

Mass Intentions for the week



SUNDAY - DEC. 2 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00p (SAT) - **Joseph Lucas** (Robert and Marge Kosko)
 8:00 - - **Lillian Zosack** (Ott Miller)
 11:00 - - **Martin A. Hanchak, Jr.** (Zlokas Family)

MONDAY - DECEMBER 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
 (8:00 - - *Mass at Holy Trinity*)

TUESDAY - DEC. 4 - ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS
 6:45 - - COMMUNION SERVICE ONLY

WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 5 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
 (8:00 - - *Mass at Holy Trinity*)

THURSDAY - DECEMBER 6 - ST. NICHOLAS
 6:45 - - **Rose Montalbano** - Birthday (Roseann Needham)

FIRST FRIDAY - DECEMBER 7 - ST. AMBROSE
 8:15 - - **Albert Wessel** (Fr. Joseph Grosko)

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
 (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

7:00 p-(*ant. Fri.*) **Sr. Germain, S.H.S.** (Sisters at St. Agnes)
 11:00 - - **Living and Deceased Members of St. Agnes**

SUNDAY - DEC. 9 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00p (SAT) - **Catherine Betty Bost** (Tom/Patty Klocko)
 8:00 - - **Grace Stinner** (M/M Terry Muir)
 11:00 - - **Amy Zlokas** (A Friend)

EPHESIANS IV — PRAYER & PRAISE
ON MONDAYS AT 7:30 PM IN CHURCH
EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME



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OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

November 25, 2007

\$ 3,052.00 - - Sunday and Monthly Envelopes
 \$ 320.00 - - Parish Share Program Contribution
 PSP Assessment-2007.....\$ 23,391.00
 Amount Paid..... \$ 24,770.00
 Weekly Budget Expenses..... \$ 4,390.00
 Monthly School Subsidy..... \$ 6,167.00

YOUR STEWARDSHIP IS PRAYERFULLY APPRECIATED.
 REMEMBER ST. AGNES CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

OPLATKE (CHRISTMAS WAFERS) ON SALE AFTER MASSES



First Sunday of Advent

As we begin this new liturgical year, the prophet Isaiah inspires us to **climb the Lord's mountain, where we will be instructed in the Lord's ways.** Saint Paul reminds us to **"awake from our sleep and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."** These sentiments are echoed in the Gospel as Jesus warns us to stay awake, ever alert for His coming. The First Sunday of Advent is like a wake-up call. **If our faith has been slumbering, if our spirits are listless, if our participation in the liturgy has become lifeless, now is the time to shake off our stupor and welcome the Lord Jesus into our hearts in a renewed way.** *Come, Emmanuel!*

Spirituality of Advent and Christmas

It is the condition of the human person **"to expect and to await"**. We have expectations from family members, from our employment, from schools, from government agencies, and even from ourselves. **It is of the human condition to "await"**. Awaiting a birthday, the birth of a baby, a special anniversary, a visit from a friend, a paycheck, and the fruits of our labor. There are emotions of joy, anxiety, hope, and even sometimes, fear as we embrace the moment of awaiting. The **"Adventus Domini"—the coming of the Lord—**brings the Christian community to moments of deeper expectations and awaiting. The Scriptural texts in **Cycle A used at Sunday liturgies, calls the faithful to develop a deeper spirituality, appreciating the reality of Christ's presence—in the Sacraments of the Church and in our lives. Read the Scriptures with the family before coming to church on Sunday and even daily.** Thus, reading of the Scriptures heightens our hope in the expectation of the Lord's coming into our lives and within our faith community.





Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th

The Blessed Virgin Mary was destined, from the moment of her conception, to be the bearer of the Eternal Word. As **Mary was the vessel that carried the Savior of the world**, may we too, be vessels that carry the message of the gospel to all we meet. Because of the “yes” of the Blessed Virgin, the **gift of salvation** was given to all the world. Let us honor the Virgin Mary and recognize that the Lord is with her and within this holy place. We will gather on **Saturday, December 8th at 11:00 a.m.** to give *praise and glory to God for the gift of the Lord Jesus. It is a holy day of obligation.* The **Anticipated Mass is on Friday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.** *Your presence does help our Faith Community in giving honor to our Beloved Lady!*

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE: St. Agnes — **Friday, December 7th, 7:00 p.m. (Anticipated)**
Saturday, December 8th, 11:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity — **Friday, December 7th, 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 8:00 a.m.**

First Friday, December 7th

The **First Friday Holy Hour** will be celebrated at **Holy Trinity** following their **8:00 a.m. Mass.** It is an opportunity to **reflect, pray, and be in the presence of the Lord**, as we begin our Advent Season, in which we can express our profound gratitude as the Savior willingly took on our flesh and remains with us always as the Risen Lord who brings us to His Father as well as our Father.

The **children’s Mass** will be celebrated at **8:15 a.m.** at **St. Agnes Church.** Anticipating the *rush, tensions, and concerns* of our *Christmas Season*, perhaps we can take the opportunity of joining in the First Friday Masses and in particular, spending time in the presence of the Lord in the Holy Hour at Holy Trinity Church. *I am sure the children can welcome us to the 8:15 a.m. Mass on this First Friday of December.*

Come Home for Christmas!

Any Catholic searching for a way to better **prepare for Christmas** does not need to look any further than in the reception of the **Sacrament of Reconciliation—Confession!** Do you want to *find peace*? Do you want to *grow spiritually*? You are nervous because it has been a long time since you have been to confession. Respond to the movement of the Spirit within yourself and take the sacramental plunge. Do not worry what to say or how to say it. You already know the manner in which you have displeased God by your lifestyle. Mention these sins and seek the merciful Lord’s forgiveness. **Trust in God’s mercy even if you haven’t been to confession in 4, 7, 10 or 15 years.** Come home to the Loving Father who awaits to forgive and embrace you unto life everlasting—and be with those of our departed family and friends who await us.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE—St. Agnes Wednesday, December 19th, 7:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity, Tuesday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m.

A number of visiting Priests will be available to hear individual confessions.

AN EXCELLENT CHRISTMAS GIFT—THE NEW EDITION SLOVAK COOKBOOKS ON SALE IN THE PARISH CENTER



Christmas Flower Fund

Each year at Christmas, St. Agnes Church is *beautifully decorated for the Birth of Jesus* with Christmas Flowers. This tradition is made possible through the *generous donations of our parishioners.* An altar made radiant with flowers is a *beautiful way to honor or remember our loved ones.* We invite you to make a donation to the **CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND “In Memory of”** a *deceased* loved one or **“In Honor of”** a *living* one. Please write the names of friends and relatives on the back of the envelope and put in the **collection basket** or **return to Parish Center by Monday, December 17th.** *These names will be remembered in the Special Masses of Christmas and will be listed on a Christmas Flower Memorial bulletin insert.*