

A 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



November 29, 2020

**Be Watchful!
Be Alert!
You do not
know when
the time
will come.
Mark 13:33**

The Church of Saint Agnes

1680 Dixie Highway, Fort Wright, KY 41011

859.431.1802

Website: www.saintagnes.com Email: parishoffice@saintagnes.com

STAFF:

Rev. Mark Keene, Pastor
Rev. Trinity Knight, Parochial Vicar
Rev. James Quill, Retired
Rev. Mr. Bob Stoeckle, Deacon/Pastoral Assoc.
Rev. Mr. Gary Scott, Deacon
Bobby Fisher, Director of Music Ministries
Anita Dunn, Coordinator of Religious Education
Pat Cunningham, Parish Business Manager
Denise Graves, Bookkeeper
Paula Fritz, Coordinator of RCIA
Beth Nagle, Administrative Asst./Bulletin Editor

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Office431-1802
Parish Fax291-7017
Email Address ... parishoffice@saintagnes.com

Office Hours:

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

School261-0543
Hall Rental (Ron Lawson)803-3216

Prayer Line Requests331-1924
331-8562

Email: stagnesprayerline@gmail.com

Adoration Chapel, Don Able.....513-403-5242

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Sunday : 8:30 & 10:30 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 & 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 12:00 p.m. except during Lent.

PARISH FACILITIES MAY NOT BE USED FOR GATHERINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

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.

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 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 for more information.

PRE-SCHOOL RELIGION:

Held on Sunday during the 10:30 a.m. Mass from September thru April. Contact Maureen Osterhaus at 859-803-0458 or mosterhaus8@gmail.com for more information.

MEETINGS:

Athletic Boosters-3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.
in the Parish 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 Parish Conference Room
Parish Council-1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish 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 Parish Conference Room

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions

- Sunday, November 29**-First Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m. Denny & Jeff Vieth
10:30 a.m. Martin Crowe
- Monday, November 30**-St. Andrew
6:30 a.m. Piotrek Zatorski
11:30 a.m. Michael Velie
- Tuesday, December 1**
6:30 a.m. Robert & Rosemary Jameson
11:30 a.m. Jose Ramirez
- Wednesday, December 2**
6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
11:30 a.m. Martin Crowe
- Thursday, December 3**-St. Francis Xavier
6:30 a.m. Joan Bowman
11:30 a.m. Kathy Thelen
- Friday, December 4**-St. John of Damascus
6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
11:30 a.m. Dolores Todd Lyon
- Saturday, December 5**
8:30 a.m. All Members of Clay Ministries
4:00 p.m. Marge Cummings
6:00 p.m. Wedding: Delaney/Koenig Families
- Sunday, December 6**-Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 a.m. Charlene Keltz
10:30 a.m. Theresa Mary Ryan

Rosary, Sunday, Dec. 6th at 8:00 a.m.: Tony Summe

Staff Article

Dear Friends

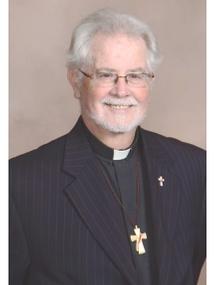
Welcome to Advent! Whether it's your first time entering this holy season or your ninetieth, be assured that God, your heavenly Father, is eager to bestow His grace on us. He has given us access to every spiritual gift as we wait for Jesus to reveal Himself to us. And God wants to do even more. He wants us to have a great Advent! He wants to make this season into a time for us to grow closer to Him, and come to know Him better.

This doesn't necessarily mean these days before Christmas will be easy. Our faith might deepen, or we might receive unexpected blessings. But we might experience hardship or setbacks. Yet no matter what happens, God will reward whatever effort we put into our Advent preparations. That's because He wants nothing more than for us to deepen our relationship with Jesus. That's the grace God is offering us this season.

