

Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is next Sunday. Wow! Where did the year go? We broke ground for our building project on February 27, and the rest is a blur – ha! We certainly have much to be grateful for here at St. Agnes. We are back in our newly renovated church. Our school expansion and parish meeting rooms should be completed in late spring. Our various ministries are flourishing. And the general sense of parishioner contentment is a beacon of hope in a world that can sometimes be cold and indifferent. Thank you for making St. Agnes a warm and hospitable parish.

As you are aware, next weekend we are going to be swarmed by “Christmas” and “Easter” Catholics (those who only attend Mass on major holidays). Even with our church expansion, it is not until phase II that we will be able to better accommodate the holiday crowds. Please continue to be your warm and cordial selves. Every year some parishioners inform Father John and me that they came back to church because of their experience with us on Christmas and Easter. Thank you for making St. Agnes a wonderful place to be.

Christmas this year falls on Sunday. Hooray! We do not have to live in church all week. Liturgically, this is a less tiring schedule. However, pastors have cause for concern because of the loss of a weekend collection. Increased winter heating and snow removal expenses, combined with a \$650,000 deficit for a building project heightens the concern. I’m not all that worried. Our parishioners are good stewards and I trust that our Christmas collection will be ample to cover our needs. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please make note of the following church/office schedule:

Saturday, December 24

(Parish offices will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

8:30 a.m. Advent Daily Mass

4:00 p.m. Children’s Mass (with children’s choir)
(families with small children only please)

6:00 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass (with bell choir)

11:30 p.m. Christmas Carol Service

12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass

Sunday, Christmas Day, December 25

***** **No 7:30 a.m. Mass**

9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass

10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass

12:00 p.m. Christmas Mass

Monday, December 26

(Parish Offices will be closed)

***** **No 7:00 a.m. Mass**

9:00 a.m. Daily Mass

During this week before Christmas, may we all find some quality time for prayer and reflection. Godspeed.

Fr. Jim
Pastor



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

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." – that the promise finds fulfillment.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$13,453.00.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17,
22-25;
Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14;
Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7;
Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6;
Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

PURE HEARTS

*Those whose hearts are pure are the
temples of the Holy Spirit.*

– St. Lucy



BUILDING FUND

*To complete Phase I projects,
we still need to raise –*

\$643,482.00

*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.*



**ATTENTION WOMEN OF
ST. AGNES!!**

*Drop Everything and
Come for a Quiet Holy Hour
Before Our Lord in the Tabernacle
Come Let Us Adore Him
Tuesday, December 20th at 7 PM
Leave Refreshed and at Peace . . .*



Healing Mass

"Come to Me all who are weary. . ."

Jesus wishes to heal and bless not only our bodies, but also our hearts, minds and spiritual lives. St. John The Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden, **Wednesday, December 21st** at 8:00 p.m. Individual Eucharistic Christ blessing, Exposition, and Benediction. For directions to St. John's log onto www.sjanj.net.

*"O Lord my God, I cried out to You for
help and You **healed** me."*



Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children

The Scholarship for Inner-City Children – which provides scholarships for needy inner-city children at parochial schools – will hold its third annual Basketball Festival in January. The Boys Festival features St. Anthony vs. CBA, St. Benedict's Prep vs. Paramus Catholic, and St. Peter's Prep vs. Roselle Catholic on Saturday, January 7, 2006 at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

The Girls Festival has a triple header with Academy of the Holy Angels vs. Roselle Catholic, Immaculate Heart Academy vs. Mt. St. Dominic Academy, and St. Anthony vs. Paramus Catholic on Saturday, January 14, 2006 starting at 3 p.m. at Paramus Catholic. Call (973) 497-4279 to purchase tickets or order online at www.basketballfestival.com.

*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 24-26, 2006. 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.*



St. Helen's Caregiver Support Group Westfield, NJ

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 Lambert's Mill Road in Westfield. These are information and sharing sessions. For more information, please call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 233-8757. The next meeting will take place on Monday, January 2nd. Thank you.

MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The annual bus trip to the **March for Life** in Washington, D.C. will be held on **Monday, January 23, 2006**. Cost is \$10.00. You will receive lunch and metro ticket on the bus. The day will begin with Mass at 6:15 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (118 Park Avenue in Linden), followed by light refreshments. The bus will leave the Knights parking lot at approximately 7 a.m. and return to Linden by 10 p.m. Anyone who wishes to go should call St. John the Apostle's Rectory in Linden **ASAP** at **(908) 486-6363** and ask for Marilyn. Seats are limited. Thank you.



STELLA MARRIS RETREAT CENTER
981 Ocean Ave., Elberon, NJ
(732) 229-0602

**New Year Bonus Weekend:
Reclaiming Time to Think and Pray
January 6-8, Friday 5:30 p.m. to Sunday (after dinner)
\$100.00**

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays take some quiet time apart to anticipate the new year. Reflections on meditation and practice in Christian meditation will deepen our understanding of ourselves, God, scripture, community and the world. You will experience an unhurried schedule of meditation, liturgy, and reflection. Greg Ryan is our retreat leader.

NO LONGER NEEDED

God is preparing the world to become one nation, when armies and navies will be no longer required.

– General Ulysses S. Grant



**2005 Christmastide
Liturgy Schedule**

Sacrament of Penance

*All Saturdays throughout the year
1:00 pm and after 5:30pm Mass*

Christmas Masses

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 pm Liturgy with Children (with children's choir)

6:00 pm Mass (with bell choir)

12:00 Midnight Mass

Carols begin at 11:30 p.m.

