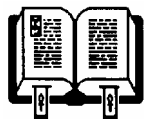


TODAY IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2008

**Scripture Readings for Today****1st Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians, 5:16-24**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28**Scripture Readings for December 21st****1st Reading:** 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16**2nd Reading:** Romans 16:25-27**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

Dear Parishioners,

The 3rd Sunday of Advent is *Gaudete* Sunday. It means to "Rejoice Always."

Today we live in a world in which more people are loosing their jobs and the economy seems to be growing weaker each day. All families are affected by these current events. And for some the results are less than comfortable. How can we rejoice with these conditions?

Our families, our neighborhoods and our world are not able to always rejoice; however, we can 'rejoice always' because 'rejoicing always' is to rejoice *in our hearts*. This kind of rejoicing can turn despair into joy. Conditioning our hearts to 'rejoice always' is what John calls for when he says, "Make straight the way of the Lord". Because a joyful heart full of love for the poor and abandoned in our community, leads directly to our Lord. A joyful heart is fueled by prayer. When we "pray without ceasing" as St. Paul's suggests we strengthen our joy. It makes our life complete for Christ.

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior: (1) straighten your heart and soul for the Christ child. Arrange to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas; (2) pray from the time you awake to when you sleep; and (3) Rejoice Always in your heart for Christ. If we become perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body – we may find ourselves ready when our Lord comes.

Deacon Jack

THE MASS COUNT FOR DECEMBER 6-7TH

5 PM – 260	7:30 AM – 172	9 AM – 298
10:30 AM – 310	12 PM – 300	Total – 1340



All of the people in today's readings: the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, and St. John the Baptist – seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Some of the obstacles that keep us from "making a straight path" for the Lord are the same obstacles that keep us from embracing stewardship as a way of life. John the Baptist calls us to reform our lives and let go of the selfishness and greed that keep us from following God's will.

THE COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 6-7TH

Envelopes	\$16,181.85
Loose	\$1,484.86
Poor Boxes	\$275.83
Children's	\$33.00

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of John Newkirk and John Eisenberger.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals – Leo Bukowinski, Concetta Glorioso Fowler, Helen Griber, Anna Wilgar, Stephen Peters, Mary Bordas, Ann Lopez, Mary Straub, Maribelle Jane Kursch, and Audie Murphy.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Mary MacDaniel, Tammy Randle, Lou Kaminski, Mary Van Dusen, Charles & Jacque Harris, John Joseph, John Hartner, Mr. and Mrs. William Lang, Noreen Newcomb, and Robert Nelson.

PRAYER FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE: We ask you to remember the parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: USMC – Pvt. Harry Harrison Bruns, Cpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl. John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton; USAF – Capt. Brian Gallagher; Nat'l Guard – Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker; Army – Timothy Muhl, Sgt. Joshua Callow, Specialist Stephen Grenfell, 1st Lt. Stephen Winter, 1st Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert, 101st Airborne.

Mass Intentions**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 15-21st**

MONDAY 12/15	6:30 a.m. – Anna Bau Tran 8:00 a.m. – Edward Kiacke
TUESDAY 12/16	6:30 a.m. – Carl S. Julio 8:00 a.m. – Missy Russell Kondner
WED. 12/17	6:30 a.m. – Bob Bauer 8:00 a.m. – Jack Russell
THURSDAY 12/18	6:30 a.m. – Kathleen Henley 8:00 a.m. – Bill & Mary Gerbig
FRIDAY 12/19	6:30 a.m. – Eleanor Kallas 8:00 a.m. – Basilio Anonuevo
SAT. 12/20	8:00 a.m. – Int. of Rose & Bert Bartolome 5:00 p.m. – Steven Pellerito
SUNDAY 12/21	7:30 a.m. – Regina Schott 9:00 a.m. – Sr. Marie Edwina SSND 10:30 a.m. – Mary Gilley 12:00 p.m. – For the Parishioners

DAILY READINGS

Monday 12/15	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday 12/16	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13 Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32
Wednesday 12/17	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17
Thursday 12/18	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Friday 12/19	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a Gospel: Luke 1:5-25
Saturday 12/20	<i>Advent Weekday</i> Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR SALE! After Masses this weekend, members of our youth group will be selling God's Creation calendars and magnetic notepads. Proceeds benefit our youth program.

OPERATION CRECHE KRINGLE: Thank you for keeping the love of Jesus so visible in our parish. May we all know the peace, love, and joy only Jesus can give this Christmas season and throughout the year 2009. Remember that **all gifts must be in by the end of the 12 noon Mass today.** Volunteers will be in the lower Church sorting and packing gifts for pick-up on Monday morning.

