

Saint Agnes Church and Holy Trinity Church



Administrator - Reverend Joseph R. Grosko
Administrative Office and Rectory
529 Grant Avenue Extension • West Mifflin, PA 15122
Saint Agnes School Principal - Sister Cynthia Wessel
653 St. Agnes Lane • West Mifflin, PA 15122

Mission Statement of Saint Agnes Parish

622 St. Agnes Lane • West Mifflin, PA 15122
 Saint Agnes Parish established in West Mifflin, PA in 1867, is a viable Catholic community that witnesses the message of Jesus through the talents of its members who are nurtured by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to invite people to know and become one with Jesus Christ reaching out in service to all.

Mission Statement of Holy Trinity Parish

529 Grant Avenue Extension • West Mifflin, PA 15122
 Holy Trinity Parish is a Faith Community gathered in celebration of the Eucharist, strengthened by the Word of God, reaching out to all generations and inspired by the Holy Spirit to promote holy, authentic and faithful Catholic living.

ST. AGNES MASS INTENTIONS

SUN-DECEMBER 23 - FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT
 6:00p(Sat) - **Noramae DiPaolo** (Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bevan)
 8:00a - **Carol Andres** (Buddy and Mary Sekowski)
 11:00a - **Robert J. Andres** (Nancy Andres)
MON-DEC 24 - ADVENT WEEKDAY (8:00a-Holy Trinity)
TUESDAY - DECEMBER 25 - NATIVITY of the LORD
 4:00p(Mon) - **Amelia McElhinny** (Richard McElhinny)
 12:00a(Midnight) - **Paula Anne Smith** (Mom and Dad)
 8:00a - **Living and Deceased Members of St. Agnes**
 11:00a - **Robert J. Andres** (Egnitz and Baer Families)
WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 26 - ST. STEPHEN
(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 27 - ST. JOHN
 6:45a - **Jean Abels** (William Abels and Family)
FRIDAY - DECEMBER 28 - THE HOLY INNOCENTS
(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)
SATURDAY - DECEMBER 29 - ST. THOMAS BECKET
(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 30 - THE HOLY FAMILY
 6:00p(Sat)-**Elizabeth F. Schuchert** (Floyd W. Schuchert, Jr.)
 8:00a - **Glenn Steimer** (Mary Steimer Dale)
 11:00a - **In Thanksgiving** (Carmella Puchalski)

HOLY TRINITY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN-DECEMBER 23 - FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT
 4:00p(Sat) - **Elizabeth Potemra** (Len Potemra)
 9:30a - **John S. Jozefov** (Family)
MONDAY - DECEMBER 24 - ADVENT WEEKDAY
 8:00a - **Mary Gasparovic** (George and Barbara Sabo)
TUESDAY - DECEMBER 25 - NATIVITY of the LORD
 4:00p(Mon) - **Ann Matthias** (Jim Matthias)
 10:00p(Mon) - **Father Edward Bunchek** (Holy Trinity Parish)
 9:30a - **Living and Deceased Members of Holy Trinity**
WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 26 - ST. STEPHEN
 8:00a - **Mary Jean Maresch** (Diana Maresch)
THURSDAY - DECEMBER 27 - ST. JOHN
(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)
FRIDAY - DECEMBER 28 - THE HOLY INNOCENTS
 8:00a - **Margaret Wooddell** (Robert Wooddell)
SATURDAY - DECEMBER 29 - ST. THOMAS BECKET
 8:00a - **Henry Kovalcin** (Virginia Jasek)
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 30 - THE HOLY FAMILY
 4:00p(Sat)-**Francis Kahler** (Robert Taylor)
 9:30a - **Richard Wasko** (Kerry and Meg Michaels)

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Administrative Office and Rectory.....412-466-6545
 St. Agnes School.....412-466-6238
 Social Hall - Saint Agnes..... 412-466-5500
 Social Hall - Holy Trinity..... 412-466-9695
 Saint Agnes Convent 412-466-3554
 Saint Agnes Website..... www.stagneswm.com
 Holy Trinity Website.....www.holytrinitywm.com
 St. Agnes/Holy Trinity Office Email... h.trinity@verizon.net
 St. Agnes/Holy Trinity Fax.....412-466-6968

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

HOLY DAY MASSES: As scheduled.
RECONCILIATION: St. Agnes: Saturdays at 5:30 pm;
 Holy Trinity: Saturdays at 3:30 pm (or by appointment)
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.
**EPHESIANS IV — PRAYER & PRAISE — ALL WELCOME
 ON 1ST & 3RD MONDAYS, 7:30 PM, ST. AGNES CHURCH**

**DIOCESAN VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE
 1-888-808-1235**

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

First Reading: *Micah 5:1-4* The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19* A prayer for God's salvation.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10* Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45* Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

What kind of Christmas gift does *God* want? Have you ever thought about that? We spend the weeks before Christmas looking for gifts for our loved ones. We do this to express our love. But have you thought about what gift you might give to God in gratitude for God's gift to us--Jesus? Today's second reading can be hard to understand at first, but spend some time with it. The message is: When Christ came into the world, he recognized that God did not want a sacrifice of animals, which only signaled an external obedience to the Law. What God wanted was that Jesus sacrifice his body, which signaled an internal obedience to God's will. And because Jesus did the Father's will, we have been made holy. Similarly, the elderly Elizabeth announces that Mary and the child in her womb are blessed, and Mary in particular is blessed because she trusted that the Lord's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary dedicate her life to doing God's will.

