

From the Pastor


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Dear Friends,

Tic-Toc! Tic-Toc! Are you ready? What's going through your mind right now? Do you feel yourself being drawn into the vortex of frantic activity, or perhaps entrapped in a procrastination cocoon? There is a way to bring a sense of normalcy to this time of year. Step off the daily roller coaster ride for 15 minutes a day and pray. Remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. If we are spiritually prepared, everything else will fall into place. Let us not be deprived of celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of the parish, I want to thank our CYO high school youth group. They do so much behind the scenes. They spearheaded our Advent Giving Tree program. They helped decorate the outside grounds with Christmas lights. I am very proud of these fine young men & women. They do so much for us, yet they do not seek credit. This is Christian humility at its best. Thank you CYO members.

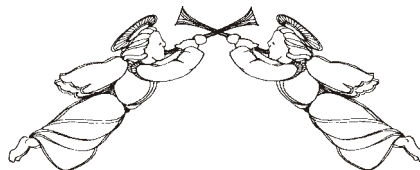
A little update on our New Energies process: The pastors and core committee members from St. Agnes, St. John's (Linden), and St. Elizabeth's (Linden) met last Monday. We have entered the dialogue stage of the process. It was a very nice experience. All communities are open to collaboration in hopes of providing better services to our parishioners. This dialogue stage will continue through the month of February. Please pray for the success of this process.

Lastly, I need to share with you some disappointing news. Kevin Daly, our church organist for the past ten years is no longer with us. Please pray for Kevin as he moves on to new horizons. Presently, we will be utilizing substitutes until we can secure a new organist.

Faithfully yours,

Fr. Jim
Pastor

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



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

Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship:
"Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none.
The man who has food should do the same."

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,546.00.**
Retirement Fund Collection **\$8,902.00.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION
WITH JESUS AND MARY**

Come join us at St. John The Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden for a New Year's Eve Celebration with Jesus and Mary! On Sunday, December 31 the celebration will begin at 9:00 p.m. with Eucharistic Adoration, Confessions, Charismatic Praise and Worship, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary. The celebration will continue with Holy Mass at 10:30 p.m. Stay for refreshments following Mass. Bring your family and friends! For directions to St. John's log onto www.sjanj.net.



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BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Pledges	\$3,179,595.46
Pledges Collected	\$2,744,647.87
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 434,947.59
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
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.*

Christmas

2006 Christmastide Liturgy Schedule

Sacrament of Penance

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"*



St. Agnes students recently had a special visitor drop in during religion class. Our very own Father Nuno surprised several grades with a lesson in religion. The students enjoyed the visit so much, they had Father Nuno promise them to come back to teach them another lesson the following week.



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, diaconate 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

HELP IS NEEDED TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS



We are in need of people to assist in decorating the Church for Christmas. Trees will be set up on Friday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m. (11:00 a.m. if there is a funeral). Poinsettias, wreaths and finishing touches will take place on Saturday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. (11:00 a.m. if there is a funeral). Thank you in advance for helping to make our Church look beautiful for the Christmas Season.

Baptisms

We wish to **WELCOME** the following who have entered into the faith community through the sacrament of Baptism:

RYAN WILLIAM BERKO

Son of Mark and Jennifer

TAYLOR JEAN NORMANN

Daughter of Matthew and Teresa

KELLY ELIZABETH O'DONNELL

Daughter of John and Heather

KEIRA ROSE THOMPSON

Daughter of Anthony and Michele



*The Elizabeth Ministry
(Ministry for Mothers)*



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.

Please call and register when you find out that you are expecting so we may pray for you and our future St. Agnes Parishioners.

Marianne English 732-382-5221
Cheryl Vargas 732-381-3822
Rectory 732-388-7852

*Advent is meant to be a time of joy and hope, but for many couples in troubled marriages, the expectations of the season will end in broken promises and disappointment. **RETROUVAILLE** ("Rediscovery") is a program of the Catholic Church designed to provide practical help and support to married couples in difficult or painful relationships. The program, offered by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, begins with a weekend experience on March 23-25, 2007. For program and fee information, please contact the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327. **RETROUVAILLE** can be a lifeline of hope and healing for the New Year.*



CHECK YOUR MAILBOX . . .



