

“So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.”

Our Gospel today concludes with a powerful line. Literally the Word is getting out! Jesus is making His presence known in preaching and in his healing ministry. What we have to remember is that Jesus is making his presence known for us too, right in our own Church. He is present in the Word, when we hear the Scriptures, and he is present in a special way in the Eucharist, His body and blood.

So if Christ is as present in our Church as he was in the synagogues of Galilee how do we respond? Clearly, we have a responsibility to help each other to feel that presence by the way we participate in mass. Singing loudly and clearly, responding with full voice and praying as one family helps us all to manifest the presence of God among us. With this in mind, the liturgy committee and I would like to offer some suggestions as to how we can better experience the presence of Christ in Church. This is a perfect time for our parish to focus on these issues. With a new worship space there is always some adjustments that need to take place...and we can always use some pointers to make the place that much more sacred. Today we begin with how we use the vestibule...

The Vestibule: a gathering place before prayer

The Vestibule (or Narthex to use the traditional Church term) is the area between the outside doors of the church and doors that lead into the worship space itself. This is an area where the rest room can be used, the ministers get ready to assist at mass, and where people can greet one another prior to entering the church to pray. You may notice that the doors into the church are generally left closed even as people are entering the church for mass. The reason for this is so that the conversation outside the church in the vestibule (or narthex), doesn't disturb the prayer of those inside the church who are preparing themselves for mass. In fact, we would encourage all people to try and remember that above all the worship space is a place of prayer, and that the vestibule and gym can be used for conversation before mass begins. Of course greeting one another and catching up is an important aspect of getting together for worship. It's just that at the same time we want to respect the silence of our brothers and sisters who are at prayer.

A second purpose for the narthex occurs during mass itself. Everyone in our parish family loves the young children who join us for the celebration of mass. Sometimes, however, there are times when the little ones start acting up and create a disturbance for those around them. When renovating the church we promised these parents a place where they can take the little tykes when they get upset so that they can still participate in mass. To accomplish this we had a small number of chairs available in the narthex. The parent has a readily available spot to take the little one. Then, once the child has quieted down, they can come back and join us in the main body of the Church. Parent and child can still participate and hear, and the space isn't so separate as to affect one's experience of Christ at mass. We do have a problem however. There are adults without any children using these seats for simply attending mass! When this happens there's no place for the parents to take their young ones. In addition, these folks minimize their own participation in mass...and their experience of the presence of Christ! Fr. Jim, the liturgy committee and myself are all greatly concerned about this. We want parents of young children to know that they are all welcome and that we have provided for their needs as we gather for Christ in word and in sacrament.

To this end we have decided to remove some of the seats that are in the vestibule. The remaining seats should be saved strictly for those who need a place to take small children when they are making too much noise. Adults without children should come into church. Even if you're a little late, the ushers will be happy to quietly point you to a seat. And this way we still provide the necessary assistance to our parents with younger children who desire to worship with the parish family. In addition, the ushers will provide additional seats for parents and children should it be necessary.

I hope that this helps us all to worship together so that we all can experience the presence of Christ. The liturgy committee will use this space in the future to address other pastoral needs that will help to celebrate mass as a family of faith so that all truly experience the presence of Christ in their hearts. God bless you all!

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

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings."

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$12,555.00.**

Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Mk 6:53-56
 Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Mk 7:1-13
 Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23
 Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30
 Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Mk 7:31-37
 Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Mk 8:1-10
 Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Ps 32;
 1 Cor 10:31 -- 11:1; Mk 1:40-45

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 2006. 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

Sunday, March 26, 2006 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline March 16th)

50 Years

Sunday, April 30, 2006 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline April 20th)

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 our society today.

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.

