

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-DEC 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00p(Sat) - **William Bevan** (Jim & Suzann Bevan)
 8:00a - **Marie Belancik** (Philomena & David Lyle)
 11:00a - **Rose Montalbano** (Roseanne Needham)

MONDAY-DEC 2 -WEEKDAY

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

TUES-DEC 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

6:45a - **Rudert (Rudy) Saunders** (Ephesians IV))

WED-DEC 4 - ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

THUR-DEC 5 - WEEKDAY

6:45a - **Joseph Andreyo** (Ladies of Charity)

FRIDAY-DEC 6 - FIRST FRIDAY, ST. NICHOLAS

8:15a - **Daniel Onofrey** (St. Agnes Students)

SAT-DEC 7 - ST. AMBROSE

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

SUN-DEC 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00p(Sat) - **Joe Milko** (Jim & Bev Staver)
 8:00a - **Martha Gruber** (Ed & Joanne Fink)
 11:00a - **Dec'd. Members of Conley Family** (Conley Family)

HOLY TRINITY MASS INTENTIONS

SUN-DEC 1 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p(Sat) - **Margaret Svirbel** (Children)
 9:30a - **Michael Sotak** (Debbie Gaydos)

MONDAY- DEC 2 - WEEKDAY

8:00a- **Joseph "Sonny" Tkach** (M/M Richard Ignat)

TUES-DEC 3 - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)

WED-DEC 4 - ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

8:00a - **Martha Gruber** (Holy Trinity Dialogue Group)

THUR-DEC 5 - WEEKDAY

11:00a - **Living & Deceased Members of Holy Trinity**

FRIDAY-DEC 6 - FIRST FRIDAY, ST. NICHOLAS

8:00a - **Larry Maydak** (Valequette Family)

SAT-DEC 7 - ST. AMBROSE

8:00a - **Marie Belancik** (Mary & Jim Adams)

SUN-DEC 8 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p(Sat) - **John F. Jozefov** (Betty Jozefov & Family)
 9:30a - **John Sabol** (Wife & Children)

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.

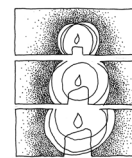
SICK & SHUTINS: Please call the Rectory.

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**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5.* Isaiah describes his vision in which all nations are gathered together by God in peace.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 122:1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9.* Rejoicing, let us enter the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14.* Be prepared, salvation is near.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 24:37-44.* Jesus tells his disciples that the coming of the Son of Man will catch many people unprepared. Jesus tells his disciples that they are to always be ready for the day of the Lord.

Reflecting on God's Word

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel!" So begins the familiar chant that will be heard in churches throughout the world this Advent. It is based on the O Antiphons, which are the verses for the Gospel acclamation at Mass on the last seven days of Advent. Each of those antiphons prays for the coming of Christ, and each one seems to capture the spirit of a different Sunday of Advent. The verse that harmonizes with this Sunday's scriptures expresses our longing for the "Radiant Dawn" of the Lord's coming at the end of time when the "sun of justice" will "shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death." In the readings we hear Isaiah describe the peaceful "days to come," when all will "walk in the light of the Lord!" (Isaiah 2:2, 5). Paul tells us it is time "to awake from sleep" and "put on the armor of light" for "the day is at hand" (Romans 13:11, 13, 12). Jesus, too, cautions us to "stay awake" to be ready for the "day your Lord will come" (Matthew 24:42).

