

ADVENT, 2010

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 a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time (November 28-December 16). Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.

Reflection on the Second Sunday

In My Weakness is Strength

I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

I have made an inner decision to keep looking at Jesus as the one who calls us to the heart of God, a heart that knows only love. It is from that perspective that I reflect on everything Jesus says, including his harsh statements. Jesus created divisions, but I have chosen to believe that these divisions were the result of his radical call to love, forgive and be reconciled. Jesus help me to bring healing and forgiveness to others.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we are Church, and so may we be just in all our transactions and faithful in doing God's will. May we also be given the courage to be true disciples in your name. May hope sustain us in our trials. Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Advent Forgiveness

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will be celebrated on Monday, December 20, 2010 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 Advent opportunities to share joy with others:

The Hungry. Because of the ongoing recession, unemployment and under-employment 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 food bank at St. John the Apostle to feed families who suffer hunger.

The Giving Tree. Please take a Christmas ornament from The Giving Tree, purchase the Christmas gift, wrap it and decorate the gift with the ornament, or place your gift bag and attach the ornament to that. Please return your gift (under the tree) by December 12th and Santa will deliver them to children who suffer poverty.

Those Who are Cold. 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, gloves, scarf, earmuffs, socks, long underwear etc. They will be delivered to clothe adults who suffer from cold.

The Hungry and Homeless. To assist 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 at the baptismal font.

STEWARDSHIP & FAITH

Time, Talent, Treasure. Putting God First?

"It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9-11 The harvest of justice is the tangible benefit we perceive when people take seriously the role of steward. Their vision becomes outer-directed toward those in need.

Your Stewardship in Treasure

11/21/10 **\$10,460**, last year **\$9,631**;

Catholic Relief Services **\$2,472**;

Last week **\$11,122**, last year **\$11,226**.

Thank you for your generosity.

THE LONG-AWAITED ONE

As the Sundays of Advent unfold the scriptures shift focus from the final coming of the Lord to his historical birth. Today's scriptures blend the two. Isaiah's disillusionment with the kings of his own day led him to envision an ideal king who would rule with divine approval and be led by divine wisdom. For centuries the Jewish people anticipated the arrival of that Messiah, who would usher in a blessed age when the whole world would finally dwell in justice and peace.

After centuries of such growing expectation, the preaching of John the Baptist about the imminent arrival of the Messiah could not help but provoke intense interest. The Baptist's message about preparation for "the one who is coming" (Matthew 3:11) makes clear that Jesus is, in fact, the long-awaited one who is ushering in the new age foretold by Isaiah and all the prophets. © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

- *Is the Lord calling you to a closer relationship with 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. The next inquiry session will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 7 p.m. in the St. Lucy Room. For further information, please call Maureen at 732-574-3011.

Here We Come a Caroling!



Attention Parishioners, Young and Old!!

Please join us on Sunday afternoon,
December 19th, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
as our parish family will share the
joy of Christmas with our homebound
members through music!

We will meet in Church at
1:00 p.m. to go Christmas
Caroling for our homebound
members, organize car pools and
hand out music sheets.

Afterwards please join us back in
the auditorium for hot chocolate
and cookies!!

Merry Christmas!

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This Wednesday, December 8th, is The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. All Roman Catholics are obligated to celebrate Eucharist: Tuesday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, December 8th, at 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.



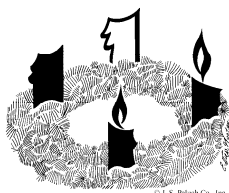
St. Agnes School Corner

How many people have a job where they know that each day they will have a smile on their face and laughter in their heart? How many people can say that their job is a source of joy and wonder, and puts them on the receiving end of countless hugs and smiles? Well, I am fortunate to be one of those lucky people! Hi! My name is Sharon DeAngelis and I am the Pre-K teacher at St. Agnes School.

I graduated from William Paterson College, now known as William Paterson University, with a BA degree in Early Childhood Education. Before teaching at St. Agnes School, I taught at Osceola Nursery School, and for a short time, in the Woodbridge School District. As a member of St. Agnes Parish, I've been active as part of the Sandwich Team and recently joined the Soup Kitchen volunteers. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, and my favorite pastimes are reading, cooking, gardening, going to the theatre, and my newest hobby, knitting.

