

From the Pastor

E. J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Dear Friends,

Christmas was an enjoyable marathon celebration here at St. Agnes. Christmas Eve landing on Sunday this year kept us running on our toes. I still have not recovered from the lack of sleep, but it was all worth it. Seeing families walk out of church on a “spiritual high” is worth any amount of sleep deprivation.

I am so grateful to all of the volunteers that decorated our church, the liturgical ministers, the choirs and musicians. And what can be said in appreciation for the gift of “*Mary Do You Know*” sung by Mary Ellen? I thought I died and went to heaven. All of this, coupled with faithful and caring parishioners makes us a blessed parish indeed. Thank you also for your generosity toward our Christmas and mortgage reduction collections. Little by little we keep chipping away at the construction debt.

I’m sorry to share with you some disappointing news. The Mary, Joseph and Jesus statues were stolen from our outside manger. Please pray for the person(s) who would do such a thing. May the Holy Family bless them and inspire them to atone for their sin.

Inside church, the Nativity Shrine is located in our devotional area. Some parishioners inquired as to why we did not place the shrine in the sanctuary or near the tabernacle. Church liturgical documents prohibit such placement of shrines. It is important to separate devotional shrines from prominent liturgical appointments like the altar, pulpit and tabernacle. This is why we renovated our church with a specific devotional area that conforms to proper liturgical guidelines. When the Christmas season ends, the Nativity Shrine will be removed and our devotional statues will be returned.

Please note that the Solemnity of Mary/New Year’s is not a Holy Day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday. There will be one 9:00 a.m. Mass on Monday, and all parishioners are encouraged to attend. It is still a Holy Day, but not one of obligation.

May God continue to bless you and your loved ones. Happy New Year!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim
Pastor



SOUP KITCHEN

Volunteers will be going to St. Joseph’s Soup Kitchen on Saturday, January 6th. 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.

ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 2, 2007**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Father Whelan Center located on the lower level of the school building.

STEWARDSHIP

&

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

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$10,766.00.**Christmas Collection **\$50,187.47.**Mortgage Reduction Collection **\$22,602.00.****READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
 [23, 31-34, 36, 38]
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

*Christmas Flowers***In Memory of**

John & Anna Yonco, Guisepe &
 Luigia Kosuch, Stas & Mary
 Mychlin, Deceased Members
 of Kosuch & Yonco Families

Gift of

Aldo & Gloria Kosuch

Gift of

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Loria
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bowen
 Mr. Joao De Deustorres Alves

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT****Total Pledges** \$3,203,377.46**Pledges Collected** \$2,761,155.33**Outstanding Pledges** \$ 442,222.13-----
Total Building Costs \$3,825,000.00**Pledges Collected** (-) \$2,761,155.33
Mtge. Reduction**Collections** (-) 41,826.15**Funds from Savings** (-) \$ 250,000.00**Remaining Debt** \$ 772,018.52

*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.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

It is time once again for the Anniversary Celebration of those couples in our Archdiocese who are celebrating 5, 25 and 50 years of Christian marriage in 2007. These liturgies will be celebrated by Archbishop John J. Myers and held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

25 and 5 Years (All Counties)
Sunday, March 4, 2007 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline February 23)

50 Years (Essex & Union Counties)
Sunday, March 25, 2007 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline March 16)

It is our desire that every couple in the archdiocese, deserving of such recognition, be present at the appropriate Liturgy. The presence of a large number of couples will give favorable witness to the strength and stability of Christian marriage in today's society.

Please call the rectory at 732-388-7852 to register before the deadline date. All reservations will be acknowledged by the Archdiocese. Directions to the Cathedral Basilica and a seating chart will be mailed to each couple.

MINISTRY CORNER

ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN



St. John's Soup Kitchen is located on Mulberry Street in Newark. The soup kitchen is housed in St. John's Church, but is fully funded by religious organizations, corporate companies, schools and private citizens. They feed 200 to 250 meals daily except Sunday. St. Agnes brings lunch and serves the fourth Saturday of every other month. This ministry brings so much to those less fortunate. It truly gives new meaning to the phrase "There for the grace of God go I."

Saint Agnes School Open House Reception



(Parents Only Please)
 Thursday, January 18, 2007
 7:00 PM
 Saint Agnes Gymnasium
 Clark, New Jersey

You are invited to discover the difference *Saint Agnes School* can make in your child's education

Pre-K through Eighth Grade

Saint Agnes is a caring school that embraces each student and prepares them for life, **academically and spiritually.**

At Saint Agnes we offer:

- Pre-K - Five Day AM or PM Sessions
- Middle States Accredited
 - New Computer Technology Center
 - All Certified Teachers
 - New Middle School Wing
 - Foreign Language Program
 - After-School/Care Program
 - Hot Lunch Program
 - Sports Program

R.S.V.P. St. Agnes School at (732) 381-0850



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 January, the Elijah Cup will be in the homes of the following participants:

