

**STAFF:**

Rev. Mark Keene, Pastor  
Rev. Msgr. Donald Enzweiler, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. James Quill, Retired  
Rev. Mr. Bob Stoeckle, Deacon/Pastoral Assoc.  
Rev. Mr. Ralph Grieme, Deacon  
(513)477-0307 [r.grieme@gmail.com](mailto:r.grieme@gmail.com)  
Rev. Mr. Gary Scott, Deacon  
Bobby Fisher, Director of Music Ministries  
Anita Dunn, Coordinator of Religious Education  
Rich Hoyt, School Principal  
Tom Rasp, Parish Business Manager  
Jackie Flynn, Bookkeeper  
Paula Fritz, Coordinator of RCIA  
Beth Nagle, Administrative Asst./Bulletin Editor

**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

Parish Office .....431-1802  
Parish Fax .....291-7017  
Email Address ... [parishoffice@saintagnes.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintagnes.com)

**Office Hours:**

Monday thru Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

School ..... 261-0543  
Hall Rental (Ron Lawson) ..... 803-3216

Prayer Line Requests .....331-1924  
.....331-3276  
Email: [stagnesprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:stagnesprayerline@gmail.com)

Adoration Chapel, Blaine Comfort.....578-0133

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday : 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.  
Weekday: 6:30 & 11:30 a.m. Monday thru Friday,  
9:20 a.m. Friday - School Mass  
Holy Day: 7:00 p.m. Vigil, 6:30, 8:30 & 11:30 a.m.

**BAPTISMS:**

First-time parents must attend a Baptism Preparation Class before the child can be Baptized. Classes are held every other month on the second Thursday. Call the Parish Office to register. Baptisms take place every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. except during Lent.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA):**

Persons wishing to inquire about the Catholic Faith or seeking to complete their initiation Sacraments should contact Paula Fritz at 431-1802 or [pfritz@saintagnes.com](mailto:pfritz@saintagnes.com).

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Confessions are heard on Saturday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass, after the 11:30 a.m. Mass on the first Friday of the month, the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. or by calling the Parish Office and making an appointment.

**MARRIAGE:**

Call the Parish Office at least nine months in advance. At least one of the individuals must be a registered parishioner.

**HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK:**

For those who are homebound or sick and wish to receive Communion, call the Parish Office.

**MEN'S PRAYER GROUP**

Gather with fellow Brothers in Christ every Saturday morning, 7:00-8:00 a.m. in the Saint Agnes Daily Mass Chapel. Enjoy fellowship and the Word of God.

**GRADE SCHOOL CCD CLASSES:**

Held on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. during the school year. Contact Anita Dunn, 431-1802 or [adunn@saintagnes.com](mailto:adunn@saintagnes.com) for more information.

**PRE-SCHOOL RELIGION:**

Held on Sunday during the 11:30 a.m. Mass from September thru April. Contact Stacey Moorhead at 859-907-3667 or [staceyscully4@aol.com](mailto:staceyscully4@aol.com) for more information.

**MEETINGS:**

Athletic Boosters-3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
in the Rectory Conference Room  
Board of Education-2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
in the Library/Media (School) Center  
Finance Committee-1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
in Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. in the  
Rectory Conference Room  
Parish Council-1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the  
Rectory Conference Room  
Pro-Life Committee-2nd Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct. & Dec. in  
Murphy Hall  
St. Vincent de Paul Society-2nd & 4th Mondays  
at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory Conference  
Room

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Calendar

#### Sunday, December 24

9:00 a.m. Rosary - Church

#### Monday, December 25

Parish Office Closed

#### Tuesday, December 26

Parish Office Closed

#### Wednesday, December 27

7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Murphy A & B

#### Thursday, December 28

11:30 a.m. Anointing of the Sick following Mass

#### Friday, December 29

#### Saturday, December 30

8:10 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer - Church

9:00 a.m. Confessions - Church

#### Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Rosary - Church

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, December 24-Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:30 a.m. Earl Arnold

