



Scripture Readings for Today

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

2nd Reading: 1 Corin. 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Scripture Readings for January 25th

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Dear Parishioners,

“The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.” These were God’s words to Cain after he killed his brother. The shedding of innocent blood is one of the sins that cry to Heaven for justice. This week is the feast of our patroness, St. Agnes, whose innocent blood was shed c. 304 in Rome. Also, the Church observes a day of penance on Thursday, as we are called to offer prayers and sacrifices to God for the millions of victims of abortion in our own nation. In the book of Revelation, even from Heaven the martyrs cry to God, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before Thou will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell upon the earth?” Dorothy Day once said that she was afraid for America’s future, as she feared “we will reap what we have sown.” As the blood of tens of millions of murdered babies cries out to God, how can we not have the same fear? Yet, there is cause for hope as well, as there are also tens of millions of Americans who hold all life as sacred, and our voices must rise to Heaven as well. Shortly after the martyrdom of St. Agnes, pagan Rome became Christian Rome, something very few people would have predicted in 304 A.D. As we offer our prayers and penance this week, it should be with genuine sorrow for those who were denied their right to life, but also with the deep-rooted conviction that God always triumphs. Let’s pray this week that evil no longer be given the protection of law, that those who need healing and forgiveness may reach out to God and experience His mercy, and that we will someday be worthy of the company of St. Agnes and all those who never feared to give witness to God.

Fr. Tim



In today’s first reading, we hear Samuel respond eagerly, “Here I am!” each time the Lord calls him. May we, too, be listening for the call of God in our lives and be ready to say like the psalmist, “Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary was the model steward with her unqualified, “yes” and complete trust in God’s will. When I put God first in my life, everything else falls into place.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Rita Luebehusen and John Joseph.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals – Dottie Lappe, Concetta Fowler, Mary Salapong, Cecelia Brushwiler, and Maribelle Kursch.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Florence Fink, Betty Wissman, Milton Getka, Dolores Carver, Fr. Nicholas 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 – Pvt. Harry Harrison Bruns, 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, 1st Lt. Stephen Winter, 1st Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert.

THE COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 10-11TH

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|------------------|-------------|
| Envelopes | \$12,454.00 |
| Loose | \$1,642.85 |
| Poor Boxes | \$355.65 |
| Children’s | \$57.30 |

THE MASS COUNT FOR JANUARY 10-11TH

5 PM – 141 7:30 AM – 167 9 AM – 333
 10:30 AM – 348 12 PM – 325 Total – 1314

Mass Intentions**MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JAN 19-25TH**

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|-----------------|--|
| MONDAY 1/19 | 6:30 a.m. – Louis Rettberg 8:00 a.m. – Joseph Johnson |
| TUESDAY 1/20 | 6:30 a.m. – Leo Garvey 8:00 a.m. – Steve Ridilla |
| WED. 1/21 | 6:30 a.m. – Int of Hackett family 8:00 a.m. – Mr. Troy |
| THURS. 1/22 | 6:30 a.m. – Int of Novothy family 8:00 a.m. – Robert Fisher |
| FRIDAY 1/23 | 6:30 a.m. – Regina Schott 8:00 a.m. – Int of Cusick family |
| SAT. 1/24 | 8:00 a.m. – Int of Cathy Dix 5:00 p.m. – Gabriel Pacione |
| SUNDAY 1/25 | 7:30 a.m. – Kathleen Gallo 9:00 a.m. – Regina Schott 10:30 a.m. – For the Parishioners 12:00 p.m. – Francisco T. Orense |

DAILY READINGS

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Monday 1/19 | <i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10 Gospel: Mark 2:18-22 |
| Tuesday 1/20 | <i>Pope Fabian, St. Sebastian</i> Reading: Hebrews 6:10-20 Gospel: Mark 2:23-28 |
| Wednesday 1/21 | <i>St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr</i> Reading: Hebrews 7:1-3, 15-17 Gospel: Mark 3:1-6 |
| Thursday 1/22 | <i>Day of Penance & Prayer, St. Vincent</i> Reading: Hebrews 7:25 – 8:6 Gospel: Mark 3:7-12 |
| Friday 1/23 | <i>Weekday</i> Reading: Hebrews 8:6-13 Gospel: Mark 3:13-19 |
| Saturday 1/24 | <i>St. Francis de Sales</i> Reading: Hebrews 9:2-3, 11-14 Gospel: Mark 3:20-21 |

FLOWERS: on our Holy Family Altar are in loving memory of Jerry Cleaver, requested by his family. To donate fresh flowers in loving memory or for a special occasion call Doris Mellendick at 410-747-2751.

THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY will be prayed Sunday, Jan. 18th at 1:15 pm following the 12 pm Mass. Come join us in prayer for vocations, peace in our world and for the success of the Pro-Life March in Washington DC on 1/22/09.

ST. AGNES MENS CLUB will hold their monthly meeting this Wednesday, January 21th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Old School Hall. All men of the parish are invited to attend

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK begins next Sunday, January 25th. The theme this year is “**Celebrate Service**”. We will have a special liturgy at 9:00 a.m. followed by a school Open House until Noon. Please join us! The second collection to be taken up at all the Masses next weekend will benefit our school.

THE ARCHBISHOP’S LENTEN APPEAL IS NOW THE ARCHBISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL The Archbishop has approved changing the name of the Archbishop’s Lenten Appeal to the Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. The campaign will now take place prior to Lent each year so that the Appeal does not interfere with Lenten liturgies. Many of our parishioners either have or soon will receive a mailing from Archbishop O’Brien. He will ask that you make a pledge to the 2009 Archbishop’s Annual Appeal. The Appeal not only funds the operations of the Archdiocese, it funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish. This year, the theme of the Appeal is, “**DO EVERYTHING FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.**” (1 Cor. 10:31 – 11:1) Clearly, everything that we do to live out our faith gives glory to God. Our contributions to our parish and our Archdiocese multiply the glory that we give to our God by enabling ministries and services that touch thousands of lives. Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed up to our goal of \$86,910.00. Then, we receive 50% of the additional funds received. This year, we will commit our parish rebates to the building fund. **Please answer the Archbishop’s request and make a generous pledge.** All pledges can be billed in ten monthly installments. Thank you in advance for your support.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL NEWS!

Catholic Schools Week is Coming

January 25th – January 30th! Join us in prayer during this special week as we celebrate the Good News in Catholic Education. Our theme for this year is "Celebrate Service" and we will be doing just that during our week. Our service projects this month is to raise money for our sister parish in Haiti. Besides a three day bake sale at lunchtime, we will have a dress down day that will cost each student and teacher \$2.00. All other donations will be accepted.

- Sunday, 1/25** CSW Opening Mass 9:00 Mass
Open House 10:15- 12 Noon
Visit *your* parish school!
- Monday, 1/26** Prayer Service 9:00 am
Student Bake Sale to raise money
for our sister Parish in Haiti.
- Tues., 1/27** Student Appreciation Day
Free hot lunch sponsored by HSA
Student Bowling Party
AMF Lanes / 3:15-5:15
- Wed., 1/28** Annual Talent Show
Student Bake Sale to raise money
for our sister parish in Haiti
- Thurs., 1/29** Pair/Share between grades
Student Bake Sale to raise money
for our sister parish in Haiti
- Friday, 1/30** Teacher Appreciation Day
12:30 Dismissal
Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Dates To Remember:

- 1/18** Confirmation Invitation 9:00 Mass
1/19 No School / Dr. King Jr Day
1/21 St. Agnes Chick-Fil-A night 5-8 pm
1/23 12:30 dismissal

LONGABERGER BASKET BINGO sponsored by St. Agnes Men's Club will be held on **Friday, January 23rd**, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00) in the Old School Cafeteria. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. Sorry, no one under 16 years old will be admitted. For tickets contact Buck Sipes at 410-747-5143. Last year was a sell-out!!

St. Agnes Youth Ministry

Sunday, Jan 18 – Game Night

Join us for a low-key night of games and snacks! Some games, snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your favorite game or snack to share! Don't forget to bring a friend!

Religious Education News

Sunday, January 25

No Class – Catholic Schools Week

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING – Members of our youth group will be outside after all Masses the weekend of Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, collecting donations for Pregnancy Center West. This collection is part of a national effort to raise money and awareness for organizations helping women in need. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

ST. AGNES SCHOOL REGISTRATION for new students in grades N-7 will be held on Friday, February 20th from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM. For more information visit our website: www.stagnesschool.net or call the school office at 410-747-4070.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER: Let a marriage encounter weekend renew your love. 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

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT – The St. Agnes and Patapsco Knights of Columbus Councils invite the men of our parish to attend a weekend retreat at the Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, Md., from Feb. 27- Mar 1st. Cost is \$215.00. For more information call Clif Ziegler at 410-747-2532 or Tom Slifker at 410-465-3485.



PRAYER REQUESTS: The St. Agnes Prayer Chain consists of parishioners who pray for intentions that are submitted. A volunteer is needed to manage prayer requests. If you are able to help, please call Mary Williams at 410.747.3138.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Excerpt from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

"In the last Congress, a Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced that would, if brought forward in the same form today, outlaw any 'interference' in providing abortion at will. It would deprive the American people in all fifty states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country."