All around us we seem to be getting a similar message: "No time to waste! Only thirty shopping days left till Christmas! Don't be caught unprepared!" What's the difference between the two messages? One tells us to anticipate a day of giving and getting and eating and drinking. We might prepare for that day by rushing and buying and wrapping and baking. The other tells us to anticipate a day, not of avarice and jealousy, but of justice for the oppressed and peace on earth. We will prepare for that day when we "throw off the works of darkness" and "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

~~~**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**~~~

TODAY, Dec 1st.....First Sunday of Advent: "Lessons & Carols" (4pm Holy Trinity)

Dec 1st.....**St. Agnes Donut Social** (After the 8:00am & 11:00am Masses)

Wed, Dec 4th.....**Holy Trinity Men's Club Rivers Casino Trip** (9am departs HT Parking Lot)

Thurs, Dec 5th.....**Advent Day of Recollection with Fr. Litavec** (9am Holy Trinity)

Sat, Dec 7th.....**Knights of Columbus #4210 Christmas Party** (Holy Trinity Hall)

Mon, Dec 9th.....**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Wed, Dec 11th.....**Lights On Confession** (Holy Trinity, 6-7pm. St. Agnes, 7-9pm)

Thurs, Dec 12th.....**45+ Club Christmas Party** (1:30pm, Skyview Restaurant)

Please call Ed Ferchak by December 9th for your reservations (412-462-0904)

Sat, Dec 14th**St. Agnes School Christmas Show K-3rd grades after 6pm Mass.**

Sat, Dec 14th..... **Holy Trinity Men's Club Christmas Party** (5-9pm, Social Hall)

RSVP by Dec. 7th to George Miteff (412-466-5062)

Sun, Dec 15th.....**St. Agnes School Christmas Show 4th-8th grades, 7pm.**

Sun, Dec 15th.....**Jednota Meeting** (1pm, Holy Trinity Social Hall)

Sun, Dec 15th.....**VILJA Christmas Eve Dinner** (2pm Holy Trinity Social Hall-- **by reservation only**)

Tue, Dec 17th.....**Penance Service** (7pm Holy Trinity)

Wed, Dec 18th.....**Penance Service** (7pm St. Agnes)

Wed, Dec 25th**Birth of our Lord**

Fri, Jan 31st.....**Knights of Columbus #4210 New Year's Eve Party** (Holy Trinity Social Hall)

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH IS DONUT and FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY.

Please join us **TODAY** after the 8 and 11 am Masses at St. Agnes.



Religious Christmas cards on sale after Liturgies on **Saturdays & Sundays** by the **Knights of Columbus Council #4210** to raise money for K of C Charity. Help "Keep Christ in Christmas" by sending religious cards - an evangelization message from you!!



Feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Monday, December 9th

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. This year the feast is celebrated on Monday and therefore is not a Holy Day of Obligation. Holy Trinity scheduled Mass 8am.*

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 lit each day. **Also, special Advent booklets are available in the lobby**. Excellent for meditation and reflection.

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.

OPLATKE - HOLY BREAD

The **Christmas wafer** commemorates a custom which is centuries old. Oplatke, from Latin, “Oblatum,” Holy Bread, is believed by some to emanate as far back as the “manna” of Exodus; it is sometimes referred to as the Bread of Angels. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, literally, the House of Bread. **Offering: \$2-1/2 doz. & \$4-doz.**

The Light is Still On for You! *“The Light is Still On for You!”* is an initiative of the Diocese to encourage Catholics to avail themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and draw closer to our Lord. Confession will be available on **Wednesday, December 11**, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in every Catholic parish in the Diocese.

Confessions will be heard at Holy Trinity from 6-7 and then at St. Agnes from 7 onward.



Advent Day of Recollection, Thursday, December 5th

Father Edward Litavec, *our beloved preacher*, will give a Day of Recollection for the parishes of **St. Agnes** and **Holy Trinity**. His theme will be **“Advent Preparation for the Nativity of Our Lord.”** The day will begin at **Holy Trinity Church** at **9:00 am** with an **opening conference** and then the **opportunity for confession and the celebration of the Eucharist** at **11am Mass**. A **luncheon** will conclude the Day of Recollection with a **question and answer forum**. **Let us give ourselves some spiritual time in the midst of the rush of the holidays and better prepare ourselves for the Birth of Christ by your attendance.**



ST. AGNES SCHOOL
Christmas Stocking Stuffer Raffle Ticket

The ticket is \$10 based on the evening Big 4 Lottery. Prizes are New Year's Eve -\$10,000, Bonuses – Dec. 27, 28, 29, 30 - \$1000 each night. Seller of winning ticket - \$100. **Raffle Tickets are available at School Office or Holy Trinity Office.** Please make checks payable to St. Agnes School:

2014 Lottery Calendars are \$20

Win on the daily number, \$25 and more on special days. For special numbers contact the school office for availability, then we will have them for you after weekend Masses.

Enjoy Books (\$30)

are in and so are the **Kids Stuff Books (\$25)**. **Candy bars (\$2)** are also available. The sale benefits our **St. Agnes School**. Thank you for your continued support!

ANGEL TREE

to BENEFIT SISTERS PLACE



Our **Angel Tree** is in place at the back of church at St. Agnes until **December 8th**. **Sisters Place** assists **single parents who are homeless toward self-sufficiency by providing housing and supportive services.** They are in need of household items. Gift cards to Giant Eagle or Wal-Mart are also appreciated.

 * **SLOVAK COOKBOOKS**—(in English) are on sale at
 * the Parish Office. They are great Christmas gifts!



Christmas Flower Fund

Each year at Christmas, St. Agnes/Holy Trinity 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 place it in the **collection basket** or return to the **Parish Center by Monday, December 16th**. *These names will be remembered in the Special Masses of Christmas and will be listed on a Christmas Flower Memorial bulletin insert.*

Please Pray for Our Beloved Sick

Holy Trinity

Monica Branik, Patricia Brevko, Veronica Bujdos,
Anna Cmar, Helen Gambal, Martin Hock,
Mary Lisa Holzwarth, Zander Holzwarth (toddler),
Flo Husfelt, Joseph Kirch, Agnes Kovac,
Louis Kruszewski, George Miteff, Ann Sabo,
Mary Sabo, Mary Sabol, Bob Shivey, Martha Vasil

St. Agnes

Marie Beney, Alberta Buchleitner, Libby Butko,
Francis J. Capaleo, Nettie Conley, Patricia DeLuca,
Florence Dugan, Irene Fontanese, Steve Grochalski,
Mary Elizabeth Hudick, Mary Kosko, Robert Kosko,
Dorothy Kostovny, Marguerite Oeler,
Laura Pasternak, Dorothy Petrak, Clara Riley,
Loretta Sabol, Brian Saunders,
Jim Schragl, Michael Sorokacs,
Marie Steiner, Paul Thomas, Betty Tucak,

Please call the Parish Office with any changes or additions. Your cooperation, visits and daily prayers are deeply appreciated.

Please Pray for Our Beloved in the Military

- RCT Nikolas Eichenlaub Grandson of Charles & Sue Barnes
- Sean J. Bowen, Grandson of Eileen Cochrane
- Joshua J. Winter, Spc. E4, son of Ron & Mary Ann Winter

Weekly Collections

ST. AGNES

Due to the early publication deadline for today's bulletin, the November 24th offerings will be published next week.

PSP Assessment-2013	\$ 25,758
Amount Collected PSP	\$ 25,072
Monthly School Subsidy	\$ 6,167

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR PARISH SHARE CAMPAIGN.

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

HOLY TRINITY

Due to the early publication deadline for today's bulletin, the November 24th offerings will be published next week.

PSP Assessment-2013	\$ 23,221
Amount Collected PSP	\$ 17,287

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