
From the Pastor

St. Agnes Church, Inc.

Dear Parishioners,

A little over a year ago, I announced the possibility of entering into a partnership with Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese to develop St. Agnes Cemetery here on church grounds. Many parishioners have been asking me about the status of the project. The feasibility study is now concluded. Unfortunately, it would not be in the best interest of either party.

Andrew Schaffer, Executive Director of Catholic Cemeteries, did a splendid job of surveying the property, securing a favorable ruling from the Department of Environment Protection Agency, and preparing the preliminary plans for submission to the Township. The fly in the ointment came when all residences around the reservoir received formal notification stating that these grounds may be subject to "C1" reclassification – pertaining to the 100-year flood regulations. What does this mean? It's the difference of developing 50 feet back from the water or 300 feet. This is a big difference!

Now "*possible*" reclassification does not mean that it is guaranteed. However, it will take numerous years to develop a cemetery and the uncertainty is too high of a risk. Developing a cemetery 300 feet back from the water would drastically reduce the amount of required land and it would not meet "*best usage*" standards. I know this news is disappointing to many parishioners, but in all of our planning and building, our motto has always been - *God's will be done*. I am now working with parish leadership in exploring other possibilities for best usage options. Please keep us in your prayers.

As you may know, Catholic Cemeteries has graciously extended to St. Agnes Church a loan for our phase I financing. Our agreement secured interest free funds as long as we were proceeding forward with cemetery development. Now that our partnership is terminated, St. Agnes agreed to pay 5.25% interest on the balance of funds owed. These are the terms of our agreement with Catholic Cemeteries, and I am grateful for their generosity and graciousness.

We are now well over three years into our capital campaign, and we are trying to redeem outstanding pledges. I would like to ask parishioners with pledge balances if you could possibly fulfill your obligation in the foreseeable near future? In the event that someone's financial situation has changed, please contact me and I will adjust your pledge accordingly. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and sacrificed so much to make Phase I a reality. God Bless you all!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jim
Pastor

***EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WITH
MUSIC, PRAYER, AND REFLECTIONS ON THE HOLY WORD***

FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA

PREACHER TO THE PAPAL HOUSEHOLD

FEBRUARY 21, 2007, ASH WEDNESDAY EVENING

DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 PM

EVENING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM

WALSH GYMNASIUM - SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

SEATING IS LIMITED

CALL FOR REGISTRATION (973) 378-2600

A GOOD WILL OFFERING WILL BE COLLECTED

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

Today's Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards – "Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you." What encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted to our care!

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,321.00.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday: Dt 26:4-10; Ps 91; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13

Spiritual Book Club

The Spiritual Book Club will meet on Monday, February 26th, at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Joseph Conference Room to discuss The Holy Longing by Ronald Rolheiser as well as future books and meetings. All are welcome to attend.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

**St. Agnes Bereavement Support Group
begins
Thursday, February 22nd
for six Consecutive Thursdays at 7:30 PM**
(Please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852 for more information or to register for the group.)

BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Pledges **\$3,217,969.13**

Pledges Collected **\$2,837,528.69**

Outstanding Pledges **\$ 380,440.14**

Total Building Costs **\$3,825,000.00**

Pledges Collected **(-) \$2,837,528.69**
Mtge. Reduction

Collections **(-) 49,066.15**

Funds from Savings **(-) \$ 250,000.00**

Remaining Debt **\$ 688,405.16**

*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.*

New Energies Parish Transition Project

The Core Committee has been meeting with the cluster parishes to do some joint planning to look at models for working together. The models presented by the Archdiocesan Task Force on Parishes include merging parishes, where two or more parishes become one; linking parishes, where two or more parishes share a pastor; and partnership parishes where two or more parishes share programs and sometimes staff.

Archdiocese of Newark

***Special Collection - Priests' Retirement Fund
Ash Wednesday, February 21, 2007***

On Ash Wednesday, February 21, we will have a special collection at all Masses to support the Archdiocesan Priest's Retirement Fund. Archbishop Myers has authorized this collection as a way to ensure that this program, which provides a modest retirement benefit to priests who have served the Archdiocese faithfully for many decades, will continue to have adequate resources to meet the needs in the years ahead as more priests become eligible to retire from active ministry. The people of St. Agnes are always generous, and we thank you for your support of this special collection.



