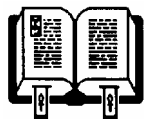


TODAY IS THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

DECEMBER 28, 2008

**Scripture Readings for Today****1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21**Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40**Scripture Readings for January 4<sup>th</sup>****1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

Dear Parishioners,

A recent documentary entitled "Demographic Winter" puts forth the evidence that many nations and nationalities are, mathematically, headed towards extinction. One social scientist, basing his observations on purely statistical grounds, asserted, "On every measure ever measured by the social sciences, the intact married family is the strongest on every outcome ever measured." In short, the state of the family dictates the fate of the society.

The traditional family is threatened on many fronts in our society. Children are no longer safe in their own mothers' wombs, and the very definition of the word family has been attacked from many quarters, with their successes mounting. Even those who sincerely struggle to keep their families intact oftentimes are unable, as the tidal wave of societal influences can seem insurmountable.

On this Solemnity of the Holy Family, Jesus continues the silent preaching of the Gospel which marked the first thirty years of His life. In Bethlehem He preached poverty, as a child He preached obedience, and as a man He preached on the family, simply by the silent witness of His priorities. For every one year Jesus spent actively saving the world through miracles and preaching, He spent ten years at home in Nazareth with His family. To be a Christian means to share the priorities of Christ, and ten to one is the example Jesus left us by His own life to teach us the importance of our own families.

Even for those without families, or whose families have been wounded by the effects of the forces undermining it, Catholics will always have their family of Faith to strengthen them. By the Communion of Saints, we are members of The Holy Family by adoption, as are truly united to the angels, the saints, and to one another. Jesus spoke of the Church as His Bride, true members of

"The Household of God," and so our family should always be our top priority and first loyalty.

If those who attack the family should ever succeed, it will be a hollow, short-lived victory, as the society they sought to build apart from the family will itself collapse and die. The only lasting society is the one built on the family; the eternal society is no exception. As we honor the Holy Family this day, let us give thanks to God for the privilege of becoming a part of it by our baptism into His Body and His Bride, the Church.

Fr. Tim



"Whatever you do," says St. Paul to the Colossians, "...do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him." And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist

"through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit."

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS** of our deceased parishioners.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**, especially those in hospitals – Leo Bukowski, Concetta Fowler, Elaine Flannagan, Shirley Hartge, Joseph Hallameyer, Miriam Schindler, Maribelle Jane Kursch, and Audie Murphy.

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED** for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Milton Getka, Mary MacDaniel, Lou Kaminski, Mary Van Dusen, Charles & Jacque Harris, John Joseph, 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Stephen Winter, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert.

*Mass Intentions*



**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 29-JAN 4<sup>th</sup>**

MONDAY 12/29	6:30 a.m. – Eleanor Meyd 8:00 a.m. – John A. Meyer
TUESDAY 12/30	6:30 a.m. – Ints of Sharon Dvorak 8:00 a.m. – Dwayne Nicodemus
WED. 12/31	6:30 a.m. – Special Intentions 8:00 a.m. – Ints of Audie Murphy 7:00 p.m. – Elizabeth Simpson
THURSDAY 1/1	6:30 a.m.– Special Intentions 9:00a.m. – Alice Runkles 10:30 a.m.– Mary Gilley
FRIDAY 1/2	6:30 a.m. – Sam LaMartina 8:00 a.m. – Stephen J. Meyer
SAT. 1/3	8:00 a.m. – Virginia Smith 5:00 p.m. – Int. of Mr. & Mrs. Lang
SUNDAY 1/4	7:30 a.m. – Joan Hamper 9:00 a.m. – For the Parishioners 10:30 a.m.– Chris Wetheral 12:00 p.m. – Sergeant James McHale

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009, NEW YEAR'S DAY IS THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION.** Masses will be held Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM and Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 a.m., 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**PARISH OFFICE** – The parish office will be closed Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CONFESSIONS** will be held this Thursday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 4:30 p.m. in preparation for First Friday.

**FIRST FRIDAY MASSES** will be held this Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 & 8:00 AM.

**HOLY HOUR** will be held this Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 7 to 8 p.m. After Holy Hour, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed until 8 a.m. Saturday. Parishioners are needed to rest with Jesus. Sign-up in the front of Church.



**LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO** sponsored by St. Agnes Men's Club will be held on **Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School Hall. **Save the date!**

**PARISH CALENDARS** are available on the windowsills. Please take one per family.

**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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Sonia Miles, winner of the shopping spree raffle. The Men's Club thanks everyone who supported this successful fundraiser. Proceeds benefit the parish youth athletic program.

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Monday</b> 12/29	<i>St. Thomas Becket</i> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:3-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:22-35
<b>Tuesday</b> 12/30	<i>Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:12-17 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:36-40
<b>Wednesday</b> 12/31	<i>St. Sylvester I, Pope</i> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:18-21 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:1-18
<b>Thursday</b> 1/1	<i>Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> <b>Reading:</b> Numbers 6:22-27 <b>Reading:</b> Galatians 4:4-7 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 2:16-21
<b>Friday</b> 1/2	<i>St. Basil the Great &amp; St. Gregory Nazianzen</i> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:22-28 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:19-28
<b>Saturday</b> 1/3	<i>Most Holy Name of Jesus</i> <b>Reading:</b> 1 John 2:29 — 3:6 <b>Gospel:</b> John 1:29-34

Dear Parishioners,



Thank you so much for the Christmas cards, gifts, and Mass cards we received for Christmas. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. May God bless you and your family now and in the coming year.

Fr. Carl & Fr. Tim

## **ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!**

**Your St. Agnes School Administration, Faculty, Staff, and Students wish all of you a Happy 2009!** May your new year be filled with blessings and peace for you and your families.

**Congratulations:** We congratulate **Hunter Geary** who was the winner of the National Geography Bee School Competition. He earned first place over 62 other students. Hunter will take the written test from the National Geographic Society to qualify for the State Finals. Thanks to everyone who competed!

**Re-registration:** Forms will be sent home to current school families with your child on January 14th. Please return them by the date indicated.

**New Student Registration** will be held on February 20th for Grades Nursery -7<sup>th</sup> Grade. Please call the School Office at 410-747-4070 for more information.

### **Dates To Remember:**

- 1/6** First Reconciliation
- 1/8** STAND Video training 6:30 pm. This is a mandatory class if you want to do any Volunteering at St. Agnes School.
- 1/13** Home School Assoc. meeting 7:00 pm.
- 1/14** 12:30 Dismissal
- 1/15** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation meeting 7:00 pm.
- 1/16** Feast of St. Agnes Prayer Service 9:00 am. Join us as we honor our patron saint.
- 1/18** Confirmation Invitation Liturgy 9:00 A.M.

## **St. Agnes Youth Ministry**

**Sunday, December 28 – No Youth Night**

**Sunday, January 4 – New Beginnings**

Let's ring in the New Year by focusing on our ability as Catholics to start fresh in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

### **MEMORY VERSE**

### **COLOSSIANS 3:17**

Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **RESPECT LIFE CORNER**

The Freedom of Choice Act, FOCA, would establish abortion as a fundamental right throughout the nine months of pregnancy and forbid any law or policy that could interfere with the right. Did you know that the Freedom of Choice Act (S.1173, H.R.1964) would override all existing regulations on abortion - state and federal - such as parental notification and the partial birth abortion ban? **Please call or e-mail your representatives and President-elect Obama's transition team to voice your opinion.**

[www.mikulski.senate.gov](http://www.mikulski.senate.gov) 202-224-4654

[www.cardin.senate.gov](http://www.cardin.senate.gov) 202-224-4524

[www.change.gov](http://www.change.gov)

**March for Life:** Thursday, January 22. Join tens of thousands 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!

To read more, please visit [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife)

Pregnant, Need Help?

Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK  
Suffering Post-Abortion Stress?

Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

## **Religious Education News**

**Sunday, December 28 – No Religious Ed. classes.**

**Sunday, January 4 – Report cards will be distributed!**

**Tuesday, January 6 – Sacrament of First Reconciliation**

**PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF MY 2008 CONTRIBUTIONS.**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ENVELOPE #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_