

Back to school . . .

This is my sixth summer that I have spent in Clark. Two years ago, I was sure that I would not be coming back to St. Agnes. I was certain that my new Bishop, who was appointed in my diocese, will make me a pastor and will move me from the Seminary when we have two months summer break. It did not happen, so I am still the rector of the smallest Seminary in the center of Poland in the Diocese of Lowicz. We have only 50 seminarians and in the past year the number has gone down. Despite the number they still need a rector so this is explanation why I am still here. I am grateful for all the good experiences here at St. Agnes this time and in the past years. It was again a time of prayer, homebound visits and many others parish activities. I am glad for Fr. Jim who always treated me as a brother priest and Fr. Nuno for his serenity and for all the parishioners who always make me feel welcome when I come here. I will now share some thoughts about Clark and St. Agnes.

I am an outsider here. Even though I only come once a year, I have seen many good changes in the community. I think the parishioners here are more responsible for the parish life than the people in Poland. The people here understand and appreciate their parish and community. This is something that I wish and pray for in the future as pastor in Poland. Since 2000 I have noticed that more and more of you are involved in different ministries. I remember when I first came Fr. Jim was worried about resurfacing the parking lot. Since year 2000 I have seen many good changes in St. Agnes. Now you have a very nice, quiet and beautiful Church, the place where people like to come and pray even for a while.

Years before the renovation I remember the old air-conditioning system. One day I complained to one of the parishioners, I can't hear my voice when I am preaching because of the noise made by the broken air conditioner. I remember he told me smiling, *"Sometimes, Father, it is better to hear the broken air conditioner rather than the homily."* It was not until the second summer when I was no longer panicking when I saw the Sunday congregation and I knew I had to preach. Sometimes in the past, I was saying the homilies in English that even for myself was difficult to understand and you never complained. Thank you.

The summer is flying; we are almost coming back to school. I will also be returning to school, my Seminary in Poland, to start preparations for the new academic year. I will keep you in my prayers. In the seminary we have a lot of time to worship our Lord, so I will pray for you. I ask you to please say Hail Mary for my seminary and the future priest in my dioceses.

God Bless you,
Fr. Jacek



MEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT
September 28 - 29



Name _____
Address _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please return registration form to rectory at your earliest convenience. All participants are asked to help defray the cost for food and supplies by making a freewill offering of \$25.

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

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself – my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God – is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$10,074.00**;
Mortgage Reduction **\$4,928.00**.
Thank you.

TODAY'S READINGS

Monday: 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8; Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:9-13; Mk 6:17-29
Thursday: 1 Thes 3:7-13; Mt 24:42-51
Friday: Thes 4:1-8; Mt 25:1-13
Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11; Mt 25:14-30
Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Ps 68;
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a; Lk 14:1, 7-14

Archdiocese of Newark

SEEK THE VALUES that bring lasting joy. Share prayer, learning and fellowship in a small group setting at a parish near you. Courses run for eight weeks and include "The Old Testament and Spirituality" and "The Church: Journeying in Community." They begin the week of September 10. For information and a brochure, contact 973-497-4350 or email stantovi@rcan.org.

**VOLUNTARY COLLECTION
FOR PERU**

Archbishop Myers has authorized a special voluntary collection to be taken at parishes of the Archdiocese to aid victims of the devastation and loss of life following an earthquake and tsunami. This special collection will take place August 25/26. Thank you for your continued generous support.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF 8/20/07**

Total Pledges	\$3,282,761.92
Pledges Collected	\$3,066,559.63
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 216,202.29

Total Building Costs	\$3,830,672.97
Interest on Loan	(+) \$ 10,215.22
Pledges Collected	(-) \$3,066,559.63
Mtge. Reduction Collections	(-) \$ 94,287.27
Funds from Savings	(-) \$ 250,000.00
Remaining Debt	\$ 430,041.29

Ministerial Development Center

***Christian Foundations for Ministry Program***

*an adult formation and education program
of the Archdiocese of Newark that strives
to promote the call of all the baptized to
participate in the mission and ministry of Jesus*

Saint Agnes Parish is one of the designated sites for the CFM Archdiocesan three-year program. Courses in Old and New Testament, Sacraments, Morality and Liturgy will prepare individuals for ministry in the parish and diocese. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., September through May in the St. Lucy Filippini Room located on the lower level of the parish center. For further information, please call Sister Margaret at (732) 388-2560.