**Christmas Day: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m.
And 12 Noon**



RECYCLE!

RECYCLE!

RECYCLE!

Our collection drive is off and running for the third year. The success has been better than expected. Remember, this is a fund raiser that does not cost anything . . .

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO? Simply collect any used inkjet/laser print cartridges, copier toner containers, and cell phones from your house, from your place of business, and from your family/friends.

WHERE DO YOU BRING THEM? Any school, Religious Education day, send them to St. Agnes with your son or daughter and your child can simply drop them in the specially marked container located in the gym, next to the stage on the window side. (PLEASE REALIZE THAT WITH THE CONSTRUCTION GOING ON, THE COLLECTION BOX MAY BE RELOCATED AT ANY TIME.)

CAN YOUR COMPANY PARTICIPATE? Yes, we can also arrange for you to bring a specially marked box to your place of business and have the cartridges shipped "PREPAID UPS" directly to the recycling company. IF YOU WANT TO USE YOUR OWN BOX FOR SHIPPING, WE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH JUST THE PREPAID SHIPPING LABELS.

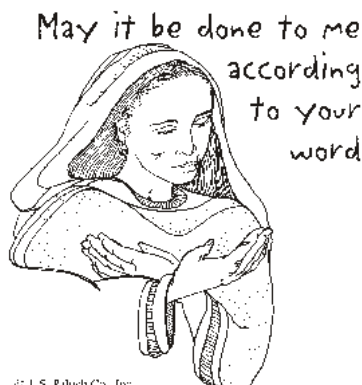
Please keep the items coming because every single one counts. Thank you for all the support. If you have any questions, please call Jeff Dattilo at (908) 486-4480 (daytime) or email jeff.dattilo@baywaylumber.com.

***A Note to
Liturgical Ministers***



The Christmas schedule has been posted in the Sunday Sacristy by the front doors of the church. There are still some open spaces. These can be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis by writing your name in the blank spaces. Thank you in advance for serving the family of faith.

*Merry Christmas,
Fr. John*



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VISIT OUR RECYCLE WEBSITE

www.stagnesschool.com/PrintCartridgeRecycle.htm

NOT TOO MUCH

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all.

– St. Paul Canisius



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005	
5:30	James P. Scott - Ronnie & Bill Duffy
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2005	
7:30	People of the Parish
9:00	Frank Caruso - Jeffrey & Concetta Sinoradzki
10:30	Catherine Cordello - Sally & Michael Cordello
12:00	Matteo Orlando - Family
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2005	
7:00	Edward Norvilas - Rick & Carol Lindemann
9:00	Robert Bellino - Maureen & John Dougherty
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2005	
7:00	Antoinette Visconti - Husband & Children
9:00	John Rutkowski & Family - Mary Rutkowski
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005	
7:00	Dewey Russo - Terry & Joe Segreto
9:00	Emery O'Lenick - Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2005	
7:00	Donald Dennisor, Sr. - Frances Bristol
9:00	Hancock & Hanselman Families - Theresa Hanselman
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2005	
7:00	James B. Clark - John Occhipinti
9:00	Walter Hurley - Bernice Hurley
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2005	
8:30	Memorial Mass - Stanley Stefanik, Richard Verrastro, Mr. & Mrs. John Quinn, Mr. & Mrs. Ostenski, Mr. Zatorski, Luis Angel Toledo, William Joseph Dougherty
4:00	People of the Parish
6:00	Pat Castellano - Mom & Dad
12 AM	People of the Parish

SATURDAY	DECEMBER 17
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 18
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	
9:00 AM	Religious Education
MONDAY	DECEMBER 19
3:30 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Sandwiches - Team 2D
7:30 PM	Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 20
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Women's Prayer Group - Church
7:30 PM	General Sports Meeting - Gym
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 21
4:30 PM	Brownies - Kindergarten
5:30 PM	Girl Scouts - 6 th Grade
7:00 PM	Advent Service
7:30 PM	Adult Choir
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 22
12:00 PM	Dismissal - Christmas Vacation
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE	
8:30 AM	Memorial Mass
4:00 PM	Children's Mass with Children's Choir
6:00 PM	Mass with Bell Choir
12:00 AM	Midnight Mass (Carols begin at 11:30)
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY	
9:00 AM	Christmas Mass
10:30 AM	Christmas Mass
12:00 PM	Christmas Mass

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Zucosky during the week of December 18th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of the Pat Castellano during the week of December 18th at the request of Mom and Dad.



BREAD & WINE will be offered in memory of Pat Castellano at the request of Mom and Dad.

PLEASE PRAY FOR**Those Who Have Died**

Leon Orshak , John Soltis, Patricia Tostaine

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, 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., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Wayne Tribble, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr.,

Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Maria Conforti, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Alice Bartlomiejczyk, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Andre Kovacs, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Florence Kempinski, Bart Zucosky, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Theresa Hanselman, Elizabeth Bell, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Mary Lou Loffa, Craig Allen, James MacConchie, Louise Venezio, William Foderaro, Michael Fedosh, Frank Bonavitacola, Sr., Thomas Wilkinson

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: January 19, 2006

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: \$23.00

For reservations call:

Tony 388-2315

Joe 381-3395

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 1 BUS.
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2005**

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

– Luke 1:35