

From the Pastor



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Dear Parishioners,

What a blessing the St. Joseph's Novena is to our parish! Every year I am amazed at the number of people that attend. Each year I am touched spiritually by the countless graces that are bestowed upon individuals and our community through the intercession of Saint Joseph.

This Sunday (tonight) is the last night of the Novena. We have a tradition of entering into fellowship in honor of Saint Joseph. Parishioners bring desserts and drop them off in the gymnasium before the Novena. Our parish hospitality committee graciously prepares coffee and tea, and arranges the desserts on tables. After the Novena everyone gathers for fellowship. I apologize for not being present this year. I departed for New Orleans to conduct a seminar for men preparing for ordination at Notre Dame Seminary. Out of sight does not mean out of mind. Please keep the seminarians and me in your prayers during the last night of the Novena. Thank you.

In addition to fellowship, a collection will be taken on the last night of the St. Joseph's Novena. These funds are used to defray Novena costs – stipends for guest speakers and organist fees. We will also use these funds to produce new St. Joseph's Novena Booklets. Thank you in advance for your generosity. I pray that the Novena has been a spiritual gift for you. May your *spiritual graces* be abundant.

I also want to share with you some good news. On Easter Sunday, His Eminence – Theodore Cardinal McCarrick is going to celebrate our noon Mass at St. Agnes. This great churchman is the former Cardinal Archbishop of Washington and former Archbishop of Newark. I used to serve as the Cardinal's priest secretary when he was here in Newark. Some of you may recall his last visit to St. Agnes, when he installed me as pastor seven years ago. I am grateful to the Cardinal for accepting my invitation. It truly will be a special treat for the Cardinal and us.

Lastly, I want to provide you with a brief update regarding plans for our property. As you are aware, our feasibility study stifled hopes for the development of a parish cemetery. Now that the feasibility study is concluded, we know more about the restrictions because of wetlands delineation, state & local regulations. Knowledge is a good thing. I am grateful to Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese for assuming the cost of this feasibility study. Their Executive Director, Andrew Schaffer has been a good friend to us, and your parish leadership is better equipped because of the knowledge that we possess.

Over the past few months I have been working closely with Parish Trustees, Pastoral & Finance Councils, and our 10-Year Planning Committee Chairman. We have the most updated information from our feasibility study, and recent appraisal reports from independent state-certified appraisers. We have also engaged in private conversations with credible developers to ascertain "*true value*" worth of our property. After entertaining several possibilities for best usage, we have entered into serious talks with the County, via *The Open Space, Recreational & Historical Preservation Trust Fund*.

The County is committed to purchasing and preserving undeveloped lands, and they are very much interested in our property. If a deal can be reached, it would preserve the beautiful landscape around us and it would benefit the community at large. It is the desire of the County to acquire our available land for a park. If this comes to pass, the landscape would virtually appear the same, except for minimal infrastructure. After Easter, I hope to have more information to share with you, but for now please keep your parish leadership in your prayers. Thank you.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Jim
Pastor

STEWARDSHIP

&

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

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he's been given.

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$12,574.00**;
Peter's Pence was **\$3,674.00**.
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: 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: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11
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]

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION
113 CHIEGO PL., ROSELLE PARK
(908) 245-1107

In the spirit of the season and the joy of our Centennial Anniversary, the Church of the Assumption invites you to attend a Lenten Mission. Father Eugene Marcone will preach and prepare us for our Easter Celebration. The dates are March 26th through the 28th. Tuesday evening, March 27th, will include a Lenten Penance Service. The Church services start at 7:30 PM.

**BUILDING FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF 3/12/07**

Total Pledges **\$3,283,057.27**

Pledges Collected **\$2,966,798.09**

Outstanding Pledges **\$ 316,259.18**

Total Building Costs **\$3,825,000.00**

Pledges Collected (-) **\$2,966,798.09**

Mtge. Reduction

Collections (-) **55,597.15**

Funds from Savings (-) **\$ 250,000.00**

Remaining Debt **\$ 552,604.76**

*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.*

**CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS FOR
MINISTRY PROGRAM**

Saint Agnes Parish will be one of the designated sites for the CFM Archdiocesan three-year program. Courses in Old and New Testament, Sacraments, Morality and Liturgy will prepare individuals for ministry in the parish and diocese. Classes will be held every Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., September to May in the St. Lucy Filippini Meeting Room which is located on the lower level of the new building. For further information, please call Sister Margaret at (732) 388-2560.

***Elijah Cup Program***

Please prayerfully consider taking the Elijah Cup into your home for a week of prayer for vocations. Sign-up for the Elijah Cup will take place after all masses on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25. 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 24/25). Anyone wishing a cross is asked to complete the form below and return to the rectory by March 16th.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone# _____

No. of Crosses _____ Amt \$ _____

Special Pilgrimage to Italy!