9:30 a.m. Christine Janszen

11:30 a.m. Francis Meese Ewing

4:00 p.m. Deacon Joe Cleves

11:00 p.m. Ron Kenning

#### Monday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord

7:30 a.m. Dec'd of Broering Family

9:30 a.m. Marvin Wigger

11:30 a.m. Dec'd of Sullivan & Pohlgeers Families

#### Tuesday, December 26-St. Stephen

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish

11:30 a.m. Charles Caruso

#### Wednesday, December 27-St. John

6:30 a.m. Estelle & Camilla Cetrulo

11:30 a.m. Thomas McNamara &  
Heather McNamara

#### Thursday, December 28-The Holy Innocents

6:30 a.m. Special Intention A & G

11:30 a.m. David Tuemler

#### Friday, December 29-St. Thomas Becket

6:30 a.m. Kevin McKinley

11:30 a.m. Joan Savage

#### Saturday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Steve Kenning

4:00 p.m. Joe Patronik

6:30 p.m. Wedding: Warning & Feather Families

#### Sunday, December 31-The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

7:30 a.m. Ralph Weiskittel

9:30 a.m. Richard VonHandorf

11:30 a.m. Lynne Kramer

5:00 p.m. Magdalene Sullivan

### Ministry/Volunteer Schedule for December 30th/31st

#### Gift Bearers

4:00 p.m. Paul & Terry Hellmann

7:30 a.m. Ted & Janis Vogelpohl

9:30 a.m. Volunteer

11:30 a.m. Todd & Marijo Fischer

#### Special Ministers of the Word

4:00 p.m. L-J Stratman, C-S Sturgeon

7:30 a.m. M Ruberg

9:30 a.m. L-K Jump, C-T Uthe

11:30 a.m. L-M Nutter, C-K Oberjohn

#### Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 p.m. N Stratman, J & A Ward, K Willenbrink,  
T & D Eilerman, S Gleeson

7:30 a.m. B Henn, N Arnold, D & B Tepe

9:30 a.m. J & P Bramlage, M Brungs, M Osterhaus,  
MA Schuh, MB Scott, C Smith, M Fox

11:30 a.m. D Able, R & S Averdick, J & M Crowe,  
D & G Travis, P Johnston

#### Servers

4:00 p.m. A Martin, C Martin, E Martin

7:30 a.m. VOLUNTEERS

9:30 a.m. G Eckerle, R Eckerle, S Toebben

11:30 a.m. B Hail, K Hail, L Heupel

#### 6:30 a.m. – Servers:

December 26th-Daryl Tepe January 2nd-John Zembrodt

Rosary, Sunday, Dec. 31st at 9:00 a.m.: Dan Summe

Highland Crossing, Dec. 31st: Deacon Gary Scott

#### Vocation Chalice Program Participants

4:00 p.m. Don & Lisa Wilder

7:30 a.m. Kay Schaller

9:30 a.m. Jim & Pat Bramlage

11:30 a.m. Paul & Mary Lee Scheper

#### Greeters

4:00 p.m. F-Della Weis A-Kathy Bell

7:30 a.m. F-Tom Arnold A-Mike Hodge

9:30 a.m. F-Karen Hermann & Lynn Vieth

A-Deana & Grayson Gabbard

11:30 a.m. F-Monica Namyar A-Bob & Tracy Ink

## Merry Christmas

On behalf of our staff and myself, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas! A special greeting and welcome to all visitors with us this Christmas.

– Fr. Mark Keene

## Staff Article

### The Story We Give Ourselves To

In Confession, the “standard penance” I give to nearly everyone (except those who are very young) is to take one of the yellow Mass cards in the pew pockets in church, and to turn it to the reverse side where the Nicene Creed is located. (Its real name is the *Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed*.) I usually note that at Mass we often gallop through this very ancient and very beautiful Profession of Faith without being attentive to the words, their meaning and the implications of us professing them.

