



*From the Desk of  
Mary Ellen Theel*

Dear Parishioners,

As most of you have learned by this time, Fr. Don and Fr. Nuno are both recovering from knee surgery. I know you join me as we wish them both a speedy recovery. Prior to Fr. Don leaving for surgery, he asked me to write this week's column. After some thought, I decided to write on the most frequently asked question of church employees: "Why do I have to go to a priest and confess my sins? God knows what I've done, and God knows that I'm sorry." And they give me a defiant look that says: "Go ahead, explain that one!" I could answer with the party line "it is a sacrament instituted by Christ when he said 'whose sins you shall forgive they are forgiven.'" But I often find they don't want that, so here's my answer:

### **Sin is like junk!**

Did you ever buy something and say to yourself months, weeks later: "What was I thinking?" (For me, anything from the 70's will do). This *tchotchke*, that I actually spent money on, had to have, was in some way attractive to me. So I bought it. Isn't sin in some way attractive too? Whether it's abusing alcohol or food, or even a person (road rage anyone?) We sin because we think that is the most attractive option. When that piece of junk has lost its luster, and I don't want it in my home anymore, I find that I have to get rid of it immediately, and so into the basement it goes. Out of my living room, out of my sight and put away for what I hope is forever. When my sin has lost its attractiveness, I push it down into the basement of my heart. It's not in the forefront of my mind. It's like saying I'm sorry and away it goes. But just like the junk, it's not away. It's still there, taking up room that could be used for something else.

So what to? Until I take the junk out of my basement and bring it to the curb, for the sanitation guys to haul away, it will remain in my house. On the surface, my house will look de-cluttered --just don't look in the basement. With sin it's the same thing. Until I bring the sin to the sacrament of reconciliation, to the curb if you will, it remains in my heart. On the surface, I may seem at peace, but how can my heart have room for love, if it is filled with junk.

So, since it's time for spring cleaning, perhaps you want to examine the basement of your heart as well as the basement of your home. Bring your junk to our priests during the sacrament. It is celebrated every Saturday afternoon in the church at 1 p.m. and after the 5:30 Mass. Just don't tell them I compared them to sanitation workers!

God Bless!

**STEWARDSHIP**

**&**

**FAITH**

***Time, Talent, Treasure.***

***Putting God First?***

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness still reveal the presence of God in our midst.

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$10,459.00;**

Holy Land **\$2,353.00.**

Thank you.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Jn 6:22-29  
 Tuesday: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a; Jn 6:30-35  
 Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Jn 6:35-40  
 Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Jn 6:44-51  
 Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Jn 6:52-59  
 Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Jn 6:60-69  
 Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23; 1 Pt 2:20b-25;  
 Jn 10:1-10



***Rite 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 Sessions will take place on Monday, April 14th and Thursday, May 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Lucy Room, which is located on the lower level of the parish center. If you need any additional information, please call Sr. Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT  
 AS OF 03/31/08**

**Total Pledges \$3,313,017.50**

**Pledges Collected \$3,153,316.31**

**Outstanding Pledges \$ 159,701.19**

**Total Building Costs \$3,830,672.97**

**Interest on Loan (+) \$ 19,887.27**

**Pledges Collected (-) \$3,153,316.31**

**Mtge. Reduction  
 Collections (-) \$ 152,458.50**

**Funds from Savings (-) \$ 250,000.00**

**Remaining Debt \$ 294,785.43**



***Elijah Cup Program***

Please prayerfully consider taking the Elijah Cup into your home for a week of prayer for vocations. It is an honor and a privilege for the laity to support this ministry. During the month of March, the Elijah Cup will be in the homes of the following parishioners:

- |          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| April 6  | Crowley Family      |
| April 13 | Wayne & Gail Orshak |
| April 20 | Barone Family       |
| April 27 | Valentino Family    |

Please call the Parish Office at (732) 388-7852. A week that is convenient for you will be assigned. Thank you.