THE MASS INTENTION BOOK FOR 2008

The 2008 book for Mass Intentions will be open on **Monday, February 19th** between the hours of **9:45 a.m. & 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 April 9, 2007, 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.

**SAINT AGNES PRESENTS:
ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SEMINARS**

One remaining session . . .

Hot Potatoes: Q & A Session **Feb. 27**
(A panel of qualified church representatives will address questions from a Catholic perspective)

Panelists: Rev. Joe Chapel, obtained a Doctorate from Rome in Moral Theology and is the Assoc. Dean at Immaculate Conception Seminary at SHU.

Rev. Doug Milewski, Doctorate from Rome in History of Early Church. Professor at SHU and Immaculate Conception Seminary at SHU

Rev. William Sheridan, Masters from SHU in Systematic Theology and Parochial Vicar at Church of the Immaculate Heart

All seminars are on Tuesdays and will start sharply at 7:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. The location for our seminars will be in the St. Thomas Aquinas Room in the parish center. Should attendance warrant a larger meeting space, we will meet in the Father Whelan Center. Please R.S.V.P. by calling the rectory at (732) 388-7852.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

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 24/25). Anyone wishing a cross is asked to complete the form below and return to the rectory by March 16th.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone# _____

No. of Crosses _____ Amt \$ _____



**St. Agnes
50/50 Raffle Winners**

The winners of the 50/50 Raffle were:

1st Place - \$5,810.00 - 35%
Lee Kelemen

2nd Place - \$1,660.00 - 10%
Ronald Jotz

3rd Place - \$830.00 - 5%
A. Sasala

Congratulations to all of our winners!
Thank you to all parishioners who participated in our annual 50/50.



ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

A great opportunity for spiritual enrichment is to participate in our annual St. Joseph Novena. The Novena begins March 10th and ends on March 19th with Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph at 7:00 p.m. The guest speakers and topics for the Novena are as follows:

| | | | |
|------|------|---|-----------------------|
| 3/10 | 5:30 | Joseph Most Chaste (incorporated into Vigil Mass) | Msgr. Jim Choma |
| 3/11 | 7pm | Sedulous Defender of Christ | Fr. Jim Manos |
| 3/12 | 7pm | Head of the Holy Family | Bishop C. McDonnell |
| 3/13 | 7pm | Joseph Most Prudent | Fr. Beau Ardouin |
| 3/14 | 7pm | Consolation of the Afflicted | Fr. John Paladino |
| 3/15 | 7pm | Protector of the Holy Church | Bishop Art Serratelli |
| 3/16 | 7pm | Joseph Most Just | Sr. Rose McDermott |
| 3/17 | 5:30 | Model of Workers (incorporated into Vigil Mass) | Fr. Nuno Rocha |
| 3/18 | 7pm | Mirror of Patience (Collection & Social last night of Novena) | Msgr. Owen Hendry |
| 3/19 | 7pm | St. Joseph Mass | Fr. Nuno Rocha |

Plan to be with us each evening and make this a Lenten Devotion for yourself.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL
"Highlight Zone"


During Catholic School's week, the Surf Light Theater, based on Long Beach Island, New Jersey, treated the middle school to a performance entitled *Project America*. Through song, monologues and dramatic interpretation, the show highlighted many of our national holidays, explaining their purpose and inception. The commemoration of the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., was included in the program, with a moving recitation of King's *I Have a Dream* speech. The program was very well received by our students. During the question and answer session, the members of Mrs. Bokalo's Fifth Grade class, stood and together recited Dr. King's speech. The actors were so awed, that some were moved to tears. They were impressed not only that the children were AWARE of the speech, but that the speech had been committed to memory. Way to go, Fifth Grade!

Lenten/Easter 2007**Ash Wednesday, February 21st**

7:00am, 9:00am Mass, 3:30pm Service, 7pm Mass

Stations of the Cross

Friday, February 23rd, March 2nd & 23rd - 7pm

Communal Penance Svc/Indiv. Confessions

Friday, March 9th - 7pm

St. Joseph's Novena

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

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, March 30th - 7pm

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 31st Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, April 1st Masses

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

Holy Thursday, April 5h

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

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

Good Friday, April 6th

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, April 7th

Blessing of Food - 11:00am

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 8th Masses

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

Archdiocese of Newark – 2007 Lenten Regulations

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

† On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

† On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation. The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 25, 2007, to the**

Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 31, 2007. * Canon 920, §1.

