

## From the Pastor

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Dear Parishioners,

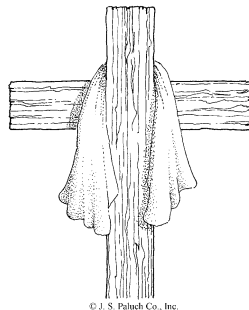
Lent commenced this past week on Ash Wednesday. Lent is the forty-day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. It is a special time for grace and conversion. God constantly searches for us and our restless hearts seek Him. Unfortunately, too often our sin masks and frustrates our deepest desire for union with God.

Know that God loves unconditionally. Know that God is waiting for us, like the father in the parable of the *Prodigal Son*. Do we have the courage to turn away from our sinfulness and humbly travel down that isolated road that leads back home to the Father? You will not be sorry if you do.

Let us be faithful in our attendance at Sunday Mass, and daily if possible. Let us make time for the Sacrament of Confession. Let us enhance our devotional life by coming to the St. Joseph's Novena and Stations of the Cross. Let us be more charitable, not only with money, but also with our time. Let us make time for meditation before the Blessed Sacrament in church and in the privacy of our homes. Make an attempt; exercise the commitment; and watch the miracles. It's never too late to get back on track in relationship with God.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jim  
Pastor



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### ***Right of Christian Initiation of Adults***

- *Is the Lord calling you to a closer relationship to 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. Inquiry Sessions are held monthly. Our next Inquiry Session is scheduled to take place on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Jude Room which is located on the lower level of the new building. If you need any additional information, please call Sr. Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

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

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

Your Stewardship in Treasure  
last week was **\$10,874.00**;  
Mortgage Reduction Collection **\$6,531.00**.  
Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

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 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27;  
 Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

**Spiritual Book Club**

The Spiritual Book Club will meet on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**SOUP KITCHEN**

Volunteers will be going to St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, March 3rd. Donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off at the St. Agnes kitchen Friday or before 9 a.m. Saturday morning. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT  
AS OF 2/20/07**

<b>Total Pledges</b>	<b>\$3,271,387.13</b>
<b>Pledges Collected</b>	<b>\$2,889,258.65</b>
<b>Outstanding Pledges</b>	<b>\$ 382,128.48</b>
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<b>Total Building Costs</b>	<b>\$3,825,000.00</b>
<b>Pledges Collected</b>	(-) <b>\$2,889,258.65</b>
<b>Mtge. Reduction</b>	
<b>Collections</b>	(-) <b>55,597.15</b>
<b>Funds from Savings</b>	(-) <b>\$ 250,000.00</b>
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<b>Remaining Debt</b>	<b>\$ 630,144.20</b>

*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.*

**CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS FOR  
MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Saint Agnes Parish will be one of the designated sites for the CFM Archdiocesan three-year program. Courses in Old and New Testament, Sacraments, Morality and Liturgy will prepare individuals for ministry in the parish and diocese. Classes will be held every Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September to May in the St. Lucy Filippini Meeting Room which is located on the lower level of the new building. For further information, please call Sister Margaret at (732) 388-2560.



## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## VOCATIONS AWARENESS DINNER

**Hosted by,**  
*His Grace, The Most Reverend*  
**John J. Myers**  
*And the Vocations Office*

**Wednesday, March 14, 2007**  
**6:15 - 8:30 p.m.**

All Pastors within the Archdiocese are asked to invite any young men in their Junior or Senior year of High School, who are open to discerning a priestly vocation, to attend a special dinner.

**Evening Prayer - 6:15 p.m.**  
*Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart*

**Dinner - 6:45 p.m.**  
*Residence of the Cathedral*

**Closing - 8:30 p.m.**  
*Reverend Brian G. Plate, Director of Vocations*

Any young man interested in attending should contact the rectory office at (732) 388-7852.

## ***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.



## ***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 March, the Elijah Cup will be in the homes of the following parishioners:

March 4	Rosane Barreiro
March 11	Bill Budkin
March 18	Joe & Agnes Fusco
March 25	Michele & Gary Cislo

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

## **MOTHER SETON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO SPONSOR GIFT AUCTION**

Mother Seton Regional High School will sponsor a Gift Auction on Friday evening, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. General admission is \$10.00. Advanced sale tickets at \$8.00 may be purchased at the school office any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No one under 18 is permitted. Thank you for your continued support.

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

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

**SAINT AGNES SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

**Sunday, March 18, 2007**  
**After all Masses in the Gymnasium**

You are invited to discover the difference Saint Agnes School can make in your child's education

**Pre-K through Eighth Grade**

Saint Agnes is a caring school that embraces each student and prepares them for life, academically and spiritually.

