



Scripture Readings for Today
1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a
2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7
Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Scripture Readings for December 20th

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-4a
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Dear Parishioners,

Rejoice!

This past week we celebrated the feasts of the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. In both of these occurrences Mary the mother of Jesus appeared to young people in different countries. She asked young Bernadette for 'Penance' at Lourdes, France. In Mexico she told Juan Diego she is Mother of the True God and wanted a Church built where she appeared. Churches now stand in both locations. Mary appeared for her Son at Lourdes and Guadalupe. She is Jesus' mother and our mother. During this Advent season and throughout your lives pray for forgiveness of sins. Pray for Mary's intercession, "now and at the hour of our death, Amen."

The time is near. Jesus, Emmanuel, is with us. Let us open our hearts to meet Christ our Savior. Rejoice!

Deacon Jack



MASS COUNT FOR DECEMBER 5-6TH

5 PM – 7:30 AM – 9 AM –
 10:30 AM – 12 PM – Total –

COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER 5-6TH

Envelopes.....\$
 Loose.....\$
 Poor Boxes.....\$
 Children's.....\$
 Building Fund.....\$



Today's Gospel provides a blueprint for our good stewardship: "Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Cecilia French and Josephine Provenza.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals: John Smith, Joseph Kruger, and Preston Scibek.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Rob Coxe, Mary Strunck, Robert Scheile, Alice Tates, Jane McManus, Patrick Daschbach, Catherine Applegarth, Cecilia French, Francis Vizzini, Milton & Timothy Getka, Beth Szczybor, Therese Lipscombe, Quinn Degenhard, May Herzing, Brother James Kelly, Bernard Maddox, Edward Flannagan, Kyla Zeilinger, Jo Keyes, Teddy Skinner, Bill Herman, James DeMatteo, Margaret Peter, Mary Barber, Florence Fink, Lillian Goldwine, Lorraine Keough, Kathleen Ricker, Helen Bopp, Frances Amann, Genevieve Randle, Evana Feeney, Heather LaMartina, Ann Finnel, Dottie Lappe, Concetta Fowler, Sandy Miller, Margaret Blinke, Mr. & Mrs. William Lang.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE: We ask you to remember the parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: **USMC** – Cpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl. John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton; **NAT'L GUARD** – Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker, Spc. Paul Ascosi; **NAVY** – Harrison Seward, David Roussey, Daniel Gately; **ARMY** – SSG Patrick Flanagan, Sgt. Alex

Kuziel, James Lowe, Andy Giotis, Andy Deponai,
Timothy Muhl, Sgt. Joshua Callow, Spc. Stephen
Grenfell, 1st Lt. Stephen Winter, Capt. Sheldon
Broedel.

Mass Intentions



MASSES FOR DECEMBER 14-20TH

MONDAY 6:30 a.m. – Amy Adams
12/14 8:00 a.m. – Simon Avara

TUESDAY 6:30 a.m. – Matthew Barcase
12/15 8:00 a.m. – Charles Harris

WED. 6:30 a.m. – Int. of Bob Meyers
12/16 8:00 a.m. – Eugene Kelly

THURS. 6:30 a.m. – Int. of June Downey
12/17 8:00 a.m. – Charles Payne

FRIDAY 6:30 a.m. – Int. of Carol Lofgren
12/18 8:00 a.m. –

SAT. 8:00 a.m. – Int. of Ed Stout
12/19 5:00 p.m. – Elaine Flannagan

SUNDAY 7:30 a.m. – For the Parishioners
12/20 9:00 a.m. – Jack Russell
10:30 a.m. – Barranco Family
12:00 p.m. – Salvatore Tumminello
& Nunzio Longo

DAILY READINGS

Monday *St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor*
12/14 **Reading:** Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a
Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday *Advent Weekday*
12/15 **Reading:** Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13
Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Wed. *Advent Weekday*
12/16 **Reading:** Isaiah 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25
Gospel: Luke 7:18b-23

Thursday *Advent Weekday*
12/17 **Reading:** Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

Friday *Advent Weekday*
12/18 **Reading:** Jeremiah 23:5-8
Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Saturday *Advent Weekday*
12/19 **Reading:** Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a
Gospel: Luke 1:15-25

RCIA – will be held Monday, Dec. 14th at 7:00 pm in the new school. The topic of discussion will be: ***Catholic Morality and Human Dignity / Living a Moral Life.***

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 2010. **All gifts must be in by the end of the 12 noon Mass today.** Volunteers will be in the lower Church 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 (12/15, and 12/22) at 6:30 p.m. 'O Come let us Adore Him.'

ST. AGNES PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE will meet in the School Library on Dec.16th at 7:00 pm. Agenda items include: the March for Life on Jan. 22nd, the 40 Days for Life Campaign that will run from Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday and our Spiritual Adoption program. Contact Joe Healy with any questions at 410-788-4325 or st.piusx@gmail.com. You can also follow the Pro-Life Committee on Facebook by joining the "St. Agnes Pro-Life" group.

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. 16th. Proceeds support the parish athletic program.