Parish Annual 50/50 Raffle books will be mailed to all parishioners. Drawing will be held on Sunday, February 11th. Our first place winner last year won close to \$6,000. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Fourth Annual Basketball Festival

The Scholarship for Inner-City Children – which provides scholarships for needy inner-city children at parochial schools – will hold its fourth annual Basketball Festival in January. The Boys Festival features St. Benedict's Prep. vs. Paterson Catholic, St. Patrick's vs. Living Faith Christian Academy and St. Anthony vs. Bergen Catholic on Saturday, January 6, 2007, starting at 12 noon at Seton Hall University in South Orange.

The Girls Festival has a triple header with Academy of the Holy Angels vs. St. Anthony, Immaculate Heart Academy vs. Mt. St. Dominic Academy, and Mother Seton vs. Paramus Catholic on Saturday, January 13, 2007 starting at 3:15 p.m. at Paramus Catholic. Call (973) 497-4279 to purchase tickets or order online at www.basketballfestival.com.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2006

5:30 Catherine Cardillo - Michael & Sally Cardillo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2006

7:30 Deceased Members of Gessler Family - Christine & Charlotte Gessler
 9:00 People of the Parish
 10:30 Stanley Stefanik - Josephine Stefanik
 12:00 Emilio Volpe - John & Anita Christiano

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2006

7:00 Carolyn & Felix Chmiel - Mary & Bart Zucosky
 9:00 Frank S. Caruso - Jeffrey & Concetta Sinoradzki

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2006

7:00 Ruth & George Christensen - Family
 9:00 John Rutkowski & Family - Mary Rutkowski

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2006

7:00 Alice Bartlomejczyk - Anne Marie Leone
 9:00 Antoinette Visconti - Husband & Children
 7 PM Advent Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2006

7:00 Emery O'Lenick - Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick
 9:00 Dewey Russo - Terry & Joe Segreto

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2006

7:00 Anne Cunha - Cathy Yurenda
 9:00 Frank Lotano - Rosalie & Paul Placenti

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2006

8:30 Memorial Mass - Mary Murphy, Rosario Guido, Arminio Loffa, Michael & Anna Petix, Helen Norvilas, Ludwik Stasko, Agnes Kiyak
 5:30 Matteo Orlando - Family

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17

8:45 AM Religious Education

MONDAY DECEMBER 18

3:30 PM Religious Education
 5:30 PM Cheerleading - Gymnasium
 6:00 PM Sandwiches - Team 2D
 7:00 PM Religious Education
 7:00 PM Scripture Sharing - St. Jude Room

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19

7:00 PM Religious Education

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

7:00 PM Advent Prayer Service
 7:30 PM Adult Choir
 7:30 PM RCIA - OLG Room

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

12:00 PM Early Dismissal - St. Agnes

FRIDAY DECEMBER 22

9:30 AM Set-Up Christmas Trees - Church

SATURDAY DECEMBER 23

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial
 9:30 AM Decorating Church for Christmas
 5:30 PM No Confession after Mass

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 CHRISTMAS EVE**

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 Noon

Christmas Eve Masses

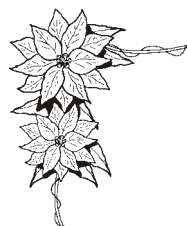
4:00 PM - Liturgy with Children
 6:00 PM - Mass with Bell Choir
 12:00 PM - Midnight Mass



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Alice & Paul Hart during the week of December 17th at the request of the Hart Family.



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Christine Gessler during the week of December 17th.



*Please note that the Rectory Office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 26th**. Wishing everyone a blessed and peaceful Christmas Season. . .*

Rectory Staff

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

Leo Schaefer, Sr., Catherine Venditto

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

CELEBRATE

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don’t have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

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**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2006**

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you have no further misfortune to fear.

– *Zephaniah 3:15b*