So dig in! Start by committing to spend more time in prayer this month. Spend less time watching reruns on TV and more time reading. Especially articles, books or magazines about our Lord, or your favorite apostle,

or your favorite saint. Possibly participate in some of our parish activities, for example Eucharistic Adoration or a service project. Pick up a spiritual book or do an Advent Bible Study, to help develop your understanding of our faith.

Above everything else, be hopeful. God is faithful and by Him you were called to fellowship with His Son. That's what the season is all about. "Jesus Christ is the reason for the season." "Keep Christ in Christmas."



God Bless
Deacon Bob

Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus tells His disciples to be watchful and alert...for they do not know when the Lord is coming!

Adults: What message do you think Jesus was trying to give to His disciples...that we don't know when we will die...that the Lord expects us to be responsible while we are here on earth...or that we may be expected to give an account of how we spent our lives...can you do a better job of being "watchful and alert?"

Teens: Do you think Jesus would think that you spend too much time "sleeping" or having fun and too little time being watchful.? Think to see if there is some way you can do a better job?

Children: What good deed could you do today to demonstrate to Jesus that you are trying to be "watchful?" Maybe you could share a treat with a friend...help at home to clean up...thank someone for being your friend?

Next Sunday, December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday of Advent, Cycle B

The Liturgical Season of Advent is designed not so much as a season of commemoration of Jesus' birth, but as a season of reminders that we are a people traveling to the second coming of Christ. This is particularly true through December 16th. December 17th-24th we use traditions surrounding Jesus' first coming—His birth—as a way to prepare for His second coming. As the people of the Old Testament awaited Christ's first coming, we—the church—are the "new Israel" who await His second coming.

In a Cycle B year the Gospel of Mark will be featured on Sundays, though there will be some exceptions. In every cycle of readings (A, B and C), the Gospels for

Parish Worship continued

the Sundays of Advent follow the same themes. The Gospels for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent have to do with John the Baptist. During all of Advent, the Sunday Old Testament Readings (First Readings) are prophecies about the Messiah and Messianic times, particularly from Isaiah. The Sunday New Testament Readings (Second Readings) are from the New Testament Epistles and present exhortations and instructions on themes of the Advent Season.

Gospel Reading (Mark 1:1-8): The readings for the Second and Third Sundays of Advent always describe the ministry of John the Baptist, which was to prepare a way for the Lord. We are reminded that we are called to prepare a way for the Lord in our lives today. This reading consists of the opening lines of Mark's Gospel. Note that as Mark's Gospel begins, Jesus is already an adult. The Gospel of Mark (like John) does not have any stories concerning Jesus' birth. Mark's Gospel begins by introducing the figure of John the Baptist. John the Baptist's vocation of preparing the world for Jesus is used as a model by our Church to teach us that we (the church) are called to prepare the way for Christ's coming into our world, both now and at the end of time. It begins by preparing a place for Christ in our hearts.

First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11): Frederick Handel used this passage from the Book of Isaiah for the lyrics of the opening of his oratorio, *Messiah*: "Comfort, give comfort to my people...". In the Book of Isaiah, these words are the opening words of Isaiah's proclamation that the Jewish people will be returning home from their exile in Babylon. They are words full of great joy, hope and comfort.

Second Reading (2 Peter 3:8-14): The second reading, from 2 Peter reinforces the Advent themes of urgency and alertness, encouraging us to not delay in getting our lives in order: "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out. Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of person ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God..."

Bulletin Cover Picture

Welcome Advent! One of the Advent Wreaths on the front doors of the church.

Catholic Traditions

The Liturgical Year is not only for in Church.

