



A favorite adage of mine is: "I make plans and God laughs." It's my favorite because I have realized it so many times. Just when I think my path is obvious, I foolishly start to feel settled, and make plans. Meanwhile, up in Heaven, God (and I'm sure several if not all of the Angels), start laughing and I find myself being gently steered into a different direction, which in hindsight makes all the more sense. Such was the situation two years ago. I was in a groove. Michael was well entrenched in school. I was continuing to enjoy my ministry with St. Agnes, I volunteered for a few programs in my town and the ways ahead seemed obvious. No detours, no construction, stay the course. (That sound you hear is God laughing.) Out of the blue, Mr. Cassel was no longer able to maintain his position as our school Music Teacher and the opportunity to take over the job was offered to me. Me? Where was that on the agenda, the map, the GPS system?

Well, while I don't always begin on the right road, I know a detour when I see one, in my heart I knew that this was a gift. So I nervously accepted the challenge, and am now enjoying my second year on the faculty of the school as the Music Teacher. This means teaching the pre-K through Eighth Grade music, directing the bell choir, the Choraliers, the lessons and carols, spring show, facilitating the middle school retreat, and running an eighth grade public speaking workshop – all the while working with wonderful teachers and staff to bring the word of God to your children.

As a member of the Parish Staff, I always believed our Middle States Accredited School was one of quality, but my personal exposure was peripheral at best. Now, in the "trenches" day by day, I am keenly aware of that and so much more. The teachers in our school love our children. We hold them to high standards not only academically, but spiritually as well. A recent Family Circus comic had little Billy with his hands folded and head looking heavenward while sitting at his school desk. The caption read: "There will always be prayer in schools as long as there are tests." (Last year, one wide-eyed first grader asked me if I ever got nervous singing in church. My response was: "Zachary, do you ever get nervous praying?" He answered no. "Me neither," I replied, and I went on to explain that singing in church is simply prayer.)

While our children may be moved to pray before a test, they are also encouraged and taught to pray all the time. And that's the beauty of our Catholic education. God's presence is welcomed in the classroom! We can bring God into any subject and WE DO! Recently, the seventh grade and I were discussing slavery, as it is presented in the musical 1776. Naturally we began talking about how does slavery happen, leading to a lively conversation about the economics of slavery, the African American spiritual and its use in liturgy as well as the slavery of the Israelites in Egypt.

If your "GPS" is directing you to look for a path that leads to a wonderful academic opportunity for your child, if you want to reinforce the spiritual values you are teaching at home, I confidently urge you to consider St. Agnes School. Join us at the Open House on Tuesday, January 29, 2008, from 9:30 until 10:30 and see all that we have to offer: Quality academics, spirituality, love of your child – the things you value most. (And the music program is pretty darn good as well!!)

Mary Ellen Theel
Director of Music



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

As watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond *immediately* to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$11,030.50;**

Mortgage Reduction **\$5,233.00.**

Thank you.

TODAY'S READINGS

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Mk 3:22-30
 Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
 Saturday: Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18;
 Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]
 Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146; 1 Cor 1:26-31;
 Mt 5:1-12a

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF 01/22/08**

Total Pledges \$3,300,990.96

Pledges Collected \$3,123,213.27

Outstanding Pledges \$ 177,777.69

Total Building Costs \$3,830,672.97

Interest on Loan (+) \$ 19,887.27

Pledges Collected (-) \$3,123,213.27

**Mtge. Reduction
Collections (-) \$ 139,570.50**

Funds from Savings (-) \$ 250,000.00

Remaining Debt \$ 337,776.47

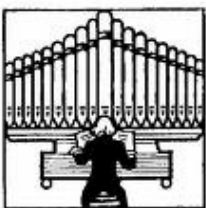


Thank you to everyone who participated in our Ministry Fair – those who represented ministries as well as those who came to visit. As we just celebrated the Feast of Saint Agnes, it is apparent how much our parish is blessed. Please remember to return your Stewardship Renewal forms by the weekend of February 2/3.

HEART

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

– John Bunyan

**SPECIAL FAMILY ORGAN PROGRAM**

Next week, on Sunday, February 3, at 4:00 PM, Prospect Presbyterian Church, 646 Prospect Street, Maplewood, is delighted to be hosting a concert by our own organist, Cj

Sambach. Heralded as the modern day Pied Piper, Cj has earned a national reputation as a performer who wins friends to the pipe organ, and is especially interested in reaching our youth. In his varied and exciting concert program, Cj will display the many different sound colors of the organ with captivating music. **MARK** the date! Bring your families, friends, and neighbors. **EVERYONE** will enjoy this fascinating program. For more information, stop by after Mass and speak to Cj.

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.



COUNTDOWN TO OUR 7TH ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!!!

FEBRUARY 3, 2008 - ST. AGNES GYM
DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM

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

17 AND OVER: \$14.00
UNDER 17: \$9.00

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

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

St Agnes School is seeking a part-time registered nurse to work on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:15 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (9-1/2 hours per week). Anyone interested should call the school office at (732) 381-0850.

A note from Fr. Dominic Ciriaco, OSFS. . . .

