

From the Pastor

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Dear Friends,

One thing I am not going to miss about being pastor is the responsibility of fund-raising. This is my last Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) drive, until I am reappointed as a pastor some time in the future. Notwithstanding, I have to tie up loose ends to ensure that this year's AAA is a success.

In comparison to last year, pledges for the AAA are down. This is a concern, because my successor will have to guarantee the goal, and this will adversely affect the ordinary operating budget. Some parishioners have commented: "What are you worried about? We are rich!" This misperception is sure to strain operating capital.

Yes – we did sell property for \$8 million, but every penny is accounted for. \$750,000 is set aside for soil remediation. Phase II construction is going to be completed without asking parishioners for any donations. The cost of phase II construction is estimated between \$5 ½ million and \$6 million. It is also necessary to invest funds to generate annual income in order to defray the cost of operating a larger facility (without over taxing parishioners to do so). The parish finance council is counting on restricting \$2 million for this purpose. So, if you do the math you will see that we are not monetarily rich. There is a need to be good stewards as we continue to build up the Kingdom in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

I am inviting all parishioners to join us in making a pledge to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. These funds help the Archbishop to support numerous charities and provide much needed revenue to provide services to parishes throughout the Archdiocese. How much you decide to pledge is secondary to making a pledge and helping your parish support the works of the larger church in our region. Pledge cards can be found in the pews. Please fill one out and drop it in the collection basket. Or, bring it to the rectory. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jim
Pastor



February 17 is World Marriage Day. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family and the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life. Take the time today to tell your spouse how much your marriage means to you. Plan to enrich your marriage by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on July 11-13, 2008. For more information please call: 1-800-823-5683 or visit the Marriage Encounter site www.wwme.org.

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

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possession? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,921.00**;
Priest Retirement **\$2,695.00**.
Thank you.

TODAY'S READINGS

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33; 2 Tm 1:8b-10;
Mt 17:1-9

THE JOURNEY OF TRANSFIGURATION

"We used to be such good friends. How is it that you've moved so far away?" one man asked another. "Perhaps," the other replied, "you have moved away. By standing still." This exchange very well could have happened between Peter and Jesus, had Peter been allowed to erect tents to stay on the mount of the Transfiguration. He nearly succumbed to the temptation to stay in a place of wonder and light. But Jesus knew the hard truth: we are on a continual journey when we are walking the paths of God's will. It is not good for us to stay in one place on our faith journey. Equally unhealthy is staying put in times of joy and wonder to avoid life's difficulties, or to wallow in our trials and temptations and fail to be companions for our sisters and brothers who are also suffering—or celebrating! The pilgrim Church is required to do one thing on its Lenten journey: to walk continually with Christ as his Body born of water and the Spirit, seeking God's will, helping the reign of God to be known on earth, being led to the end of our journey, transfigured for all time into the company of heaven.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF 02/11/08**

Total Pledges	\$3,328,832.50
Pledges Collected	\$3,151,109.81
Outstanding Pledges	\$ 177,722.69

Total Building Costs	\$3,830,672.97
Interest on Loan	(+) \$ 19,887.27
Pledges Collected	(-) \$3,151,109.81
Mtge. Reduction Collections	(-) \$ 139,570.50
Funds from Savings	(-) \$ 250,000.00
Remaining Debt	\$ 309,879.93

**SAINT AGNES SCHOOL PRESENTS
PARENT TO PARENT . . .**

A nationally recognized video based program that empowers and enables parents. The goal of the program is to help parents develop competence, confidence, and commitment to guide their children through the adolescent years.

All sessions will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. in the St. Thomas Aquinas Room (lower level of parish center). Our next session will take place on **Tuesday, February 19: Awareness Is Your Best Friend...** Signs and symptoms of a healthy child and unhealthy child. Being aware of what is going on in your child's life.

Please RSVP for the upcoming session by calling (732) 381-0850, ext. 1. Limited seats available.

***Schools can't raise children. Parents Can.
Trained parents will.***

**Archdiocese of Newark
Anniversary Masses**



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 2, 2008 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline February 22)

50 Years
Sunday, April 13, 2008 - 3:00 PM
(Reservation Deadline April 3)

Please call the parish office at 732-388-7852 to register before the deadline date. All reservations will be acknowledged by the Archdiocese. Directions to the Cathedral Basilica will be mailed to each couple.

