



Dear Parishioners & Friends,

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and tomorrow is Christmas! The birth of Jesus brought hope to people walking in darkness. Wow! This awesome, omnipotent God proved his love by becoming human to show us the way to salvation. This Good News continues to brighten up our darkest days. Peace on earth is not a fantasy. It consumes one person at a time. May the birth of Jesus brighten our days and may we always walk in his light.

As I prepare to celebrate my seventh Christmas with you as pastor, I am grateful for all of our parishioners. You really are the best! I am touched by the countless sacrifices that you make for your parish community. Stewardship continues to boom with volunteerism. There are so many programs and ministries, and no one seeks the spotlight. You just humbly trot along, performing good deeds and acts of charity. The kingdom continues to be built in our little part of God's vineyard. I am confident that God is well pleased with our efforts. Thank you.

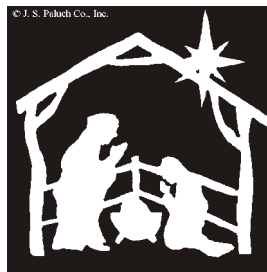
Project wise, our largest accomplishment is the completion of Phase I of our Ten-Year Plan. This included church expansion and renovation, school expansion, the creation of parish meeting rooms, and capital maintenance repairs. Once again, your sacrifices made a dream come true. A construction debt does remain. The debt is presently \$800,000 +, but after all pledges are paid, our mortgage will be half that amount.

In our last newsletter, I announced that there would be a second collection on Christmas for mortgage reduction. I have been praying for a miracle. In a spirit of Christmas charity, I am hoping that we will match last year's \$59,000 Christmas collection, and raise an additional \$50,000 for mortgage reduction. Interest payments on our loan will begin in January. Therefore, every dollar collected in our second collection will be applied to principal payment. Thank you in advance for your support. Also know that I am working feverishly to redeem pledge balances, and I am exploring ways to satisfy our mortgage obligations in a timely fashion. With your help, once this is accomplished, I will be able to put fund raising behind us. Know that I look forward to this day, but I need your support for us to arrive there. Thank you.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. May your Christmas celebration be joyous, and may your New Year be full of love, joy and peace.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim
Pastor



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

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,881.50.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 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]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28;
Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**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.

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

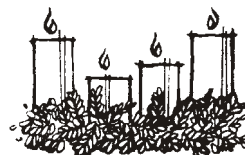
Collections (-) **19,224.15**
Funds from Savings (-) **\$ 250,000.00**

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.



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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

MINISTRY CORNER

ST, AGNES SOUP KITCHEN

“SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY
AND SHELTER THE HOMELESS POOR.”

The Prophet Isaiah

The ministry to the poor and homeless at St. Joseph Center, Elizabeth responds to the Gospel mandate to “share your bread with the hungry and shelter the homeless poor.” The Center was established in 1983 by Sr. Jacinta Fernandes, a Benedictine Sister and many dedicated volunteers. Bringing God’s love and compassion to those so often rejected by society, they follow Christ’s teaching: “What you do to one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you do to me.” (Matt. 25)

Presently the Center offers a multi-service program: food pantry, daily sandwich and fruit program, soup kitchen offering hot meals on Saturdays, helping homeless families and individuals find emergency shelter, directing toward permanent housing, health clinic services, job development and placement, counseling, children’s programs, support groups, and a clothing pantry. The St. Joseph Center is located on Division Street, Elizabeth and is open every Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to receive the poor and homeless or those in need of a meal. Volunteers from St. Agnes Parish prepare and serve a hot meal on the first Saturday of every odd numbered month throughout the year. Our volunteers have remarked very often that this ministry brings deeper meaning to their own lives.