**At Saint Agnes School we offer:**

Pre-K - Five Day AM or PM Sessions  
Middle States Accredited • New Computer Tech Center  
New Middle School Wing • Foreign Language Program  
After-School/Care Program  
Hot Lunch Program • Sports Program

**School tours will be available after the 7:30, 10:30 and the 12:00PM Mass**

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

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

**Stations of the Cross**

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - 7pm

**Communal Penance Svc/Indiv. Confessions**

Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> - 7pm

**St. Joseph's Novena**

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

**Living Stations of the Cross - CYO**

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - 7pm

**Palm Sunday**

Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Masses

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

**Holy Thursday, April 5th**

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.



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2007**

5:30 Earl Hassler - Helen Hassler

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2007**

7:30 Anne Dudek - Harold & Ann Cox  
 9:00 People of the Parish  
 10:30 Cecilia Smentkowski - Joseph & Claire Kiempesty  
 12:00 Barney Clarke, Angelina, Charles & Felice Perriello,  
 Pat Bodner and Anna Johnson - Dolores Clarke

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007**

7:00 Louis Tavormina - Sr. Claire Ouimet  
 9:00 John Babbitt - The Cancro Family

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2007**

7:00 Jim Ross - Mr. & Mrs. John Ross  
 9:00 Antoinette Visconti - Family

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007**

7:00 Tony Bonnanno - Ivio Bevacqua  
 9:00 John Taylor Babbitt - Peggy Phelan

**THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2007**

7:00 Elinor Bello - Peter Francis  
 9:00 Alfred Barilla - Lucy & Peter Koscica

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2007**

7:00 Bokenko & Morahan Families - Barbara & Ed Morahan  
 9:00 Stanley Stefanik - Josephine Stefanik

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2007**

8:30 Memorial Mass - Teresa Hanselman, Robert McKeon,  
 Joseph Renda, Christopher Koscica, Helen Koscica,  
 Rosaria Barilla & Vincent Barilla, Alfred Barilla,  
 William Gesell, Mike Spesak, Norman Slater  
 5:30 Pasquale Saracino - Donna Saracino

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25**

8:45 AM Religious Education  
 7:00 PM CYO

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 26**

3:30 PM Religious Education  
 5:30 PM Cheerleading - Gymnasium  
 7:00 PM Religious Education  
 7:00 PM Scripture Sharing - St. Jude Room  
 7:00 PM Spiritual Book Club - St. Joseph Conference Room

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 27**

7:00 PM Religious Education  
 7:00 PM Adult Religious Education Seminar - Fr. Whelan Ctr.

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 28**

7:30 PM RCIA - OLG Room

**THURSDAY MARCH 1**

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

**FRIDAY MARCH 2**

12:00 PM Dismissal - St. Agnes School  
 7:00 PM Stations of the Cross  
 7:30 PM School Board Meeting - St. Joseph Conference Room

**SATURDAY MARCH 3**

8:30 AM Mass - Marian  
 9:00 AM St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen  
 9:30 AM Ministers' Day



**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Louise Venezio during the week of February 25th.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Matthew Monetti during the week of February 25<sup>th</sup> at the request of the Family.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL**  
 "Highlight Zone"

St. Agnes School is proud to announce that \*six of the 21 students applying to Catholic high schools have been offered a total of \$30,300 in ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS. All 21 students have been accepted to schools of their choice. They have applied to: Bishop George Ahr, Edison; \*Mother Seton Regional, Clark; \*Roselle Catholic, Roselle; St. Benedict Preparatory, Newark; \*Saint Joseph, Metuchen; St. Mary of Assumption, Elizabeth; St. Peter's Preparatory, Jersey City; Seton Hall Preparatory, West Orange; and Union Catholic, Scotch Plains. Congratulations!

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

Joseph Bonanno, Ronald Francisco, Thomas Ford

***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 Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri, Pauline Liotti, Bart Zucosky, Marie Cerone, Andy Pavelko, 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, Carmelina & Andrew Giacobbe

**JESUS AND THE DEVIL**

The devil tempted Jesus by quoting scripture, as today's Gospel reminds us. Try a self-serving miracle. Try selling out. Try dazzling the audience; people are gullible, after all. Try all these easy ways. The tempter tries to urge Jesus onto the slippery slope, attempts the old soft-soap, the snake-oil solutions that are always readily at hand. The devil knows better, but is powerless to do better, much less be better. The devil is evil personified, who senses in Jesus the stronger, truly attractive presence of holiness.

Evil is exposed and engaged, we are reminded in this Sunday's Gospel. Evil knows the jig is up. The undoing of lies begins with Jesus, who takes up the work of soul-healing and world-healing. This Lent, the Church invites us to enter into this renewing, re-creative work and be made whole again.

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**First Sunday of Lent  
February 25, 2007**

The word is near you,  
in your mouth and in your heart.

— *Romans 10:8*

