

## ***ADVENT, 2009***

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 29-December 16). Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.

### **Reflection on the Fourth Sunday**

#### **Healing**

*A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. Mark 1:40-42.*

This was illegal, Lord (not to mention disgusting!) Touching a leper was against the law of Moses. It would have made you unclean. Instead, your touch made him clean. So often your healing miracles were accompanied by physical touch. Disease didn't disgust you, Lord. It drew you in. When Mother Teresa invited others to join her in her ministry in the filthy streets of Calcutta, one person said, "I couldn't do what you're doing for a million dollars." She replied, "I wouldn't do it for two million dollars. I do it gladly for the love of God. Give me such grace to dig my fingers into even the filth of this world. (Advent—Love Finds a Voice in Bethlehem)

#### **Advent Forgiveness**

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be celebrated on Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. We will offer communal prayer for forgiveness followed by individual confessing of sin to a priest.

#### **Advent Charity**

*"I say to you, whatever you do for one of the least brother (or sister) of mine, you do for me." (John 25)*

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

**The Hungry.** Because of the ongoing recession and unemployment crisis 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.

**Those Who are Cold.** Many, too many, live on the street and are cold. Please drop into the large Christmas-wrapped box in the narthex 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.

**The Hungry and Homeless.** To support our parish's year-round ministries to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless, please drop your financial donations into the wrapped box located to the left of the altar.

**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 **\$10,250**; last year **\$10,893**;

**Immaculate Conception**

Last week \$2,240, last year \$1,232.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

Friday: 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]

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

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

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

**Religious give thanks.** Our parish contributed **\$5,882** to the Retirement Fund for Religious in the second collection last week. Of the support offered by this appeal, one religious writes, "We deeply appreciate this assistance. God's loving care touches us through the hearts of thousands of Catholics who give so generously to this collection year after year." Women and men religious throughout the country

**Christmas Collection**

We all know that many continue to suffer and have had to "cut back" as a result of the ongoing, world-wide recession—including their Stewardship of Treasure in the Sunday collection basket.

In the financial report printed in this bulletin, you will see that from 2008 to 2009 the Sunday collection was down 8% and the Christmas collection was down a whopping 22%.

As you decide on your Christmas gift/donation to your parish, and if you are able—please consider a boost in the amount. If we all can do a little more St. Agnes Parish can continue to do God's work in prayer and service.

**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 6

December 13

December 19

December 26

Gail & Wayne Orshak

Dee Memmer

Cecilia Cosgrove

Evelyn Maselli

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

**Dear Fellow Parishioners**

Printed in this bulletin you will find the Annual Report for fiscal year 2009. It was adopted by the Finance Council at our December 9th meeting.

While the numbers are disconcerting, we are cognizant of our responsibility to our parish and the Church. We are already addressing areas of major concern—both revenues and expenses.

If you have any questions, please address them to any one of us.

**St. Agnes Finance Council**

Diane Alfano

Father Cohan, Moderator

Frank Crowley, Chair

Mike Ford, Trustee

Dolores Memmer, Trustee

John Ryan

# Christmas

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## Schedule

Please join with your parish community  
for Christmas Liturgy:

### Thursday, December 24, 2009

4:00 p.m. Liturgy with Children  
6:00 pm. Festive Christmas Liturgy  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Praise in Song  
12:00 midnight Solemn Christmas Liturgy

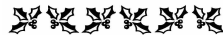
### Friday, December 25, 2009

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



### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Sunday, December 27, 2009

There will be a special blessing of families at  
all liturgies next weekend. Families are  
encouraged to attend Church together—to  
receive the blessing together.



### New Year Schedule

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Mother of God, a day of obligation  
for all Roman Catholics

### Thursday, December 31, 2009

5:30 p.m.

### Friday, January 1, 2010

9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon

## St. Agnes Youth Ministry

### Special Ticket Offer & Fundraiser

*Great Holiday Gift Idea!*



**NEW JERSEY DEVILS  
Vs. TAMPA BAY  
LIGHTNING**



Devils Knit Hat giveaway! All fans

**Get a \$56 ticket for only \$40**

*A portion of the ticket price benefits  
the St. Agnes Youth Group*

Registration forms available at the  
parish office.

If you have any questions please call

**Barbara Dietrick at 908-358-8235**  
e-mail: dietrickb@aol.com

If you need your tickets before  
Christmas, call Barbara to arrange for  
pickup. If not, all tickets will be  
available for pickup in the gym after  
all Masses during the  
weekend of January 2/3.

*Thank you for your continued support!*

## NATURE RESTORED

Christ is born, that by his birth he  
might restore your nature.

—St. Peter Chrysologus



### ST. AGNES

*"A wonderful place to be"*

#### St. Agnes Fourth Grade News

The fourth grade class will be attending a performance of "The Nutcracker" at the State Theatre in New Brunswick on December 18th. Each December, the fourth graders attend this wonderful ballet.

Last month, we visited the Miller Corey Museum in Westfield. The purpose of this trip was to enhance our Social Studies curriculum which focuses on a study of the state of New Jersey. Our class enjoyed a tour of this colonial farmhouse.

The fourth grade recently took the Terra Nova Writing Assessment which tests their writing skills. Their descriptive writing was wonderful, and we hope for excellent scores.

Our class also prepared their own Advent wreaths and learned that we wait in peace, hope, joy, and love for the birth of Jesus.

### Baptisms

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

**LAUREN MARY HUFF**  
Daughter of Patricia and James

**EMILY GRACE MILLER**  
Daughter of Michele and Michael

**ABIGAIL GRACE STOUT**  
Daughter of Jennifer and Jonathan

### 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!*

### 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 Tuesday, December 22nd after 9:00 Mass (11:00 if there is a funeral). Poinsettias, swags and finishing touches will take place on Wednesday, December 23rd after 9 a.m. Mass (11:00 if there is a funeral). Your help will make our church shine during the Christmas season.