Join tens of thousands, Jan. 22 at the **MARCH FOR LIFE** in Washington D.C., to show the new administration and our legislators that we will not tolerate abortion on demand.

St. Agnes will sponsor a bus to the March for Life. Please call Lois Nejfelt at 410-788-9414 for details and to reserve a spot on the bus.

For more info, please visit 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

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.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Due to our recent financial audit by the Archdiocese, beginning January 2009, we will only be able to record a check for 1 purpose in the offertory collection. If you make one monthly contribution, please use only one offertory envelope. A separate check must be made out for the second collection, and the appropriate envelope must be used for that collection. We cannot record loose checks put in the collection basket. Please use an envelope for all donations. Thank you.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT: January 23-25,
"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. Please call 1-800-286-4224. Or visit www.project-rachel.net.

A MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT will be held at Priestfield Retreat Center, WV, on Feb. 27, 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.

CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB – is a social organization for those free to marry in the church. Monthly activities include dinners, movies, cultural events, religious and charitable activities. For information call Tina at 443.922.9824 or Pat at 410-580-1250.

ALL MARRIED COUPLES are cordially invited to join Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for the special World Marriage Day Mass and Reception at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, February 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The Mass will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.



LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE: Our parish is participating in the worldwide marriage encounter search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese. One nominee from each parish will be honored during a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien. Please give the names of your candidates, married 50 years or more, to the parish office. Please include their names, address, telephone and wedding date.

*Christ has made my soul beautiful with
the jewels of Grace and Virtue. I belong
to Him whom the angels serve.*

St. Agnes

St. Agnes
Virgin, Martyr
Feast Day January 21

Agnes was a beautiful, wealthy Roman girl who decided in childhood to dedicate herself to God. She was only 12 years old when she suffered martyrdom for her Faith. Agnes had made a promise to God never to marry. Since she was very beautiful, many young men wished to marry Agnes, but her response to them was, "Jesus Christ is my only Spouse."

One suitor, Procop, the Governor's son, tried desperately to win her for his wife with lavish gifts and promises, but Agnes insisted, "I am already promised to the Lord of the Universe. He is more splendid than the sun and the stars, and He has said He will never leave me!" Furious, Procop accused her of being a Christian (the religion of Rome at that time was pagan, and Christians were persecuted) and brought her to his father, the Governor. The Governor promised Agnes rich gifts if she would only deny God, but Agnes refused. He then tried to coerce her by putting her in chains, but her lovely face only shown with joy. Viciously, he sent her to a place of sin, but an Angel protected her from harm. At the end of his evil recourses, he condemn her to death. Even the pagans cried to see such a young and beautiful girl going to death. Yet, Agnes was unafraid. She ignored those who begged her to save herself. "I would offend my Spouse," she said, "if I were to try to please you. He chose me first and He shall have me!" At her martyrdom, she prayed and bowed her head for the death-stroke of the sword.

The body of St. Agnes was placed in a sepulcher covered by a slab bearing the inscription *Agne sanctissima*. It is believed to be the same one which is now preserved in the Museum at Naples. Agnes was highly revered by Christians throughout the early days of the Church. During the reign of Constantine, a basilica was erected over the grave of St. Agnes, which was later entirely remodeled by Pope Honorius (625-638), and has since remained unaltered.

Since the Middle Ages, St. Agnes has been represented with a lamb, the symbol of her virginal innocence. On her feast two lambs are solemnly blessed, and from their wool are made the vestments sent by the Pope to archbishops. Her feast day is January 21. She is the Patroness of girls.

FOOD CERTIFICATES - If you'd like to support St. Agnes School at no cost to you, purchase a food certificate for Shoppers or Giant. A \$100 certificate costs you \$100 and buys \$100 of groceries and St. Agnes



School receives \$5. Let your grocery shopping support the children who attend St. Agnes School. Food certificates may be used in the pharmacy too!! Thank you!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES! Each year the Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus awards several four year college scholarships to sons and daughters of members of the K of C and to Catholic students in general and



several scholarships for students entering Catholic high schools. Interested parents and students may obtain specific information and applications by writing to: Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus, 10815 Stang Road, Owings Mills, MD 21117, or visit www.kofcmd.org/state/committees/scholarships.htm

MEMORY VERSE

1 SAMUEL 3:10

"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."

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

PLEASE SEND ME A COPY OF MY 2008 CONTRIBUTIONS.

NAME: _____

ENVELOPE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____