Beyond when we are in church, how can be we more mindful of the Liturgical Year in our daily lives? For the Advent and Christmas Seasons there are many ways that can be done at home:

1. Have prayers in the morning, before/after meals, and at bedtime. Use prayers that reflect the season or the feast day. There are many fine books available to enhance our "domestic prayer lives". See the parish resource center in the back of church.
2. Pray using the Scripture readings from the Masses of the Advent and Christmas Seasons.
3. Use an Advent wreath with some simple Advent Wreath prayers said before or after meals.
4. Have a special ceremony in the home to accompany the lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath.
5. Have a Nativity Scene without the Baby Jesus from December 17 to 24, and with Baby Jesus from Christmas through Epiphany.
6. Say family prayers close to the Nativity Scene while it is on display in your home.
7. On the Feast of the Holy Family, have a special family meal together.
8. It is a Tradition on the Feast of the Epiphany to inscribe with chalk the initials of the three kings (Casper, Melchior and Balthazar) and the year over a door in one's house. So for Epiphany 2021, one would inscribe "20 + C + M + B 21." The cross before each initial stands for "saint." This inscription remains all year as a reminder of the revelation of Christ to the world as its savior.
9. On the feast of Jesus' Baptism, bring out and light each family member's Baptismal Candle during a family meal.

Make use of many fine resources, such as "The Catholic Book of Household Blessings" to initiate and enrich one's prayer life and religious traditions in one's home

Adorers Needed

Adorers are needed to fill the following hours in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel:

Monday-12AM, 1AM, 2AM,

Wednesday-2AM

Thursday-12PM, 1PM, 11PM

Friday-4AM, 11PM

Saturday-11AM

If you are interested in helping to fill these open times or have any questions please contact Don Able at 513-403-5242 or abledrky@gmail.com.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Worship continued

For use with The Morning Offering Prayer

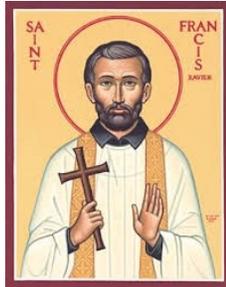
NOVEMBER 2020: For "Artificial Intelligence" - We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

DECEMBER 2020: For a "Life of Prayer" - We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Saint of the Week

Saint Francis Xavier

Francis Xavier, one of the two patrons of foreign missions, was born in the Kingdom of Navarre on April 7, 1506. His native tongue was Basque and he was a member of a noble Navarre family. Navarre was taken over by Spain in 1512. The people of Navarre opposed this and Francis' boyhood was surrounded by war. In 1525 he went to Paris to study and it was there that he met fellow Basque, Ignatius of Loyola, who became his roommate along with Peter Faber, (canonized by Pope Francis in December 2013). Ignatius and Peter Faber both decided to become priests, but Francis wanted worldly advancement and resisted the efforts of the other two to get him to join them. Finally Ignatius asked him, "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" On August 15, 1534 Francis, Ignatius of Loyola, Peter Faber and four other priests began the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits.



In 1540 the King of Portugal asked the Jesuits to go to the Portuguese territories in India to spread the faith. Ignatius chose two priests but one of them got sick and Ignatius asked Francis to go. Thus began Francis Xavier's mission to the East. He was the first Jesuit missionary. He went to Goa, a Portuguese colony on the west coast of India. He found the Portuguese colonists in need of priests and preachers. He also began religious instruction for Indians in the colony as well. In 1545 he went to Portuguese Malacca (now part of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia) where he worked to spread the Gospel. It was here that he met a Japanese man whom he converted and who convinced Francis to go to Japan. He went there in 1549 and began his missionary work. He was successful in establishing several congregations in Japan. In 1551 he left Japan to go back to Goa. Leaving Goa in 1552 he sailed to

the Portuguese base on Shangchuan Island off of the south coast of China, where he was waiting for permission to go to Mainland China and continue work as a missionary. Here he contracted a fever and died on December 3, 1552. He was first buried on the island and then moved to Malacca. On December 11, 1553 his body was moved to the cathedral in Goa. His body is in a silver casket in a glass container. His right arm was taken to the main Jesuit church in Rome.