BUILDING FUND

***To complete Phase I projects
 we still need to raise –***

\$620,054.00

*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.*

***The Women's Commission
 of
 St. Agnes***

*invites you to a Women's Retreat at
Loyola Retreat House
 Morristown, New Jersey
 April 21-23, 2006
 Conducted by The Jesuits*

*Donation: \$150.00
 Arrival: Friday 4:00 p.m.
 Departure: Sunday after lunch
 (\$25.00 Deposit Due at
 Time of Reservation)*

***For more information please call
 Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956***

**RESERVATIONS LIMITED!
 PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER
 THAN FEBRUARY 20, 2006**





THE MASS INTENTION BOOK FOR 2007

The 2007 book for Mass Intentions will be open on **Monday, February 20th** between the hours of **9:45 a.m. & 3 p.m. in the Gym**. We will break for lunch from 12 noon - 1 p.m. The number of Mass intentions will be limited per person. In the spirit of fairness, parishioners will be limited to a total of 5 intentions. (Three weekday and 2 weekends). We appreciate your cooperation in complying with this process. After April 17, 2006, parishioners will be able to request additional intentions. In addition to Mass intentions, we will be continuing donations in memorial of loved ones for the weekly Sanctuary Lamp offering \$10.00, Altar Flowers offering \$50.00 and Altar Bread & Wine offering \$50.00. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

When we lose a loved one by death, we are wounded. Just as a wound does, we need to heal from within, to express our thoughts and feelings, even when they seem crazy. We need to recognize that "crazy is normal."

Knowing this will not lessen your grief, but it may help your healing to begin. A support group is a safe haven where we can talk, cry, share our anger, guilt, and fears with those who understand and care.

Grief, like a wound, takes time to heal. A support group is to the grieving like healing salve is to a wound; it soothes and comforts us while we heal.

We are here to offer information, to listen, to share feelings and to support one another.

St. Agnes Bereavement Support Group starts **Thursday, February 23rd for six Thursdays at 7:30 PM**

Call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852 for more information or to register for the group.

9th Annual Catholic Men's Spiritual Rally

Saturday, February 25th 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Men, set aside **Saturday, February 25, 2006** for the 9th annual **Catholic Men for Jesus Christ ~ Men's Spiritual Rally** at Christian Brothers Academy, 850 Newman Springs Road in Lincroft, NJ. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends with a 2:00 p.m. closing Mass. Speakers for the day include:

Peter Herbeck – V.P. and Director of Missions for Renewal Ministries, has been actively involved in evangelization and Catholic renewal throughout the U.S., Canada, Africa, and Eastern Europe for the past 25 years. Peter is a co-host on The Choices We Face, a frequent conference speaker and author.

Father Brendan Williams -- Pastor of St. Veronica's in Howell is a dynamic and inspiring conference speaker and evangelist.

The Main celebrant and homilist for our closing Mass will once again be our very own, beloved **Bishop John M. Smith**.

Plan to come and bring your sons, age 12 and older. Pray about inviting co-workers, family members, neighbors and friends.

Tickets cost \$25 per adult, \$5 for youth ages 12-17. Price includes coffee, donuts and lunch. Priests, deacons and seminarians are free. Please make checks payable to St. Agnes.



Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ email _____

Car-Pool to leave from

St. Agnes Parking Lot at 7:30 a.m.

Mail check and registration form to St. Agnes.

For additional information please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852

Email: StAgnesChurch@comcast.net

ST. AGNES BOARDWALK!! RETURNS TO FEBRUARY!!



**Winter blues??
Come have some fun!**

Cotton candy, games & prizes to be won!
"Dot the Clown", good food and cookies too!
Fun for everyone, hope to see you!

February 24th - 6:30 - 10:00 PM

February 25th - 6:30 - 10:00 PM

February 26th - 1:00 - 6:00 PM



*Clown Hours: Friday - 7 to 8 PM
Saturday - 7:15 to 8:15 PM
Sunday - 2:30 to 3:30 PM

**Food Specials All Weekend!
Volunteers always needed!**

**Please call Carol & Bob Bottitta at
(732) 388-5595**

**A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND!
FREE ADMISSION**

**5TH ANNUAL
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!!
TODAY
AT ST. AGNES SCHOOL
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**



**ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY BUS
TRIP**

**Ace in Hole Productions at the
Brownstone
Paterson, New Jersey**

**SHOW: GREAT BIG ST. PATTY'S
PARTY**

A fun-filled salute to the Emerald Isle
Friday: March 10, 2006
Time: Bus leaves at 10:15 AM
Returns at 4:30 PM
Amount: \$49.00 Per Person