Welcome Back to a New School Year!

Saint Agnes School will open for the 2007-2008 school year on Tuesday, September 4. This day will be for faculty ONLY. **Students will report in the following manner:**

GRADES 6-8: Wednesday, September 5. **Grades K-5 do not report.** Students will assemble on the playground by 7:50 a.m. **12:00 Dismissal.**

GRADES K-5: Thursday, September 6. **Grades 6-8 do not report.** Grades 1-5 will assemble on the playground by 7:50 a.m. Kindergartners are to report directly to the classroom by 7:50 a.m. Students in grades K-3 should bring a healthy snack. **12:00 Dismissal.**

ALL STUDENTS: Friday, September 7. Grades K-8 will assemble on the playground by 7:50 a.m. Grades K-3 should bring a healthy snack. **12:00 Dismissal.**

PRE-K: Monday, September 10

GRADE K: 12:00 Dismissal, September 10-14.

STUDENTS ARE TO BE IN UNIFORM ON THE FIRST DAY THAT THEY REPORT TO SCHOOL. Summer uniforms (walking shorts and golf shirts) are permitted. **Boys and Girls ties not required until October 1.**

FULL DAY SCHEDULE will begin on Monday, September 10 for Grades 1-8. Grades 6-8 are to be in their homeroom by 8:00 a.m. They will report directly there daily.

Grades 1-5 will assemble on the playground by 7:50 a.m. **Please remember that ALL students K-8 are to be dropped off and picked up in the back of the school.**

Kindergarten will be dismissed at 12 noon from September 10-14 as previously announced. Children will assemble on the playground by 7:50 a.m.



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!



CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION NEWS

YOU'RE LATE!!

If you wish your child to continue in the Catholic Faith Formation Program (CFF), please return the re-registration form that was mailed to you in March. Classes are reaching capacity!! The number of classes, teachers, books and class lists, all need to be in place by August.

Our policy is: All children must be registered and in our system before classes begin. Your child will not be permitted to attend the first day of class, if not pre-registered. He/she will have to wait until the secretary puts them in the system. We ask your cooperation in this matter.



CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION TEACHERS NEEDED!

Due to the increasing number of students, we need teachers and substitutes. If you are a faith-filled practicing Catholic and willing to give an hour and a half of your time weekly, please call the Catholic Faith Formation Office (732)388-2560 or e-mail us at cff@stagnesparish.com

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

When we lose a loved one by death, we are wounded. Just as a wound does, we need to heal from within, to express our thoughts and feelings, even when they seem crazy. We need to recognize that "crazy is normal."

Knowing this will not lessen your grief, but it may help your healing to begin. A support group is a safe haven where we can talk, cry, share our anger, guilt, and fears with those who understand and care.

Grief, like a wound, takes time to heal. A support group is to the grieving like healing salve is to a wound; it soothes and comforts us while we heal.

We are here to offer information, to listen, to share feelings and to support one another.

St. Agnes Bereavement Support Group
starts
Thursday, September 27
for six Thursdays
at
7:30 PM

Call the Parish Office at (732) 388-7852 for more information or to register for the group.



Spiritual Book Club

Are you interested in learning more about your faith? Do you wish to refresh your memory on all the teachings you've forgotten, or to learn about the changes which have been made? Under the auspices of the book club, a group will be studying the Catechism for Adults. Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our first meeting will take place on September 10th and will be held in the St. Thomas Room, which is located on the lower level of the parish center. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at (732) 388-7852.

Coming Events

at St. Agnes, Clark

Seventh Annual Wine Tasting by Rotundo's Fine Wines & Deli, Friday, November 16th, from 7 to 10 p.m. Save the date for this popular annual fundraiser. Get into the holiday spirit and learn about wines from various vineyards. Price includes hot and cold buffet, soft background music, door prizes and holiday shopping from local artisans. See future bulletins for more information.



COMING SOON!!!

ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!

September 9th
AFTER ALL MASSES

THERESE, STORY OF A SOUL

LIVE DRAMA

Written and produced by Leonardo Defillipis.
This live one-woman performance is sponsored by the
Archdiocese of Newark Youth Retreat Center in
Kearny, NJ.