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

OUR DAILY BREAD: The next food delivery date is this Friday, Dec. 18th. Drop off time at Church is 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Flower envelopes were included in your December 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 14th to be included in the Dec. 20th bulletin. The suggested donation is \$15.00.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!

home, 2021 Frederick Road from 6 -11 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person for sit down dinner and music by Ken Jackson. For tickets call Lou Carper at 410-747-6435.



CONFESSIONS:

Monday, December 21st 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

MASSES:

Christmas Eve, Thursday, 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, Friday, December 25th

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT: January 29-31, 2010: Do you know someone who is hurting from the pain of abortion? There is hope & healing for those who are suffering the after-effects of abortion trauma. All communication is strictly confidential. For counseling and spiritual support, call 410-625-8491 or email projectrachel@archbalt.org. Visit www.project-rachel.net for more information.

FOOD CERTIFICATE Consider a practical Christmas gift for and neighbors. Giant, Shoppers, Panera nkin Donuts gift cards purchased from St. Agnes are practical, appreciated, and benefit our school! Certificates are available in the school and parish offices.

12/15 Geography Bee at St. Agnes

12/18 Christmas Concert 7:00pm Activity Center

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS PARTY sponsored by the St. Agnes Council Knights of Columbus will be held December 19th at the council

“Pray the Rosary or the Chaplet of the *Divine Mercy*. Attend Mass more regularly. Pray before the *Blessed Sacrament*. Just as the loaves and fishes were multiplied, our efforts to change hearts and save the unborn are multiplied exponentially by prayer.”

Archbishop Edwin O’Brien

ST. AGNES YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, Dec. 13 – Advent Prayer Service and Open Gym Night

Please meet in the church tonight. We will head over to the gym after our prayer service.

Monday, Dec. 14 – Caroling at Village Oak

Join us as we sing Christmas Carols to residents at Village Oak Retirement Apartments from 6-7pm. All participants must bring signed permission forms with them. Visit www.StAgnesCatholicChurch.org.

OUR DAILY BREAD CHRISTMAS PARTY – St.

Agnes parishioners have again ensured the success of ODB’s 2009 Christmas party for homeless men. Thanks so much for your generosity! Thanks also to all those who faithfully bake and donate all year long!

TUESDAY ADORATION: Adorers are needed for the 2-3 p.m. hour for our weekly Tuesday Adoration. Please email Jan Vidmar at janvid23@verizon.net or call her at 410.744.4106. Thank You!

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Remember the Holy Innocents: Dec. 28th, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, St. Andrew by the Bay, 701 College Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21409, will hold their 10th Annual Prayer Service at 7 pm in memory of the Holy Innocents and for those dearly beloved children who have departed this world through miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS, abortion, illness or accident. For details call Maureen Stansell 410-757-4132 or mstansell@verizon.net.

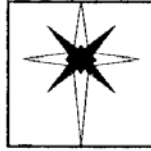
March For Life –Save the Date! Friday, Jan. 22, 2010, plan to attend the Rally at the Mall and peacefully march to the Supreme Court in Washington, D. C. The anniversary of Roe v Wade is the Supreme Court decision which legalized the killing of 50,000,000 innocent preborn babies and has divided this country for the past 37 years.

your weakness. Confess your sins. And rejoice in the grace of forgiveness.

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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

MEMORY VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again: rejoice!

“IN HIS LIKENESS”

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS, Priest & Doctor

Feast Day – December 14th

"I should boast of nothing but the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; through him the world is crucified to me, and I to the world."

John was a Carmelite priest, and after meeting St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) he was persuaded by her to lead a reform and renewal among his religious brethren.

The spirituality of John of the Cross was centered on the experience of the Cross. Union with God is achieved through a rigorous discipline, abandonment to God and purification of the will and of the senses. He explains his personal spiritual odyssey in his writings, especially in *The Ascent to Mount Carmel*, but more so in *The Dark Night of the Soul*. It is difficult to summarize the process of attaining union with God, but perhaps it could be put in this way: If one wants to save one's life, one must lose it in God through a spirit of abandonment and self-denial,

The spirit of John's writings and life are captured in this following excerpt: "Though holy doctors have uncovered many mysteries and wonders, and devout souls have understood them in this earthly condition of ours, yet the greater part still remains to be unfolded by them, and even to be understood by them. We must then dig deeply in Christ. He is like a rich mine with many pockets containing treasures: however deep we dig we will never find their end or their limit. Indeed, in every pocket new seams of fresh riches are discovered on all sides."

For this reason the apostle Paul said of Christ: "In him are hidden all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God. The soul cannot enter into these treasures, nor attain them,

unless it first crosses into and enters the thicket of suffering, enduring interior and exterior labors, and unless it first receives from God very many blessings in the intellect and in the senses, and has undergone long spiritual training. The soul that longs for divine wisdom chooses first, and in truth, to enter the thicket of the cross."

One of the great mystics of all time, St. John of the Cross was canonized in 1726, and in 1926 Pope Pius XI proclaimed him a Doctor of the Church.