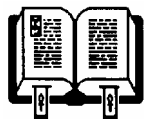


TODAY IS THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2008

**Scripture Readings for Today****1st Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**2nd Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-14**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8**Scripture Readings for December 14th****1st Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dear Parishioners,

Advent is a Season when, among other things, we often call to mind The Blessed Mother. A nativity scene would seem incomplete without her, and rightly so. Without her "Yes" to God, there would be no birth to celebrate. As the Church celebrates two feasts of the Blessed Mother this week (The Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe), I would like to offer you a couple of quotations to ponder in the weeks to come.

Pope St. Gregory VII wrote: "What can I say of her whom earth and heaven cease not to praise, though never as her merits deserve? May you believe beyond all doubt that, as she is higher and better and more holy than all human mothers, so she is more gracious and tender toward every sinner who turns toward her. Cease, therefore, every sinful desire, and prostrate before her, pour out your tears from a humble and contrite heart. You will find her, I surely promise you, more ready than any earthly mother and more lenient in her love for you."

St. Catherine of Siena was concerned about the salvation of a certain man who had died. God assured her of his salvation, saying, "For I had not forgotten the reverence and love he had for Mary, My Only-Begotten Son's most gentle mother. For my goodness, in deference to the Word, has decreed that anyone at all, just or sinner, who holds her in due reverence will never be snatched or devoured by the infernal demon." With a promise like that, our rosaries should never get rusty.

Fr. Tim

THE MASS COUNT FOR NOVEMBER 29-30TH

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 5 PM – 231 | 7:30 AM – 203 | 9 AM – 289 |
| 10:30 AM – 379 | 12 PM – 249 | Total – 1351 |



We are all stewards — managers of the many gifts God has bestowed upon us. Our challenge as Christians is to make good use of those gifts.

THE COLLECTION FOR NOVEMBER 29-30TH

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | \$12,369.35 |
| Loose | \$1,402.88 |
| Poor Boxes | \$620.74 |
| Children's | \$44.33 |

Children's Stewardship

Eight year old S.B. writes on her envelope:
Time: helped Mom clean
Talent: painting
Treasure: \$1.00

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Florence Myers and Albert Tawney Jr.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals – 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: Tammy Randle, Lou Kaminski, Mary Van Dusen, Charles & Jacque Harris, John Joseph, Kyla Zeilinger, 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. 8-14TH

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| MONDAY 12/8 | 6:30 a.m. – Thomas Tacka 8:00 a.m. – Rosaria Fonti 10:30a.m. – Ints of Czeslawa Kusmierz 7:00 p.m. – Ints of Ray-anne Abogadie |
| TUESDAY 12/9 | 6:30 a.m. – Mary Tacka 8:00 a.m. – Nellie Koehler |
| WED. 12/10 | 6:30 a.m. – Edwina Formhals 8:00 a.m. – Henry & Cecelia Hoffman |
| THURSDAY 12/11 | 6:30 a.m. – Ann P. Hoffman 8:00 a.m. – Sr. Marie Edwina SSND |
| FRIDAY 12/12 | 6:30 a.m. – Michael Lawler 8:00 a.m. – Frances Shaver |
| SAT. 12/13 | 8:00 a.m. – Ann Bianco Alexander 5:00 p.m. – Phero Tan Nguyen |
| SUNDAY 12/14 | 7:30 a.m. – Matthew Thierer 9:00 a.m. – For the Parishioners 10:30 a.m. – Vincent Vinci 12:00 p.m. – Int. of Irene Szczecinski |

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, is The Feast of the Immaculate Conception; a Holyday of Obligation. Our Masses will be Monday, December 8th at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. **We will not have a vigil Mass Sunday evening December 7th.**

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - It



is the tradition of our Sisters at St. Agnes Convent to observe this feast day in prayer and celebration! The Sisters want you to know that you and your families will be in their prayers.

The IHM Sisters arrived in this parish in 1933. They serve in various ministries in the Baltimore area. The Sisters presently living in St. Agnes Convent:

Sister Gracette Baker, IHM
Sister Joan Bastress, IHM

EVENING PRAYER WITH JESUS: Please join us to pray the Liturgy of the Hours before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday evenings during Advent (12/9, 12/16, and 12/23) at 6:30 p.m. 'O Come let us Adore Him.'

ST. AGNES PARISH COUNCIL will meet this Thursday, Dec. 11th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Old School Hall. All parishioners are welcome.

DAILY READINGS

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Monday 12/8 | <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 |
| Tuesday 12/9 | <i>St. Juan Diego</i> Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14 |
| Wednesday 12/10 | <i>Weekday</i> Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31 Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30 |
| Thursday 12/11 | <i>St. Damasus I, Pope</i> Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20 Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15 |
| Friday 12/12 | <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> Reading: Zechariah 2:14-17 Gospel: Luke 1:26-38 |
| Saturday 12/13 | <i>St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr</i> Reading: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11 Gospel: Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 |

OPERATION CRECHE KRINGLE is drawing to a



close. If there are any names left in the manger, please take one, so that each request made by our neighboring parishes may be filled.