EVENING PRAYER WITH JESUS: Please join us to pray the Liturgy of the Hours before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday evenings during Advent (12/16, and 12/23) at 6:30 p.m.
'O Come let us Adore Him.'



OUR DAILY BREAD: The next food delivery date is this Fri., Dec. 19th. Drop off time at church will be either Thursday evening 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. or Friday morning prior to the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Food donations are welcome: hard boiled eggs, macaroni and cheese casserole and meatloaf.

DEACON JACK'S TURKEYS – the deadline for monetary donations to purchase Christmas Turkeys for the Transfiguration Parish in Baltimore City is **tomorrow Dec. 15**. Label your envelope Deacon Jack's Turkeys (checks payable to St. Agnes Church) and place in the collection basket or drop at the parish office. Thank you for your generosity.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held Thursday, Dec. 18th, at 7:00 pm in the Old School Hall.

CONFESSIONS: Our regular Saturday Confession time has also been extended to 3:00 – 4:45 p.m. on this Saturday, December 20th. Confessions will also be heard Tuesday, December 23rd from 4-6 p.m. in preparation for Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Sunday, December 21st to help decorate the Church for Christmas. We will meet at 1:15 p.m. in the Upper Church to set up the trees. Please consider giving an hour to help.



ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!

Parish and School Concert: Please join us for a night of Christmas music on Thursday, December 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School cafeteria.

Snow Closing Announcements: St. Agnes School follows **Baltimore County Schools** regarding snow delays, closings, and/or early dismissals. Please listen to WBAL-TV or radio. Do not call the convent, parish or school office. Just listen for Baltimore County School announcement. Thank you.

Dates to Remember:

12/17	Pre-K & K Family Christmas Program 10:00 a.m. (cafeteria)
12/18	School & Parish Christmas Concert
12/19	Advent Liturgy 9:00 a.m. – All are welcome to join us as we celebrate the coming of the Christ Child! 12:30 dismissal
12/22-1/2	Christmas break
1/5	School reopens 8:05 A.M.
1/6	First Reconciliation 7PM

WEB DESIGNER? Join the volunteer team to help redesign the St. Agnes School website. Please call Diane Kreft at 410.747.4070.

BULLETIN DEADLINES: Due to the holidays, the deadline for announcements for the Dec. 21st and the Dec. 28th bulletins will be Tue, Dec. 16th.

OUR DAILY BREAD CHRISTMAS PARTY – St. Agnes parishioners have again ensured the success of ODB's 2008 Christmas party for homeless men because of the outpouring of donations of winter clothing and other items. Our parish continues to impress the ODB staff with its generosity. Thank you again.

SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE – Anyone who missed the chance last weekend to purchase a raffle ticket for the \$350 shopping spree at ONE local food stores should call Mike D. at 410.788.6822. The drawing is Dec. 17th. Proceeds support the parish athletic program.

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS – Many of our parish families advertise their business on our bulletin covers. We ask that you patronize them whenever possible. Thank you.

St. Agnes Youth Ministry

Sunday, December 14 – Praise, Worship & Adoration

Join us for praise and worship in the youth room before heading over to the Church for Adoration from 8-8:30. Tonight, names and deposits are due to hold your Steubenville spots! Forms for our caroling trip are also due this night.

Thursday, December 18 – Caroling at Village Oak

Join us as we spread Christmas cheer to Village Oak's residents by singing carols and delivering home made Christmas cards. Please meet at 5:45pm on the St. Agnes parking lot. We will be caroling and visiting at Village Oak from 6-8pm. Anyone interested in attending must bring a permission form with them. Forms can be found on our parish website www.stagnescatholicchurch.org or on our SAYM facebook group.

Sunday, December 21 – Christmas Party

Our Christmas party is always such a great time to relax and celebrate Christmas! Food drinks and entertainment will be provided. Please bring a wrapped, \$5 gift to play our gift exchange game. Please make sure your gift is suitable for a male or female recipient.

Sunday, December 28 – No Youth Night

Religious Education News

Sunday, December 21 and 28 – No Religious Ed. classes. Merry Christmas!

Attention Grade 2 Parents!

First Reconciliation is **January 6**. Parents, please hand in your child's Baptism and Commitment forms. If your child was not Baptized at St. Agnes, we will also need a copy of his or her Baptismal certificate.

All forms and certificates may be given to your child's teacher by Dec. 14 (Religious Ed) or Dec. 19 (School). Without these forms, students are not eligible to receive the Sacrament.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

March for Life: Thursday, Jan. 22, is the anniversary of Roe v Wade which marks the Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy. Join tens of thousands of others to show the new administration and our legislators that we will not tolerate abortion on demand, partial-birth abortion, assisted suicide and euthanasia. Please plan to participate in this March!