These words (224 of them in the English version) tell the story of God’s Creation of, Redemption of, and Sanctification of the world. By reciting these words, we reinforce our Baptismal Promises (from which Creeds were derived) and we are reminded that this story is our story. It is part of us and we are part of it. The Creed tells the over-arching story that we give our lives to in faith. If you had to summarize the history of the universe in 224 words or less, the Creed would be it.

By Baptism we were joined to the Body of Christ and to this Story in a way more compelling than simply existing in it. We are committing ourselves to be actors in it. Through the Eucharist this relationship to Christ and the Story is nourished and deepened. Through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick this relationship to Christ and to the Story is mended and healed. The “Story” is also known as “Salvation History.” And the Mystery is, we cannot be joined to Christ without being joined to the Story.

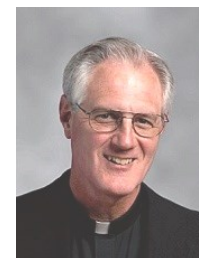
If you had to summarize the Bible in 224 words or less, the Creed would also be a good summary of all that is in the Bible. The Creed is not meant to take the place of the Bible, which we proclaim very systematically in the Liturgy of our Catholic Church (especially through the Mass and through the Liturgy of the Hours), but it does express the most fundamental truths of the Bible. More correctly, the Creed expresses the most fundamental Mysteries of the Bible.

At Christmas, through the Liturgy, we are reminded of a basic Mystery about this Story of Salvation History... that in Jesus of Nazareth—the Christ of God—God has become one with our history. And, as is always the case with the Eucharist, which is a making present of the Paschal Mystery of Jesus’ death and Resurrection, we commemorate all those Mysteries

through which our humanity is made whole. This makes “natural history” and “human history” also Salvation History. This makes our individual lives Salvation History. It makes the life of the Church Salvation History.

The Mystery we commemorate at Christmas is part of the Story we give our lives to in faith. By our giving of ourselves to this story—and I mean really giving ourselves to this—we are gifted by God’s Holy Spirit and we participate with Jesus in this salvific work of the Father. There could be no greater gift at Christmas than to become all the more deeply absorbed in this love story. As Mary and so many others have over the centuries, we should ponder this Mystery every day. The Mystery, please God, will draw us more deeply into itself each day.

Merry Christmas!  
Father Mark Keene



## Parish Worship

### Faith Sharing Questions

**Theme of this week’s Gospel: The angel Gabriel came to Mary, who was a very young girl, and told her she had been chosen to bear a child...Jesus, who would be the Savior of the World!!**

Adults: Who do you think was the most perplexed at the angel Gabriel’s announcement...Mary...

Joseph...her parents? How much “blind faith” did it take for Mary to give her consent to bear the child? Are you ever asked to accept things that you really don’t fully understand?

Teens: If Jesus were born in 2017 to one of your friends, do you think you would accept the pregnancy...or would you decide not to be friends with her anymore? Why or why not?

Children: What do you think about most on Christmas...Santa...Jesus...Rudolph or something else? Can you remember to ask your parents if you can sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus and maybe have a birthday cake?

### Christmas and the Christmas Season

Christmas Season begins on the evening of December 24, (“Christmas Eve”) and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 8, 2018 this Liturgical Year). The Sundays and Holy Days of the Christmas Season are feasts long associated with the

### Parish Worship continued

Incarnation: Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord.

## Christmas Eve and Day

In our Lectionary (the book of the assigned Scripture readings for Mass) for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) there are four different Masses for Christmas: the Vigil Mass, Mass During the Night, Mass at Dawn, and Mass During the Day. Each of these four Masses has its own distinct set of readings and prayers. The readings are the same regardless of whether we are in Cycle A, B or C. There is not enough room here to do detailed previews of all four sets of readings. What follows is a summary.

