

Dear Parishioners,

Our Saint Joseph's Novena was well attended. I pray that the spiritual graces from the Novena will overflow into your family life. The intercession of Saint Joseph is very powerful, especially if we desire a deeper relationship with his son, Jesus Christ. Saint Joseph - pray for our parish community and the church universal.

I want to thank Father John and the liturgy committee for developing this year's novena theme around our newly renovated worship space. I think they did a good job of catechizing, while blending spirituality with the devotion, which is so popular in our parish. As pastor, I want to make a few comments on devotional space and practices.

A few parishioners have shared some disappointment that our shrine wall with statues of the Holy Family and the Sacred Heart of Jesus statues seem like they are pushed off to the side. I want to explain why this special space for reverence was created. It is not because Father Jim or Father John prefers it this way. The decision was made in consultation with a liturgical architect and approvals from the Archdiocesan Worship Office, which is required for all church renovations.

The Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus Christ is at the core of our Catholic spirituality and worship. For this reason, as we enter any church our attention should be drawn to the altar of sacrifice. When people enter through our front doors, eyes immediately gaze down a "soft" main aisle to a beautiful marble sanctuary where a permanent altar is centered. Our magnificent crucifix accentuates this central focal point with a circular stained glass window as a backdrop. The plain white textured wall is intentional. If statues or art were placed on the wall, they would detract from the reverent simplicity, which draws our attention to the altar. Our seating too gathers us in a crucified semblance around the altar of sacrifice.

There is a priority pyramid for liturgical furnishings in Roman Catholic worship environments. Obviously, the altar, pulpit, baptismal font and tabernacle are among the top. It is our hope that our Italian marble accents this reality. Devotional shrines are important and should have a reverent place in our church, but it should never detract from or compete with the altar, or any other sacramental furnishings. For this reason, we have created a separate devotional prayer area. This is a space where the faithful can go to kneel, pray and light candles. I know that it may take some time for us to grow accustomed to these changes, but I hope everyone understands and can appreciate why the shrines are located where they are.

On the topic of devotions, I want to address a recent question that was presented to me after the St. Joseph's Novena: "Father, why can't we put a statue of St. Joseph in the sanctuary during the novena?" If it were just a simple novena service perhaps we would do so. However, once we decided to celebrate the novena with Eucharistic Adoration, the Body of Christ placed in the monstrance and set on the altar becomes the zenith for focus. The same logic as above holds true. We should not detract from or compete with the Real Presence. I'm sure Saint Joseph understands, as do all of the saints.

During the month of May, we celebrate the devotion of "Crowning" our Blessed Mother with flowers. This touching devotion allows us to tangibly express our love and respect for Mary, the Mother of God and His Church. Once again, a statue of the Blessed Mother should not be set near the altar, if the crowning takes place during Mass. Why? Nothing should compete with the altar of sacrifice during Mass. This is why our First Communion children crown the outdoor statue of Mary. The devotion service is not celebrated within the Mass; it's a separate devotion that stands on its own. For pastoral reasons, we have made exceptions in the past because of bad weather, but this is the exception and not the norm. Crowning services with a statue set in front is permissible, but the service should not be within Mass for reasons mentioned.

The liturgy committee, Father John and I are all working hard to make our worship the best that it can be, and in conformity to liturgical documents and worship guidelines. We try to put personal preferences aside, while trying to be sensitive to the desires of our parishioners. Some may question our interpretation and implementation of certain practices, but I hope that everyone knows that we strive to avoid favoritism, while trying to create an environment that is conducive for reverent worship.

Stations of the Cross is another popular devotion, especially during Lent. Please join us on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. Our High School Youth Group will be leading a "Living Stations" prayer service. A Communal Penance Service with individual confessions will be celebrated in church this Friday evening, also at 7 o'clock. Please spread the word among family and friends. Thank you.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Jim  
Pastor

**STEWARDSHIP**

&amp;

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

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

Your Stewardship in Treasure

last week was **\$12,623.00.**

Thank you.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54  
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16  
 Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30  
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47  
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53  
 Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33  
 Alternate readings (Year A):  
 Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11;  
 Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]



### ***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 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in the teachers' lounge. If you need any additional information, please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.

**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.*

**ROSARIANS BAGEL SALE!**

**APRIL 2, 2006  
AFTER ALL MASSES**

We offer the following varieties:

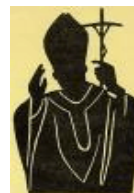
Plain	Russian
Cinnamon/Raisin	Salt
Poppy Seed	Pumpernickel
Sesame Seed	Onion
Everything	Egg
Garlic	Wheat

**Cost: .50 each**

**\$6.00 per dozen (bakers' dozen - 13 bagels)**

***Thank you for your support!***

### ***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 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Please call the Rectory if interested at (732) 388-7852.

### Lenten Schedule 2006

#### *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 CYO PROUDLY PRESENTS:

#### THE LIVING



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



#### *The Chrism Mass*

*Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 PM*

*Cathedral Basilica of the  
Sacred Heart in Newark*

*If you are interested in attending the  
Chrism Mass, please call the Rectory so that  
we can arrange for car pools and sit  
together in the cathedral.*



**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.**

#### **"FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"**

Today's Gospel contains the best known and most often quoted passage in the New Testament. Who has not heard and read the familiar and comforting words? "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.*" Like an old song or a soft blanket, the words comfort us.  
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### RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Religious Education re-registration has begun!! Early registration avoids a lot of chaos and confusion at the last moment. Please mail in your forms as soon as possible. Due to the increasing number of students, we need teachers and substitutes. If you are faith-filled and unselfish, willing to give an hour of your time weekly, please call or e-mail the Religious Education Office (732-388-2560 or [stagnesccd@comcast.net](mailto:stagnesccd@comcast.net)).

