

## Some Lenten “Q & A”

Now that we have had some time to enter fully into the season of Lent, I thought it might be nice to answer some questions, which have been popping up in conversation since Ash Wednesday. Hopefully all of these will help you to continue to grow spiritually, following the path of Lent to Easter joy...

***Q: Father, what happened to the days when we emptied the baptismal font and holy water stoops? I thought we weren't supposed to bless ourselves in Lent?***

**A:** The emptying of the baptismal font and holy water stoops was an idea offered by some liturgists to create a sense of the “desert” and a desire to help us look forward to the gift of Easter. Recent books that I have read, however, point out that even during Lent we are still a baptismal people, saved by Jesus Christ. In fact, there are positive aspects to blessing ourselves during the season of lent. The 2006 Sourcebook, a reference I use with the liturgy committee, puts it this way: “...the use of blessed water upon entering a church can be a good gesture for the Lenten season, as a token of purification.” So blessing ourselves as we come into church can help us to enter the season of Lent, reminding us of our connection to Jesus Christ on the cross, who died and rose for you and me.

***Q: I can't find the container for canned goods anymore. Do we still donate food to area soup kitchens and food pantries?***

**A:** Ok, this might not be a question for Lent in the strict sense, but it is a good time to answer it! Lent is a time for helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and one way that we do it here at St. Agnes is through our donation of canned goods and non-perishable items to those who are hungry. We still perform this ministry! The problem is with the ongoing construction, and the need for a neat church, we have no obvious place to leave the bin for food donations. Right now it is located just outside the kitchen door by the gym. In the future we hope to find a better place for it. Regardless, keep donating to the hungry. It is an important thing to do for Lent and year-round!

***Q. Father, I've already failed in my attempt at my Lenten practices, and I feel lousy! How do I still get something out of Lent?***

**A.** The key here is **DON'T GIVE UP!** If you mistakenly ate meat last Friday, or missed your extra prayer or mass time, or caved in and ate that chocolate cake, don't despair. Simply start over. The Lord is a patient and loving God who understands our mistakes. The purpose of Lent is to help us realize our ultimate dependence on him! So say a prayer, ask forgiveness and start again.

***Q. Father, this Friday is St. Patrick's Day. Are we allowed to eat our Corned Beef?***

**A.** The Archbishop recently granted a dispensation for those who would like to celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick with a corned beef dinner. The custom is to substitute something else for the discipline since one can eat meat on Friday. So eat the corned beef...and take some extra time by saying a rosary for the poor, or visit a soup kitchen and make a donation. Do something to keep the season of Lent. St. Patrick would no doubt do the same. So make him proud!



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

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself "did not spare his own Son." Are *my* gifts to the Lord – of my resources, of my time, of myself – also sacrificial?

Your Stewardship in Treasure  
last week was **\$13,224.00.**

Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38  
 Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12  
 Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28  
 Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31  
 Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a;  
 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46  
 Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32  
 Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19;  
 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25  
 Alternate readings (Year A):  
 Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;  
 Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

**HOW YOU LOVED US LORD**

Beginning with the first Sunday of Lent, we symbolically suggest that we are penitents in procession. Therefore, the cross is carried in silence into the church at the beginning of each

Mass on the weekend.

We are still seeking volunteers - as a Lenten action - to participate as cross carriers at one of the weekend Masses. Sign up for a Mass as you leave the church today. Carry in the cross with two other members of your family, friends, or other parish members, place the cross in the front and return to your seat. Simple but powerful! We are in need of 60 persons.

**BUILDING FUND**

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

**\$589,356.00**

*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.*

**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 16<sup>th</sup>)**

**50 Years**

**Sunday, April 30, 2006 - 3:00 PM**  
**(Reservation Deadline April 20<sup>th</sup>)**

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.



### *Lenten Schedule 2006*

#### *Stations of the Cross*

Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> & March 24<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

#### *Living Stations of the Cross - CYO*

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

#### *Communal Penance Service/Individual Confessions*

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 p.m.

#### *Palm Sunday*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> Masses

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon

#### *Holy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 p.m.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer Service at 10:00 p.m.

#### *Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>*

Seven Last Words Service - 12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Main Service - 7:30 p.m. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus Christ

#### *Holy Saturday April 15<sup>th</sup>*

Blessing of the Food - 11:00 a.m.

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00 p.m.

#### *Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Masses*

7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. & 12 Noon



**St. Agnes Brownie Troop  
165 invites you to  
participate  
in their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**

### **Soup Contest Fundraiser**

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM  
in the school gym.**

All Parishioners are encouraged to participate in either one or both ways!

Be an entrant to the contest, or a participant – or better yet – be both!!

#### **Be an entrant:**

Can you make a “mean” pot of soup? Then consider being an entrant in the soup contest! Simply bring a pot of your favorite homemade soup to the contest!

Your soup will be entered for the parishioners to taste, and vote on! You might not even realize, just how popular your soup is!!

(Please bring a ladle with your name on it to make serving easier – thanks!)

#### **Be a participant**

Purchase a ticket to participate at the soup contest!

Why not bring the family along for dinner??

Tickets are just \$5 per person  
(children under 3 are free)

Prizes will be awarded to the top three soup contestants!!

Our scouts will be providing desserts,  
drinks and bread.