In the Gospel readings for these four Masses of Christmas there is a deliberate progression in teaching about the nature of Jesus ("the Incarnation"). The Gospel for the Vigil Mass is the "Genealogy of Jesus" from the Gospel of Matthew. It emphasizes Jesus' human/earthly origins. At the Mass During the Night and Mass at Dawn the stories of Jesus' birth from the Gospel of Luke offer the listener a preparation for the divine nature of the infant Jesus. The progression ends with the Mass During the Day and its Gospel Reading, which is "The Prologue" from the Gospel of John. This Prologue is a hymn that perhaps at one time existed independently of the Gospel of John but was then adopted as a kind of "overture" and introduction to the Gospel of John. This hymn evidences a very developed understanding of the human and divine natures of Christ ("Christology") with a strong emphasis on Jesus' divine origins and nature: "In the beginning was the Word: the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God..." This "Word" of God became flesh in Jesus of Nazareth. This sets the tone for the whole Gospel of John, in which the divinity of Jesus will be emphasized.

The other readings at these four Masses support the Gospel reading for each of the particular Masses. The themes of Messianic Expectation and Deliverance found in the Old Testament, and which Jesus is the fulfillment of, are very evident.

## The Octave of Christmas

An "octave" in this context spans eight days, December 25th through January 1st. It constitutes a kind of "season within a season" since the Christmas Season extends from Christmas through the Baptism of the Lord (normally the third Sunday after Christmas

but in some years, like this year, the Monday after the 2nd Sunday after Christmas). The only other octave in the Year of Worship is the week after Easter, which is the first week of the Easter Season. These two octaves in the Church's Year of Worship serve to highlight the two "Great Mysteries" of our Salvation: the Incarnation of Jesus AND the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and Resurrection. Appropriately, the Octave of Christmas closes on January 1st with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

## Next Sunday, December 31, 2017: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Cycle B

The Sunday within the "Octave of Christmas" is when we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family.

**Gospel Reading (Luke 2:22-40):** This Gospel reading is the account of Joseph and Mary taking Jesus to be "presented" to the Temple. It is a story that is full of symbolism and prescient words. One can well see how Simeon and Anna are representative of Judaism and its hopes. They also seem like shadows of Abraham and Sarah. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Promise/Covenant God made with Abraham (See First Reading and Second Reading below). Luke seems to go to great length to emphasize that Jesus' family is devoutly Jewish, attentive to fulfilling the prescriptions of the Law.

**First Reading (Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3):** This reading from Genesis tells of God's promise of an heir to Abraham who at this time was very old (as was his wife Sarah). We are told that "Abraham puts his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness."

**Second Reading (The Letter to the Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19):** This reading from Hebrews is a New Testament reflection and testimonial on the faith of Abraham: "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out not knowing where he was to go..."

## Catholic Traditions

**The Mystery of the Incarnation:** In our country, we observe Christmas Eve and Day as THE great celebration of the Christmas Season. In other cultures however, the feast of the Epiphany is observed with greater ceremony and celebration than Christmas. In some cultures, Christ's Baptism is observed as THE feast to be celebrated.

## Parish Worship continued

Regardless, all three feasts celebrate "the Incarnation": God's wisdom - "the Word" - has become flesh. In Jesus, we have the fullest Revelation of the divinity for which our humanity was created to aspire to. The Incarnation is not just a single event of 2000 years ago, rather it is a dimension to all of Creation - including of course, all of Humanity. Hence, at Mass we pray "may we come share the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity," and "may we become what we receive." Our pondering of the Mystery of The Incarnation also reminds us that in some - ultimately mysterious - way, all of Creation is an expression of God's "mind"-God's WORD-and hence all Creation is a Revelation of God.

Also, there is an ancient tradition which ascribes great significance to these three events: 1) The Visit of the Magi, 2) Jesus' Baptism, and 3) Jesus' "sign" at the Wedding in Cana (His first sign in John's Gospel). Together, these are seen as Jesus "being made manifest" or his "epiphany." This lives on in our Liturgy especially during Cycle C years when we have the Feast of the Epiphany, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and then on the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord, where the Gospel is the Wedding at Cana.

## Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel 20th Anniversary Celebration

On the first weekend in January, 2018, Saint Agnes Parish will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration in our Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel. How blessed we are to have had Jesus available to us in this way all day, every day for the last 20 years. Several activities have been planned to honor the occasion. Consider this your invitation to participate in one or all of the activities mentioned below.