New student registration takes place in the Religious Education Office at the Rectory.

### ST. AGNES



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**  
**8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

ALL CLOTHES MUST BE BAGGED OR BOXED.  
 NO HANGERS PLEASE.

ITEMS - CLOTHES, SHOES, HATS, BELTS,  
 POCKETBOOKS, STUFFED ANIMALS, ALL  
 HOUSEHOLD LINENS, BLANKETS, ETC.

NO TOYS, APPLIANCES OR FURNITURE  
 (INCLUDING BABY ITEMS)

**Any questions please call Adele**  
**at 732-382-8332**

### ST. AGNES SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Because of expiring terms, there are presently two openings for election to the St. Agnes School Board. The Board is an advisory body to the principal in matters of budget and policy. Any adult with an active interest in fostering Catholic education is eligible to run for election. Meetings are bi-monthly. School Board members do not have to be parents. The term of office is 3 years beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.

Anyone interested should send a letter to the rectory, including phone numbers to Mr. Christopher Bonner's attention, no later than April 16, 2006. Elections will be held on Sunday, April 30, 2006.



### EASTER EGG HUNT

For several years now the young people of the parish have enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt. This year the hunt will be held on the **SATURDAY after EASTER, APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 11:00 AM weather permitting. There are two prizes available, in addition to the wonderful various plastic eggs filled with goodies and pennies.

**Please note:** Since we have plenty of eggs for this year's hunt, we will not need any donations. However, donations of goodies and pennies will be appreciated.

### **FILIPPINI SISTERS OF VILLA WALSH PRESENTS**



**OASIS '06**  
**DAY OF PRAYER FOR WOMEN**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006**  
**9:30 AM TO 3:00 PM**  
**VILLA WALSH CAFETERIA**

Join us for a day of Mass, Prayer, Reflection and Adoration. Bring your own lunch. Beverages and snacks provided. \$10 donation.

**HOLY WEEK DISCERNMENT  
 RETREAT**  
**For single women ages 18-35**  
**APRIL 13-15, 2006**



An opportunity to interact with the Filippini Sisters of Villa Walsh for Holy Week Services. You will also enjoy other young women interested in learning more about religious life through discussion, prayer experience, and visits with women in formation. Stipend of \$60 includes two overnights and six meals. Please bring towels & personal items.

**For more information please call**  
**Sr. Claire Ouimet at (732) 381-0850.**

### **BE AWARE**

We need to be aware that happiness can sometimes sneak in through the door we didn't know we had left open.

*Anonymous*



**SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006**

5:30 Mary Romeo - The Orłowski Family

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2006**

7:30 In Memory of 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division 1950-1951 who were killed, wounded & frozen in Korea

9:00 Madison Guillen - The Steinberg Family

10:30 Peter & Jeanette Ciavarella & Judy Plesh - Anthony & Angie Plesh, Sr.

12:00 People of the Parish

**MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2006**

7:00 Stephen Fiyut - Mary Lynn & Ed Koch

9:00 Stanley Niemczyk - The Niemczyk Family

**TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006**

7:00 Charles Scanelli - Louis Papa

9:00 John & Anna Mauriello - Children

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2006**

7:00 Clara Baillargeon - Sr. Claire Ouimet

9:00 Ralph Frasca - Tom Mercadante

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006**

7:00 James Breslin - St. Agnes Holy Name Society

9:00 Crescenza Toto

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006**

7:00 Anna Spisak - Judy & Bill Shackleton

9:00 Ellen Long Gross - Dorothy Long & Family

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2006**

8:30 Memorial Mass - Margaret Kelly, Joseph A. Lefano, Sr., Ann Lento, John Taylor Babbitt

5:30 People of the Parish

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 26**

9:00 AM Religious Education

1:30 PM Rosary Spaghetti Dinner

7:00 AM CYO

**MONDAY**

**MARCH 27**

3:30 PM Religious Education

7:00 PM Religious Education

7:30 PM Scripture Sharing - Teachers' Lounge

**TUESDAY**

**MARCH 28**

7:00 PM Religious Education

**WEDNESDAY**

**MARCH 29**

4:30 PM Brownies - Kindergarten

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

**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 30**

3:30 PM Children's Choir

7:30 PM Adult Choir

7:30 PM Bereavement

7:30 PM RCIA Inquiry - Teachers' Lounge

**FRIDAY**

**MARCH 31**

7:00 PM Communal Penance Service

**SATURDAY**

**APRIL 1**

8:30 AM Mass - Marian

9:00 AM Rosary Lenten Retreat

7:00 PM St. Agnes Brownie Troop Soup Contest - Gym



**SANCTUARY LAMP** will burn in memory of Lawrence & Josephine Plesh during the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> at the request of Anthony & Angie Plesh, Sr.



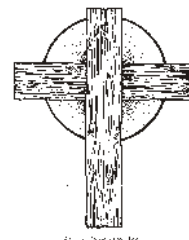
**Altar Flowers** For the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> were donated in memory of Michael Zizza, a gift from the Family.



**ALTAR BREAD AND WINE** for the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> was donated in memory of St. Anthony at the request of Angie Plesh.

**Altar & Rosary Society**

**TRAVELING MADONNA** - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Angie Plesh during the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>.



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

Lillian Kurzeja, Charlotte McCart

***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 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: 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.**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent****March 26, 2006**

God did not send his Son into the world to  
condemn the world, but that the  
world might be saved through him.

*– John 3:17*