

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-NOV 30TH - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a - **Poor Souls Mass for Parishioners**
 11:00a - **Leo & Susanne Snyder (Family)**

MONDAY-DEC 1ST - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

TUES - DEC 2ND - ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45a- **Betty Tucak (Rich & Shirley Miller)**

WED - DEC 3RD - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

THUR - DEC 4TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:45a - **Josephine Hendry (Gerald & Carol Bomba)**

FRI - DEC 5TH - FIRST FRIDAY

8:15a - **Joseph Banko (Tom & Patty Klocko)**

SAT - DEC 6TH - FIRST SATURDAY

(8:00a Mass at Holy Trinity)

SUN - DEC 7TH - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00a - **Robert Schaff, Jr. (Nancy & Michael Lapinski)**
 11:00a - **John R. Kukta (Joe & Loretta Sabol)**

HOLY TRINITY INTENTIONS

SUN-NOV 30TH - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p - (Sat) - **Albert Soltis (Mike & Chris Chervenek)**
 9:30a - **Michael Sotak (Debbie Gaydos)**

MONDAY-DEC 1ST - ADVENT WEEKDAY

8:00a - **Andrew Vasil (Olak Family)**

TUES - DEC 2ND - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)

WED - DEC 3RD - ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

8:00a - **Bruce Capristo (Petrisko Family)**

THUR - DEC 4TH - ADVENT WEEKDAY

(6:45a Mass at St. Agnes)

FRI - DEC 5TH - FIRST FRIDAY

8:00a - **Sedonia Karnay (Tkach Family)**

SAT - DEC 6TH - FIRST SATURDAY

8:00a - **Eugene Hofsave (Sue Finnegan)**

SUN - DEC 7TH - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4:00p - (Sat) - **Regis Hock (Wife & Family)**
 9:30a - **Michael Onofrey (Frances & Family)**

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: One-half hour before all weekend Masses at Holy Trinity and St. Agnes 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 – DEC. 15, 7:30PM
 ST. AGNES CHURCH - EVERYONE WELCOME**

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



First Reading: *Isaiah 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7.* Isaiah prays for the Lord's forgiveness of the people.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19.* A prayer for the Lord's protection.

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 1:3-9.* Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the Corinthians.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 13:33-37.* Jesus warns his disciples to be watchful so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes.

Reflecting on God's Word

These days I live in a hundred year old parish convent for the sisters who once taught in the parish's grade school. Like every old house it has creaks that ricochet about at nighttime and never seem to be heard in the daytime house. We say it's just the noises of an old house bedding down for a sleep—until one of us is home alone at night. Then, when the others return, we rush to tell them how Mother Caroline was up and around again.

