

ADVENT 2008

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered (December 17-24), and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time (November 30-December 16). Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.

Advent Forgiveness

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be celebrated on Monday, December 22, 2008 at 7:-00 p.m. We will join for communal prayer for forgiveness followed by individual confessing of sin to a priest.

Prayer for the Third Sunday of Advent

*Lord our God, to a world made dark by sin,
you sent Jesus who is our light and salvation.
May we create a straight path for the Lord
by our faith and service to the poor.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, whose sandal
we are unworthy to untie and whose love fills us
with hope forever and ever. Amen*

Christmas Schedule

Please join with your parish community for Christmas Liturgy:

Wednesday, December 24, 2008

*4:00 p.m. Liturgy with Children
6:00 p.m. Liturgy with Bell Choir
11:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols
Midnight Solemn Christmas Liturgy*

Thursday, December 25, 2008

9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon

Advent Charity

Following are three parish opportunities to share Advent joy with others:

The Hungry. Because of the failing economy more and more families are turning to food banks. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to the bins located in the narthex and school lobby. They will be delivered to the St. John the Apostle food bank to feed families who suffer hunger.

The Giving Tree. Please take a blue and white angel from the Giving Tree (located in the narthex), purchase the Christmas gift, wrap it and decorate the tree with the white angel. Please return your gift (under the tree) by December 14th and Santa will deliver them to children who suffer poverty.

Those Who are Cold. Many, too many, live on the street and are cold. Please drop a gift (unwrapped) to keep an adult warm: hat or gloves or scarf or earmuffs or socks or long underwear or... They will be delivered to cloth adults who suffer from the cold.

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

All of the people in today's readings—the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist—seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week **\$12,198.50**; last year **\$13,114.00**.
Thank you for your generosity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89;
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

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**New Parish Office Hours**

To better serve parishioners' needs, the Parish Office of St. Agnes Church—presently located in the rectory (the priests' residence)—is now “open for business” for many more hours:

Monday-Friday	8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

May we help you!

Bulletin Deadline:

Notices for the bulletin must be submitted to the Parish (Rectory) Office no later than 12 noon Monday for publication in the next bulletin. Please email Joanne Cancro at stagneschurch@comcast.net with your information.

Elijah Cup Program

Please prayerfully consider taking the Elijah Cup into your home for a week of prayer for vocations. It is an honor and a privilege for the laity to support this ministry. During the month of December, the Elijah Cup will be in the homes of the following parishioners:



December 7	Barbara & John Greve
December 14	Betty & Vince Flanagan
December 21	Kathy Fate
December 28	Margaret & Bill Draghi

Please call the Parish (Rectory) Office at (732) 388-7852. A week that is convenient for you will be assigned. Thank you.

**RETIREMENT FUND
FOR RELIGIOUS**

Share in the Care
www.retiredreligious.org

Religious give thanks. “Our community is continuing its recovery from Hurricane Katrina. . . Uncertainty and change have been a part of our daily lives since the storm, but your friendship and faithful support of the needs of our retired sisters remains a constant source of comfort for us,” writes the president of a New Orleans religious institute.

Please be generous in your support of today's appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious.

Baptisms

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

DYLAN JAMES BEST
Son of Jason and Lisa

GENESIS ASSIS MUNOZ
Son of David and Tamora

ISABELLA AURORA MARTINS
Daughter of Manuel and Jennifer



Celebrate the Joy of Christmas!

Come see and hear the Jersey Shore's popular; St. Peter by the Sea Orchestra conducted by the energetic must see maestro, Fr. Alphonse Stephenson, Wednesday, December 17th, 7:30 p.m., St. Theresa's Church, 541 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth. Tickets \$15, \$25, \$50. Call 908-709-1930 for your reservation. All seats are reserved for your convenience. Ample parking! Come celebrate Christmas.

***A Thank you from
St. Joseph Social Service Center***

We are very grateful to all who contributed turkeys and the trimmings as well as monetary donations for Thanksgiving. Your generosity was overwhelming! In spite of the economic crisis, we received enough donations to provide holidays meals for more than 700 households! Thank you so much for allowing God to work through you! May you be blessed for your loving compassion and concern for those in need!

Sister Jacinta Fernandes and Staff



GIFTS FOR THE GIVING TREE DUE TODAY!!

As always, the CYO and the groups receiving your gifts thank you for your continued generosity. God bless you all and Merry Christmas!

ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE



December 12th & 13th
After all Masses

ST. AGNES SPIRITUAL BOOK NOOK



**Sundays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. - St. Jude Room
(Closed Holiday weekends.)**

**Check out our expanded collection of books,
DVD's, videos and more!!**

ANGELS OF PEACE

Let us not be justices of peace, but angels of peace.
—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

“Help America’s Heroes”

St. Agnes School Student Council will be hosting a drive for “Help America’s Heroes,” a charity which puts together care packages and sends them to our troops overseas. As several parishioners are serving in our Armed Forces, we wanted to get the whole parish involved! We will be collecting the following supplies:

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Disposable razors
- Shaving cream
- Mouthwash
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Salt
- Pepper
- Pens/pencils
- Notebooks
- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer
- Letters or cards are also welcome!

Members of the Student Council will be outside the church on Sunday, December 21st after the 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon Masses to collect your donations. Thank you for your support!

Attention all Men of St. Agnes Parish!!

Wednesday, December 17th, will be our next meeting for Men’s Spirituality in the parish center.

With the season of Advent, we will begin a series entitled “Awaiting Pure Love.” Our Scripture reference will be 1st John 4:7-12. Catechism references are #51 and #52. We will consider the “Jealous Love of God” who wants to protect us from everything that may be a threat to our freedom and faith.

