



**Scripture Readings for Today**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

**Gospel:** Mark 2:1-12



Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today's Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God's forgiveness?

**Scripture Readings for March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15

Dear Parishioners,

So often we take our good health for granted. We really don't appreciate it until we have some physical ailment or health issue. Then it becomes one of the dominate factors in our life and colors our outlook in life. Poor health may not always drag us down into the dumps as long as our faith is strong. However, it can keep us from living life to its fullest.

The past month our Lord has met people with health issues: the man with the unclean spirit, Simon's mother-in-law, a leper, and the paralyzed man today. In each case, Jesus heals them. These episodes show the compassion of Jesus towards those who suffer and his desire to heal their infirmities. But they also point to a deeper malady, the malady of sin which prevents us from serving God. That's worse than the physical evil that can beset our bodies. Because of that our Lord's first priority in today's gospel is the forgiveness of the paralyzed man's sins. Only afterwards, to prove to the crowd that he has the power to forgive sins, does Jesus cure the man's paralysis.

To some extent that paralyzed man represents you and me. Our plea to God should constantly be the refrain of today's psalm "Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you."

Fr. Carl

Children's Stewardship

Eight year old B. L. writes on her envelope:

Time: helping my family

Talent: arts & crafts

Treasure: \$1.00

**THE MASS COUNT FOR FEBRUARY 14-15<sup>TH</sup>**

5 PM – 230	7:30 AM – 149	9 AM – 268
10:30 AM – 335	12 PM – 291	Total – 1273

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS**, especially those in hospitals – Kitty Walters, Cathy Parsons, Sandy Miller, Jacob Soboleski, Cecelia Brushwiler, Ruth Crofts, Margaret Neeley, Dottie Lappe, and Concetta Fowler.

**PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED:** for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Charles Payne, Catherine Cleaver, Mary Van Dusen, Florence Fink, Milton Getka, Dolores Carver, Fr. Vitesse, Margaret Blinke, Lou Kaminski, Charles & Jacque Harris, Mr. and Mrs. William Lang, and Noreen Newcomb.

**PRAYER 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; Navy – Daniel Gately; Army – Andy Deponai, 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.

**THE COLLECTION FOR FEBRUARY 14-15<sup>TH</sup>**

Envelopes .....	\$14,970.00
Loose .....	\$755.76
Poor Boxes .....	\$433.80
Children's .....	\$47.11

*Mass Intentions***MASSSES FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 23-MAR. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

MONDAY 2/23	6:30 a.m. – Mary Plazek 8:00 a.m. – Teodolfo Ramos
TUESDAY 2/24	6:30 a.m. – Rose La Martina 8:00 a.m. – Mary Eileen Feeney
WED. 2/25	6:30 a.m. – Joseph J. Cicero 8:00 a.m. – Joan McGeehan 7:00 p.m. – Deceased Parishioners
THURS. 2/26	6:30 a.m. – Ron Barber 8:00 a.m. – Rae Jean Ramsden
FRIDAY 2/27	6:30 a.m. – Rose & Ernest Delcher 8:00 a.m. – Helyn Pessaro
SAT. 2/28	8:00 a.m. – Nancy & Harry Salino 5:00 p.m. – Nellie Maggio
SUNDAY 3/1	7:30 a.m. – For the Parishioners 9:00 a.m. – Albert Davis 10:30 a.m. – Andrew Windham 12:00 p.m. – Mary & Bill Eder

**DAILY READINGS**

<b>Monday</b> 2/23	<i>St. Polycarp</i> <b>Reading:</b> Sirach 1:1-10 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 9:14-29
<b>Tuesday</b> 2/24	<i>Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Sirach 2:1-11 <b>Gospel:</b> Mark 9:30-37
<b>Wednesday</b> 2/25	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Joel 2:12-18 <b>Reading:</b> 2 Corinthians 5:20 — 6:2 <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
<b>Thursday</b> 2/26	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Deuteronomy 30:15-20 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 9:22-25
<b>Friday</b> 2/27	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Isaiah 58:1-9a <b>Gospel:</b> Matthew 9:14-15
<b>Saturday</b> 2/28	<i>Lenten Weekday</i> <b>Reading:</b> Isaiah 58:9b-14 <b>Gospel:</b> Luke 5:27-32