Annulment Information Evening

An Annulment Information Evening is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2007. A canon lawyer from the Archdiocese of Newark will discuss the most recent theology, guidelines and requirements for obtaining a Church annulment. The information will be presented in terms that all can understand. A question and answer period will conclude the session. Pre-registration is not necessary. This evening of information will be held at St. Thomas The Apostle RC Church, 60 Byrd Avenue, Bloomfield at 7:30 p.m. For additional information, please call the Office of Family Life Ministries at 973-497-4327.

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.

Coming Events

at St. Agnes, Clark

Sixth Annual Super Bowl Sunday, St. Agnes Gymnasium - February 4, 2007. View the game on a 15 foot diagonal movie screen. This annual event has become a favorite tradition at St. Agnes. Ticket price will include snacks, cold buffet, soda and beer.

Boardwalk Weekend - February 9, 10, 11, 2007. Beat the winter blahs with a taste of summer. Games, prizes, food and fun for the whole family, just like at the boardwalk. See future bulletins for more information.

*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.*



ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!



**JANUARY 7, 2007
AFTER ALL MASSES**

We offer the following varieties:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Plain | Russian |
| Cinnamon/Raisin | Salt |
| Poppy Seed | Pumpernickel |
| Sesame Seed | Onion |
| Everything | Egg |
| Garlic | Wheat |

**Cost: .60 each
\$7.20 per dozen (bakers' dozen - 13 bagels)
Thank you for your support!!**

ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 2, 2007**, in the Father Whelan Center located on the lower level of the school building.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL "Highlight Zone"



CHRISTMAS is a time for reflecting on the blessings of GOD's love – a time for thankfulness and prayer . . . a time to be happy in the joy He has given us through the birth of his son, *JESUS CHRIST*.

May the peace and joy of *CHRISTMAS* be with you always.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL



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

Rectory Staff



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2006

5:30 Matteo Orlando - Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2006

7:30 Deceased Members of the Lontka Family -
Christine & Charlotte Gessler

9:00 William A. Szipszky, 11th Anniversary - Szipszky,
Bonavitacola, Seib & Genco Families

10:30 People of the Parish

12:00 Pat Castellano - Mom & Dad

4 PM People of the Parish - Children's Mass

6 PM James P. Scott - Mom & Dad

12 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2006

9:00 Walter Hurley - Bernice Hurley

10:30 Jannicelli Family - Castellano Family

12:00 John & Anna Yonco - Kosuch & Yonco Families

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2006 (One Mass Only)

9:00 Stanley Stefanik - Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hoehn

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

7:00 Salvatore DeNichilo - Sr. Claire Ouimet

9:00 Edward Florek - Dolores Memmer

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2006

7:00 Ruth & George Christensen - Faith, George, Gerard &
Marylou

9:00 Paul Hart - Hart Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2006

7:00 Andre Kovacs - Hutnick Family

9:00 Fred Gaeta - Arline & Tom Foster

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006

8:30 Memorial Mass - Dorothy Kupka, Helen Norvilas,
Michael Traschetti, James Aparo, Agnes C. Kiyak

5:30 William & Anna Kelly - William & Carol Kelly

SUNDAY**DECEMBER 24**

8:45 AM No Religious Education

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

MONDAY**DECEMBER 25****CHRISTMAS DAY****MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION**

9:00 AM Mass

10:30 AM Mass

12:00 PM Mass

TUESDAY**DECEMBER 26**

7:00 PM No Religious Education

WEDNESDAY**DECEMBER 27**

7:30 PM RCIA - OLG Room

SATURDAY**DECEMBER 30**

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of James P. Scott during the week of December 24th at the request of Mom and Dad.



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for the week of December 24th were donated in memory of William A. Szipszky at the request of Jessica Seib, Julia and Lauren Bonavitacola.

**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 roflyn@butler.com or contact the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Charlotte Gessler during the week of December 24th.

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

Margaret Rittweger

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, Lawrence Peluso, Aldo Kosuch

A NEW ORDER

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Tomorrow we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2006**

O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted.

– *Psalm 80:15-16*