Please consider joining a special 2007 pilgrimage to Italy. The Families of Nazareth Movement is sponsoring two grace-filled ITC tours of beautiful Italian cities. The long tour is 10 days (May 22 to June 2) and a shorter tour (May 24 to 30) is seven days. Both tours commence in Rome on Pentecost weekend, and include Saturday Evening Vespers with Holy Father Benedict XVI and Pentecost Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Square. Each tour has greatly reduced pricing to encourage families as well as singles and couples to attend. Priests from the Families of Nazareth Movement will celebrate Mass daily.

Flyers with exciting trip details and itineraries can be obtained in the Parish Office. Contact person is Joan Login at (732) 350-4161 or ewtn2000@aol.com. All forms are also available on our website www.familiesofnazareth.us.

FOR HIRE

ST. AGNES SCHOOL – After-Care Aide - Mon to Fri, 2:30 to 4:30. Responsibilities include safety monitor, tutoring (homework help). If interested, please call the school office at (732) 381-0850.



REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Registration for new students (including Kindergarten) will begin, Monday, March 26th and will conclude Thursday, April 12th. You may register in the **Religious Education Office located in the school**, anytime between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon, or 1:00 pm and 4:00pm, Monday through Thursday (**office closed on Friday**). Evening registration will take place in the School Office April 2nd and April 3rd, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. 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 per child. Family re-registration discounts do not apply.



RE-REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Re-registration forms for Religious Education classes will be arriving at your home within the next two weeks. This registration is **only** for students already enrolled in the program. Please return the form 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 and a half of your time weekly, please call the Religious Education Office (732-388-2560).

R E T R O U V A I L L E **("Rediscovery")**

is a program of the Catholic Church designed to provide practical help and support to married couples in difficult or troubled relationships. The program, offered by the Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark, begins with a weekend experience on March 23-25, 2007. For program and fee information, please contact the Office of Family Life Ministries at (973) 497-4327. **RETROUVAILLE** is a lifeline of hope and healing.



ST. JOSEPH NOVENA

A great opportunity for spiritual enrichment is to participate in our annual St. Joseph Novena. The guest speakers and topics for the remaining nights are as follows:

- 3/17 5:30 **Model of Workers** Fr. Nuno Rocha
(incorporated into Vigil Mass)
- 3/18 7pm **Mirror of Patience** Msgr. Owen Hendry
(Collection & Social last night of Novena)
- 3/19 7pm **St. Joseph Mass** Fr. Nuno Rocha
*Plan to be with us each evening and make
this a Lenten Devotion for yourself.*

Knights of Columbus

Bishop Justin J. McCarthy, Council No. 5503 Knights of Columbus, NJ, announces that on Sundays, March 25 and April 22, the Council will hold family dinners in honor of the 125th Year Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus. The dinners will be from 1 to 5 PM at the hall located on 27 Westfield Avenue in Clark (across from Ace Town Hardware). The price of tickets are \$8.50 for adults and \$3.00 for children 12 and under. Dinners consist of garden salad, baked ziti with meatballs, Italian sausage, dessert, bread and butter, soda, draft beer and wine. For ticket information please call Jim at (732) 382-7582.

Pre-K through Eighth Grade

St. Agnes School

We're About What You Value Most!

Open House

Sunday, March 18, 2007

8:00 AM until 2:00 PM

Saint Agnes is a caring school that embraces each student and prepares them for life, academically and spiritually. Explore the Curriculum and see our advanced Technology Center with individual work stations for an Technology Driven Curriculum.

Middle States Accredited / New Middle School Wing
Foreign Language Program
Hot Lunch Program / Sports Program
Pre-K 4's - Five & Three Day Programs
Pre-K 3's - Tuesday & Thursday Afternoons
After-School/Care Program

Lenten/Easter 2007**Stations of the Cross**

March 23rd at 7pm

St. Joseph's Novena

March 10-18 (see weekly bulletin for further details)

Living Stations of the Cross - CYO

Friday, March 30th - 8pm

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 31st Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday, April 1st Masses

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am with Procession of Palm & 12noon

Holy Thursday, April 5th

Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Night Prayer Service at 10pm

Good Friday, April 6th

Seven Last Words Service - 12 Noon to 3pm

Main Service - 7:30pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion and Death of the Lord Jesus

Holy Saturday, April 7th

Blessing of Food - 11:00am

Solemn Easter Vigil Mass - 8:00pm

Easter Sunday, April 8th Masses

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am & 12 noon

**ST. AGNES CYO
PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

THE LIVING



**JOIN US FOR THIS MOVING PRODUCTION
ON FRIDAY, MARCH 30, AT 8:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH.**



SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2007

5:30 People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2007

7:30 Robert Egan - Bob & Rosalie McKeon
 9:00 Gloria Vazquez - Benito Family
 10:30 Harry Assin - Friend, Livia Kelemen
 12:00 Peter & Jeanette Ciavarella - Anthony & Angie Plesh