Price includes bus transportation
1 Hour Open Bar
Entree, Dessert, Coffee, Tea
(all food served home style)
Beer and soda on all tables
Entertainment: Irish-American songs
Minstral Boys Band, Bagpipes, etc., dancing

**Six seats available.
If interested, please call Marie at 908-862-0787**



**Center for Catholic Studies at
Seton Hall University
Lecture Program:
February 27th
*Untangling Evolution***

On Monday, February 27th, at 4 p.m. in Jubilee Hall Auditorium, Seton Hall University, Stephen Barr, professor of physics at the University of Delaware, will lecture on the increasing controversy over evolution and its possible religious or anti-religious implications. Some of this controversy concerns the recent phenomenon of the "Intelligent Design Movement." The speaker will try to untangle the issues surrounding evolution. He will argue that the Catholic Church's traditional view on evolution (namely, that it is in itself a harmless idea) is the correct one. For further information, please contact 973-275-2175 or nourseda@shu.edu.

***It's Back . . .and it's a FIESTA!!
Where kids are fired up about Jesus!***

Our St. Agnes Bible Camp for 2006 will be July 24th to July 28th. If you would like to volunteer to help that week, please contact Donna Isidron at 732-499-0454 or email dmsidron@comcast.net.



*Praise
who
heals
Brokenhearted*



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006	
5:30	Pauline Sawicki - Mr. & Mrs. Chris Wernoch
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2006	
7:30	Susan Hummel - Music Ministry
9:00	Barney Clarke, Angelina, Charles & Felice Perriello, Pat Bodner & Anna Johnson - Dolores Clarke
10:30	People of the Parish
12:00	Peter Mastrogiacommo - Bill & Ann Rapp
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006	
7:00	Elizabeth Cordes - Family
9:00	Cecilia Chieco
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2006	
7:00	Rose Russo - Sr. Claire Ouimet
9:00	Kenneth Guarino - Terry & Joe Segreto
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2006	
7:00	Susan Hummel - Altar & Rosary Society
9:00	Cecilia Chieco - Marie Mega & Rose Zukowski
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006	
7:00	Anna Prociuk - Sr. Claire, Faculty & Staff
9:00	George Veiksans
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2006	
7:00	Edgar Fischbach - Kane Family
9:00	Stanley Niemczyk - The Niemczyk Family
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2006	
8:30	Memorial - Alice & Paul Hart, Frank J. Fasano, Arcangel "Lena" Amarante, Anthony G. Pecoraro
5:30	William & Anna Kelly - William & Carol Kelly

SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 4
ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKEND	
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 5
ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKEND	
ROSARY BAGEL SALE	
9:00 AM	Religious Education
1:30 PM	Baptism
5:00 PM	Super Bowl Sunday
7:00 PM	No CYO
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 6
3:30 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:30 PM	Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 7
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Liturgy Meeting - Sacristy
7:30 PM	Rosary Society - Gymnasium
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 8
7:00 PM	Confirmation Rehearsal
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 9
3:30 PM	Children's Choir
7:30 PM	Adult Choir
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 11
8:30 AM	Mass - Memorial
11:00 AM	Confirmation



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



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Verna Salk during the week of February 5th at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Plesh, Sr.



ROSARY SOCIETY

A SPECIAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH, AT 7:30 PM IN THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Have Died

May They Rest in Peace

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, Joe & Irene Margeton, Ann & Michael Dudek, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Anna Manigold, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Michael Denora, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Wayne Tribble, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Florence Kempinski, Bart Zucosky, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Theresa Hanselman, Elizabeth Bell, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Mary Lou Loffa, Craig Allen, James MacConchie, Louise Venezio, Michael Fedosh, Thomas Wilkinson, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych



Atlantic City Bus Trip

WHEN: February 16, 2006

TO: Caesar's

TIME: 11:30 AM Coffee & Buns

LEAVE: 12:30 PM From Gran Centurions
Parking Lot. Please park in back of lot.

COST: \$23.00

For reservations call:

Tony (732) 388-2315

Joe (732) 381-3395

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 1 BUS.
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 5, 2006**

[The LORD] tells the number of the
stars and calls them by name.

- Psalm 147:4