**FLOWERS:** Flowers on the Main Altar are in loving memory of Bob Mellendick, requested by Doris.

**The Light is On for You - Reconciliation on Wednesday nights in Lent:** This year during Lent, our parish is participating in an Archdiocesan-wide Reconciliation program initiated by Archbishop O'Brien called **The Light is On for You**. On five consecutive Wednesdays in Lent – March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 – the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered here at St. Agnes from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Every Catholic parish in the Archdiocese of Baltimore will have Confessions available on these five Wednesdays and we invite you to join us here for this Sacrament. If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament or have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, this is a great opportunity to receive Penance. To remind you about the parts of Confession and the Act of Contrition, a new brochure is available on the Church windowsills or at each entrance to guide you through this renewing Sacrament.

**ASH WEDNESDAY** – This Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, is **Ash Wednesday** – **Masses will be held at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.** (School Liturgy) and **7:00 p.m.** Ashes will be distributed after the Homily at all the Masses.

**DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE** are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to **FAST** and **ABSTAIN** on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. **Only one full meal and two smaller meals may be taken. No eating between meals. NO MEAT.**

**DAYS OF ABSTINENCE** – ALL FRIDAYS OF LENT. All Catholics are obliged to observe the law of abstinence beginning with their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. **Eating meat is not allowed on all Fridays of Lent.**

**THE SPECIAL COLLECTION** to be taken up at all the Masses on Ash Wednesday will be the Archdiocesan Collection for the **CHURCHES IN EASTERN EUROPE**. The helping hand of America's Catholics has reached far into Eastern Europe and has provided aid to the seminaries, schools, and religious orders of that area. Please make checks to St. Agnes Church. We thank you for your generosity.

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** will be prayed next Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:15 p.m. Please join us and experience the power of God's love and mercy.

**LENTEN SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:**

Daily Mass – 6:30 and 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday.  
8:00 a.m. Saturday.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held each Friday during Lent at 1:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

**SOUP AND STATIONS** will be held each Friday during Lent. Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. in the Old School Hall. Stations of the Cross will be held at 7 p.m. in the Church. Bring the whole family! Handicap lift is available. If you would like to donate a crock pot of meatless soups, call Denise Zambotti at 410-247-3754,

**THE WORD AMONG US** family edition for Lent is available on the church windowsills. This book offers daily meditations based on the Mass readings, inspirational essays and stories to deepen your Lenten prayer time.

**RICE BOWLS** for your Lenten Contributions can be found on the church windowsills this weekend. Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten Program for Catholic Relief Services and helps us to Pray, Fast, Learn and Give in solidarity with those in need. Proceeds will help our less fortunate neighbors in our diocese and around the world.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** will be held Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM in the Chapel at St. Mark in Catonsville. World Day of Prayer is the one and only time that the various congregations, in and around Catonsville, gather for worship and fellowship. This year, we will pray for peace and make an offering to support the needs in New Guinea. All are welcome! You are invited to bring a non-perishable food donation for the poor.

**ST. PATRICK'S DINNER DANCE** – St. Agnes Council Knights of Columbus will host a St. Patrick's party at the council home, 2021 Frederick Rd. on Sat. March 14 from 7-11 pm. Dinner will be corned beef and cabbage or ham with all the trimmings, beer, wine & soda. Tickets are \$17. DJ Ken Jackson will play big band and easy listening for dancing. For tickets call Bernie McNulty at 410-480-0661 before March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!**

**Mt. St. Joseph High School's Speech Contest:**  
The three young men representing St. Agnes last Saturday did a fantastic job! Congratulations to John Bilenki, 4<sup>th</sup> place; Matt Doan, 5<sup>th</sup> place; Brian Desrosiers, 6<sup>th</sup> place. We are very proud of your accomplishments. A special thanks to Sr. Gracette for her special coaching to prepare the boys for the contest.