**40 Hours Devotion:** The weekend celebration will appropriately begin with 40 Hours Devotion.

Commencing on Friday, January 5th immediately after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the main body of the church and remain exposed until 7:15 a.m. on Sunday morning, January 7th (with two periods of reposition for Saturday morning and afternoon Masses). Please consider signing up for an hour of adoration during these 40 hours. We are requesting at least two adorers for each hour. There is a sign-up poster board in the back of church. This is our most urgent need as we would like to fill our slots as soon as

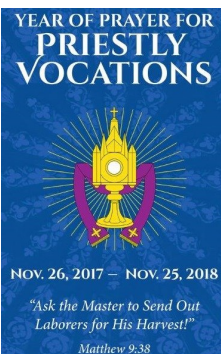
possible. To sign-up for an hour, use the sign up board or email Blaine Comfort at [comfort@zoomtown.com](mailto:comfort@zoomtown.com).

**Celebration Anniversary Mass:** The Mass celebrating the 20th Anniversary will take place at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, January 7th. Please consider attending this Mass as a show of appreciation for 20 Years of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration.

**Celebration Anniversary Luncheon:** Immediately following the Anniversary Mass, there will be a free, catered luncheon in the undercroft (Murphy Hall) honoring all those who participate or have participated and hoping to inspire those who would like to participate in the practice of Eucharistic Adoration. The entire parish is invited. Please RSVP to the Parish Office at 431-1802 with the number of people attending.

Thank you St. Agnes Parishioners for making this celebration possible.

## Year of Prayer for Priestly Vocations



Parishioners should have received a letter from Bishop Foys describing this year. Included with the letter was a prayer card with the Prayer for Vocations that we will be praying at Mass. Please use this card in your household to pray for vocations this year. If you lost your card or want more for your personal and/or family use, please contact the Parish Office. *Please personally encourage men to*

*consider a vocation to the priesthood.* Let us all strive to support a culture in our church that is much more supportive of vocations! - Fr. Mark Keene

## Adoration of Our Lord

*He was laid in a wooden manger...and nailed to a wooden cross.* It's easy to recognize Our Lord in the manger at Christmas, as well as when we look upon a crucifix. But when we look at the Consecrated Host enshrined in the monstrance, is He as easily recognized?

Pray for the gift of faith. Take this opportunity to get to know Jesus a little better in His Eucharistic Presence so that He becomes more easily recognized. Visit Him in our Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel. Call 859-496-4149 for more information.



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Parish Worship continued

#### Bulletin Picture

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!* "Glory to God in the Highest" - The hymn of the angels from the Gospel reading at Christmas Mass During the Night (Luke 2:1-14) as proclaimed by the angel in our Nativity Scene.

#### Advent/Christmas Flowers

The flowers for this Advent and Christmas Seasons were given in memory of the following. We thank all of the donors for their great generosity which has helped to beautify our Church this year. Please pray for them and their intentions, and for those in whose memory the flowers are being donated.