**ST. STANISLAUS**

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## ST. AGNES SCHOOL

*"We're About What You Value Most"*

### OPEN HOUSE

You are invited to join us on

**Sunday, April 6, 2008  
from 8:00am to 2:00pm**

*Come see how St. Agnes School  
embraces each student and  
prepares them for life, both  
academically and spiritually.*

342 Madison Hill Rd., Clark, NJ

**WWW.STAGNESSCHOOL.COM**

### *Spring Open House*

**Mother Seton Regional High School  
Clark, NJ**

**Monday, April 21, 2008**

7:30 to 9:30 PM

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls & Families

For more info call 732-382-1952

**Union Catholic High School  
Clark, NJ**

**Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 7 PM**

6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students & Families

For more info call 908-889-1600, ext. 328



## CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Registration for new students (including Kindergarten) will begin Monday, March 24, and will conclude Thursday, April 17. You may register in the Catholic Faith Formation Office located in the school anytime between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday (**CFF office closed on Fridays**). Evening registration will take place in the school office March 31 and April 1, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Please try to register early since classes reach their quota rapidly. You must bring a copy of your child's **baptismal certificate**. The fee for all students new to the program (grades 1-8) is \$100 per child; Kindergarten is \$50. Family re-registration discounts do not apply.



## CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION RE-REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!!!

CFF 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, unselfish, and a practicing Catholic, please call or email the Catholic Faith Formation Office (732-388-2560 or [cff@stagnesparish.com](mailto:cff@stagnesparish.com).)

### *Annual Legacy Circle Reception to Honor Parishioner Legacies*

On Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., the Archdiocese of Newark will hold its annual Legacy Circle Tea honoring all parishioners who have included their parish or the Archdiocese of Newark in their will, or who have made some other type of planned gift. The event begins with a Prayer Service in the Cathedral Basilica and is followed by a reception hosted by Archbishop John J. Myers in the Cathedral Basilica Residence. If you have named the parish in your will, or are considering doing so, you are eligible for membership in the Legacy Circle Planned Giving Society. Please contact the Planned Giving Office of the Archdiocese of Newark at (973) 497-4048.

**WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT****April 18-19, 2008****"Follow Me"****An invitation to attend a faith enriching experience.**

The Women's Cornerstone Retreat for 2008 will be held at St. Agnes Church beginning at 6 p.m. (with a light meal) and will adjourn about 10 p.m. The group will reconvene on Saturday at 8 a.m. starting with breakfast and end with Mass in the evening at 5:30 p.m., followed by a gathering with family and friends, where light refreshments will be provided. The retreat will not require staying over. For more information or to obtain a reservation form, please call the Parish Office at (732) 388-7852.

**SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the St. Thomas Room. We will be discussing the following books:

April: Megan McKenna, And Morning Came

May: Carol Dempsey, Jeremiah Preacher of Grace, Poet of Truth

June: Raniero Cantalamessa, Life in Christ  
(Commentary on Romans)

If you have any questions or suggestions for books you would like to have discussed, please call Grace Bradley at (732) 388-3754.

**ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!**

**APRIL 13, 2008**  
**AFTER ALL MASSES**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the increase in price from our supplier, the cost of bagels will be .75 each, \$9.00 for baker's dozen. Thank you for your support and understanding.

**Vocation Reflections**

"Were not our hearts burning within us...". In the same way that Christ explained the true meaning of the prophets and Scriptures to the disciples, so also does the priest, deacon and religious explain the Scriptures, in light of Christ, to the faithful. The Gospel account of the Road to Emmaus is one that should inspire anyone considering religious life or a priestly vocation to see the true presence of Christ in the "breaking of the bread" and enjoy the value of a frequent visit to the Most Blessed Sacrament. Pray before Christ, fully present in the Holy Eucharist, and seek the advice of a good spiritual director that will help you along the personal road to Emmaus that each of us travels. After these activities, contact the Office of Vocations at [kellybar@rcan.org](mailto:kellybar@rcan.org) or 973-497-4365.

**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 Parish Office for more information (732) 388-7852\***
- Thank you for your support!**

Mt. St. Mary House of Prayer

Mount St. Mary House of Prayer, Watchung, will offer the following program. To register, call 908-753-2091 or email [msmhope@msmhope.org](mailto:msmhope@msmhope.org).

**PERSONAL RETREAT DAYS****Sacred Time, Sacred Space**

A personal quiet day to enjoy God's presence. Day begins and ends with communal prayer.