Mass Schedule



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2007

5:30 Anthony Segreto - Henry Varriano

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2007

7:30 People of the Parish
 9:00 Marion Snyder - George Snyder & Rita Corrado
 10:30 Paul F. Hampson & Deceased Members of Hampson Family - Mary Beth Hampson
 12:00 Rocco Mufrio - Angela

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2007

PRESIDENTS' DAY - ONE MASS ONLY

9:00 Angelo Leone - Leone Family

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2007

7:00 Frances Giglio - St. Agnes Rosary Society
 9:00 Anthony Segreto - Jo & Charles Vincenti

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007-ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 Nunzio DePasquale - Antoinette Bucca
 9:00 Stella Delasey - Kay Franceski
 3:30 PM Service with Ashes
 7:00 PM Anthony Ciacone - Wife

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2007

7:00 Leona Dougherty - Dougherty Family
 9:00 Anthony Segreto - Joe & Helen Suszko

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007

7:00 Cecilia Smentkowski - Katherine Lachowski
 9:00 Eleanor Renkiewicz - Rita Corrado

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007

8:30 Memorial Mass - Florence McEnroe, Mary Gawrych, Stella Kozlowski, Robert McKeon, Judith Curzi, Carmelia Murphy, Margaret Caruso, John Gawlik, Marion Salvia, George Sterinsky
 5:30 Earl Hassler - Helen Hassler

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17

MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18

MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION

8:45 AM No Religious Education
 7:00 PM CYO

MONDAY FEBRUARY 19

**PRESIDENTS' DAY
 NO SCHOOL - RECTORY OFFICE CLOSED**

9:30 AM Opening of 2008 Mass Book - Gymnasium
 3:30 PM No Religious Education
 7:00 PM No Religious Education

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20

5:30 PM Cheerleading - Gymnasium
 6:30 PM Sandwiches - Team 2A
 7:00 PM No Religious Education

WEDNESDAY ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21

PRIESTS' RETIREMENT COLLECTION

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22

3:30 PM Children's Choir
 7:00 PM CFM Program - St. Lucy Filippini Room
 7:30 PM Adult Choir
 7:30 PM Bereavement - OLG Room
 7:30 PM Marketing - St. Jude Room

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
 7:30 PM Girl Scouts - 5th Grade Classroom

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial
 9:00 AM St. Agnes Women's Commission Mini Retreat

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Doris Allen during the week of February 18th.

DESTROYING ONE'S ENEMIES

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?
 - Abraham Lincoln



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Anthony Segreto during the week of February 18th at the request of Terry & Joe Segr eto.



Segr

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

Elsa Ferreira, Doris Freer, Richard Stalker, Michael Dudek

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Mary Zelanko, Joe & Irene Margeton, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Michael Denora, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Linda Ruth, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, MaryLou Loffa, Louise Venezia, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri, Pauline Liotti, Bart Zucosky, Marie Cerone, Andy Pavelko, Richard O'Lenick, Declan Mulcahy, Jr., Dolores Acquisto, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Victor Fernandes, Sr., Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Geraldine Disano, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Lawrence Peluso, Aldo Kosuch, Rita Corrado, Angela Decker, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, William Feury

**DO NO HARM**

We listen quite a while before we get to the “punch line” of the first reading today: even though it would be an easy thing to do, David will not harm the anointed one of the Lord. We, of course, know that Jesus is the Messiah, the anointed one of God, but the Bible uses this term for many different people. It is scripture’s way of indicating who has been chosen by God for a special place and mission in salvation history.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus presents a greatly enlarged list of those who, as children of God, we should not harm, but love instead: our enemies, those who curse us or do us harm, those who owe us money, the ungrateful, the wicked. The point of Jesus’ teaching is not to encourage these kinds of behaviors in others, but rather to form us in the image of our heavenly Father by increasing our opportunities to love unconditionally, expecting no return; to be merciful and forgiving, even when it would be easier not to.

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**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 18, 2007**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

– Psalm 103:8