**Dates to Remember:**

**2/24-27** Middle School Trimester Tests  
**2/25** Ash Wednesday Mass at 9:00AM  
**2/27** Stations of the Cross 1:45 pm

**New Student Testing** for all grades will be held on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Registration for new students is ongoing. Please call the School Office at 410-747-4070 for details about registration and testing.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

**Confirmation**

The registration form (blue form) from the Confirmation packet (distributed at the meeting on January 18) was due February 8-9. Please return the form and a payment for the Confirmation Fee (\$90) to your teacher or to the Office of Religious Education.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL** is planning an **All Class reunion** on Saturday, June 6, 2009. If you are interested in attending or in helping plan this event, please send an email to [sasallclassreunion@yahoo.com](mailto:sasallclassreunion@yahoo.com) with your name (maiden name), address, phone #, graduation year and email address or call Sue Bianco at 410-788-3537 or Susan Thompson at 410-465-6999.

**A MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT** will be held at the Priestfield Retreat Center, WV, on March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, and April 3. These retreats have been held for over 35 years and couples who attend come away feeling spiritually refreshed. For more info, call Elaine & Frank Galeone at 410-252-5355 or visit website [www.marriedcouplesretreat.com](http://www.marriedcouplesretreat.com).

## **RESPECT LIFE CORNER**

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland March for Life:** Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary's Church, 109 Duke of Gloucester Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. The evening begins with registration at 5:00 pm. followed by a 5:30 pm Mass with Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Celebrant, and then proceeds at 6:40 with the March to Lawyer's Mall at the State House. Let your voice be heard on the protection and sanctity of human life, particularly pregnant moms and their babies. A minibus will be provided to transport those unable to do the walk – however, there is no lift. <http://www.marylandmarchforlife.org>

**Pregnant, Need Help?** Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK

**Suffering Post-Abortion Stress?** Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

If you are interested in joining the St. Agnes Respect Life Committee, contact Joe Healy at 410-788-4325.

### **THE MEN'S CLUB BULL AND OYSTER ROAST**

happens again on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 7 – 12 pm at The Lodge, in Catonsville. Catered by Monaghan's Pub! Tickets are \$40 per person. Contact Mike D. 410-788-6822 or any Men's Club member.

### **CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE:**

The annual conference will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup> at Towson Catholic High School. Among the speakers will be Archbishop O'Brien, who will also preside at the Mass following the conference. It's always a great day for the men who attend; sons of high school age and older are also welcome. For details and registration info go to [www.catholicmensfellowship.com](http://www.catholicmensfellowship.com). Or call Mike Burke 410-788-0171.

**ST. AGNES SCHOOL FUNDRAISER:** Before you go to the store, stop by the Food Certificate table after Mass and purchase a \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 or \$100 food certificate to put toward your groceries. You get dollar for dollar value, and St. Agnes School will receive up to 5% of your grocery bill -- at no cost to you!

### **DONATE YOUR CAR TO CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Call 410-625-8444 or toll free at 1-866-486-6140 or donate online at [www.cc-md.org](http://www.cc-md.org). Free pick-up and towing!

## **Remember You Are Dust**



Ash Wednesday, the official beginning of Lent, is a day of fast and abstinence. It is also the day Catholics come to church to receive ashes on their foreheads.

Marking a person's forehead is an ancient symbol of ownership. Receiving ashes in the shape of a cross identifies you as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The ashes also serve as reminders of human mortality and the need for repentance.

In the early years of Christianity, public sinners put ashes on their heads and faces as a sign of atonement for sins and a desire to be reunited with the worshiping community.

The custom of marking the foreheads of everyone in the community is thought to have originated during the papacy of St. Gregory the Great (590-604). At the Synod of Benevento in 1091, receiving ashes became a universal practice in the western world.

This year, when you receive ashes, keep in mind that it is an invitation to repent, a challenge to grow closer to the Lord, and a gentle reminder that your time on this earth is limited.

*Our Sunday Visitor, February 3, 2008*

**ASH WEDNESDAY** – This Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, is **Ash Wednesday – Masses will be held at 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m.** Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses.

**MESSAGE FROM FR. CARL** – A will is your final statement of your Christian stewardship. I thank God for those of you who have remembered St. Agnes Church in your wills. Your faithful stewardship in planning for your death has strengthened our parish immeasurably.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

### **PSALM 41:1**

Blessed is the one who has regard for the lowly and the poor; in the day of misfortune the Lord will deliver him.