***Come join us for a fun night out and  
support some of St. Agnes finest Girl Scouts!***

***For soup registration and ticket  
information please contact Carol Seib at  
732-388-8321.***



### **ST. JOSEPH'S NOVENA**



A great opportunity for spiritual enrichment is to participate in our annual St. Joseph's Novena. The Novena begins March 10<sup>th</sup> and ends on March 18<sup>th</sup> with Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph at 7:00 p.m. On March 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the Novena will be incorporated into our 5:30 Saturday Vigil Mass for

Sunday. This great spiritual devotion inspires conversion during nine consecutive nights of prayers, hymns, sermons and benediction. Plan to be with us each evening and make this a Lenten Devotion for yourself.

### **ST. AGNES CYO**

**PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

#### **THE LIVING**



**JOIN US FOR THIS MOVING PRODUCTION ON  
FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006, AT 7:00 PM  
IN THE CHURCH.**

## Coming Events

**St. Agnes Clothing Drive** - Saturday, April 22, 2006, rain or shine, 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More information to follow.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - Saturday, April 22, 2006, 11:00 a.m. weather permitting. More information to follow.

### BOARDWALK NEWS!

A gracious **Thank You** to all our friends who supported our Boardwalk Weekend. A special thank you to our parishioner friends who come back year after year to help us man our booths! Some doing 2 days! We truly appreciate your time and support and are deeply grateful. Congratulations to all our raffle table winners. Hope everyone had fun! Till next year!

The Boardwalk Committee



### Registration for New Students

Registration for new students (including Kindergarten) will begin **Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** and will conclude **Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. You may register anytime between **9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, or 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.** in the **Religious Education Office in the Rectory (the office is closed on Fridays)**. Evening registration will take place in the School Office April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please try to register early; classes reach their quota rapidly. You must bring a copy of your child's **baptismal certificate**. The fee for all students new to the program will be **\$100**. Family re-registration discounts **do not** apply.

### IMPORTANT RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION!!

Family re-registration fees are as follows:

First child - \$100

Second and third children - \$75

Fees will not exceed \$250 per family.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at (732) 388-2560.

## ST. AGNES ROSARY SOCIETY BRINGS TO YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS



### A TASTE OF ITALY (Un Gusto di Italia) SPAGHETTI DINNER

**SUNDAY: MARCH 26, 2006**  
**TIME: 1:30 TO 4:30 PM**  
**PLACE: ST. AGNES AUDITORIUM  
CLARK, NJ**  
**TICKETS: ADULTS: \$9.00**  
**CHILDREN UNDER 12: \$5.00**  
 (Please make checks payable to  
 St. Agnes Rosary Society)

### MENU

*Salad, Italian Bread*  
*Spaghetti and Meatballs*  
*Dessert*  
*Coffee/Tea/Soda*  
*(B.Y.O.B.)*



### ITALIAN MUSIC PROVIDED BY OUR STROLLING MUSICIAN

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS PLEASE CALL  
ROSE AT (732) 574-0023 OR  
THE RECTORY AT (732) 388-7852**

**DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING TICKETS:  
SUNDAY, MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>**



*This Week*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006**

5:30 Anella Giannobile

**SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2006**

7:30 George Finger - Mr. & Mrs. F. Bonavitacola, Jr.

9:00 People of the Parish

10:30 Gloria Vazquez - Family

12:00 John Christiano - Anita & John Christiano

**MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006**

7:00 Russell Fradette - Sr. Claire Ouimet

9:00 Joseph Kulbaba, Jr.

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006**

7:00 Eleanor Mikiewicz - John & Barbara Greve

9:00 Thomas Long - Dorothy Long & Family

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2006**

7:00 Susan Hummel - Anne Marie Leone

9:00 Gloria Vazquez - Family

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006**

7:00 Anna DiBello - Arthur L. Johnson H.S. Student  
Council

9:00 Pauline Gessler - Christine & Charlotte Gessler

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006**

7:00 Castellano Family - Castellano Family

9:00 Paul Lontka - Christine & Charlotte Gessler

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2006**

8:30 Memorial Mass - George Ramirez, Russell  
Gibbons, Gertrude Nazar, Anthony Segreto,  
Gennaro Marciano

5:30 Steven Chellevoid - Gina & Hank Behrend

**SATURDAY**

**MARCH 11**

**PETERS PENCE COLLECTION**

5:30 PM Mass - St. Joseph's Novena

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 12**

**PETERS PENCE COLLECTION**

9:00 AM Religious Education

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

7:45 PM CYO

**MONDAY**

**MARCH 13**

3:30 PM Religious Education

6:00 PM Sandwiches - Team 1E

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

**TUESDAY**

**MARCH 14**

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

8:00 PM Holy Name Society - Gymnasium

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 15**

4:30 PM Brownies - Kindergarten

5:30 PM Girl Scouts - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 16**

11:30 AM Holy Name A/C

3:30 PM Children's Choir

3:30 PM First Penance Rehearsal

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

7:30 PM Adult Choir

7:30 PM Bereavement

**FRIDAY**

**MARCH 17**

7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena

**SATURDAY**

**MARCH 18**

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial

1:00 PM First Penance Celebration

5:30 PM Mass - St. Joseph's Novena



St. Agnes Holy Name Society is pleased to announce its guest speaker for the **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting**, Clark Police Chief Anthony Danco, who will speak about current events in Clark. All men are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Our starting time will be 8:00 p.m.



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Valerie Geiger during the week of March 12<sup>th</sup> at the request of Marion Greenwood.

*Altar & Rosary Society*

**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Jo Kane during the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

May They Rest in Peace

***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 Tribel, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, 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, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Joseph & Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: March 16, 2006

TO: Caesar's

TIME: 11:30 AM Coffee &amp; 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.**

**Second Sunday of Lent****March 12, 2006**

If God is for us, who can be against us?

– Romans 8:31b