Lenten/Easter 2008



Stations of the Cross

February 15th & 22nd -7pm

Communal Penance Svc/Indiv.

Confessions

Friday, February 29th - 7pm

St. Joseph's Novena

March 10-18 (see weekly bulletin for further details)

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, March 7th - 7pm

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 15th Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, March 16th Masses

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am (with Procession of Palm) & 12noon

Holy Thursday, March 20th

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer Service at 10pm

Good Friday, March 21st

Seven Last Words Service - 12 Noon to 3pm

Main Service - 7:30pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus

Holy Saturday, March 22nd

Blessing of Food - 11:00am

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00pm

Easter Sunday, March 23rd

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12 noon

PALM CROSSES



The Traditional St. Agnes Palm Crosses will be made available soon. The Crosses fashioned from palm with an attractive purple bow are used to decorate grave sites and some homes. The price is \$10.00 and the crosses will be distributed the weekend before Palm Sunday (March 8/9). Anyone wishing a cross is asked to complete the form below and return to the rectory by February 22nd.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone# _____

No. of Crosses _____ Amt \$ _____

ST. AGNES CYO

PROUDLY PRESENTS:

THE LIVING



**JOIN US FOR THIS MOVING PRODUCTION ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 7, AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH.**

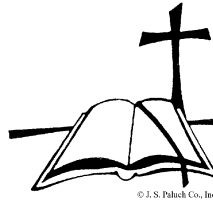
YOU ARE INVITED TO A DAY OF REFLECTION

**On the Dignity of Woman:
Reclaiming Authentic Femininity in
the Public Square**

The Women’s Commission of the Archdiocese of Newark invites you to a Day of Reflection on Saturday, March 1, 2008, at Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Avenue, South Orange, New Jersey.

Registration will open at 9:15. The Day begins with Holy Mass at 10:00 a.m., Archbishop John J. Myers, Archbishop of Newark, celebrant. Valerie Sue Muller will be the cantor. The day’s program continues with radio host, Teresa Tomeo. We will also welcome Janet Morana of the Silent No More campaign.

Registration is \$35 per person and \$25 for students, seniors and religious. The group rate (for 10 or more participants registering together) is \$15 per person. Lunch is included for all registrants. To register, please send your name, address, telephone number, email address and parish name, along with a check made out to “Women’s Commission, Archdiocese of Newark”, to Women’s Commission, Archdiocesan Center, 171 Clifton Avenue, Newark, NJ 07104-0500. For more info and directions to Seton Hall call (973) 497-4008 or visit www.rcan.org/womcom



THE MASS INTENTION BOOK FOR 2009

The 2009 Book for Mass Intentions will be open on **Monday, February 18th** between the hours of **9:45 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the gymnasium**. 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 March 24, 2008, 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, Devotional Area Flowers offering \$50.00 and Altar Bread & Wine offering \$50.00. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF THE PARISH!!

Lent is here and how are we profiting by it? Our next Men’s Spirituality Group meeting will be Wednesday, February 20th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fr. Whelan Meeting Center. Our topic in this Lenten season will be “Conversion of the Heart.”

Our Catechism reference is #1432. The Scripture reference is Romans 5:17-19. Questions for sharing will include (a) How is my conversion an ongoing process? (b) How important is “felix culpa” for me?

Coffee will be served after the meeting if you can stay a bit longer.

For more information, please call Walter Borowski at (732) 381-0586 or email at comunionsbm@yahoo.com

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

St. Agnes Bereavement Support Group will be held:

March 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24 and May 8. All sessions are held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30 PM in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Room (Lower level of Parish Center)

(Please call the Parish Office at (732) 388-7852 for more information or to register for the group.)



Save the date!!

Father Jim’s Farewell Mass and Reception

***Sunday, February 24, 2008
12 Noon***

Reception to follow in gymnasium.