Friday, September 21, 2007 - 7:30 PM

Tickets will be available at \$8.00 per person. Youth Ministry group rates are available.

For advance ticket sales, please contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at 201-998-0088, ext. 4145.



Visit our website at www.newarkoym.org.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2007

5:30 Charles, Kathleen & Peter Memmer - Family

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2007

7:30 Gessler Family - Gessler Family

9:00 John & Ann Larwinski - Melick Family

10:30 People of the Parish

12:00 Angelo Leone - Leone Family

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2007

7:00 Mrs. Lillian Fleming - Sister

9:00 Jean Meluso - Daughter

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2007

7:00 Jeffrey McGovern - Marie Andrews

9:00 Edward Chadwick - Barbara, Carmen, Nicole & Allison Telleri

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007

7:00 Dorothy Kupka - Deborah Goodell & Son, Edward

9:00 Margaret O'Lenick - Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2007

7:00 Josephine Stefanik - Mary Rutkowski

9:00 James Sciemello - Melick Family

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2007

7:00 Teresa Hanselman - Crowley Family

9:00 Arthur Raubichaud - Bill & Carol Iden

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2007

8:30 Memorial Mass - Teresa Hanselman, W.Ed Ross & Jim Ross

5:30 Samuel & Helen Gianti - Sam & Mary Gianti

SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 1

8:30 AM Mass

9:00 AM St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Angie Plesh during the week of August 26th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Joseph Heelan during the week of August 26th at the request of Tom and Jo Evans.

**Spirit and Truth -
Come Spend Some Time with Jesus**

Spirit and Truth is a community of people in their 20's and 30's. Its mission is "to bring young adults into a relationship with Christ through worship of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, study of Church teachings and sacred scripture, and celebrations of Catholic traditions, while forming a community of life-giving relationships." We gather every Friday from 8 to 10 p.m. at St. John The Apostle Church in Linden. We gather for adoration, music and fellowship. If you are interested in deepening your faith with other young adults, as well as forming life-long relationships, please join us. For more information, see www.spiritandtruthnj.org.

Altar & Rosary Society



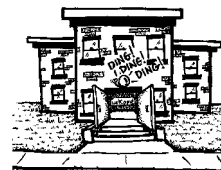
The Altar & Rosary Society will hold its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 4th at 7:30 p.m. in the Fr. Whelan Center.



SOUP KITCHEN

Volunteers will be going to St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, September 1st. Donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off at the St. Agnes kitchen Friday or before 9 a.m. Saturday morning. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.

BACK TO SCHOOL



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Have Died

Donald Catanzaro, Joseph J. Luckasz, Anna Louise Schaeffer,
Nicholas Santos Gonzalez

Those Who Are Sick

Mary Zelanko, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe & Irene Margeton, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Linda Ruth, Barbara Rygiel, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Barbara Guinta, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Louise Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Giovanna Tripicchio, Pauline Liotti, Bart Zucosky, Marie Cerone, Andy Pavelko, Dolores Acquisto, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Geraldine Disano, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Rita Corrado, 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, Jack Cogan, Genowefa Basaman, Noelia Ouimet, Jerry Vezza, William R. White, Brenda Vermeal, Angie & Anthony Plesh

DISCIPLINE

It is no accident that the words “disciple” and “discipline” are nearly identical. Their relationship in Christian faith and life, however, has fallen somewhat out of favor in the past generation, as certain prescribed Church rules and regulations have been reduced and relaxed. These rules were often referred to as “disciplines.” We are mistaken, however, to think that it no longer takes discipline to follow Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews assures us of that today. Our discipline is more like that of an athlete pursuing a victory or a personal best, or a musician striving for a concert career or to master a new piece of music. This discipline comes from desire, not from regulations. It was the desire to do the will of God that led Jesus on the path to his cross. It is that same desire he encourages in us today: to strive to enter through the narrow gate, to find ourselves in the kingdom with a surprising assortment of people who are there not because of mere observation of rules, but out of a genuine desire to recline at the table of the heavenly banquet.

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**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 26, 2007**

Strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.
Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame
may not be disjointed but healed.

– *Hebrews 12:12-13*

