? It depends! How well are local communities doing in promoting church vocations? Nowadays, parishioners, desire talented and vibrant priests, deacons, and religious to serve them, but very few encourage family members. When I was Archdiocesan Vocations Director, many people shared sentiments of support for my ministry, but a common response from the very same people was - **“not my children Father!”** What’s wrong with this picture?

May all Saint Agnes Parishioners be vocation directors. If you know someone that would be a good priest, deacon, religious nun or brother, ask them if they ever thought about it. Also share with them the qualities that you see in them that led you to ask the question. God may use you as an instrument for His Call. Let’s all pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

If anyone from our parish is thinking about possibility of a church vocation, please contact me. I will be happy to discuss the matter with you in confidence and there will never be any pressure. Authentic vocations are born in freedom and are ultimately between the individual and the CALLER!

Prayerfully yours,

Fr. Jim  
Pastor



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

"If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be." In what ways is Jesus inviting *me* to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?

Your Stewardship in Treasure  
last week was **\$12,257.00.**  
Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62];  
Jn 8:1-11  
Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30  
Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42  
Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Jn 8:51-59  
Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42  
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56  
Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession);  
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11;  
Mk 14:1 -- 15:47 [15:1-39]

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

On behalf of the community of St. Agnes Parish,  
this public expression of gratitude is extended to:

**HARVARD CLEANERS**  
located on  
Westfield Avenue in Clark

The owners of this establishment graciously  
extends discounts for church dry cleaning needs.  
This generosity results in major savings over the  
year. Thank you.



**BUILDING FUND**

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

**\$585,723.00**

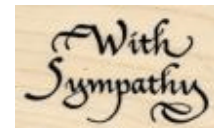
*If you would like to make a donation,  
please make check payable to  
St. Agnes Church and mail to the Rectory  
attention Building Fund,  
or drop in the collection basket.  
Thank you for your continued support.*

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

It is time once again for the Anniversary Celebration of those couples in our Archdiocese who are celebrating 5, 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage in 2006. These liturgies will be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers and held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

**50 Years**  
**Sunday, April 30, 2006 - 3:00 PM**  
**(Reservation Deadline April 20<sup>th</sup>)**

It is our desire that every couple in the archdiocese, deserving of such recognition, be present at the appropriate Liturgy. The presence of a large number of couples will give favorable witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in our society today. Please call the rectory at 732-388-7852 to register before the deadline date. All reservations will be acknowledged by the Archdiocese. Directions to the Cathedral Basilica and a seating chart will be mailed to each couple.



**March 27, 2006**  
**Sincerest Condolences to**  
**Marian Heelan and Family**  
**on the recent death**  
**of her husband, Joseph Heelan**  
**Parish Trustee 1982-2006**

### *Lenten Schedule 2006*

#### *Living Stations of the Cross - CYO*

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

#### *Palm Sunday*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Masses

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

#### *Holy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 p.m.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer Service at 10:00 p.m.

#### *Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>*

Seven Last Words Service - 12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Main Service - 7:30 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus Christ

#### *Holy Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>*

Blessing of the Food - 11:00 a.m.

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 p.m.

#### *Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Masses*

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

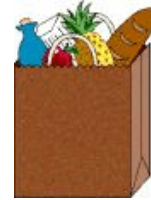


### COUNTY OF UNION

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

On April 10, 2006, the Union County Division on Aging/Union County Minority Task Force on aging and the Stephen Sampson Senior Citizens Center in Elizabeth will co-host a program to assist seniors with Medicare Part D information and enrollment. This program will be at the Steven Sampson Senior Center, 800 Anna St., Elizabeth from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, please contact Michele Robinson at the Union County Division on Aging at (908) 527-4874.

### FOOD CERTIFICATES The Perfect Fund Raiser



- \*No extra money out of your pocket\*
- \*We all need groceries each week anyway\*
- \*Shoprite, A&P, Foodtown, Pathmark all participate\*
- \*Our personal family food shopping will strongly benefit St. Agnes Community's financial need, since 5% goes back to St. Agnes\*
- \*PLEASE HELP US BY PURCHASING FOOD CERTIFICATES BEFORE OR AFTER MASS\***
- \*Call the Rectory office for more information (732) 388-7852\***
- Thank you for your support!**

### ST. AGNES CYO PROUDLY PRESENTS: THE LIVING



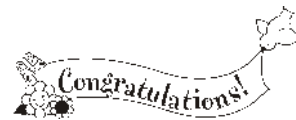
**JOIN US FOR THIS MOVING PRODUCTION ON  
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006, AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE CHURCH.**

### *The Chrism Mass*



**Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 PM  
Cathedral Basilica of the  
Sacred Heart in Newark**

*If you are interested in attending the Chrism Mass, please call the Rectory so that we can arrange for car pools and sit together in the cathedral.*



### Pro-Life Poster/Essay/Poetry Contest

St. Agnes School is proud to announce that Kristen O'Connor, Grade 2, has won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster Category, Allison Gallo, Grade 5, has won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Category, Kaitlyn Delaney, Grade 8, has won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster Contest. Bishop Thomas Donato will present the awards at St. John the Apostle Church, Linden, on Saturday, April 8, at 10:00 a.m.



## RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Religious Education re-registration has begun!! Early registration avoids a lot of chaos and confusion at the last moment. Please mail in your forms as soon as possible. Due to the increasing number of students, we need teachers and substitutes. If you are faith-filled and unselfish, willing to give an hour of your time weekly, please call or e-mail the Religious Education Office (732-388-2560 or [stagnesccd@comcast.net](mailto:stagnesccd@comcast.net)).