All are invited.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008	
5:30	Edward Alfano - Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Capone
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2008	
7:30	People of the Parish
9:00	Paul F. Hampson & Deceased Members of the Hampson Family - Mary Beth Hampson
10:30	Ronald Francisco - Knights of Columbus, Clark Council
12:00	Pilar Rodriguez - Alda & Celita
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2008 - PRESIDENT'S DAY	
9:00	Henry Stringer - Mr. & Mrs. Richard O'Lenick
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008	
7:00	Paul & Alice Hart - Hart Family
9:00	Ronald Francisco - Roy & Lynne Nunes
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008	
7:00	Ronald Francisco - Christine & Charlotte Gessler
9:00	Ronald Francisco - Jim Liddy
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2008	
7:00	Marian Urciuoli - Annamarie Rubinetti
9:00	Anthony Segreto - Terry & Joe Segreto
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008	
7:00	Deceased Members of Bokenko & Morahan Families - Barbara & Ed Morahan
9:00	Thomas Ford - Friends at Mike Ford Agency
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2008	
8:30	Memorial - Patrick O'Donnell, Andy Pavelko, Noelia Ouimet, Mary Volpe, John D'Aloia, James Arjemi, Brian Ginarich, Sr., Joan Milinak, Mario Dicuollo
5:30	Earl Hassler - Helen Hassler

SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 16
MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION	
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 17
MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION	
NO CFF CLASSES	
7:00 PM	CYO - Church
MONDAY	FEBRUARY 18
PRESIDENT'S DAY - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	
NO SCHOOL/CFF	
6:00 PM	Sandwiches - Team 2C
TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 19
NO CFF CLASSES	
6:30 PM	Sports - Gym
7:00 PM	Parent-to-Parent - St. Thomas Room
WEDNESDAY	FEBRUARY 20
6:30 PM	Sports - Gym
7:30 PM	Men's Spirituality Meeting - Fr. Whelan Center
7:30 PM	RCIA - OLG/St. Joseph Room
THURSDAY	FEBRUARY 21
3:30 PM	No Children's Choir
6:30 PM	Sports - Gym
7:00 PM	CFM Program - St. Lucy Room
7:30 PM	Adult Choir - Music Ministry Room
7:00 PM	Protecting God's Children - Fr. Whelan Center
7:30 PM	Cornerstone Meeting - St. Joseph Room
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 22
7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross - Church
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 23
11:00 AM	Sports - Gym



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Peg Phelan during the week of February 17th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Ronald Francisco during the week of February 17th at the request of Kevin Nunes.



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for the week of February 17th were donated in memory of Ronald Francisco at the request of the Nunes Family.

IS THE BIBLE A MYSTERY TO YOU? Discover the "Big Picture" of the Bible with Jeff Cavins, Renowned Catholic Bible Teacher! March 8, 2008; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., check-in 8:30 a.m. Location: Youth and Young Adult Retreat Center, 499 Belgrove Dr., Kearny, NJ. To download a registration flyer, go to www.rcan.org/evangelization and click on Events. If you have any questions, you may contact Liliana Soto-Cabrera via email at sotolili@rcan.org or call her at (973) 497-4353.

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

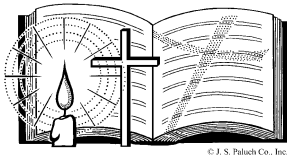
Ann Lesko, Alfred Loftus, Frank Wansea

Those Who Are Sick

Mary Zelanko, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe & Irene 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, Mary Marrin, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Hazel McGuinness, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Louise Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Giovanna Tripicchio, Marie Cerone, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Geraldine Disano, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Angela Decker, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, Carmelina & Andrew Giacobbe, Marie Farese, Joseph Loria, Rose Gerhardt, Robert & Esther Quinlivan, Mariani Rocco, Dominic Preite, Marge Geist Gais, Jerry Vezza, Brenda Vermeal, Angie & Anthony Plesh, Gabriella Giordano, Mercer Wilkinson, Mary Marciano, Mary Gianti, Joao Faria, Maria Dietrick, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Shipe, Katherine Franceski, Richard Ciccone, Nancy Reuter, Joseph Fabijanczuk, Jennifer Concalves, Maria Ficarra

Crisis Pregnancy HelpCatholic Community Services
Pat Chiarello (201) 246-7379Birthright USA International
1-800-550-4900

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



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Second Sunday of Lent
February 17, 2008

Christ Jesus . . . destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

– 2 Timothy 1:10b