January 7	Christine & Charlotte Gessler
January 14	Joseph Rendeiro
January 21	Sr. Peg
January 28	Karen & Rosario Cundari



Right of Christian Initiation of Adults

- *Is the Lord calling you to a closer relationship to Him?*
- *Are you interested in formally joining the Catholic faith?*
- *Do you have questions about what it means to be a Catholic?*
- *Do you know anyone who would like to be a Catholic?*
- *Are you presently an adult Catholic who has not received Eucharist or Confirmation?*

If you answered "YES" to any of these, the RCIA process is for you. Inquiry Sessions are held monthly. Our next Inquiry Session is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 4th at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Jude Room which is located on the lower level of the new building. If you need any additional information, please call Sr. Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

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



ATTENTION ALL WOMEN!!

The Saint Agnes Women's Commission will be sponsoring a Women's Mini Retreat on Saturday, February 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The retreat will take place at Saint Joseph's Convent in Roselle, N.J. The theme will be "A Lenten Journey with Mary." Sister Margaret will direct us through this prayerful experience. The cost of the retreat will be \$20.00. Lunch will be provided. Please respond as early as possible to ensure a place. The deadline is February 19th. If you are interested, fill out the bottom portion and mail with your \$20 check made out to "Cash" to:

Arlene Firestone

51 Lexington Boulevard
Clark, N.J. 07066

Any questions please call (732) 388-2560, Monday through Thursday, between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

WOMEN'S RETREAT, FEBRUARY 24TH

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2006

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2006

7:30 Dorothy McGettigan - Cheryl Frantantoni

9:00 Elsie Strobel - Carol Szipszky

10:30 Stephen Benish (PFC) - Nana

12:00 People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2007**SOLEMNITY OF MARY - ONE MASS ONLY**

9:00 Antonette Canzonieri - Mary Bove

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007

7:00 Anthony Segreto - Rick and Carol Lindemann

9:00 Carmen Mangiavillano - Jean & Mike Palumbo

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2007

7:00 Grace Olsen - The Glassman Family

9:00 Jack Amascato - Alba Lopez

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2007

7:00 Michael Pareso - Linda & John Spadafino

9:00 Gennaro Marciano - Maury & Anne Davey

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007

7:00 Mary Johnson - Peggy Phelan

9:00 Edith & Dewey Russo - Terry & Joe Segreto

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 20078:30 Memorial Mass - Betty Marcocci, Norman Marcocci, Sr.,
Teresa Hanselman, Milton Stewart, Helen Norvilas,
Joao Perreira, Francis Marzigliano

5:30 People of the Parish

SUNDAY**DECEMBER 31**

8:45 AM No Religious Education

MONDAY**JANUARY 1****SOLEMNITY OF MARY****TUESDAY****JANUARY 2****SCHOOL REOPENS**

7:00 PM No Religious Education

7:30 PM Rosary Society Meeting - Fr. Whelan Center

WEDNESDAY**JANUARY 3**

7:30 PM RCIA - OLG Room

THURSDAY**JANUARY 4**

3:30 PM Children's Choir

7:00 PM CFM Program - St. Lucy Filippini Room

7:30 PM Adult Choir

7:30 PM RCIA Inquiry - St. Jude Room

FRIDAY**JANUARY 5**

12:00 PM Early Dismissal - St. Agnes School

7:30 PM St. Agnes School Board Mtg. - St. Joseph Conf. Room

SATURDAY**JANUARY 6**

8:30 AM Mass - Marian

9:00 AM St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen



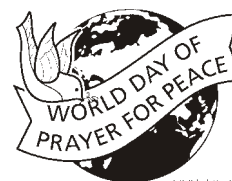
SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Christopher Bonner during the week of December 31st at the request of The Calo Family.

MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON

Join us as we stand up for life at the annual **March for Life in Washington, DC on Monday, January 22nd**. Cost is \$10 to reserve a seat. The day will begin with Mass at 6:15 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Linden followed by light refreshments. The bus will leave the Knights' parking lot at 7 a.m. and return to Linden by 10 p.m. Anyone who wishes to go should call St. John's Rectory at 908-486-6363 ASAP to reserve seating. Seating is limited.



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Peg Phelan during the week of December 31st.



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

John Reuter (Grandfather of Johnny Reuter),
Stella Kozlowski

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 Venezia, 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

FAMILY LIFE

Family life is sacred, but it is not without trial. Perhaps this is the most important message we can glean from today's readings. If Jesus, Mary and Joseph can trip up sometimes—can disconnect—then we shouldn't find it surprising when such things happen to us as well. And parents everywhere (children, too) can probably relate to—and take some solace in—the Gospel's account of Mary and Joseph after Jesus explained why he stayed behind in the temple. They heard his words, Luke tells us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" (Luke 2:50). Amen! Nevertheless, Jesus does go back home with them, and continues to thrive under their care.

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**The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph
December 31, 2006**

Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a