What gift, then, can you give God that would be most pleasing? Hint: You won't find it in a mall! Perhaps something to do with discovering God's will?



~~~MARK YOUR CALENDAR~~~

Mon, Dec 24th.....4:00 pm Mass at both St. Agnes and Holy Trinity

Tue, Dec 25th.....Regular Sunday Schedule for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Thurs, Jan 3rd.....St. Agnes School resumes.

Sun, Jan 6th.....St. Agnes Pastoral Council Meeting after 11:00 am Mass

Mon, Mar 18th.....Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Zubik

SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

- **Are you a baptized Catholic who was never confirmed and now desires to be confirmed?** Confirmation is necessary to complete baptismal grace. Please call the **Parish Office** or **St. Agnes School**.
- In preparation for the Sacrament, special classes for the confirmandees will be held on **Sundays in January** beginning on **January 6th** in **St. Agnes School** from **6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**.
- **Sponsors, parents, and any parishioners who are interested in growing in our Catholic faith** are invited to attend the *compelling video series*, "**Catholicism**," which Peg Smith will present at the same time as the classes for the confirmandees are being held. **Not** a video lecture, Church history, or Scripture study, the "**Catholicism**" series is an **engaging and interesting formational program** that uses the art, architecture, literature, music, and all the treasures of the Catholic tradition to illuminate the timeless teachings of the Church. Each DVD in the "**Catholicism**" series stands alone, so it is not necessary to view them in succession or to view them all in order to benefit from them.
- Bishop Zubik will be with us on Monday, March 18th, to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.



The Sanctuary Candle at Holy Trinity is in memory of **Debby Sabo Labedda** from Mother and Sisters.

"OPLATKE" CHRISTMAS WAFER BREAD is on sale after all Masses **\$2: 1/2 dozen; \$4: dozen**.

Did you know? Every single day the Catholic Church feeds, houses, and clothes more people, takes care of more sick people, visits more prisoners, and educates more people than any other institution on earth.

CORPUS CHRISTI CEMETERIES - YEAREND MONUMENT SALE

Corpus Christi Cemeteries, who provide services to both **St. Agnes and Holy Trinity** cemeteries, is having an **end-of-the-year MONUMENT SALE**. Take advantage now and avoid the 2013 price increase. Make an appointment and receive a gift card to Bravo La Cucina Italian Restaurant. Please phone **Jozef Madar** at **412-672-6550** for further details.



ST. AGNES AND HOLY TRINITY — HOLY DAY MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE: Monday, December 24th, 2012 CHRISTMAS DAY: Tuesday, December 25th, 2012

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass (St. Agnes **and** Holy Trinity)
10:00 p.m. Mass (Holy Trinity)
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass (St. Agnes)

8:00 a.m. Mass (St. Agnes)
9:30 a.m. Mass (Holy Trinity)
11:00 a.m. Mass (St. Agnes)

OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS: THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Monday, December 31st, 2012

Mary, Mother of God

4:00 p.m. Mass (Holy Trinity)
This is the only Vigil Mass.



Tuesday, January 1st, 2013

8:00 a.m. Mass (St. Agnes)
9:30 a.m. Mass (Holy Trinity)
11:00 a.m. Mass (St. Agnes)

WELCOME HOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH -- REDISCOVER CATHOLICISM FOR CHRISTMAS!

Catholicism is not merely a religion or a set of rules. Catholicism is **more** than a religion. The essence of Catholicism is not sin, punishment, duty, or obligation. *The essence of Catholicism is dynamic transformation.* **To be Catholic means to be striving to live the Gospel, to be striving to become more like Jesus Christ.** Catholicism provides the tools for bringing each person into **harmony with self, God, and others.**

REASONS to COME to MASS - NOT JUST for CHRISTMAS, but ALL YEAR

1. The Mass provides us with an **opportunity for intimate union with Jesus, our Savior, through His REAL PRESENCE--Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity--in the Holy Eucharist.** (John 6) **Only the Catholic faith holds this truth.** We are different!
2. **Spiritual riches** of the Mass include...**grace, consolation, confidence, peace, deep happiness and strength.** The Mass will enrich our spiritual and personal lives in ways that we never imagined! God, Our **Father**, desires to touch our hearts and lives with His amazing grace and saving love, and we are **never closer to Him than when we are caught up in the celebration of the Eucharist.**
3. We are invited to **bring our brokenness to Mass** for *God's healing and forgiveness.*
4. God said to Moses: **"Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day."** (Exodus 20:8).
5. Jesus said: **"Do this in memory of me."** When the hour came, He (Jesus) took the bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, **"This IS My body,** which will be given for you. Do this in memory of Me" (Luke 22:14,19). **When we celebrate Mass, we repeat the Last Supper, as Jesus commanded.**