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2007

7:00 Paul Andrew Lontka - Gessler Family
 9:00 Elizabeth O'Donnell - Ellie & Sandy Gonczlik

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007

7:00 Betty Palfi - Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Della Serra, Jr.
 9:00 John Taylor Babbitt - Uncle Greg, Aunt Kathy, Ben,
 Greg & Katelin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

7:00 Flora DiPalma Stanzione - Sr. Claire Ouimet
 9:00 Mark Costa - Pedro, Idalina & Danny DaFonseca

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2007

7:00 Antoinette Bizzarro - The Vargas Family
 9:00 James Carlin - Mr. & Mr. F. Lubniewski

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2007

7:00 Albert Petracca - Richard & Alicia Gregorio
 9:00 Joseph Heelan - Helen & Joe Suszko

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 2007

8:30 Memorial Mass - Joseph Heelan, Barbara Pasternak,
 Alphonse Villari, Robert McKeon, Leo Schaeffer, Sr.,
 Joanne Motsay, Anthony Bevacqua, Marion Salvia,
 Ginnie L. Bowers, Florence Makely, Michael Dudek
 5:30 George & Elizabeth Vanner - Anne Zambolla

SATURDAY MARCH 17**MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION**

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

SUNDAY MARCH 18**MORTGAGE REDUCTION COLLECTION**

8:45 AM Religious Education
 7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena Followed by Social
 8:00 PM CYO - Church

MONDAY MARCH 19

3:30 PM Religious Education
 7:00 PM Concluding Mass for St. Joseph's Novena
 7:00 PM Religious Education
 7:00 PM Scripture Sharing - St. Jude Room

TUESDAY MARCH 20

7:00 PM Religious Education

WEDNESDAY MARCH 21

7:30 PM St. Agnes HSA Meeting - Gymnasium
 7:30 PM RCIA (OLG Room)

THURSDAY MARCH 22

3:30 PM Children's Choir
 3:30 PM First Penance Rehearsal - Church
 7:00 PM St. Joseph's Novena
 7:00 PM CFM Program - St. Lucy Filippini Room
 7:30 PM Adult Choir
 7:30 PM Bereavement - OLG Room

FRIDAY MARCH 23

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
 7:30 PM Girl Scouts - 5th Grade Classroom

SATURDAY MARCH 24

8:30 AM Mass - Memorial
 9:00 PM St. John's Soup Kitchen




SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Josephine & Lawrence Plesh during the week of March 18th at the request of Anthony & Angie Plesh.



ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for the week of March 18th were donated in memory of St. Anthony at the request of Angie.

TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Jean Subliskey during the week of March 18th.

**SOUP KITCHEN**

Volunteers will be going to St. John's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, March 24th. For more information please call Dee Memmer at 732-381-8956.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those Who Have Died
May They Rest in Peace

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Mary Zelanko, Joe & Irene Margeton, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Michael Denora, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Linda Ruth, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Henry Latch, Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Barbara Guinta, Ronald Francisco, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Hank Kaczka, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Wendy Sullivan, Jean Subliskey, Robert Palumbo, Stefan Nowak, Barbara Slack, Marie Telesco, Annette Drake, Louise Venezia, Lucia DeCristofaro, Barbara Steinberg, Nancy Liberti, Hazel McGuinness, Marian Heelan, Giovanna Tripicchio, Sam Roglieri, Pauline Liotti, Bart Zucosky, Marie Cerone, Andy Pavelko, Declan Mulcahy, Jr., Dolores Acquisto, Daniel Palumbo, Jim MacConchie, Victor Fernandes, Sr., Eileen Imbriaco, Josephine Zbikowski, Geraldine Disano, Antonina Manto, Warren Sidney, Kenneth McLoughlin, Elizabeth Kate Chern, William Miskovich, Zackary Infante, Lawrence Peluso, Aldo Kosuch, Rita Corrado, Angela Decker, Vincent Flanagan, Helen Kiempista, William Feury, Carmelina & Andrew Giacobbe, Joan Sanzone, Marie Farese, Joseph Loria, Florence Kempinski

**A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING**

Today's Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. We can identify with all the major figures and their crisscross of emotions. The father's initial grief over his young son's avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son's grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father.

We understand the eldest son's bewilderment over his father's generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father, however, is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found.

This is a Sunday for rejoicing. It's time to pause, consider, and encourage one another. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father, who scans the horizon. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation. In this we rejoice.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 18, 2007

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation;
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.

– 2 Corinthians 5:17