My association with St. Agnes School began as a parent. Both of my children are graduates of St. Agnes School. As a parent, I was impressed with the warm, family atmosphere that permeates the school. The same qualities that attracted me to the school as a parent drew me to the school as a teacher. When the decision was made to add Pre-K classes to the school, I was excited to be given the opportunity to be part of such a positive and uplifting program.

St. Agnes Pre-K is now in its 10th year, and I am proud to say that it is all that we envisioned. My goal for my students is for them to develop a love for learning and a strong foundation for their future years of education. I want them to enjoy coming to school, and strive to provide them with new and exciting experiences through which they will grow and develop academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and socially. St. Agnes School is truly "A Wonderful Place to Be", and I am blessed to be part of such a dedicated and talented faculty and staff.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA SALE



The 7th grade class of St. Agnes School will have their annual Poinsettia sale on December 4th and 5th after all Masses. The poinsettias will sell for \$8.00 each. This year there will be a variety of colors. Your support is most appreciated!



Our school is participating in the Stop & Shop A+ Rewards Program. Through March 25, 2011, Saint Agnes School can earn CASH through this exciting program. See insert for more information.

FOOD CERTIFICATES

The Perfect Fund Raiser

- *No extra money out of your pocket*
- *We all need groceries each week anyway*
- *Shoprite, A&P, Foodtown, Pathmark*
- *Our personal family food shopping will strongly benefit St. Agnes Community's financial need, since 5% goes back to St. Agnes*

**PLEASE HELP US BY
PURCHASING FOOD CERTIFICATES
BEFORE OR AFTER MASS**

Thank you for your support!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION!



We're reaching out to all our friends and parishioners! An easy fundraiser for St. Agnes School! Just look for the symbol on all Betty Crocker cakes and muffin mixes, Ziploc Bags, Scott toilet paper and towels, Huggies, Welch's jams and jellies just to name a few. You can go to boxtops4education.com to print a complete list of participating products. **THIS IS A YEAR ROUND FUNDRAISER.** You can drop the tops off on weekends in the container located on the food certificate table in the auditorium, or simply bring them to the school office any day between 9 and 2.

Thank you everyone! We raised \$20 for the month of November alone!!

St. Agnes Youth Ministry

Giving Tree



Please take a Christmas ornament from the Giving Tree, purchase the Christmas gift, wrap it and decorate the gift with the ornament, or if possible place it into a gift bag and attach the ornament to that. Please return your gift (under the tree) by December 12th and Santa will deliver them to children who suffer poverty. The gifts will be directed to one orphanage in Newark, St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark and Several Sources in Bergen County, a home for young mothers who chose to have their babies and not to abort.

Thank you for your continued generosity. God bless you all and Merry Christmas!

TENTH ANNUAL CFF CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Will be held on

*Sunday, December 12th
after the 10:30 a.m. Mass*

Fr. Denis J. Whelan Center

*All CFF Teachers and their
families are invited!!*

ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

December 11th & 12th
After all Masses



BAGEL SALE

DECEMBER 5TH
AFTER ALL MASSES

Thank you for your support!



Rosary/Holy Name Societies Christmas Party

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Deutscher Club—6:30 PM

Ticket Price \$25.00

Tickets may be purchased at the
Parish Office.

Deadline for purchasing tickets is
December 6th.

Mass Schedule



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010

5:30 Michael Denora—Mom, Dad, Bryan

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010

7:30 People of the Parish

9:00 Angelo Acocella—Phyllis & James Eliff

10:30 Liam Shackleton—Grandma

12:00 Thomas Evans—The Cahill Family

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010

7:00 Joseph Lenches—Mary Collins

9:00 Sheila Summerer—Ted Kumor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010

7:00 Pasquale “Lino” Bove—Pyar Family

9:00 Jean Meluso—Daughter

7PM Vincent Moran—Rosemary Kapkowski

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

7:00 Irene Margeton—Helen Wagenhoffer

9:00 John D. Hassett, Jr.—Vincent & Betty Flanagan

12 PM Irene Margeton—Karen Crane

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010

7:00 Pasquale Bove—James Cerasa, Jr.

