

From the Pastor

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Dear Parishioners,

“Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ’s first coming to us is remembered; and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ’s second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation (*General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar*).” Is this a time of devout and joyful expectation for you?

Unfortunately, all too many people are depressed around this time of year. Our focus can gravitate toward things that we do not possess, rather than on the blessings that surround us. Our God is faithful. He fulfills his promises. Christ will come again! Will we be ready?

Let us make time to prepare spiritually for Christmas. Come to our Wednesday night Advent prayer services at 7:00 p.m. This week our school children will be conducting a Christmas Lessons & Carols Service. It is well worth this 75 minutes of joyful time together. And please mark your calendars for our Parish Reconciliation Service on Friday, December 15th, also at 7:00 p.m. After a brief communal service, priests from around the area will join your parish in celebrating individual confessions. This powerful sacrament is an excellent way to prepare spiritually for Christmas. Please join us.

Lastly, baptized Catholics are called by our Lord to be evangelizers. Please reach out and invite fallen away Catholics back to church. The Body of Christ is not complete here at St. Agnes until all parts of the body are present. Thank you.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim
Pastor



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

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$13,679.00**
Mortgage Reduction Collection **\$1,146.15.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
 Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;
 Lk 1:26-3 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings
 from the Common of the Blessed Virgin
 Mary, nos. 707-712
 Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
 Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
 Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
 Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
 Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
 Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

IMPOSSIBLE DREAMS

Peace on earth. Good will toward all. An end to hunger, violence, and poverty. Freedom from overwork. Freedom to forgive and to love. Are these the dreams you have for Christmas this year? Today's scriptures tell us they are not impossible. It is Advent, a time when we remember that God can calm the violence of our world, heal our hurting hearts, and inspire the most courageous and generous of deeds—in short, God can make seemingly impossible dreams come true.

But God will not do it without us. The sooner we start cooperating with God, the sooner the "mountains" of self-righteousness, the "gorges" of despair and complacency, and the "rough ways" of anger will be "made smooth". John the Baptist invites us to repent and "prepare the way of the Lord" within our hearts, in our families, our communities, our churches and our world.

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BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Pledges \$3,179,595.46

Pledges Collected \$2,744,647.87

Outstanding Pledges \$ 434,947.59

Total Building Costs \$3,825,000.00

Pledges Collected (-) \$2,744,647.87
Mtge. Reduction

Collections (-) 19,224.15
Funds from Savings (-) \$ 250,000.00

Remaining Debt \$ 811,127.98

*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.*

**CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS FOR
MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Saint Agnes Parish will be 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 every Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September to May in the St. Lucy Filippini Meeting Room which is located on the lower level of the new building. For further information, please call Sister Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

Prepare for Christmas . . .

*Come and join us for Advent Prayer Service every
 Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please note that the
 December 13th prayer service will include the School
 Program Lessons and Carols.*

Christmas

2006 Christmastide Liturgy Schedule

Sacrament of Penance

Friday, December 15th, 7:00 p.m.
Advent Penance Service

All Saturdays throughout the year
1:00 p.m. and after 5:30 p.m. Mass
(December 23rd, 1:00 p.m. ONLY)

Christmas Masses

Sunday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Liturgy with Children
6:00 p.m. Mass with Bells
12:00 Midnight Mass
Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
and 12 noon

New Year's Masses

Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, December 31, 2006
7:30 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
12 noon Mass

Monday, January 1, 2007

9:00 a.m. Mass

ST. AGNES SCHOOL *"Highlight Zone"*



The spirit of stewardship is very much a part of St. Agnes School. School parents volunteered their time and creativeness to run an after-school Christmas Ceramic Workshop for all the grades. All had a "jolly" good time!



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 so we know what's inside...and the decorated white angel on the tree. Please return gifts no later than Sunday, December 10th. The gifts will be directed to one orphanage in Newark and Several Sources in Bergen County, a home for young mothers who chose to have their babies and not to abort. As always, the CYO, and the groups receiving our gifts, thank you for your generosity. Bless you all! And Merry Christmas!

Elijah Cup Program



The Elijah Cup is thriving at St. Agnes Church! Many individuals and families have signed up for participation during the upcoming months. Please prayerfully consider taking the Elijah Cup into your home for one week of prayer for vocations. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry at St. Agnes, please call the rectory office at (732) 388-7852. A week that is convenient for you will be assigned. You would pick up the Elijah Cup and basket (containing prayers, aids and devotionals) at church after the mass of your choice and return the consecrated chalice and basket to the church sacristy before 5:30 pm. the following Saturday. A "special thank you" to all the parishioners who have taken the Elijah Cup into their home using it as a focal point of prayer for the increase of vocations to the priesthood, deaconate and religious life.

During the month of December, the Elijah Cup will be in the homes of the following participants:

December 3	Thomas Mercadante
December 10	Betty & Vincent Flanagan
December 17	Jolanta & Walter Borowski
December 24	Clo Malfatto
December 31	Grace Bradley

YET TO DO

One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done.
— Marie Curie

ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE



DECEMBER 9TH & 10TH
AFTER ALL MASSES

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE



The 7th grade class of St. Agnes School will have a Poinsettia sale on December 9th and 10th 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.

SIXTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTMAS GATHERING



Will be held on

*Sunday, December 10th
after the 10:30 a.m. Mass
Fr. Denis J. Whelan Center
(New addition, lower level)*

*All Religious Education Teachers
and their families are welcome*

MINISTRY CORNER

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION (CYO)



St. Agnes high school students are given the opportunity to practice spirituality and fellowship through our CYO program. Some of the many and varied activities include lock-in retreats, Living Stations of the Cross, the Advent Giving Tree Program, visits to the nursing home and the veterans home, as well as many discussion meetings about life and its many opportunities, as well as its challenges. It is through these activities that the students are encouraged to explore their hearts and minds, as they seek a deeper relationship with Christ, as well as the people they associate with and the people they serve here in the parish and in the surrounding communities.

NEW ENERGIES PARISH TRANSITION PROJECT

The Core Committee oversaw the evaluation of the Principles related to the Spiritual Life of the Parish and found that our strengths included a strong sense of Christian Stewardship, a warm and caring church community and a strong sense of spiritual and Catholic values. Our hopes for the future include working on evangelization as well as adult education and young adult ministry. If you have any comment about these, please email Bob O'Flynn at roflynn@butler.com or contact the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.

St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group

A support group for those caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at 8:00 PM in the parish center of St. Helen's Church on Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield, NJ. These are information and sharing sessions. For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (909) 233-8757. The next meeting is on Monday, January 8th.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006

5:30 John Delaney - Sports Committee

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006

7:30 People of the Parish
 9:00 James Breslin - Ted Kumor
 10:30 Eleanor Loomis - Marie Carr
 12:00 Julie McCarthy - Kelly & Tom Bowen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2006

7:00 Patricia Leonardis - Aunt Mary
 9:00 Zukowski Family - Rose & Ed Zukowski

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006

7:00 Margaret Keaveney - John & Bridie Smith
 9:00 Ruth Christensen - Marion Salvia

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006

7:00 William Joyce - Cathy Murray
 9:00 Jim Ross - Mr. & Mrs. John Ross
 7 PM Advent Service - Lessons & Carols

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2006

7:00 Ruth & George Christensen - George & Ginny Christensen
 9:00 Henry Loprete - The Shipe Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2006

7:00 Andres Holguin - Margaret Draghi
 9:00 Crescenza, Donato & Nicholas Toto - Rose & Vito Toto

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2006

8:30 Memorial Mass - William S. Murphy, Dorothy Kupka, Raul Araujo, Helen Norvitas, Betty Doran, Gaspar Minervini
 5:30 Catherine Cardillo - Michael & Sally Cardillo

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

**RETIREMENT COLLECTION
 ROSARY COOKIE SALE
 POINSETTIA SALE**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

**RETIREMENT COLLECTION
 ROSARY COOKIE SALE
 POINSETTIA SALE**

8:45 AM Religious Education
 11:30 AM Religious Education Christmas Party

MONDAY DECEMBER 11

3:30 PM Religious Education
 5:30 PM Cheerleading - Gymnasium
 6:00 PM Sandwiches - Team 1D
 7:00 PM Religious Education
 7:00 PM Scripture Sharing - St. Jude Room

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12

6:30 PM Rosary/Holy Name Christmas Party - Gran Centurions
 7:00 PM Religious Education

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols - Church
 7:30 PM RCIA - OLG Room

THURSDAY DECEMBER 14

3:30 PM Children's Choir
 7:00 PM CFM Program - St. Lucy Filippini
 7:30 PM Adult Choir

FRIDAY DECEMBER 15

9:00 AM Santa Sale - Gymnasium
 7:00 PM Advent Reconciliation Service
 7:30 PM Girl Scouts - 5th Grade Classroom

SATURDAY DECEMBER 16

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION
 8:30 AM Mass - Memorial

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

MAINTENANCE COLLECTION



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Christopher Bonner during the week of December 10th at the request of the Matteo Orlando.



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TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Zucosky during the week of December 10th.

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

Agnes G. Kiyak, Mary Jane Luise

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Mary Zelanko, Joe & Irene Margeton, Michael Dudek, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, 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, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Robert McKeon, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, MaryLou Loffa, James MacConchie, Louise Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri, Pauline Liotti, Bart Zucosky, Marie Cerone, Andy Pavelko, Richard O'Lenick, Declan Mulcahy, Jr., Dolores Acquisto, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Victor Fernandes, Sr., Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Geraldine Disano, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Mary Sciacca

PUT ON JOY

Jeremiah could see it coming—the kingship of Jesus and the restoration of Jerusalem. But was anybody listening? Is anybody listening now? It must have been tough being a prophet, but Jeremiah was persistent in his message because he knew that it needed to be heard.

Also persistent in his message is Paul as he encourages the Thessalonians—and all of us—to live in accordance with the kingship that Jeremiah foretold. He encourages us to conduct ourselves in ways of holiness so that we may be well prepared for the king's coming. Finally, Jesus himself tells us to be ever diligent so that we may gain favor before our God and King.

Jeremiah could see the kingship of Jesus coming. As we begin the season of Advent, Paul and Jesus tell us not only how to prepare for the Kingdom, but how to live it day to day.

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**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2006**

[T]ake off your robe of mourning and misery;
put on the splendor of glory from God forever.

– Baruch 5:1