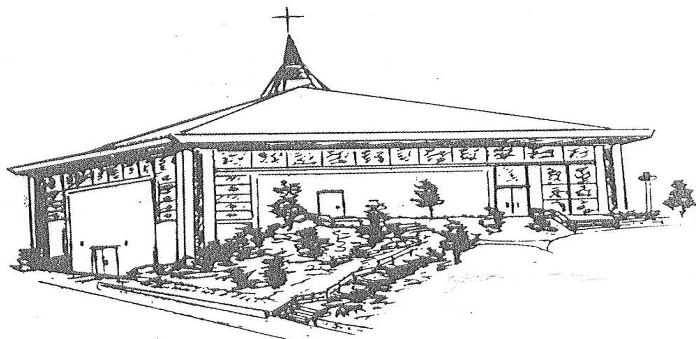


Saint Agnes Church



& Holy Trinity Church

St. Agnes Administrative Center
622 St. Agnes Lane • West Mifflin, PA 15122-2925



Holy Trinity Administrative Center

ST. AGNES MASS INTENTIONS

SUN - NOVEMBER 30 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00pm(Sat)-Mary Bednar (Ann Nikolich)
8:00 -- Albert J. Hornfeck (Mario and Pat DeLuca)
11:00 -- Leo and Susanne Snyder (Family)

MON - DECEMBER 1 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(8:00 -- Mass at Holy Trinity)

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 2 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45 - Paul Poulos (Sisters of the Holy Spirit-St. Agnes)

WED - DECEMBER 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

(8:00 -- Mass at Holy Trinity)

THURSDAY - DEC 4 - ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

6:45 -- Donald Sullivan (Sue Finnegan)

FIRST FRIDAY - DEC 5 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:15 - Rose Montalbano -birth (Dgtr, RoseAnne Needham)

FIRST SATURDAY -DECEMBER 6 - ST. NICHOLAS

(8:00 -- Mass at Holy Trinity)

SUN - DECEMBER 7 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00pm(Sat)-Joseph Lucas (Janet Reddy)
8:00 -Special Intention-Alice/Vince Stanicar (Jo Andres)
11:00 -- Margaret Szabo

HOLY TRINITY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN - NOVEMBER 30 - 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 p.m. (Sat) - Edward Gamret (Wife, Margaret)
9:30 a.m. - John Smiley (Muha Family)

MON - DECEMBER 1 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m.-Doris Yuscinsky (Helen/Jim Stamatelos &Fam)

TUESDAY - DECEMBER 2 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(6:45 a.m. Mass at St. Agnes)

WED - DECEMBER 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

8:00 a.m. - Mary Karas (Dorothy Fitz)

THURSDAY - DEC 4 - ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS

(6:45 a.m. Mass at St. Agnes)

FIRST FRIDAY - DEC 5 - ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00 a.m. - Michael Onofrey (Frances)

FIRST SATURDAY -DECEMBER 6 - ST. NICHOLAS

8:00 a.m. - Joseph Svirbel (Mary Ann Polinski)

SUN - DECEMBER 7 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00 p.m. (Sat) - Regis Hock (Ken and Audrey Glick)
9:30 a.m. - Marian Nissen - month's mind (Family)

ADMINISTRATOR, Rev. Joseph R. Grosko

PRINCIPAL, ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Sister Cynthia Wessel412-466-6238

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rectory - St. Agnes 412-466-2655

Rectory - Holy Trinity 412-466-6545

Social Hall - St. Agnes 412-466-5500

Social Hall - Holy Trinity..... 412-466-9695

St. Agnes Convent 412-466-3554

St. Agnes Website..... www.stagneswm.com

Holy Trinity E-mail Address HTRINITY@VERIZON.NET

NOVENA TO MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP MONDAYS
AFTER THE 8:00 A.M. MASS AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As scheduled.

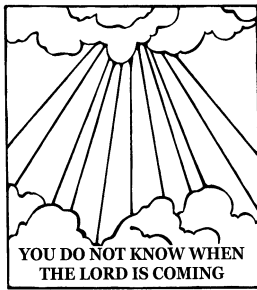
RECONCILIATION: Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., St. Agnes and
Holy Trinity, Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. (or by appt.)

BAPTISM: By appointment. Pre-Baptism preparation
required. Arrange before birth.

MARRIAGE: Arrange 6 months in advance.