April 16, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Bring bag lunch (\$15)

Mass Schedule

This Week

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008**

5:30 Lucy & John Zambolla - Daughter-Anne

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2008**

7:30 Albert Ritorto - Tony & Gina Acocella  
9:00 Vincent & Rosaria Barilla - Peter & Lucy Koscica  
10:30 People of the Parish  
12:00 Louise Derosa Cicio - Patuto Family

**MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008**

7:00 Dorothy Kupka - Marilyn, Joan & Jackie  
9:00 Frank Elischberger - Susan, Matt & Eric

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008**

7:00 Joao Barreto Dos Santos - Leonor & Family  
9:00 Casey Aklonis - Jean & Lorraine Aklonis

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2008**

7:00 Charles Genna - Dolores Memmer  
9:00 Earl Hassler - Helen Hassler

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2008**

7:00 Ed Balasia - Telleri Family  
9:00 Erin Holtermann - Mr. & Mrs. F. Lubniewski

**FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2008**

7:00 Lucille Bresky - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zych & Family  
9:00 Margaret Napolitano - Jeff & Cetta Sinoradzki

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008**

8:30 Memorial Mass - Andy Pavelko, Stella Rusak,  
Marshall Greene, Dorothy Kupka  
5:30 Edward Alfano - Michael Brescia

**SUNDAY APRIL 6**

8:00 AM St. Agnes School Open House - Gym/School  
8:45 AM CFF Classes  
7:00 PM CYO - Gym

**MONDAY APRIL 7**

3:30 PM CFF Classes  
6:30 PM CFF Classes  
7:00 PM Scripture Sharing - OLG Room

**TUESDAY APRIL 8**

6:30 PM CFF Classes  
7:30 PM Holy Name Meeting - Fr. Whelan Center

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 9**

7:30 PM RCIA - OLG/St. Joseph Room  
7:30 PM St. Agnes HSA Meeting - Gym

**THURSDAY APRIL 10**

3:30 PM Children's Choir - Music Ministry Room  
7:00 PM CFM - St. Lucy Room  
7:30 PM Adult Choir - Music Ministry Room  
7:30 PM Bereavement - OLG Room

**FRIDAY APRIL 11**

9:00 AM School Mass  
12:00 PM St. Agnes School Early Dismissal

**SATURDAY APRIL 12**

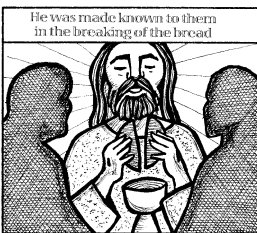
8:00 AM Teacher Certification - St. Joseph Room  
11:00 AM Sports - Gym

Altar & Rosary Society

**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Garra during the week of April 6th.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Cecilia Smentkowski during the week of April 6th at the request of Joseph Kiempisty, Jr.



**ONE BREAD**

As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and was gathered together and became one, so let thy Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into thy kingdom.

- The Didache, second century A.D.

Holy Name Society

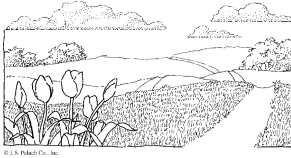
The Holy Name Society will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the Fr. Whelan Center. Our guest speaker will be Chief Denis Connell of the Clark Police Department. Refreshments will be served afterwards. All men of the parish are welcome to attend.

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

Helen M. Maier

***Those Who Are Sick***

Mary Zelanko, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe & Irene Margeton, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Barbara Rygiel, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Hazel McGuinness, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Louise Venezia, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Giovanna Tripicchio, Marie Cerone, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Angela Decker, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, Carmelina & Andrew Giacobbe, Marie Farese, Joseph Loria, Rose Gerhardt, Robert & Esther Quinlivan, Mariani Rocco, Dominic Preite, Marge Geist Gais, Jerry Vezza, Brenda Vermeal, Angie & Anthony Plesh, Gabriella Giordano, Mary Marciano, Mary Gianti, Joao Faria, Maria Dietrick, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Shipe, Katherine Franceski, Richard Ciccone, Nancy Reuter, Joseph Fabijanczuk, Jennifer Concalves, David Shea, Michael Readie, Joey Santillo, Fr. Don Hummel

**Crisis Pregnancy Help**

Catholic Community Services  
Pat Chiarello (201) 246-7379

Birthright USA International  
1-800-550-4900



*Almighty God, Creator of the earth in which we live, help us today in our search for peaceful ways to avoid war, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny and to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths. We pray that the billions of peace-loving people of goodwill throughout the nations, will join together in prayer and action to bring love where there is hatred, friendship where there is enmity and justice where there is oppression. May God continue to bless and watch over our men and women who make ultimate sacrifices for our freedom and democracy. Amen*

**Third Sunday of Easter****April 6, 2008**

You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

– Acts 2:28