Hello Friends of St. Agnes and greetings from Wilmington, Delaware. As many of you may remember when I was at St. Agnes Parish, I had a great love and devotion to the saints. I used to write the "Saint Spotlight" column that used to appear in the weekly bulletin. I recently wrote and published a book on the saints entitled: "*Witnesses to the Gospel: Reflections on Saints and Others who Inspire,*" by Authorhouse Publications. If you are interested in purchasing the book, it can be obtained the following ways: Ordered at www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com, or by calling 1-888-280-7715. The cost of the book is \$14.95. St. Agnes continues to be in my prayers. God bless!

50/50 Raffle Books

Please return all raffles books (purchased or un-purchased) to the Parish Office by Friday, February 8th. Thank you.

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 BOARDWALK 2008!!

Come join the fun!

Cotton candy, games & prizes to be won!
"Dot the Clown", food, pastries and tattoos!!!
Something for everyone, hope to see you!

Saturday, February 9th - 6:30 - 9:30 PM
Sunday, February 10th - 1:00 - 6:00 PM



***Clown Hours:**

Saturday - 7:30 to 8:30 PM
Sunday - 2:00 to 4:00 PM

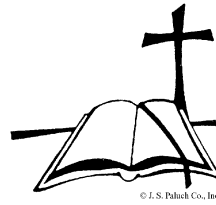
Homemade hot dogs, pizza & pierogies!!



Raffle baskets too!! (Nintendo Wii)

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

A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND!
FREE ADMISSION



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 WOMEN OF THE PARISH

Tuesday, January 29, 2008
6:45 to 7:45 p.m. in the church

Please join us for a holy hour of prayer, including the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. *For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.* (Matthew 18:20).



Save the date!!

Father Jim's Farewell Mass and Reception

Sunday, February 24, 2008
12 Noon

Reception to follow in gymnasium.

All are invited.



Altar & Rosary Society

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Monsignor Flusk Room. Our guest speaker will be a representative from the Clark First Health Care Station.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2008
5:30 Thomas Vito Parrinello - The Patuto Family
SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2008
7:30 Mary Louise Loffa - St. Agnes Rosary Society
9:00 Andre Kovacs - Jean & Family
10:30 People of the Parish
12:00 Andrew Youchock - Family
MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008
7:00 Anna Reichenstein - Ronnie Duffy
9:00 Frederick Zakerski - Mr. & Mrs. F. Lubniewski
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008
7:00 Alfred & Florence Kempinski - Joe & Anne Pereira
9:00 Alfred & Florence Kempinski - Pyar Family
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2008
7:00 Deceased Members of Bokenko & Morahan Families - Barbara & Ed Morahan
9:00 Marie Gallagher Kalinak - Henry Varriano
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2008
7:00 Ann & William Brueckner - Tom & Carol Ringwood
9:00 Henry R. Flanagan - Vincent & Betty Flanagan
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008
7:00 Tammy Giannobile - Massarelli Family
9:00 Robert Witkowski - Helen & Joe
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2008
8:30 Memorial - Teresa Hanselman, Maria Anzorge, Noelia Ouimet
5:30 Robert McKeon - Stephen & Lois Radics

SUNDAY	JANUARY 27
BEGINNING OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK	
8:45 AM	CFF Classes
7:00 PM	CYO - Church
MONDAY	JANUARY 28
3:30 PM	CFF Classes
6:30 PM	CFF Classes
7:00 PM	Scripture Sharing - OLG Room
TUESDAY	JANUARY 29
9:30 AM	St. Agnes School Open House - School/Gym
6:00 PM	Sports - Gym
6:30 PM	CFF Classes
6:45 PM	Women's Commission Prayer Service - Church
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 30
7:30 PM	RCIA - OLG/St. Joseph Room
7:30 PM	St. Agnes HSA Meeting - Gym
THURSDAY	JANUARY 31
3:30 PM	Children's Choir
6:30 PM	Sports - Gym
7:00 PM	CFM Program - St. Lucy Room
7:30 PM	Adult Choir
FRIDAY	FEBRUARY 1
7:00 PM	Stewardship Mtg. - St. Joseph Room
7:30 PM	Girl Scouts - 5 th Grade Classroom
SATURDAY	FEBRUARY 2
ARCHBISHOP ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKEND	
5:30 PM	Mass - Rite of Commitment

Altar & Rosary Society

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Helen Paulkowitz during the week of January 20th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Alfred Kempinski during the week of January 27th at the request of the Pyar Family.

Memorial Mass
for
Noelia Ouimet (Mother of Sister Claire)
February 8, 2008, 11 a.m.
All are invited.

Rev. Msgr. James S. Choma Presiding

ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!

FEBRUARY 3, 2008
AFTER ALL MASSES

Thank you for your support!!

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

Andy Pavelko, Isabelle Swarts (mother of Jane Burns)

Those Who Are Sick

Mary Zelanko, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Joe & Irene Margeton, Ann Lesko, 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 Venezia, 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, William R. White, Brenda Vermeal, Angie and Anthony Plesh, Gabriella Giordano, Mercer Wilkinson, Mary Marciano, Mary Gianti, Joao Faria, Maria Dietrick, Tom Wilkinson, Mark Shipe, Katherine Franceski, Richard Ciccone, Theresa Sarica, Nancy Reuter

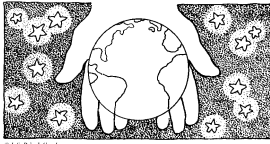
Crisis Pregnancy Help

Catholic Community Services
Pat Chiarello (201) 246-7379

Birthright 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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**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 27, 2008**

Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

– Psalm 27:14