Meetings last for only one hour; afterwards decaf-coffee is available. Let’s aspire to inspire before we expire!!



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Inquiry Sessions are held every other month. Our next inquiry session will take place on Monday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lucy Room. For more information, please call Sr. Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

PROTECTING GOD’S CHILDREN

Protecting God’s Children is a **mandatory** training program for **all** St. Agnes Church, CFF and school employees and volunteers (18 years and older) who work with minors (those under 18 years). PGC focuses on the issue of sexual abuse and creating a safe environment for children.

To view upcoming sessions in your area, log onto www.rcan.org and click on “Protecting Our Children” and then click on “Protecting God’s Children Workshop Schedule.” At that point you can view the upcoming schedule and register.

If you have trouble registering, please contact the Parish (Rectory) Office at 732-388-7852. Thank you for your cooperation.

Marriage Encounter Announcement

“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord.” Are we taking time to put the way of the Lord in our marriage? The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is March 13-15. For more information visit our website at www.wwme.org or call/email (800) 823-5683 sylvia12@aol.com.

National Children’s Memorial Day



By Senate resolution and a bill introduced to Congress, the second Sunday in December has been set aside as National Children’s Memorial Day and Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting. The Twelfth Annual Candle Lighting will take place this year on December 14th. At 7 p.m. in every time zone, candles will be lighted in memory of all children who have died, creating a wave of light that will encircle the earth and create a virtual 24-hour memorial. The memorial candles are inexpensive and can be obtained locally. Please observe safety precautions for the lighting of candles in the home.



Mass Schedule



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2008

5:30 Henry Loprete—Daughter

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2008

7:30 Bruce Geary—Charlotte & Colette
 9:00 Flora & Charles Gibardi—Peggy & Ed Connelly
 10:30 People of the Parish
 12:00 Cosmo Macera—Mrs. Elisa Macera

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2008

7:00 Elizabeth Hauser—Maria Fuentes, Jenny Pafumi
 and Family
 9:00 Ronald Russo—Diane Alfano

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

7:00 Marion Tate—Drost Family
 9:00 Manuel Silva & Pureza Araujo—Arnaldo & Maria
 Silva

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2008

7:00 Gina Fletcher—Joanne Cancro
 9:00 Barbara Lumley—Doris & George Allen

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2008

7:00 Deceased Members of Bokenko & Morahan
 Families—Barbara & Ed Morahan
 9:00 Bartley Zucosky—Guy & Florence Paredes

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2008

5:30 Antoinette Visconti—Husband & Children

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2008

7:30 Emery O'Lenick—Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick
 9:00 Robert McKeon—Rosalie
 10:30 Dewey Russo—Terry & Joe Segreto
 12:00 People of the Parish

Angelo Martinez, the young man baptized this year at our Vigil Mass, has been deployed to Iraq. Anyone from the parish wishing to write to him or send him a care package can do so:

Sgt. Angelo J. Martinez
C CO. 2-113 INF
50TH IBCT
CAMP BUCCA, IRAQ
APO-AE 09375-0500

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13, 2008

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
ROSARY BAKE SALE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2008

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
ROSARY BAKE SALE

8:45 AM CFF Classes

7:00 PM CYO—Gym

MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 2008

3:30 PM CFF Classes

6:00 PM Sandwiches—Team 2C

6:30 PM CFF Classes

7:00 PM Scripture Sharing—OLG Room

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2008

6:30 PM CFF Classes

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2008

7:00 PM Lessons & Carols—Church

7:30 PM Men's Spirituality—Fr. Whelan Center

THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2008

3:30 PM Children's Choir—Music Ministry Office

7:30 PM Adult Choir—Music Ministry Office

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Mary Zucosky during the week of December 14th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Henry Loprete during the week of December 14th at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Iannaccone.



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for the week of December 14th were donated in memory of Henry Loprete at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Iannaccone.

HEALING MASS

A Healing Mass will take place on Wednesday, December 17th, at 7:45 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church in Clark/Linden. All who are in need of physical, emotional and spiritual healing are invited to attend. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Individual Eucharistic Blessing and Benediction will be part of the event. Participants are invited to stay for refreshments following Mass. For directions to St. John's, please access sjanj.net or call 908-486-6363.

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

Esther Korybski, Michael Denora, Carmela DeAngelis

Those Who Are Sick

Mary Zelanko, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe Margeton, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Barbara Rygiel, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiemista, Carmelina Giacobbe, Joseph Loria, Rose Gerhardt, Mariani Rocco, Dominic Preite, Marge Geist Gais, Jerry Vezza, Brenda Vermeal, Angie Plesh, Gabriella Giordano, Mary Gianti, Joao Faria, Maria Dietrick, Mark Shipe, Richard Ciccone, Joseph Fabijanczuk, Jennifer Concalves, David Shea, Joey Santillo, Josephine Kane, Sergio Ricciardi, Kevin Keating, Nicholas Maculoso, Jeanmarie Stewart, Joseph Santillo, Josephine Pipa, Neil Boyle, Jr., Alice Dowzycki, Janet Papetti, Joseph Sciacchitano, Claire Orense, Joanne Piech, James Shea, Don LaPenna, Anton Danco, Paige Hornsby, Jason Greenbush, Rita Corrado



Almighty God, Creator of the earth in which we live, help us today in our search for peaceful ways to avoid war, to eliminate terrorism and tyranny and to establish justice for peoples of all races and faiths. We pray that the billions of peace-loving people of goodwill throughout the nations, will join together in prayer and action to bring love where there is hatred, friendship where there is enmity and justice where there is oppression. May God continue to bless and watch over our men and women who make ultimate sacrifices for our freedom and democracy. Amen



**Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2008**

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:16