- In memory of Annetta Bishop  
By the Bishop Family & Katie Bishop Wolnitzek
- In memory of Betty & John Bramlage  
By Jim & Pat Bramlage
- In memory of Wanda & Jack Rauen  
By Jim & Pat Bramlage
- In memory of Helen Bray  
By David & Kathy Bray
- In memory of Scheenens & Brueggemann Families  
By Jack & Carrie Brueggemann
- In memory of Daniel Cahill  
By Bill & Donna Cahill
- In memory of Cathleen Cetrulo & Robert C. Cetrulo  
By Elaine Cetrulo
- In memory of Elmer B. Cleves  
By Cindy Cleves
- In memory of Ruth C. Cleves  
By Cindy Cleves
- In memory of Deacon Joe Cleves  
By Kitty Cleves
- In memory of Teddy Fritz  
By Ed & Brenda Fritz
- In memory of Fred A. Fischer  
By Luke & Missy Hail & Family
- In memory of Harms & Noonan Families  
By Patricia Harms
- In memory of Bob & Evelyn Hebbeler  
By Gary Hebbeler Family
- In memory of Bright & Hill Families  
By Rick & Chris Hill & Kathy Chambers
- In memory of Chris Janszen  
By Bill & Billy Janszen
- In memory of George & Ethel Janszen  
By Bill & Billy Janszen & John & Betty Jo Ginn
- In memory of Koehl & Oberschlake Families  
By Gene & Leslie Koehl
- In memory of Bernie Kramer  
By Joyce Kramer
- In memory of Norbert Lewin  
By Barb Lewin
- In memory of Chad McCord  
By Barb Lewin
- In Thanksgiving  
By Don & Irene Mai
- In memory Barbara & John Wohlhueter  
By Mike & Rae Maier
- In memory of Joan Mardis  
By Charles Mardis
- In memory of Paul Michels  
By Kate Michels
- In memory of Rob Miller  
By Rosemary Miller
- In memory of Don & Keith Miller  
By Shirley Miller
- In memory of Burke & Moening Families  
By James & Rebecca Moening
- In memory of Ray Mueller  
By Della Mueller
- In memory of Betty Muldoon  
By Ray Muldoon
- In memory of Ann, John, Joe, Bill & Steve Dickman  
By Beth Dickman Nagle
- In memory of Pohlabein & Thomann Families  
By Rudy & Angela Pohlabein
- In memory of Art & Larry Schaller  
By Kay Schaller
- In memory of Mark Schneider  
By Linda Schneider
- In memory of Arthur & Julianna Schwartz  
By the Schwartz Children
- In memory of Fran Sommerkamp  
By Bill Sommerkamp
- In memory of Stauber & Weibel Families  
By Lee & Martha Stauber
- In memory of the Stoeckle Family  
By Bob & Millie Stoeckle
- In memory of Marvin Wigger  
By Mary Wigger
- In memory of Witt & Meyers Families  
By Walt & Martha Witt
- In memory of Ray & Jane Knochelman  
By Nancy Zimmerman

## Stewardship

### Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (July thru 12/18/17)	\$568,976
Budgeted Collections (July thru December)	\$652,000
Budgeted Collections for Fiscal Year (2017/2018)	\$1,250,000

## We Are His Hands

### SND Buseesa Mission: *Webale Muno!*

On December 13th, our sisters in Uganda picked up the new 4x4 truck that you donated toward this past year. Thank you for contributing. The new truck will relieve our transit needs at the mission in Buseesa, which is very rural and accessible only by dirt roads. Thank you very much, or as they say in Buseesa, "Webale muno." Gratefully in our good and provident God, Sister Mary Margaret Droege, SND, Director, Uganda Mission Office (Our parish tithing fund made a donation to the Sisters Mission in Uganda for this truck.)

## Saint of the Week

### Saint Thomas Becket



Thomas was born in London on December 21, 1119 to a wealthy London family. His talents were noticed by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Theobald of Bec.

While working for the Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas was sent on several missions to Rome. When the post of Lord Chancellor of England became vacant Thomas was recommended to the King, Henry II, for the post. He was appointed in January 1155. He won the respect of King Henry who sent his son to live with Thomas. The prince said that Thomas showed him more love in one day than his father showed him in his whole life.

Despite being an archdeacon Thomas lived more like other nobles than as a devout churchman. It may have been for this reason, and for the fact that as Lord Chancellor he had placed the interests of the king ahead of that of the Church, that Thomas was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury after Theobald Bec's death in 1162. Once confirmed as Archbishop,

Thomas began to change and to place the interests of the Church ahead of the interests of the King. Thomas Becket resigned as Lord Chancellor shortly after becoming Archbishop.