SICK & SHUTINS: Please call the Rectory.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please register at Rectory.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The first words spoken by the Lord Jesus in today's Gospel set the tone for this season of expectant longing: **"Be watchful! Be alert!"** We stand ready at the beginning of this holy season, for we do not know when Jesus will return in glory. We open our hearts to scriptures that call us to be mindful of the ways of the Lord. If our faith lives have become "withered like leaves," as Isaiah laments, let God's word instill new life in all of us. Let that word penetrate our hearts and fill us with life and love. As the sacred word is proclaimed, let this be our prayer: **"Come, Lord Jesus."**

— ADVENT MISSION —

Greg Trainor, Catholic Lay Evangelist, will be conducting an Advent Mission for the parishes of **St. Agnes and Holy Trinity** beginning on **Tuesday, December 9th** and continuing through **Thursday, December 11th**. The theme of our Advent Mission is **"WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"**



Each morning there will be mission talks at **Holy Trinity parish at 11:00 a.m.** and then, in the evenings the talks will be given at **7:00 p.m. at St. Agnes**. On **Monday, December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, at 8:15 a.m., at St. Agnes Church** there will be a gathering of the School children and Greg, our speaker, will speak on the theme of the mission for the children following the Mass.

Prayerfully, we encourage all parishioners to attend these Advent Mission talks in preparation of the great Feast of the Nativity—he Birth of our Lord and Savior!

— Mark Your Calendar —

- TODAY, Nov. 30th....ST. AGNES BLOOD DRIVE**, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Agnes Social Hall. Bring I.D.
- Saturday, Dec. 06th....CHEREGI SALE AT NOON** at Holy Trinity Social Hall; \$6.00 per dozen.
- Sunday, Dec. 07th....ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING** in Holy Trinity Social Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, Dec. 08th....FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, Holy Day
- Tues-Thur, Dec. 9-11....ADVENT MISSION AT BOTH PARISHES**
- Saturday, Dec. 13th....HOLY TRINITY MEN'S CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY**, 5:00-9:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. The Men's Club invites every who has worked their functions to the Christmas Party. *For reservations, call George Miteff, 412-466-5062 by December 10th.*
- Wed, Dec. 17th....PENANCE SERVICE FOR THE DEANERY OF STEEL VALLEY**
Holy Trinity, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 17th....HOLY TRINITY "CHRISTMAS DECORATING"**
The decorating of the church will begin at 11:00 a.m. Your help is needed for an hour or two. *Many hands make our decorating task a joyful event. So please come!*

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY will be visiting the sick after the 15th of December.

If you or someone you know wishes to be on the visitation list, please contact the Parish Office or a Society Member.

St. Agnes/Holy Trinity

- Middle School Youth Ministry**—St. Agnes is beginning a **Middle School Youth Ministry for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders of ST. AGNES and HOLY TRINITY Parishes**. The first gathering is *Sunday, December 14th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in St. Agnes Social Hall*. If interested pick up a flier from Sister Cynthia after Mass or **contact Mariah Howard, Bob Kish or Sister Cynthia**.
- St. Agnes School is taking orders TODAY, November 30th for the Applelicious gourmet apples and pretzels**. See Sr. Cynthia for the brochure and order form in St. Agnes Social Hall.
- Order your Lottery Calendar for 2009** from Sister Cynthia in St. Agnes Social Hall—a winner everyday of 2009 for only \$20. *Please help us sell 1,000 calendars.*



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Season of ADVENT Begins TODAY

Today we will begin a new Church Liturgical Year with a period that prepares us to again celebrate the coming of Christ at Christmas. And one venerable tradition that reminds us to prepare ourselves is the **Advent Wreath**. The gradual lighting of 4 candles, one on each of the 4 weeks of Advent, helps to symbolize not only the expectation and hope of **Our Lord's first coming into the world**, but also **His second coming as just Judge at the end of the world**.

We will have an Advent Wreath in Church and will observe this devotion by lighting the candles and saying the prayers before our daily and Sunday Liturgies. **You can also observe this devotion at home**, and we recommend it. You can make your own Advent Wreath or buy one already made. **Clip and save the following prayers** which can be said at the family evening meal, for example, as the candles are lighted each day.

The Advent Wreath Devotion

Blessing of the Advent Wreath - *"O God, by Whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Your Blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, and may receive from You abundant graces. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen"*

— Prayers for Each Week —

First Week - *(Light 1 purple candle)* - Stir up Your Might, O God, we beg You, and come, so that by Your protection, we may be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins, and may be saved by Your deliverance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen

Second Week - *(Light 2 purple candles)* - Stir up our hearts, O God, so that we may prepare for Your Only Begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve You with pure minds. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen

Third Week - *(Light 2 purple and 1 pink candles)* - We beg You, O God, incline Your ear to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Your visitation. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen

Fourth Week - *(Light all 4 candles)* - Stir up Your Power, O God, and help us, so that by Your Grace and Merciful Kindness, we may swiftly receive the salvation that our sins impede. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son and our Lord. Amen

— CHURCH SIGNS —

"Church Parking Lot—for members only. Trespassers will be baptized!" "Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin Robbins." "If you're headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns."

