

# A 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A man named  
John was sent  
from God.  
He came for  
testimony, to  
testify to the  
light, so that  
all might  
believe  
through him.

John 1:6-7

December 13, 2020

## *The Church of Saint Agnes*

1680 Dixie Highway, Fort Wright, KY 41011

859.431.1802

Website: [www.saintagnes.com](http://www.saintagnes.com) Email: [parishoffice@saintagnes.com](mailto: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 Love, 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  
331-8562

Email: [stagnesprayerline@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 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 10:30 a.m. Mass from September thru April. Contact Maureen Osterhaus at 859-803-0458 or [mosterhaus8@gmail.com](mailto: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 6:00 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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Mass Intentions

- Sunday, December 13**-Third Sunday of Advent  
8:30 a.m. Martha Schuh-2nd Anniversary  
10:30 a.m. Carroll "Mac" Heidrich
- Monday, December 14**-St. John of the Cross  
6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
11:30 a.m. Antoinette Andaloro
- Tuesday, December 15**  
6:30 a.m. Jimmy Bayless  
11:30 a.m. Paul Kohl
- Wednesday, December 16**  
6:30 a.m. Ruth Dahlenburg  
11:30 a.m. Nick Kreuzjans
- Thursday, December 17**  
6:30 a.m. Vince Melching  
11:30 a.m. Suetholz Family
- Friday, December 18**  
6:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
9:20 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Charles Dahlenburg
- Saturday, December 19**  
8:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
4:00 p.m. Bill Cahill
- Sunday, December 20**-Fourth Sunday of Advent  
8:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
10:30 a.m. Theresa Mary Ryan

Rosary, Sunday, Dec. 20th at 8:00 a.m.: Theresa Gray

### Staff Article

#### **Gaudete...Rejoice!**

This weekend we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. In the midst of our season of Advent, we are given an occasion to turn our penitential preparation into joyful anticipation. We wear the color rose today to symbolize the transition that occurs with the coming of the Lord. It is reflective of the moment of sunrise on any given day when darkness gives way to light. Notice the color of the sky at that moment...rose. The Incarnation of the Lord is the ultimate transition of a world plagued by darkness being shown anew in radiant light.

While we still have some time left to prepare for Christmas (there are a few shopping days left...and still time for confession), today gives us an opportunity to refocus our preparation. Sometimes we can get bogged down and lose sight of what exactly it is for which we are preparing. Today gives us the chance to look forward and remind ourselves of the coming feast. Today gives us the necessary realization that though we may live in a world still plagued by darkness, there

is light ahead. And so we rejoice! We refocus our preparation and breathe a sigh of relief knowing that our efforts, our waiting, are not in vane. Rejoice for the coming of the Lord is near!

May the peace of Christ be with you all as we celebrate the coming holy days.

Fr. Trinity



### Parish Worship

#### **Faith Sharing Questions**

**Theme of this week's Gospel: John the Baptist gives witness to Jesus with His preaching and prepares the people for Jesus' coming.**

**Adults:** What do you think John the Baptist meant when he said he was the voice of one crying in the desert "make straight the way of the Lord!" Can you think of anyone today who reminds you of John the Baptist...someone who tries to prepare you for the birth of Jesus?

**Teens:** If John the Baptist were alive today what do you think he'd be doing...living as a monk, feeding and sheltering the homeless, maybe being an itinerant preacher? How would you and your friends respond to him?

**Children:** Can you ask your parents what your own Baptism was like...did you cry, did you have a party, how old were you? Do you know who your godparents are?

#### **Next Sunday, December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday, of Advent, Cycle B**

The Lectionary Readings for both the Sunday Masses and the weekday Masses of the last eight days before Christmas (beginning December 17th) turn toward the Scriptural accounts from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. These readings are more along the lines of what we associate with Christmas than the readings for the first weeks of Advent. For most of the season of Advent (until December 17th), the readings more explicitly remind us that we are a people who live in the "in-between times" of Christ's first and second comings. We use readings concerning the first coming of Christ to remind ourselves that we should be vigilant with regard to the second.

**Gospel Reading (Luke 1:26-38):** In a Cycle B Year, the Gospel reading is usually from the Gospel of Mark, however this Sunday is an exception. The Gospel reading for the fourth Sunday of Advent is always from

## Parish Worship continued

the Gospel writings that are concerned with Jesus' birth. There are no such writings in the Gospel of Mark (or John). These writings are only found in Luke and Matthew. These writings are referred to as the "Infancy Narratives" and they are believed to be the last stories to become part of the Gospels as we have them. Recall that the Gospels went through various stages of editing before they were edited in the form we now have them. The Infancy Narratives contain many of the themes of Jesus' life as an adult. This Sunday's reading is the account of the Annunciation where the angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of a son who will be named Jesus. The story is about Mary's openness to this wondrous new direction God is asking her to take in her life. In this she is a model for all disciples and a model for the Church. Echoing the annunciation stories of Hannah (mother of Samuel) and the mother of Sampson in the Old Testament, we are taught that God is once again making an initiative. God is doing "something new" in human history.