Francis Xavier and Ignatius of Loyola were both canonized on March 12, 1622. He has been named the patron of foreign missions, a title which he shares with Saint Therese of Lisieux. His feast day is December 3rd.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

No totals due to early bulletin deadline.

Saint Agnes School Annual Appeal

Our school has begun its annual appeal for this year. In the past, our Fish Fries and particularly our Oktoberfest have provided crucial support for our school, both for special project and for operating expenses. We had to cancel half of our Fish Fries this past Lent and our Oktoberfest was cancelled altogether. The result is that our Saint Agnes School Annual Appeal is all the more important. Please consider making a substantial donation to help offset the funding we would have realized from Fish Fries and Oktoberfest. Donations should be clearly marked and sent to the parish office.

Thank you. –Father Mark Keene

Parish News

Wedding Banns

III-Kelsey Delaney, Saint Agnes &
Zach Koenig, Saint Paul

Family of God

We welcome into the Family of God the following infants who were baptized recently at St. Agnes:

Grayson Daniel Wachs

Child of Chad & Taylor Wachs

First Thursday Rosary CANCELLED

Sadly, in these times of needing prayer, we are putting our Rosary on hold. Bishop Foys is concerned for all and has asked that nonessential gatherings go virtual or be put on hold. You can take part in the Rosary anytime on www.youtube.com. Just search Rosary. EWTN has the rosary daily at 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. Pray that we get back in January.



Faith Formation

RCIA

This weekend we enter the sacred Season of Advent. It is a season of rich traditions in our Catholic faith. We begin a new liturgical year as we watch and wait for the Lord's coming. During this holy Season, please participate in our Advent traditions at Church and celebrate them at home. Invite others to learn, pray, and celebrate these traditions with you.



Preparations for Christmas include buying gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given us: His Son, Jesus. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you this Advent and Christmas. Then invite them to visit our RCIA process by calling the Parish Office at 431-1802 or emailing Paula at pfritz@saintagnes.com. Please continue to pray for our RCIA inquirer.

GOOD NEWS! St. Agnes has renewed our parish subscription to **FORMED**. Enjoy this free subscription to formed.org — an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place! What a wonderful way to prepare your family to welcome Jesus at Christmas!

FORMED provides inspiring content 24/7 for you and your family to grow in your faith. **It's now EASY and FREE to Register!** Go to www.formed.org Click the "sign in" button in the middle of the page. Next choose "I belong to a Parish..." Then enter St. Agnes Church Ft Wright Kentucky, select our parish, and follow the instructions. Every time you go to www.formed.org you will be sent to the sign in page. No password needed, just click "sign in" and you are there! Please sign up today!

Advent Reflections

Advent 2020 will be here soon! Have you made any prayerful plans yet to prepare for the Lord's coming? Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are unable to offer any in-person opportunities to study and pray together at St. Agnes. However, we can all still take advantage of some of the many online free resources available to enrich our Advent prayers and preparations. For example, www.formed.org provides many faith formation resources including *Opining the Word* (under programs, the Faith Formation tab), which reflects on the Sunday readings each week with special insights for Advent. Or, sign-up for Matthew Kelly's (Dynamic Catholic's) *Best Advent Ever*, which include daily brief video meditations sent to your email (go to www.dynamiccatholic.com, under my parish find Best Advent Ever). Or sign-up for Bishop Robert Barron's daily Advent reflections at www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog. Also, please check out our resource center in the back of church. You will find many up to date Advent books, booklets, wreaths, candles, and activities for children. Most importantly, please join us for Sunday Mass each weekend in Advent, and of course, on Christmas!

Word of Life Bulletin Brief

"Having received the gift of the Gospel of Life, we are the people of life and a people for life. It is our duty to proclaim the Gospel of Life to the world. To proclaim Jesus is to proclaim life itself. Gratitude and joy at the incomparable dignity of the human person impel us to bring the Gospel of life to the hearts of all people and make it penetrate every part of society."
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
"The Gospel of Life: A Brief Summary"

