

“After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.”

The first reading from today’s Scriptures makes a strong comment on what it means to listen for the presence of the Lord in our lives. Elijah was inside the cave, listening for God. There he sits listening through strong winds, earthquakes and fire. And where does he hear the Lord? In a “tiny whispering sound.”

So often we expect the Lord to make his presence known loud and clear within the noisy din of our lives. We may not have earthquakes...but our TV’s, our radios, our traffic sounds, our distractions in life can all provide enough noise to keep us from listening to whispers. The need for quiet prayer cannot be emphasized enough. In those quiet times we tune our ears into the Lord so that we can hear his whispers in the cacophony of everyday life.

There is still another way to look at this passage as we apply it to our lives. Did you ever think that Christ might want you to “whisper” on his behalf? Maybe there is some small way that you can make the presence of Christ felt by another. Sometimes a simple act of kindness, or some words of encouragement uttered softly to one in need can make all the difference. The Spirit can make you a “whisperer” of God’s love. What a terrific thought!

One area in particular where I would encourage you all to “whisper” is to those who may be seeking to become a part of our faith community. Those in charge of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) have been planning for the fall. In addition our Inquiry Nights have been taking place on a monthly basis, answering questions and leading discussions for those who may be interested in becoming Catholic, or who may wish to complete their initiation sacraments. Now we’re getting to the time of the year where those who may be considering receiving Baptism, Confirmation and/or Eucharist need to be invited to come to an Inquiry Session.

If you know of anyone who may be thinking of the Catholic Faith...be a “whisperer.” Invite them to come to our next Inquiry session, this Wednesday, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory, or you can pass a name along to me. I would be happy to whisper the invitation on your behalf! And if they can’t make this session, don’t worry. There will be more opportunity in September and throughout the year. The key is to do the asking...don’t be afraid to whisper on behalf of Jesus Christ!

Remember that our Gift of faith is a tremendous treasure...one that calls to be shared. Let us all work together to hear the whisper of God in our own hearts, and help others to hear his whispers as well.

Thanks and God bless!

Fr. John



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

Elijah recognized the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$10,191.50**.
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Monday: Dt 10:12-22; Mt 17:22-27
 Tuesday: Dt 31:1-8; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
 Wednesday: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26
 Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17; Mt 18:21 -- 19:1
 Friday: Jos 24:1-13; Mt 19:3-12
 Saturday: Jos 24:14-29; Mt 19:13-15
 Sunday: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32;
 Mt 15:21-28

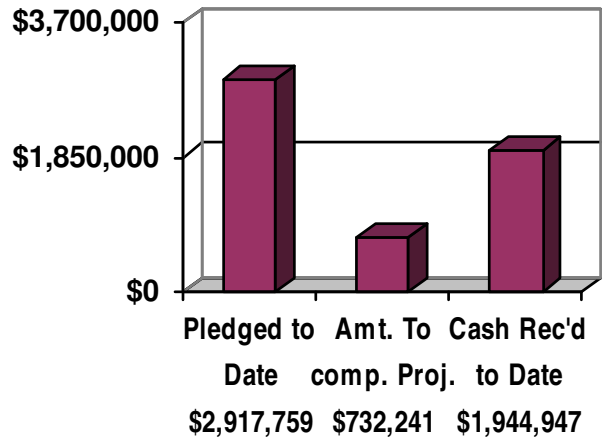
God's Image

*Nature has perfections in order to show
that she is the image of God, and
defects to show that she is only God's image.*

— Blaise Pascal



■ Campaign Progress - Phase I



Total Cost of Project: \$3,700,000

Memorial incentives. Anyone who donates \$3,000 or more will be entitled to one memorial listing, in a decorative display, to be displayed in a public location, at a future date.

The following memorials are available for substantial donations (other larger memorial naming rights have already been secured):

- Church Organ \$100,000
- Tabernacle & Marble Base 50,000
- School Classroom 50,000
- Parish Multi-Purpose Room 100,000
- Parish Conference Room 75,000
- Parish Meeting Room 50,000

If you are interested in a memorial or would like further information, please contact the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.



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The Elizabeth Ministry



Motherhood is a beautiful and blessed journey. It's not always an easy one. There was a time when women would rely on family to help them through, but today with grandparents working or miles between families, it might not be as available as it once was.

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)



St. Agnes' 6th Annual Golf Outing

*Monday, September 26, 2005
Echo Lake Country Club
Springfield Ave.,
Westfield, N.J.*



Schedule

*10:00 a.m. Registration and Brunch
12:00 PM Shotgun Start
5:00 PM Reception
6:00 PM Prize Announcement
Exciting Prizes - Raffles - 50/50
Silent Auction*

For more information or to obtain a brochure, please call the Rectory at 732-388-7852

Proceeds to help support parish and school expansion.