After becoming Archbishop he and King Henry II began to have disagreements. One of the earliest controversies was over who had jurisdiction over clerics who committed offenses under civil law. King Henry said that the secular courts should have jurisdiction while Thomas held that clerics could only be judged by Church authorities. Since even those who took minor orders (acolytes, lectors and doorkeepers) were considered clergy, clergy made up one fifth of the male population of England. Henry felt that removing this number of men from civil criminal courts undermined law and order in England. The relationship between Becket and Henry worsened. Henry removed his son from the care of Becket. He also stripped Becket of all of the honors he had previously granted.

Henry exiled Thomas and his family in 1164 to France where the French King, Louis VII, protected him. Pope Alexander sent representatives to resolve the situation in 1170. That same year Henry decided to have his son, Henry, crowned as heir apparent. The Bishop of York, Bishop of Salisbury and the Bishop of London performed the ceremony. Since the Archbishop of Canterbury had the privilege of coronation, Thomas excommunicated the three bishops. On hearing this, Henry was reported to have said, "Who will rid me of this troublesome priest?" Four of Henry's knights heard this and went to Canterbury and on December 29, 1170 and killed the Archbishop.

Veneration for Thomas began almost immediately and on February 21, 1173 Pope Alexander III canonized him.

## Parish News

### Wedding Banns

III-Lauren Warning, Saint Agnes &  
Robert Feather  
I-Mallory Hopper, Saint Paul &  
Daniel Neeley



### First Thursday Rosary

First Thursday Rosary for New Year! Join in prayer with others on January 4th for First Thursday Rosary at 7:00 p.m. Start the New Year seeking Mary's help. Enter via the annex door.

Parish News continued

Did You Know?

When Christmas comes our hearts are full of joy and going to church on Christmas Day is always special. Our church is decorated for Christmas in a very short amount of time thanks to a lot of volunteers. Our beautiful nativity scene is set up by our maintenance crew. Mac Heidrich built and donated the manger in 1993 and the figurines, which predate 1968, were recently restored. The window sills are decorated by Walt, Mike, Margie, Robert, Jacob, and Sarah Witt, the wreaths and banners behind the tabernacle are put up by Bob Thamann, and the poinsettias in the sanctuary are taken care of by Missy Hail. Fr. Keene will switch the music on the "bell" system from Advent music to Christmas music. Thanks to all of our volunteers for making our church a place of peace and beauty during the Christmas season.



Youth Group 2018

Start your New Year with other teens in Youth Group. Share your faith openly, feel support, have fun, enjoy friends, eat great food. First meeting of 2018 is Sunday, January 7th in the school cafeteria. Junior high meets from 4 to 6 p.m. and high school meets from 5 to 7 p.m. Bring a friend!

Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

Earl Franks & Sons & Daughters  
Ceramic Tile, Quality Carpeting, Wood Flooring, Interior Design Service  
261-9608

School News

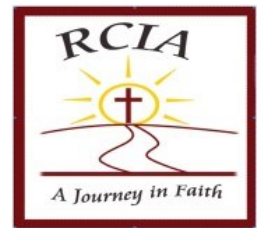
Saint Agnes School Annual Appeal

If you would like to submit your tax-deductible donation to the Saint Agnes School "Fully Relying On God" Annual Appeal by the end of the calendar year, it is not too late! Donations may be directed to our technology program, classroom furniture, new student lockers, or our general fund. You may submit your donation online through the link on the school website ([school.saintagnes.com](http://school.saintagnes.com)) or drop off your donation to the school or parish office.

Faith Formation

RCIA

This week our RCIA group is exploring our belief in the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery, the connection between the crib and the cross. Our Scriptures today remind us that Jesus entered into our history through Mary's 'Yes' to the angel. He wants to enter our personal life story as well and invites us to say 'Yes' to His love, to open our hearts and our lives to Him this Christmas and throughout the coming year. Our RCIA catechumens are praying for the Lord to come more intimately into their hearts as they journey through Advent to Christmas so that they may discover His presence and His plan in their lives. Please join in this prayer with them. On your journey through Advent, invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you this Advent and Christmas. **Then, invite them to inquire into our RCIA process (see the front of our bulletin or website or call 431-1802).**