**First Reading (2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16):** In this reading we hear how King David wished to build a "house" (read "Temple") to house the "Ark of the Covenant" which was being kept in a tent from the days when the Jewish people were a nomadic people. The Ark contained the Ten Commandments and some of the Manna with which the Jewish people were fed after the Exodus. The Ark was equated with God's presence among the people, much as the Tabernacle is in a Roman Catholic Church today, containing the "Manna" of the New Covenant, the Body of Christ. Through Nathan the prophet, God asks with some irony how David is going to build a house for God, after all, look at all that God has done for David. God goes on to promise that David's "house" (that is, his family lineage), through an heir (later understood as Jesus) will rule forever.

**Second Reading (Romans 16:25-27):** This passage is the doxology with which Saint Paul concludes his Letter to the Romans. "To Him who can strengthen you, according to my Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now manifested through the prophetic writings... to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen!"

## Bulletin Cover Picture

The depiction of Our Lady of Guadalupe that is in the Mass Chapel. The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th. Under this title Mary is Patroness of the Americas and of Mexico.

## Christmas Masses During the Pandemic

For Christmas, the attendance for the Mass at 4 PM on Christmas Eve is standing-room only, out the doors. This year, because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we cannot allow this type of crowding. As it is, under the Pandemic protocols, we can only seat round 25% of our seating capacity in the church. Also, with the protocols, we cannot have people standing in the aisles or the foyers of church.

To help ease this, we plan to have an additional Mass this year, at 6 PM on Christmas Eve. Also, for your information, the Masses at 11:00 PM Christmas Eve, and 8:30 and 10:30 AM Christmas Day are usually, comparatively much more lightly attended.

We strongly recommend and encourage people who normally attend the 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve, to attend one of the other Masses.

We do not relish the idea of having to turn people away, but we will have to do so once we reach the Covid-19 protocol limit, which as I stated above is about 25% of capacity. If this year is like previous years as far as people arriving early is concerned, we will reach that limit in short order, probably by around 3:15 or earlier.

I am letting the parish know this, so you can make plans ahead of time to attend another Mass. It will help. Naturally, Christmas Mass should be a part of every Catholic's observance of Christmas, so I am not trying to encourage anyone to not attend Mass at all (age, underlying health conditions, etc. are a different matter). However, since many who do not attend Mass at Saint Agnes during the year may not have seen this bulletin, we who are aware of this situation can try to "make room for them" by attending another, less-well-attended Mass. Also, please be aware of the Masses we will be live-streaming (See below).

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

—Father Mark Keene

## Christmas Masses Live-Streamed

We will be live-streaming the following Masses for Christmas: 4 PM Christmas Eve, 11 PM Christmas Eve, 10:30 the morning of Christmas Day.

## Monthly Intention of Pope Francis

For use with The Morning Offering Prayer

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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### Parish Worship continued

#### 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](mailto:abledrky@gmail.com).



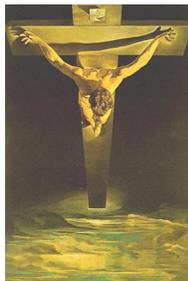
Not all the Carmelites favored the reform. On the night of December 2, 1577 the brothers at the monastery in Toledo where John was, took him prisoner and locked him in a 10 ft. by 6 ft. cell and subjected him to weekly beatings. He had to live on bread, water and salted fish, and had to read his Breviary standing on a stool to get light from a high window. During this time he composed his Spiritual Canticles on paper that was smuggled to him by a sympathetic brother. John's treatment, as well as other resistance to the reforms established by him and Theresa, caused Theresa to petition to have the Discalced Carmelites separated from the Carmelites and made a separate order.

John managed to escape on August 15, 1578. After his escape and his recovery from the imprisonment he spent the rest of his life working to build the order that he and Theresa were instrumental in establishing. He died on December 14, 1591.

### Saint of the Week

#### John of the Cross

John of the Cross, famous for writing *Dark Night of the Soul*, as well as other spiritual works, was born in Fontiveros, Avila, a province in Spain in 1542. His family was Conversos, who were Jews who had converted to Christianity. His father was an accountant who died when John was young and his mother supported the family by weaving. John attended a school for poor children and orphans, became an acolyte at a nearby Augustinian monastery and then entered a school run by Jesuits. In 1563 at the age of 21 he entered the Carmelite Order and took the name of John of Saint Matthias.