Coming Soon!!!

St. Agnes School Tricky Tray

Thursday, October 6th, 7:00 p.m.

The Gran Centurions

Tickets go on sale in August

Check the bulletin for information

Now accepting donations

(baskets or monetary)

Mark all donations St. Agnes School Tricky Tray

Drop off at the Rectory

For more information please contact:

Maria O'Connor (732) 882-1893



ST. AGNES SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



Volunteering is a wonderful way to share your time and skills with others. St. Agnes School is seeking volunteer counselors for its newly structured Extended Care and Enrichment Program (aftercare program). Please consider joining our dedicated staff of counselors in September. Alumni welcomed. For more information, please contact Lance Steinberg @ (732) 381-8964 or Gina Behrend @ (732) 340-9621. Thank you.



ST. AGNES SCHOOL PRE-K OPENINGS 2005-2006

Limited openings in our
Pre-K 4-Year Old Program
(Must be 4 years old by October 1st)

If you are interested, please call
732-381-0850.



Right of Christian Initiation of Adults



St. Michael's Church 40 Alden St., Cranford Will Celebrate a Week to Honor Mary with Special Rosary Services

The week between the feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, Monday, August 15th, until the feast of the Queenship of Mary, Monday, August 22nd, is a special time to honor Mary, the Mother of God.

Beginning Monday, August 15th, and every evening including Monday, August 22nd, a special Rosary Service will be conducted at 7 p.m. To show the universality of the Church and its devotion to Mary, on five of the seven evenings, the person leading the Rosary will pray in a different language with the responses being prayed in English.

All services will begin at 7PM

For more information, please call the parish office at 908-276-0360.

- *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.

New sessions are starting very soon.

Please call St. Agnes Rectory at (732) 388-2560 for further information.

Plan on attending the inquiry session on August 10th at 7:30 in the Rectory. An additional inquiry session will take place in September.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2005

5:30 Deceased Members of the Kenely Family - Beth Hampson

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2005

7:30 Thomas E. Dougherty - Rick Smith & Family
 9:00 People of the Parish
 10:30 Matthew Helminski - James & Mary Scott
 12:00 Barney Clarke, Angelina, Charles, Felice Perriello - Dolores Clarke

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2005

7:00 Gerald Eliff - Phyllis & James Eliff
 9:00 Walter & Stella Penzak - Betty Comer

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2005

7:00 Robin Helminski - Alex Ospina
 9:00 Brian Subliskey - Mom

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2005

7:00 Mike Elko - Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sorensaz
 9:00 Francis (Sonny) Brattole - Cari & Frank Cerasa

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2005

7:00 Robin Helminski - Judy & Bill Shackleton
 9:00 Sadie Lagattuta - Henry Varriano

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2005

7:00 Thanksgiving to Blessed Mother - Mary Garra
 9:00 Walter Sakowicz - Joe & Helen Suszko

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005

8:30 Memorial Mass - Elizabeth Szary, Anthony G. Pecoraro
 5:30 James J. Williams - Betty & Dom Massarelli

SUNDAY	AUGUST 7
1:30 PM Baptism	
SATURDAY	AUGUST 13
8:30 AM Memorial Mass	



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Garra during the week of August 7th.



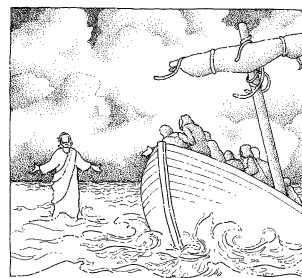
SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Ludwik Deren during the week of August 7th at the request of Anne Deren & Family.

Pro-Life



With this kind of manipulation [making "designer babies"], man makes other men his own artifacts. Man no longer originates in the mystery of love, by means of the process of conception and birth, which remains in the end mysterious, but is produced industrially, like any other product. He is made by other men. He is robbed thereby of his proper status and of his true splendor as a created being.

Pope Benedict XVI, God and the World, p. 134.



It is I; do not be afraid.

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

Joseph Orlofsky (Grandfather of Alexis),
Margaret Wood

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, George Heindel, 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., Louise Venezia, 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, Mary Scott, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Alice Bartlomiejczyk, Ronald Francisco, John Cardoso, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Barbara Steinberg, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Michael Newman, Andre Kovacs, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Richard Palumbo

Atlantic City Bus Trip**WHEN: August 18, 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: \$22.00****For reservations call:****Tony 388-2315****Joe 381-3395**

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 2 BUSES.
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**



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**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 7, 2005**

Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

– Psalm 85:12