The dark has a way of flaunting itself with fearsome noises and sowing mysterious unknowns. And when not only our bodies but also our very lives find themselves in the dark, when we don't know how best to deal with disciplining our children, or where to direct the rest of our lives, or how to manage a relationship, such darkness can seem unbearable. We're never quite sure what mysterious unknowns our God might raise up out of the dark. That may be why each of us in our own way tries to befriend the dark's noises. We say they're the sounds of an old house or the furnace kicking in, or we say it's Mother Caroline. One way or another we find a way to live with the darkness, for who knows what our God, the divine potter of the reading from Isaiah, may yet do with the damp clay of our lives?

~~~MARK YOUR CALENDAR~~~

TODAY.....**Advent Lessons and Carols** (4:00pm, Holy Trinity)

Wed, Dec 3rd.....**Day of Recollection** (10:00am, Holy Trinity Church)

Thurs, Dec. 4th.....**St. Agnes Seniors Christmas Party, Skyvue** (Call Ed Ferchak, 412-462-0904, for resrv.)

Sat, Dec. 6th.....**H. T. Men's Club Christmas Party** (5-9pm Social Hall, RSVP (412-466-5062)

Mon, Dec. 8th.....**Solemn Feast of Immaculate Conception**

Wed, Dec. 10th.....**The Light is Still On for You Confession** (Holy Trinity 6-7pm, St. Agnes 7-9pm)

Thurs, Dec. 25th.....**Birth of our Lord (Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Agnes)**

Wed., Dec. 31st.....**K of C #4210 New Year's Eve Party** (Holy Trinity Social Hall, 7:30pm - 12:30am)



St. Agnes Donut Social Next Week, Dec. 7th, After the 8 & 11 am Masses



First Friday, December 5th—We heartily recommend your presence the **First Friday** of each month at **Holy Trinity** for the **Holy Hour**—reflections, prayers, and the closing **Solemn Benediction**—that will follow the scheduled **8:00 a.m. Mass** and at **St. Agnes** at **8:15 a.m.** As the Church continues to celebrate the mystery of Christ's presence in the Eucharist, it calls always for a deeper understanding of **Christ's gift to us** and so let us make every effort and, if we can, to attend the daily celebration of Christ's presence at Holy Trinity and St. Agnes faith communities. At **Holy Trinity**, Mass is at **8:00 a.m.** on **Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.** At **St. Agnes**, Mass is at **6:45 a.m.** on **Tuesday and Thursday.**

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.**

Day of Recollection, Wednesday, December 3rd

Father Edward Litavec, our beloved and well-known preacher, will give a Day of Recollection for the parishes of **St. Agnes** and **Holy Trinity**. His theme for the "Day" will be **"Advent Preparation for the Nativity of our Lord."** The day will begin at **Holy Trinity Church** at **10:00 a.m.** with an *opening conference* and then the *opportunity for confession* and the *celebration of the Eucharist*. A *luncheon* will conclude the Day of Recollection with a *question and answer forum*. **Let us give ourselves some spiritual time in the mist of the rush of the holidays and better prepare ourselves for the Birth of Christ by your attendance.**

Feast of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - Monday, December 8th

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is a **Holy Day of Obligation**. The **Blessed Virgin Mary** was destined, from the moment of her conception, to be the **bearer of the Eternal Word**. **Mass at Holy Trinity: 8am. St. Agnes: Children's Mass 10am, evening Mass 7:00pm.** *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.*

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. **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.

21st ANNUAL SLOVAK VILIIJA & JASLICKARI PROGRAM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

**PRINCE OF PEACE PARISH CENTER 81 So. 13th Street, South Side
Handicap Accessible - Ample Parking on Site**

Donation \$24 Adults/ \$12 for Children under 12 (Group Discounts Available)
BY RESERVATION ONLY: 412-481-8380. Tickets will NOT be sold at the door

Christmas Flower Fund

Each year at Christmas, St. Agnes/Holy Trinity are **beautifully decorated for the Birth of Jesus** with Christmas Flowers. 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, by using the envelope in your packet and placing it in the **collection basket**. **This year we will not** be listing the names of your loved ones in the bulletin but, in making these flower offerings, you are indeed honoring your loved ones.



The Light is Still On for You! *"The Light is Still On for You!"* is an initiative 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, Dec. 11**, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in every Catholic parish in the Diocese including **Holy Trinity from 6-7 and St. Agnes from 7-9.**

LAST CALL: SLOVAK COOKBOOKS—



(in English) are on sale at the Parish Office. Only a few are left so don't delay. They make great Christmas gifts!

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Knights of Columbus Council 4210 are selling **Keep Christ in Christmas (KCIC) cards** throughout November in the vestibule after weekend Masses. Proceeds from the sale will benefit K of C charitable works. Questions? Contact Tim Richards, at timmy1825@aol.com or call 412-896-3290. **Let us keep Christ in Christmas and not Xmas him out.**

ANGEL TREE to BENEFIT SISTERS PLACE

Our **Angel Tree** is in place in St. Agnes church until **December 7th**. The gifts will be taken to **Sisters Place** in Clairton. **Sisters Place** is a supportive housing community committed to assisting single parent families who are homeless. **The mission is to assist families toward self-sufficiency by providing housing and supportive services.** Nine housing units will be occupied soon with new residents **in need of the household items** requested for the tree. Gift cards to Giant Eagle or Wal-Mart are also much appreciated. *Heartfelt thanks* to **Peg Smith and Joyce Collier** for their beautiful ministry in preparing the tree.



2015 Lottery Calendars are now available for \$20 until Dec., 31st. 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.



SERRA HIGH SCHOOL RAFFLE

Again, Serra High School will have an annual raffle. Winners will be selected from the 27th of December to the 30th of December according to the four-digit evening lottery numbers of those days. **On the evening of the 30th of December, the winner will receive \$10,000. Otherwise, \$1,000 will be given on the 27th and continuing to the evening of the 30th.** *The donation for the ticket is \$10 of which \$5 is given to St. Agnes School. Tickets are available after the weekend Masses or may be purchased through St. Agnes School Office or the Office at Holy Trinity until November 30th.*

Please Pray for Our Beloved Sick

Holy Trinity

Monica Branik, Patricia Brevko, Veronica Bujdos,
Anna Cmar, Helen Gambal, Betty Hock,
Mary Lisa Holzwarth, Zander Holzwarth (toddler),
Flo Husfelt, Joseph Kirch, Agnes Kovac,
Louis Kruszewski, Ethel Palyo, Ann Pavlan,
Ann Sabo, Mary Sabo, Lois Soltis, Martha Vasil

St. Agnes

Libby Butko, Francis J. Capaleo, Nettie Conley,
Patricia DeLuca, Florence Dugan, Irene Fontanese,
Steve Grochalski,
Mary Kosko, Dorothy Kostovny, Lois Mohrbach,
Marguerite Oeler, Laura Pasternak,
Loretta Sabol, Brian Saunders, Jim Schragl,
Diana & Allen Soltis, Michael Sorokacs,
Marie Steiner, Paul Thomas

*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

--Sean J. Bowen

Grandson of Eileen Cochrane

--Joshua J. Winter, Cpl.

son of Ron & Mary Ann Winter

Weekly Collections

ST. AGNES

**Due to Publisher Deadlines, Offerings for Nov. 23rd
& 30th will appear in The Dec. 7th Bulletin**

PSP Assessment-2014.....\$ 23,790

Amount Collected PSP.....\$ 17,531

Monthly School Subsidy\$ 6,167

**includes monies for all purposes such as Angel Fund, candles,
diocesan collections, hall rental, funerals, etc.*

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

HOLY TRINITY

**Due to Publisher Deadlines, Offerings for Nov. 23rd &
30th will appear in the Dec. 7th Bulletin**

PSP Assessment-2014\$ 24,618

Amount Collected PSP\$ 16,649

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