After he entered the Carmelites he studied at the University of Salamanca and was ordained a priest in 1567. He was planning to enter the Carthusians, which at that time was a stricter order than the Carmelites when he met the charismatic nun Theresa of Jesus (better known as Theresa of Avila). She was in the process of reforming the Carmelites and told John of her plans to restore the stricter rule of 1209, which had been relaxed. Included in this stricter rule was the wearing of shorter, coarser habits and not wearing shoes, which made them known as "discalced," and from this the reformed Carmelites became known as Discalced Carmelites.

John stayed with Theresa for some time and then went to Durelo (near Salamanca, Spain) where he founded the first Discalced Monastery for men. He then set up two more monasteries and on November 28, 1568 changed his name to John of the Cross. In 1571 he became the spiritual director of Theresa of Avila and the 130 sisters at her convent in Avila, as well as to many of the citizens of the city. During his stay at Avila he had a vision of Christ crucified (which later inspired Salvador Dali's Christ of Saint John of the Cross).

### Stewardship

#### Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 12/07/20)

\$419,322

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 12/07/20)

\$492,387

#### Christian Service Collection

For our recent Christian Service Collection we have the following information:

210 bags of groceries were donated and 70 bags were distributed to each agency. A special acknowledgment to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade school students who donated 31 bags and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade who donated 46 bags. Thanks to everyone!

### We Are His Hands

#### Thanks You's From Many

This past week we received acknowledgments from Family Promise of Northern Kentucky, The Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE) and the Fraternal Order of Police #20 (Annual "Shop With a Cop" program) for donations recently made to these organizations from our Tithing Fund. Our Tithing Fund has supported all of these organizations for many years.



## Parish News

### Early Bulletin Deadline

Due to the upcoming holiday season, the bulletin for December 27th must be sent early. The deadline for the December 27th bulletin is Friday, December 18th at 10:00 a.m.

### Family of God

We welcome into the Family of God the following infant who was baptized recently at Saint Agnes:

Owen Paul Arlinghaus  
Child of Tyler & Megan Arlinghaus

### Parish Office Holiday Schedule

In observance of Christmas, the Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th.

In observance of New Years, the Parish Office will be closing at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 31st and will be closed on Friday, January 1st.

### Deceased of our Parish (November)

Please pray for the family and friends of the following parishioners who recently passed away:

Dr. David Kramer  
Mr. Gayle Settle

### New Parishioners (November)

Welcome the newest members to Saint Agnes Parish:

Ms. Sandy Huwel  
Mr. & Mrs. Sean & Allison Schroeder

### Attention All Virtus Users

The December bulletin posted on December 6th and is due on January 3rd. Please check your account monthly. **During the month of December, ALL accounts will be open or unsuspended.** If you are not up-to-date on reading your monthly bulletins you can do so during December. If you have any questions about your Virtus account, please contact Beth at the Parish Office (431-1802 or [parishoffice@saintagnes.com](mailto:parishoffice@saintagnes.com)).



### Ms. Shauna Ryan-Sterling

One of our fifth grade teachers, Ms. Shauna Ryan-Sterling passed away recently, rather suddenly after a brief illness. Our principal, Mrs. Redleski communicated the following to our current school families:

Dear Saint Agnes Families, It is with a heavy heart that I inform you our beloved 5th grade teacher, Ms. Shauna Ryan, passed away on November 23, 2020. Ms. Ryan was a passionate and dedicated Catholic educator. For over 36 years Ms. Ryan shared her love of learning with countless children. She taught at Saint Agnes for the last 12 years and made a lasting impression on her students and fellow teachers. She will be greatly missed. Our school counselors will be available to meet with students who are struggling with Ms. Ryan's passing, and our teachers will be mindful of the sadness and grief our children may experience during this time. While everyone grieves differently, it will be important to talk about this with your child, and let us know if you would like the counselor to meet with him/her individually. I ask that you pray for Ms. Ryan and her family during this difficult time. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

### Mrs. Redleski Due This Week

As of this writing (Monday, December 7) our principal Mrs. Erin Redleski will begin her maternity leave. She is due to give birth to her and her husband Ryan's first child this week, so by the time you are reading this bulletin, she will have given birth to their daughter. Naturally, we pray that everything goes well and that mother and baby are doing well!

## Faith Formation

### RCIA

In our Gospel today we hear that the Jewish priests were searching for the Messiah and asked John the Baptist: "Who are you?" (John 1:19). John tells them that he is preparing them for the Messiah. Are you watching and preparing for Jesus to come to you in your life? In RCIA during Advent, we are focusing on recognizing Jesus in the unexpected, and praising Him for the gift of His Presence in our lives. Make a plan to come to Mass as a family on Christmas. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you this Christmas. **Then, invite them to inquire into our RCIA process (call the Parish Office, 431-1802).** Please remember in your prayers our RCIA inquirer.