Word of Life Bulletin Brief

"An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it's important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how, the smallest things we do can change someone's life."  
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
"10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"

Diocesan News

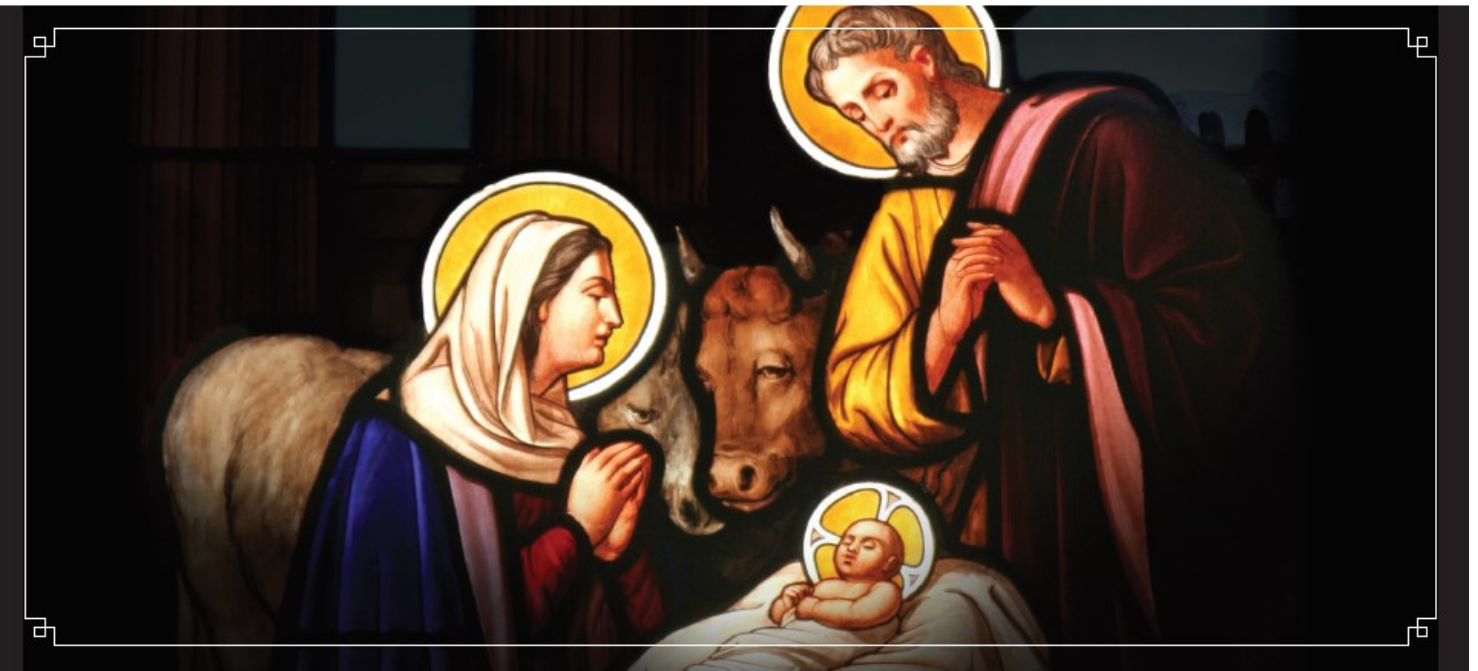
Thinking About the Priesthood?

On January 7th there will be a Discernment Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory of the Cathedral. Bishop Foys and Fr. Andrew Young invite any men, high-school age and older, who are interested in learning more about the priesthood to attend. These dinners are held on the First Sunday of every month and usually last about an hour and half. Please contact Fr. Andrew Young in the Vocations Office for more details. If you would like more information, or if you know someone who might be discerning a vocation, please contact Father Keene (431-1802 or [mkeene@saintagnes.com](mailto:mkeene@saintagnes.com)). We all have a duty to encourage and pray for vocations.



*Merry Christmas*

from SAINT AGNES



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