

Dear Parishioners,

Some of you are aware that I was recently down in New Orleans, not for Mardi Gras, but as a presenter for a spiritual formation seminar. Father Vinnie and I were invited by the Rector of Notre Dame Seminary to conduct a workshop for seminarians soon to be ordained priests. I enjoy this type of ministry from time to time, because I always walk away from the sessions with my own priesthood enriched. Please continue to pray for all of the people located in the Gulf Cost regions.

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina is the second-deadliest natural disaster in United States History. Over 2,300 people died and property damage caused by the storm is estimated at more than \$200 billion. (More than 8,000 died in the hurricane that hit Galveston, Texas, in 1900). It is one thing to see the horrific scenes on television. It's quite another experience to see the aftermath up close and learn about it from survivors.

Much has been done since the hurricane struck on August 29, 2006. However, these past six months of rebuilding are but a drop in a 100-gallon bucket. In New Orleans, entire neighborhoods have been decimated, and others sections are barely limping along. Before the storm there were approximately 500,000 permanent residents in the city proper. Now there are only 130,000. There are only two functioning hospitals. Numerous doctors have relocated to other parts of the country. Food supermarkets, general stores, pharmacies, gas stations and restaurants are far and few between, except in the French Quarter, which is built on higher ground. In many areas traffic lights are inoperable. Debris and abandoned cars have turned many streets and sidewalks into public junkyards. Transformation from devastation to restoration will surely take decades of hard work, government and charitable funding, and the power of neighborly love.

Since my return home, I tend not to complain as much. I better appreciate the gifts bestowed upon our community and me. I am inspired by the faith and courage of the people in New Orleans. Their strife for normalcy and care for each other proves that God can bring about good from tragedy. Isn't this the revelation of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection? Let us strive to pick up our daily crosses, whatever they may be. Let us help each other in carrying our crosses. It is in love that will discover Resurrection power and hope.

Faithfully yours,

Fr. Jim
Pastor



THE SHEPHERDS SPEAK

Strengthen your Lenten devotion by joining us at St. James The Apostle Church, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, for a series of presentations by four bishops of the Archdiocese. There will be one evening session at 7:30 p.m. during which we will have the opportunity to hear the following topic:

- **March 23rd - Bishop Thomas A. Donato on *The Church as It Changes Its Complexion***

On Saturday, April 8th, from 10:30 to 12 Noon we will join in contemplative prayer with Bishop Dominic A. Marconi as **The Shepherd Prays.**

STEWARDSHIP

&

FAITH

***Time, Talent, Treasure.
Putting God First?***

“You shall not covet” is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. May this understanding that *all* is a gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,633.50.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt. 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21
Alternate readings (Year A):
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23;
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

**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:

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.



**Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Newark**

**Mass to Commemorate the Death of
Pope John Paul II and the
Election of Pope Benedict XVI**

To commemorate the first anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II and the election of Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop John Myers will celebrate the 6 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 22nd at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Please call the Rectory if interested at (732) 388-7852.

Lenten Schedule 2006

Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 3rd & March 24th - 7:00 p.m.

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, April 7th - 7:00 p.m.

Communal Penance Service/Individual Confessions

Friday, March 31st - 7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 8th Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9th Masses

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

Holy Thursday, April 13th

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 14th

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 15th

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

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

Easter Sunday, April 16th 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 2nd Annual**

Soup Contest Fundraiser

**Saturday, April 1st 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. AGNES CYO
PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

THE LIVING



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



**Attention Women of the
Parish!!**

*Please come join us for the reflections of the Passion
of Christ on Tuesday, March 21st from 7 to 8:00 p.m.
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.



Registration for New Students

Registration for new students (including Kindergarten) will begin **Monday, March 27th** and will conclude **Thursday, April 13th**. 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 3rd and April 4th, 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 NEWS!!

Re-registration forms for Religious Education classes were mailed to you. This registration is only for students already enrolled in the program.

Please return the forms as soon as possible.

Due to the increasing number of students, we need teachers and substitutes. If you are a practicing Catholic and willing to give an hour of your time weekly, please call the Religious Education Office at (732) 388-2560.



The past two Saturdays 102 children made their First Reconciliation. We wish to thank their teachers for preparing the boys and girls. Thank you to Sister Margaret, Mrs. Guarraci, Mrs. Nenortas, Mrs. Gregorio, Mrs. Rowlands, Miss Christina Guarraci,



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 19TH**



SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2006	
5:30	Steven Chellevold - Gina & Hank Behrend
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2006	
7:30	James Hanson - Cathy Campanella
9:00	My Loved Ones - Antoinette Urso
10:30	People of the Parish
12:00	Elizabeth O'Donnell - Ellie & Sandy Gonczlik
MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006	
7:00	John J. Grabowski, Jr. - Anne Murach
9:00	Eleanor Samsel - Betty & Dom Massarelli
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2006	
7:00	Joseph Bellipi - Judy & Bill Shackleton
9:00	Barney Clarke, Angelina, Charles & Felice Perriello - Dolores Clarke
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006	
7:00	James Breslin - Joe & Helen Suszko
9:00	Harry Assin - Friend, Livia Kelemen
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006	
7:00	Bessie Boutikisaris - Sinoradzki Family
9:00	William & Helen Rapp - Bill & Ann Rapp
FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2006	
7:00	Doris Kopil - Vicky & Donald Cook
9:00	George Veiksans
SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006	
8:30	Memorial Mass - Joseph Zucaro, Bob Tannen, David Julian Lopez, Grace DellaTorre, Maureen Leddy, Francisco Rivera
5:30	Mary Romeo - The Orłowski Family

SATURDAY	MARCH 18
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	
5:30 PM	Mass - St. Joseph's Novena
SUNDAY	MARCH 19
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	
9:00 AM	Religious Education
10:30 AM	Mass - Children's Choir
7:00 AM	CYO
MONDAY	MARCH 20
3:30 PM	Religious Education
6:00 PM	Sandwiches - Team 2E
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:30 PM	Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge
TUESDAY	MARCH 21
7:00 PM	Religious Education
7:00 PM	Women's Prayer Group
THURSDAY	MARCH 23
3:30 PM	Children's Choir
7:30 PM	Adult Choir
7:30 PM	Bereavement
7:30 PM	HSA Meeting
FRIDAY	MARCH 24
7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY	MARCH 25
8:30 AM	Mass - Memorial
9:00 AM	St. John's Soup Kitchen



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Angie Plesh during the week of March 19th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Madeline Ciorra and Carmela Tavormina during the week of March 19th at the request of their Grandchildren.



SOUP KITCHEN

Volunteers will be going to St. John's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, March 25th. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.

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

Mark A. Costa

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, 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 Venezio, Lucia DeCristofaro, Frances Latch, Patricia Zych, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Joseph & Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri

**Atlantic City Bus Trip**

WHEN: April 20, 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 of Lent
March 19, 2006**

I, the LORD, am your God . . .
You shall not have other gods besides me.

– Exodus 20:2a, 3