Pregnant, Need Help?
Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK
Suffering Post-Abortion Stress? Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

ST. AGNES SCHOOL CLASS OF 1986. A reunion is planned for Saturday, December 27th at Matthew's 1600 from 4-6. More info, call Mike at 410.788.3972.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING builds strong families! It is medically safe, morally acceptable, and highly effective. Build intimacy and increase communication in your marriage. Share the responsibility for birth regulation. NFP is inexpensive and reversible. For more information call Tom & Patti Strunck at 410-696-2269, strunckfamily@cclcentralmd.org.

PANERA BREAD FUNDRAISER sponsored by the St. Agnes Council Knights of Columbus has begun! Strips of 6 coupons for 3 bagels of your choice are available for \$10.00. Each strip is valued at \$18. If interested, contact Bernie McNulty at 410-480-0661.

ST. AGNES BASKETBALL – Boys and Girls in grades 9-12 who are interested in playing basketball for St. Agnes Parish, please call Sue Bianco at 410-788-3537

FOOD CERTIFICATES – Consider a practical Christmas gift for friends and neighbors. Giant or Shoppers' gift cards purchased from St. Agnes are practical, appreciated, and benefit our school! The school profits 5% from each certificate sold. Certificates are available in the school and parish offices and after the Masses on the weekend.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER envelopes were included in your Christmas mailing. To make a donation for Christmas flowers for our Altars in loving memory or for a special occasion, please include the name of the person(s) to be remembered and place the envelope in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office by Dec 15th. The suggested donation is \$15.00.



Merry
Christmas

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday, December 20th 3:00 – 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, December 23rd 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

MASSES:

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Upper Church
4:00 p.m. Lower Church
6:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.
Midnight

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th
9:00 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

The 4:00 p.m. Mass is celebrated in both the Upper & Lower Church. All other Masses are held in the Upper Church only.

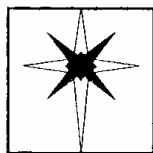
ST. AGNES CHRISTMAS CARDS – are still available for sale in the parish office. The Stained Glass Window of the Nativity from our Church is beautifully photographed for the card. One package- 25 cards are \$15. Profits are to benefit the Building Fund.

TRAVELING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

For nationwide Mass times and locations:
1-410-676-6000 or visit www.MassTimes.org.

Christmas Confession

Paul Turner



Many Catholics go to Confession as part of their preparation for Christmas. A lot of people who shop, bake, mail and party throughout December know there is a deeper reason for all this activity. They want to do more than decorate the house and set the table. They want to prepare their hearts so that the King of Kings will find in there a home.

Your parish probably sets aside extra time for Confessions in December. Priests usually hear individual Confessions on Saturday afternoon. But they gather people for a communal penance service on some other evening of the week at this time of year. During the week or 10 days before Christmas, you should be able to find Confessions scheduled at your parish or in another one nearby.

As an alternative, you may ask a priest for a special appointment to hear your Confession. Some people do this if they are not free when the parish Confessions are scheduled or if they would like to spend a little more time to confess their sins and discuss their spiritual life with a priest. Priests are busy, especially during the week before Christmas, but they will want to help you if they can.

If Christmas comes and you still haven't gone to Confession, it is never too late. The good news is you can always go. If your experience of Christmas this year touches your heart; if you are moved by the spirit of gift-giving by family, friends, and strangers; if you realize more deeply that God loved you enough to send you Jesus — then open your heart. See God's glory. Acknowledge your weakness. Confess your sins. And rejoice in the grace of forgiveness.

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MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 1:46

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior

BALTIMORE CURSILLO: "A Spring Spiritual Treasure Hunt", The Baltimore Diocese Cursillo weekends are being offered, Feb. 5th for men and Feb. 19th for women in Spring of 2009. This is a great opportunity to hear God's message for the preparation of Lent and for the rest of your life, what we call "Fourth Day". Do you have an "ideal"? Come and find yours! For more info, call Han Lee at 443.570.4067.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT: January 23-25, 2009

"Something inside died following the abortion"

A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for spiritual and emotional healing after abortion trauma will be held in Baltimore, MD. The confidential retreat may assist you in the journey toward healing and reconciliation. For more information please call 1-800-286-4224 or Email: Projectrachel@archbalt.org. Visit our web site www.project-rachel.net. You can also visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

"HE HAS SENT ME TO BRING GLAD TIDINGS TO THE POOR AND TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED..." (today's first reading)



Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help your marriage remain Christ-centered and help heal the brokenhearted. Upcoming weekend is February 20-22, 2009. For more information or to register call toll free 1-877-558-LOVE (5683) or visit our website at www.wwme.net.

END OF YEAR TAX STATEMENTS – Contribution statements for the year 2008 will be available beginning in mid-January. Please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or return to the parish office.

PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF MY 2008 CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAME: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____