

“This is the time of Fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the Gospel.”

The Gospel today reminds us of the need to respond to call of the Lord now. Too often we allow worldly concerns to take priority over the call of God who loves and cares for us. The idea of responding to the Lord is particularly appropriate for us in St. Agnes this weekend, as January 21st is her feast day. A patronal feast is important in the life of a parish community. Think how much the intercessory prayer of St. Agnes must have helped us in the past year, especially in light of the renovation of the Church and the continuing construction work happening for the parish community. In our Church the colors of the St. Agnes window shine down on all of us as we gather for mass, reminding us of her example in shining the light of Christ...and encouraging us to do the same!

St. Agnes' story is one of a young woman in the earliest centuries of our Church, an innocent girl of thirteen who responded to the call of belief in the Gospel. She did so by consecrating herself to Christ. This, of course, angered her many suitors in Rome, who were attracted to her beauty and wealth. In their frustrations they informed the governor of Rome of her belief in Christ and she was martyred around the year 304 A.D.

St. Agnes offers us so much in her life story. She is an example of staying steadfast in the Lord, of remaining strong in the faith despite the laws and politics of the world in which she lived.

One way in which we can honor our patronal feast and respond to the call of Christ in the Gospel today is to take some time for prayer this week, especially on behalf of life issues. Monday, January 23rd marks the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision, which legalized abortion in our country. Recently, two executions by lethal injection were performed in California. And in addition this past week, the Supreme Court supported an Oregon state law, which allows for physician-assisted suicide. In all of these cases life is seen as a commodity, as something which can be regulated with simple decisions, instead of as something holy and sacred. Obviously we need to support those who are pregnant in difficult circumstances. We must hold the guilty accountable. And we are obliged to do all we can to relieve the suffering of those who struggle with terminal illness. But to do so by simply ending life is not a solution, but only compounds the loss of what should be held as sacred in society. While we already gathered as a parish with a holy hour for life this past Friday, why not take some personal time for quiet prayer and reflection on life issues. What better way to honor our Patron, a young and innocent girl who suffered for her faith?

One final thing to note: You or someone you know may be in a place where they can't let go of the guilt of a performed abortion. You or someone you know may be caring for someone with a terminal illness. You or someone you know may have been a victim of violence and seeking justice. If for any reason you experience difficulty over the Church's stand on any pro-life issue, please come and talk to one of your priests. I promise you the discussion will be centered on the loving presence of Christ in such difficult circumstances. Know that such conversations would be held in complete confidence.

May God bless you and yours with His presence and peace. St. Agnes, pray for us!

- Fr. John

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

There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples – Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately*, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me – at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$9,761.00.**

Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30,
or any readings from the Mass "For Peace
and Justice," nos. 887-891

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35;
Mk 1:21-28

2006**Archbishop's Annual Appeal*****"It Is In Giving That We Receive"***

Your contribution to the 2006 Archbishop's Annual Appeal makes a difference in the lives of so many in our community. Funds raised through the appeal help to educate children in our inner-city Catholic schools, serve the spiritual needs of people at parishes located in poor neighborhoods, and assist Catholic Charities in running its programs, which help the poor overcome the many obstacles in life. In addition, the appeal assists with seminarian and priest retirement costs.

Please consider making a generous gift on Pledge Weekend - February 4th and 5th.

BUILDING FUND

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

\$628,136.00

*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***

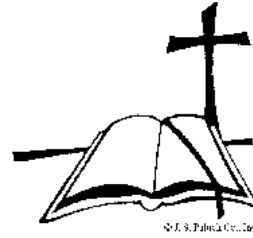
**RESERVATIONS LIMITED!
PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER
THAN FEBRUARY 20, 2006**





BLESSING OF THROATS

On the Feast of St. Blaise, Friday, February 3rd, throats will be blessed *during* the 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. masses and at a 7:00 p.m. prayer service.



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.

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.

Congratulations!!!