New student registration takes place in the Religious Education Office at the Rectory.

### ST. AGNES



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006**

**RAIN OR SHINE**

**8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

ALL CLOTHES MUST BE BAGGED OR BOXED.  
NO HANGERS PLEASE.

ITEMS - CLOTHES, SHOES, HATS, BELTS,  
POCKETBOOKS, STUFFED ANIMALS, ALL  
HOUSEHOLD LINENS, BLANKETS, ETC.

NO TOYS, APPLIANCES OR FURNITURE  
(INCLUDING BABY ITEMS)

**Any questions please call Adele  
at 732-382-8332**

### ST. AGNES SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Because of expiring terms, there are presently two openings for election to the St. Agnes School Board. The Board is an advisory body to the principal in matters of budget and policy. Any adult with an active interest in fostering Catholic education is eligible to run for election. Meetings are bi-monthly. School Board members do not have to be parents. The term of office is 3 years beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

Anyone interested should send a letter to the rectory, including phone numbers to Mr. Christopher Bonner's attention, no later than April 16, 2006. Elections will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2006.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

For several years now the young people of the parish have enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt. This year the hunt will be held on the **SATURDAY after EASTER, APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 11:00 AM weather permitting. There are two prizes available, in addition to the wonderful various plastic eggs filled with goodies and pennies.

**Please note:** Since we have plenty of eggs for this year's hunt, we will not need any donations. However, donations of goodies and pennies will be appreciated.

### **FILIPPINI SISTERS OF VILLA WALSH PRESENTS**



#### **HOLY WEEK DISCERNMENT RETREAT**

*For single women ages 18-35*

**APRIL 13-15, 2006**

An opportunity to interact with the Filippini Sisters of Villa Walsh for Holy Week Services. You will also enjoy other young women interested in learning more about religious life through discussion, prayer experience, and visits with women in formation. Stipend of \$60 includes two overnights and six meals. Please bring towels & personal items.

**For more information please call  
Sr. Claire Ouimet at (732) 381-0850.**

### **APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH**

*Please Pray this Prayer for People/Families  
Affected by Autism*

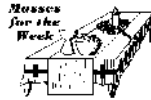


*Dear God,  
For all the children, adults and families  
touched by autism spectrum disorders.  
May Your Spirit abide with them,  
and all who work with people with autism,  
in a special way during this Autism  
Awareness month of April.*

*Grant them, and us, O Lord, the wisdom, fortitude and  
understanding necessary to see the image of God reflected  
in all those who struggle with neurological disabilities. I ask  
this in the name of Jesus, by the power of your Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*

**The New Jersey Center for Outreach Services to the Autism Community offers a wealth of information and support to families of people with autism. They can be reached at 1-800-4AUTISM.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006**

5:30 People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006**7:30 Vincent & Rosaria Barilla - Mr. & Mrs. Peter  
Koscica

9:00 Rico Basso - Shipe Family

10:30 Mike Elko - Elko Family

12:00 Elizabeth &amp; Emil Garfalo - Maria Yost

**MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006**

7:00 Elizabeth Cordes - Family

9:00 Salvatore Canzonieri - Mary Bove

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2006**

7:00 Nunzio Garra - Daughter

9:00 John &amp; Lucia Zambolla - Anne Zambolla

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2006**

7:00 Rosemarie Hillebrand - Elizabeth McAidle

9:00 Michael Ciriello - The Verrastro Family

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006**

7:00 George Finger - Helen &amp; Joe Suszko

9:00 Joan B. Ladines - Bill &amp; Ronnie Duffy

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006**

7:00 Lucia Cerullo - Cathy Campanella

9:00 Wanda Urbanski - St. Agnes Faculty &amp; Staff

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2006**8:30 Memorial Mass - Stella Spond, Joao Barreto,  
Edward Veltre, Joseph Zucaro, Maria Yost,  
Gertrude Nazar, Arvin Stock, Helga Pfaff

5:30 Frank Elischberger - Susan Delaney



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Marie LeFante during the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the request of Joanne & Gary Cancro.

**SUNDAY****APRIL 2****ROSARY BAGEL SALE**

9:00 AM Religious Education

7:00 AM CYO

**MONDAY****APRIL 3**

3:30 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

**TUESDAY****APRIL 4**

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM Liturgy Meeting

7:30 PM Rosary Society - Gymnasium

**WEDNESDAY****APRIL 5**

7:00 PM CYO - Living Stations Rehearsal

**THURSDAY****APRIL 6**

3:30 PM Children's Choir

7:30 PM Adult Choir

**FRIDAY****APRIL 7**

7:00 PM CYO Presents The Living Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY****APRIL 8**

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial

**SUNDAY****APRIL 9****PALM SUNDAY****Altar & Rosary Society**

**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Lucy Koscica during the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!**  
**TODAY**  
**AFTER ALL MASSES**

*Thank you for your support!*

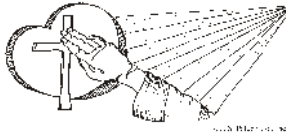
The monthly meeting of the **Rosary Society** will be held on **Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

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

Irene Corella, James Carlin, Joseph Heelan,  
Wayne Tribble

***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, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, 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, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri

**Atlantic City Bus Trip****WHEN: April 20, 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 (732) 388-2315****Joe (732) 381-3395**

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent****April 2, 2006**

I will place my law within them and  
write upon their hearts;  
I will be their God, and they shall  
be my people.

*– Jeremiah 31:33*