9:00 Michael Denora—Mom, Dad, Bryan

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010

7:00 Consolacion Surban—Sr. Claire Ouimet

9:00 Helen Kristof—Rosemary Jacobs

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2010

8:30 Mark Costa—Parents & Brothers

5:30 Armando Chavez—Zeik Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

7:30 People of the Parish

9:00 Bea Bremer—Joy Riagliano

10:30 William S. Murphy—The Matthews Family

12:00 Mark Costa—Parents & Brothers

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2010

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
BLESSING OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS
SAS POINSETTIA SALE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2010

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT
BLESSING OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS
SAS POINSETTIA SALE/ROSARY BAGEL SALE

8:45 AM CFF Classes

2:00 PM SAS Volley Ball Party—Auditorium

6:00 PM YM Movie Night—Gym

MONDAY DECEMBER 6, 2010

3:30 PM CFF Classes

6:00 PM Sports—Gym

6:30 PM CFF Classes

7:00 PM SAS Advisory Board Mtg.—St. Joseph Rm.

7:00 PM Scripture Sharing—OLG Room

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7, 2010

3:30 PM Server Training—Church

5:30 PM Luncheon Setup—Auditorium

6:30 PM CFF Classes

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2010

1:00 PM Senior Citizens' Luncheon—Auditorium

6:00 PM Sports—Gym

7:00 PM Server Training—Church

7:15 PM Golden Jubilee Meeting—St. Joseph Room

7:30 PM Men's 4th Day—OLG Room

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2010

6:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal—Church

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal—Church

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2010

6:00 PM Sports—Gym

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11, 2010

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT
RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT COLLECTION
ROSARY BAKE SALE

11:00 AM Brunch with Santa—Auditorium

TRAVELING MADONNA Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Betty Flanagan during the week of December 5th.

PRAYER LIST

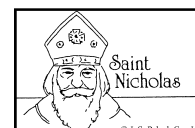
If you are aware of a relative who is on the prayer list and has returned to good health . . . no longer needing to be on the list . . . please contact the parish office at 732-388-7852. Thank you.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Henry Loprete during the week of December 5th at the request of the Iannacone Family.



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for the week of December 5th were donated in memory of Angela Decker, a gift from the Family.



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

Joseph Orenczak, Robert Lewain, Sr.,
Rose M. Tordik, Francisca Diaz

Those Who Are Sick

Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe Margeton, Noel Stevenson, Mary Morelli, Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Barbara Rygiel, Henry Latch, Earl Miller, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Elizabeth Kate Chern, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, Carmelina Giacobbe, Mariani Rocco, Marge Geist Gais, Brenda Vermeal, Gabriella Giordano, Joao Faria, Richard Ciccone, Joseph Fabijanczuk, Jennifer Concalves, Joey Santillo, Sergio Ricciardi, Kevin Keating, Nicholas Maculoso, Joseph Santillo, Josephine Pipa, Alice Dowzycki, Claire Orense, Joanne Piech, Jason Greenbush, Edward Nicholson, Sr., Bonnie Webb, Maria Fernanda Smith, Anthony Vitanzo, Mary Fedosh, Helen Zdaniewicz, Katherine Cantalupo, Bob Buckley, William F. Regan, Donna Arena, Eileen Moran, Raymond Fleming, Josephine Vincenti, Marie Janowski, Michael Wisnewski, Lee Kelemen, Gail Gerard, Rosemarie & Kevin Harris, Joseph Gallagher, Anna Pannullo, Marie Manzella, Thomas Newhard, Mark Adamonis, Christian Malmqvist, Irene Russo, Silvia Milano, Alexis Ihnken, Maria Cid, Annette Drake, Diane Alfano, Mary Tevis, Bridie Smith, Kathleen Logothetis, Sandra Palmquist, Giuseppe de Cristofaro, Vicky Tomasco, Michael Cordasco, Edward Barnes, Jr.



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

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2010**



The earth shall be filled with knowledge
Of the LORD as water covers the sea.

— Isaiah 11:9