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**Save the date!!**

**Boardwalk Weekend!!!**

**February 5-6, 2010**

### SFIC Basketball Festival

The Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Children—which provides partial tuition scholarships for economically disadvantaged children in Bergen, Essex, Hudson and Union Counties—will hold its 7th annual Basketball Festival in January.

The Boys Festival features St. Benedict's Prep vs. Our Savior New American, St. Anthony vs. NIA Prep, St. Patrick's vs. Trenton Catholic and Saint Peter's Prep vs. Hudson Catholic on Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010 starting at 12:15 p.m. at Kean University in Union.

The Girls Festival has a tripleheader with St. Anthony's vs. Benedictine Academy, Paramus Catholic vs. Mother Seton and Mt. St. Dominic Academy vs. Marist High School on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2010 starting at 3:15 p.m. at Paramus Catholic H.S.

# Mass Schedule

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2009

5:30 Loved Ones—Iannaccone Family

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009

7:30 John Anthony Bonina—The Skowronski Family

9:00 People of the Parish

10:30 Antoinette Visconti—Husband & Children

12:00 Dewey Russo—Terry & Joe Segreto

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

7:00 Joseph Latawiec—Roy & Lynne Nunes

9:00 Edward Zukowski—Kelly & Tom Bowen

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2009

7:00 W. Ed Ross—Gina & John Ross

9:00 Jim Ross—Gina & John Ross

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2009

7:00 Joseph Donofrio—Lily Donofrio

9:00 Thomas Ford—Michael & Claire Ford

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

9:00 Pat Castellano—Mom & Dad

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

4:00 James P. Scott—Ronnie & Bill Duffy

6:00 Alfred & Florence Kempinski—Mary Ellen &  
John Pyar

Mid Edward Alfano—Diane Alfano

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2009

9:00 Stanley & Josephine Stefanik—Ron & Joyce  
Hoehn

10:30 Mr. & Mrs. John A. Gerrity—Mary Beth Gerrity

12:00 Bob McKeon, Michael McKeon—Rosalie-Mom

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2009

8:30 Irvin Elms, Louise Elms, Donald Elms, Paul  
Drury, Mary Drury, Julia Drury, Chris Elms,  
Stephen Benish, Gregory Ofenleger, Jean  
Montefusco

5:30 Edward Florek—Family

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2009

7:30 Joseph Dorey—The Cundari Family

9:00 Louise Venezio—Phyllis Cupo

10:30 People of the Parish

12:00 Dorothy K. Flynn—Daniel Flynn



## SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2009

### **FOOD COLLECTION SUNDAY**

7:00 PM CYO Christmas Party—Auditorium

## MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 2009

6:00 PM Sandwiches—Team 2E

7:00 PM Scripture Sharing—OLG Room

7:30 PM Parish Reconciliation Service—Church

## TUESDAY DECEMBER 22, 2009

12:00 PM SAS Early Dismissal

## WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 23, 2009

7:00 PM Choir Practice—Church

## SATURDAY DECEMBER 26, 2009

5:30 PM Mass/Baptism

## St. John the Apostle Food Pantry

Thanks to our most generous supporters, the families of St. John the Apostle Food Pantry were able to enjoy complete Thanksgiving dinners from the turkey and trimmings baskets they received through our pantry. Over 110 turkeys and over 60 huge complete baskets were distributed, in addition to regular monthly allotments servicing over 800 clients. May we especially express our gratitude to all the anonymous donors who sent checks giving our pantry purchase power; and to all the local donors who made food collections for us, including, among others, St. Agnes, Clark parish members. A very special thank you, also, to our most dedicated pantry volunteers who worked endless hours preparing, collecting and distributing the food.

**God Bless you all!**

**TRAVELING MADONNA** Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Adele Castellano during the week of December 20th.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Pat Castellano during the week of December 20th at the request of Mom and Dad.



Devotional area flowers for the week of December 20th are in memory of Pat Castellano, a gift from Mom and Dad.



**ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for the week of December 20th were donated in memory of Pat Castellano, a gift from Mom and Dad.

*Christmas  
Blessings*

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

Maurice Power, Debra Ellis

***Those Who Are Sick***

Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe Margeton, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Mary Morelli, Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Barbara Rygiel, Henry Latch, Earl Miller, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Annette Drake, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Antonina Manto, Elizabeth Kate Chern, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, Carmelina Giacobbe, Rose Gerhardt, Mariani Rocco, Dominic Preite, Marge Geist Gais, Brenda Vermeal, Gabriella Giordano, Joao Faria, Richard Ciccone, Joseph Fabijanczuk, Jennifer Concalves, Joey Santillo, Josephine Kane, Sergio Ricciardi, Kevin Keating, Nicholas Maculoso, Joseph Santillo, Josephine Pipa, Alice Dowzycki, Janet Papetti, Claire Orense, Joanne Piech, Jason Greenbush, Rita Corrado, Richard Adamonis, Edward Nicholson, Sr., Bonnie Webb, Maria Fernanda Smith, Anthony Vitanzo, Mary Fedosh, Helen Zdaniewicz, Katherine Cantalupo, Bob Buckley, William F. Regan, Anne Tavano, Giovanna Tripicchio, Lealinda Costa, Donna Arena, Eileen Moran, Raymond Fleming, Lilla Spina, Josephine Vincenti, Marie Janowski, Michael Wisnewski, Lee Kelemen, Gail Gerard, Rosemarie & Kevin Harris, Joseph Gallagher, Anna Pannullo, Edmund Lasinski Sr., Rose Volturo, Lorraine Fakelman



*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*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2009**



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*