*To The Honorable Robert J. Mega
(son of Mike and Marie Mega)
who was appointed
Judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey*

Spiritual Journey for Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities Through Faith To Action

"With A Little Child To Lead Them"
- Isaiah 11:6

Issues for discussion:

Sharing of experience/and use of strategies to develop resilience in mothers and children.

Faith/support through Scripture

Feelings of loss

Practical, active, and creative responses

Date: January through June on the fourth Thursday of each month beginning January 26, 2006

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Place: Founders Hall
Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church
28 Livingston Ave., Roseland, NJ

For more information/registration please contact Cherie at 973-752-9209. Babysitting provided.

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**



Right of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our next Inquiry Session is scheduled to take place on Thursday, January 26th at 7:30 p.m. in the teachers' lounge. If you would like additional information, please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.



COUNTDOWN TO OUR 5TH ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!!

**AT ST. AGNES SCHOOL ON
FEBRUARY 5, 2006
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM**

**VIEW THE GAME ON A 15 FT.
DIAGONAL MOVIE SCREEN**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS:
17 AND OVER: \$12.00
UNDER 17: \$8.00**

**PRICE INCLUDES: SNACKS, COLD BUFFET,
SODA, BEER**

**FOR TICKET INFO CALL
BOB BOTTITTA @ 732-388-5595**



ST. AGNES SCHOOL SPORTS FUNDRAISER



**SPAGHETTI DINNER
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2006
6:30 to 9:00 PM
ADULTS: \$10.00
Children: \$7.00**

Includes spaghetti, salad, bread,
soda, coffee and dessert

*St. Agnes Sports program is fully independent
of the school and relies on funds raised by its members.*

For ticket or additional information, please
contact David Broadwell at (908) 403-2860

Proceeds to benefit St. Agnes Sports Program



SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2006

5:30 Paul Hart - Hart Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2006

7:30 People of the Parish
9:00 Deceased Priests of the World - Bernice Hurley
10:30 Thomas Foster - Arline & Tom Foster
12:00 Andrew J. Youchock - Family

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2006

7:00 Lucy Robertazzi - Rosary Society
9:00 Anthony Ciarlone - Wife

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

7:00 Gerald Thurston - Janet McCann
9:00 Kenneth Guarino - Marian & Joseph Heelan

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

7:00 George Finger - Terry & Joe Segreto
9:00 William Kelemen - Wife, Livia

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2006

7:00 Lucy Kozlik - Janet McCann
9:00 Manuel Dios - Marian & Joseph Heelan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

7:00 John Delaney - Thomas Mercadante
9:00 Sonny Grazio - Frank & Nancy Rombardo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2006

8:30 Memorial - Corona Soncuya, Margaret Firestone,
Ruth Christensen
5:30 Carol Mandrona - Tom & Kelly Bowen

SUNDAY

JANUARY 22

9:00 AM Religious Education
7:00 PM CYO

MONDAY

JANUARY 23

3:30 PM Religious Education
7:00 PM Religious Education
7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

TUESDAY

JANUARY 24

7:00 PM Religious Education

THURSDAY

JANUARY 26

7:30 PM RCIA Inquiry - Teachers' Lounge
7:30 PM Adult Choir

SATURDAY

JANUARY 28

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial
9:00 AM St. John's Soup Kitchen
6:30 PM St. Agnes Sports Spaghetti Dinner - Gymnasium

SUNDAY

JANUARY 29

10:30 AM Mass - Celebration of Catholic Schools Week



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Peggy Phelan during the week of January 22th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Rose Marie Sieminski during the week of January 22nd at the request of Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Plesh, Sr.



SOUP KITCHEN

Volunteers will be going to St. John's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, January 28th. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.

Atlantic City Bus Trip

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Have Died

Andre Kovacs

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, Maria Conforti, 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 Venezia, Michael Fedosh, Thomas Wilkinson, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych

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.**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 22, 2006**

The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.

- Mark 1:15