All gifts must be in by the end of the 12 noon Mass NEXT weekend Dec. 14. If

you would like to help package the gifts, please contact Richard or Cookie Hauf at 410-747-0398.

SHOPPING SPREE RAFFLE – Members of the Men's Club will be selling chances after the Masses this weekend. For \$1 per chance, \$5 for 6 chances or \$10 for 15 chances - you can win a \$350.00 shopping spree at ONE of the following: Shoppers, Giant, Safeway, Mars or Super Fresh. The drawing will be held on Dec. 17th. Please help support our parish youth athletic programs.

DEACON JACK'S TURKEYS – donations for Christmas turkeys for the Transfiguration Parish are still being collected. Thank you for making this season truly blessed.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!

St. Agnes School's Open House

On December 9th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM our doors will be open to all parishioners and school families. We would like you to visit and invite your co-workers, neighbors, relatives, and friends to see us in action. Attend the classes in Nursery – Grade 8 as well as in our computer lab, art room, Spanish classes, music classes, library, and our brand new gym in the St. Agnes Parish Center. Remember we are the school who last year had every 8th grader who applied to a Catholic High School accepted to their first choice high school. Let's spread our very Good News!

Congratulations to our 8th grade Confirmandi who received this beautiful Sacrament from Bishop Rozanski last Thursday evening. Please continue to keep these young men and women in your prayers as they continue their faith journey.

Thank you to Mrs. Herwig (Middle School Religion) and Mrs. Barrick and the Religious Ed Catechists for their dedicated preparation of our students.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: This beautiful feast day in honor of Our Lady is the feast day of our Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are grateful to them for their many years of dedication and service to our school community! School is closed for the holyday, December 8, 2008.

A special thanks to all who supported our Breakfast with Santa on Saturday and the Santa's Workshop throughout the week. The faculty and students appreciate your support, and we are also grateful to our enthusiastic parent volunteers who planned and helped out at the events.

Dates To Remember

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 12/8 | Feast of the Immaculate Conception St. Agnes School closed |
| 12/9 | Open House 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Parishioners, Families, & Friends Welcome! |
| 12/13 | High School Placement Test – 8:30 a.m. Bring #2 pencils and \$30 cash only Report to your first choice school |

WEB DESIGNER? Share your talent! Join the volunteer team to help redesign and implement the St. Agnes School website. All interested should call Diane Kreft at 410.747.4070.

St. Agnes Youth Ministry

Sunday, December 7 – Service Night

Tonight, we will be making Christmas cards to take with us when we go caroling at Village Oaks retirement home. Mount 2009 paperwork and fees are due tonight! Forms and information for our caroling trip will be available this night.

Sat.-Sunday, Dec. 13-14 –Calendar/Notepad Sale
Please sign up to help with our fundraiser! We will be selling God's Creation calendars and notepads to offset the costs of our outings.

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.

Religious Education News

Sunday, December 14 –Report cards will be sent home today.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dolores Miller and Vera Harp, Silver Circle winners for this month.

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR SALE! After Masses the weekend of December 13-14, members of our youth group will be selling God's Creation calendars and magnetic notepads. Proceeds benefit our youth program. Calendars will also be available at Santa's Workshop!

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following St. Agnes parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Rozanski on Thursday, December 4th.



| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| John Bilenki | Alexandria Lukasavage |
| John Brower | Jason Mannion |
| Julia Cholewczynski | Madeline McGinty |
| Michael Cummings | Sarah Milesky |
| Emma Cusick | Jordan Nelson |
| Patrick Daschbach | Kamsi Odinammadu |
| Brian Desrosiers | Colleen Ogden |
| Matthew Doan | Paige Pacheco |
| Elizabeth Dulaney | Bethany Poling |
| Samantha Fitzpatrick | Eric Quirk |
| Kathryn Flynn | Sarah Schneider |
| Emilie Forest | Lauren Seward |
| Margaret Furletti | Mary Skora |
| Peter Gagnon | Tyler Smith |
| Elizabeth Grap | Rachel Soboleski |
| Nicholas Greenway | Mary Strunck |
| Lauren Guzman | Joseph Szczybor |
| Elizabeth Hill | Rebecca Talley |
| Eric Himmelheber | Ashley Trebes |
| Keri Lee Holt | Christopher Turner |
| Frantzie Jeannot | Caroline Williams |
| Miranda Liberto | Michael Wright |
| Erin Lloyd | |

ST. AGNES BASKETBALL - Boys in grades 9-12 interested in playing basketball for St. Agnes Parish, please call Sue Bianco 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! Certificates are available in the school and parish offices. The school profits 5% from each certificate sold.

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.

MEMORY VERSE **2 PETER 3:14**

While waiting for His coming, make every effort to be spotless, blameless, and at peace in His sight.

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.

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held Thursday, Dec. 18th, at 7:00 pm in the Old School Hall. Please set aside this evening and plan to attend.



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: _____