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY to the family and friends of **PAUL POULOS**, husband of **Marcy Poulos**; **JOSEPHINE LUCZAK**, aunt of **Pat Jacobs**; and **ANNA MAE TOLAN**, all buried from St. Agnes; and **LAWRENCE MILKO**, buried from Holy Trinity. *May our Heavenly Father embrace all our beloved deceased and number them among the elect at the banquet of Heaven.*



SLOVAK COOKBOOK - on sale at the St. Agnes Parish Center or Holy Trinity Parish Office. Price is \$9.00.

"OPLATKE"—HOLY BREAD *DELICATE, ORNATE, FESTIVE, BELOVED* — the Christmas wafer commemorates a custom which is centuries old. Oplatek, from Latin, "Oblatum," Holy Bread, is "Our Christmas Oblation(sm)." Believed by some to emanate as far back as the "manna" of Exodus 16:31, it is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels. The ritual observance is called **"Wigilia" in Polish; Stedry Vecer" in Slovak; "Kucious" in Lithuanian; "Feliz Navidad" in Hispanic.**

Through our beloved Christmas wafer tradition, we are reminded of the **Holy Nativity**. We remember our Lord, Jesus Christ, was born in **Bethlehem**, literally the **"house of bread"**. We hallow His proclamation: **"I am the Bread of Life."**

— On sale after all the weekend Masses or call the Parish Office. Offering \$2.00 - 1/2 dozen or \$4.00 - dozen. —

Stewardship Prayer

“Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of the universe, and the mystery of each human life.

We praise You and we thank You for Your great power and Your tender, faithful love.

Everything we are and everything we have is Your gift, and after having created us You have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, that in His Spirit we may be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people.

In the Name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent, our material gifts as an outward sign of the Treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen”

Christmas Flower Fund

Each year at Christmas, the churches are 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 Office **by Monday, December 15th.** *The names will be remembered in the Special Masses of Christmas and will be listed on a Christmas Flower Memorial bulletin insert.*

55+ CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

The 55+ Club Christmas Dinner will be on **Thursday, December 11th at 12:00 noon at Napoli’s Restaurant on Route 51.** Anyone over 40 years of age is welcome. We invite you to come join us and get acquainted. Please call **Nancy Tascarella at 412-461-9908.**



FIRST FRIDAY, December 5th
 Holy Hour and Benediction at Holy
 Trinity after 8:00 a.m. Mass
 (Mass at St. Agnes will be at 8:15 a.m.)

Please Pray for Our Beloved Sick
Holy Trinity

**Maria Alzo, Robert Burke, Eleanor Decker,
 Harry Fraser, Steve Gaydos,
 Mary Lisa Holzwarth, Nancy Jackson,
 Ann Kostelnik, Diane Kovalsky, Ann Kurimsky,
 Theresa Lovas, Elizabeth Mindas, Mary Pavlik,
 Ann Sabo, Ray Shahan, Debra Sievern,
 Margaret Svirbel, Martha Vasil,
 Mary Wasilisin, Ann Yonek, Robert Zeok**

St. Agnes

**Jean Abels, Robert Andres, Rinehart Bost,
 Alberta Buchleitner, Charles Burgman,
 Rene Dalton, Irene Fontanese,
 Steve Grochalski, Ann Gruber, Martha Gruber,
 Mary Elizabeth Hudick, Dorothy Kostovny,
 Roberta Karichko, Judy Matta,
 Genevieve Obringer, Robert (Pav) Pavuchak,
 Dorothy Petrak, Olga Pollock, Rudy Saunders,
 Monica Sinai, Louise Smith, Paula Smith,
 Glenn Steimer, Marie Steiner,
 Kathryn Yousko, Jerome Zosack**

Weekly Collections

ST. AGNES — November 23, 2008

\$ 3,621.00 - - Sunday and Monthly Envelopes
\$ 1,750.00 - - Retirement Fund for Religious
 PSP Assessment-2008 \$ 25,486.00
 Amount Collected PSP \$ 22,564.00
 New sidewalk and cemetery wall..... \$ 10,000.00
 Monthly School Subsidy \$ 6,167.00
REMEMBER ST. AGNES CHURCH IN YOUR WILL

~ YOUR LOYAL AND FERVENT STEWARDSHIP IS
 PRAYERFULLY APPRECIATED ~

HOLY TRINITY — November 23, 2008

\$ 1,684.00 - - Sunday and Monthly Envelopes
\$ 1,545.00 - - Retirement Fund for Religious
 PSP Assessment-2008 \$ 21,741.00
 Amount Collected PSP \$ 14,837.00
**MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES ARE
 BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE ONGOING PROJECTS**