6. The **Church teaches** that we must **fulfill the command of Jesus** to **"Do this in memory of Me" by attending Sunday Mass** (or the Vigil Mass the night before) each week...
7. ...and, **the Church speaks with the authority of Jesus.** (Matthew 16:18-19)
8. The Mass is a sacrifice, the perfect one, **created by Jesus; the Mass is also a meal.**
9. God made us **social beings** and wants us to **come together in community.** **"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I."** (Matthew 18:20). Prayers at Mass are *Scripture-based.*
10. Mass and our faith have **sustained our families for generations.** We must continue to **pass on our faith.**



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest? Jesus established the normal way we receive forgiveness of our sins, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus knew we would need **to be assured** of **His forgiveness** by hearing the words, "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

What is a Sacrament? A sacrament is an **outward sign instituted by Christ** and **entrusted to the Church to give grace.** While the Sacraments are not the only way we can receive grace, they are the **normal way** in which we do. The **Father, Son and Holy Spirit** are **united in love.** Grace allows us to **participate in that divine love.**



With the **Parish Staff** and the **Sisters**, we **prayerfully wish** that the **JOY and PEACE** of this **HOLY SEASON** **grace and brighten all our days** and, above all, in the coming **New Year.** **Joyous Christmas** to all of our **Faith Community!!**

Father Joseph Grosko



Blessing the Manger

Steadfast God, keep us
faithful in Your ways,
as You did for **Joseph**,
good and upright man.



God among us, hear our prayer.

Mighty God, help us to be *obedient* to You,
as was **Mary, highly favored, full of grace.**

God among us, hear our prayer.

God of glory, send Your tidings of great *joy*,
sung by Your **angels over Bethlehem.**

God among us, hear our prayer.

God our Father, *lead us* to Christ Your Son,
as You led the **lowly shepherds** long ago.

God among us, hear our prayer.

Ever-living God, look on us in our *lowliness*;
let us see the **wondrous birth**, as did the beasts.

God among us, hear our prayer.

Creator God, dazzle us with heaven's light;
guide us from on high by the **light of a star.**

God among us, hear our prayer.

God of wisdom, fill us with Your *grace*;
bring us to *worship Christ*, as did the **Magi.**

God among us, hear our prayer.

God of all love, bless this manger.



Coming Soon!

Super Bowl Super Match Tickets

Only 300 tickets will be available!

CHRISTMAS STOCKING STUFFERS!!

- * **GIFT CARDS** are always available.
- * **2013 LOTTERY CALENDARS** If you would like a certain number, call the School at **412-466-6238**; if the number is available, we will have it for you during the weekend. Otherwise, we will have a random assortment for purchase after Masses. Price: **\$20 *for the entire year.***
- * **SARRIS CANDY BARS**: \$1
- * **ENJOY BOOKS**: \$30; **KIDS STUFF BOOKS**: \$25
- * **SLOVAK COOKBOOKS** (in English): \$9
- * **KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS MAGNETS**: \$4
Available after Mass at St. Agnes and in the back of church at Holy Trinity. **Proceeds benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.**



Please Pray for Our Beloved Sick

Weekly, the bulletin lists our sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized. *If you wish to add or alter this listing, please call the Parish Offices, so that we can have our special listing updated.* Your cooperation, visits, and daily prayers are deeply appreciated.

Holy Trinity

Monica Branik, Patricia Brevko, Anna Cmar,
Helen Gambal, Eleanor Haselhoff,
John Holzwarth, Joseph Kirch, Agnes Kovac,
Diane Kovalsky, Louis Kruszewski, Agnes Magdic,
Ethel Maydak, Larry Maydak, Justine Mantich,
Ethel Palyo, Ann Sabo, Mary Sabol,
Margaret Svirbel, Martha Vasil

St. Agnes

Josephine Andres, Marie Beney,
Alberta Buchleitner, Francis J. Capaleo,
Nettie Conley, Patricia DeLuca, Florence Dugan,
Irene Fontanese, Steve Grochalski, John Gruber,
Martha Gruber, Mary Elizabeth Hudick,
Richard Jordan, Mary Kosko, Robert Kosko,
Dorothy Kostovny, Joe Milko, Marguerite Oeler,
Laura Pasternak, Dorothy Petrak, Clara Riley,
Brian Saunders, Rudy Saunders, Marie Steiner,
Roseann Thomas, Paul Thomas



Weekly Collections

ST. AGNES — December 16, 2012

Due to the early publication deadline for today's bulletin, the December 16th offerings will be published next week.

PSP Assessment-2012	\$ 24,998
Amount Collected PSP	\$ 23,198
Monthly School Subsidy	\$ 6,167

REMEMBER OUR PARISH SHARE PROGRAM CAMPAIGN

~ REMEMBER ST. AGNES CHURCH
AND HOLY TRINITY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL ~

HOLY TRINITY — December 16, 2012

Due to the early publication deadline for today's bulletin, the December 16th offerings will be published next week.

PSP Assessment-2012	\$ 24,248
Amount Collected PSP	\$ 22,865

MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES ARE
BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE ONGOING PROJECTS