

A 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 20, 2020

**“Behold, I am
the handmaid
of the Lord.
May it be done
to me according
to your word.”**

Luke 1:38

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 Love, 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 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.
– Father Mark Keene

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 20-Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

10:30 a.m. Theresa Mary Ryan

Monday, December 21-St. Peter Canisius

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish

11:30 a.m. Charles Caruso

Tuesday, December 22

6:30 a.m. JoAnn Cetrulo Andrews

11:30 a.m. Dolores Todd Lyon

Wednesday, December 23-St. John of Kanty

6:30 a.m. Vince Melching

11:30 a.m. Ruth Dahlenburg

Thursday, December 24

6:30 a.m. Intention of Brian Wigger

4:00 p.m. Deacon Joe Cleves

6:00 p.m. Special Intention

11:00 p.m. Dec'd of the Leo & Norma Broering Fam.

Friday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Dec'd of the Tepe & Wells Families

10:30 a.m. Sommerkamp Family

Saturday, December 26-St. Stephen

8:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

4:00 p.m. Dr. Ronald Fragge

Sunday, December 27-The Holy Family of

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 a.m. Estelle & Camillo Cetrulo

10:30 a.m. Dick Maier

eight candles to symbolize those eight days and nights with an additional candle in the middle called the *shamus*. On each night of Chanukah a candle is lit from the *shamus*, beginning with one candle on the first night, and adding a new candle each night until all eight candles are lit on the eighth night. This is similar to how we add a new candle each week to the Advent wreath. As part of my Jewish upbringing being the youngest child when old enough to light a candle, I would light the menorah and we'd sing the blessing and then another song, "Maoz Tzur" ("Rock of Ages") after lighting the candles. Then I would get a different present for each night. For every Jewish child this was a time of great excitement. When our children were growing up we continued the tradition of lighting the menorah and would have a Chanukah celebration with the relatives on my side of the family in addition to our Christmas celebration at home and with my wife's family. Last Thursday night in keeping with our family tradition, our granddaughter, Yoli, lit the first candle on the menorah.

On this 4th Sunday of Advent we celebrate another miracle of God in the visitation of the Angel, Gabriel, to Mary, announcing to her that she would give birth to Jesus, the Light of the World. As the Jewish people conclude the celebration of Chanukah and as we conclude our Advent season may God's light shine in our hearts, bringing healing, peace, comfort, and joy.

Wishing all a very blessed Christmas and New Year,

Bobby Fisher, Director of Music Ministries



Here is a link to the Chanukah blessing that is spoken or chanted prior to lighting the menorah.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fb-tkAet5A>

The translation of this is "Blessed are you Adonai our God, Ruler of the universe, who has made us holy through God's commandments, and commanded us to light the Hanukkah candles."

Here is a link to the song, "Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages)"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4MRS5c7TbJw>

Rosary, Sunday, Dec. 27th at 8:00 a.m.: Jesse Boone

Staff Article

Celebrations of Light

Last Thursday marked the first night of the Jewish holiday, Chanukah, referred to as the Festival of Lights. Chanukah is a celebration commemorating the miracle that took place after the Jewish people defeated the Syrians and restored worship again in the Temple. When they went to light the menorah there was only enough oil to last for just one day. However, God intervened and the menorah remained lit for eight days and nights, enough time for someone to purchase and bring back additional oil. Today the menorah holds

Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and explained to him that Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit and that he should not be afraid and to take Mary as his wife!

Parish Worship continued

Adults: How difficult do you think it must have been for Joseph and Mary to start their life together? How do you deal with the challenges you meet in your daily life? Can you trust more in the Lord?

Teens: Mary was a young teenager when she bore her son, Jesus! Can you imagine the stress and difficulties she had to meet?

Children: When Jesus was a baby...a toddler...a pre-teen, do you think He played like you do? Can you imagine Him winning or losing when He played?

Christmas and the Christmas Season

In our Year of Worship, Christmas Season begins on the evening of December 24th, ("Christmas Eve") and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 10, 2021 this Liturgical Year). The Sundays and Holy Days of the Christmas Season are feasts long associated with the 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 revelation of the divinity of Jesus will be described and 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 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 27, 2020: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Cycle A

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

Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:13-15,19-23): With this reading we continue to read about the birth of Jesus as told by Matthew, where Joseph is the central figure. In this reading we hear of three different occasions when the Angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream, and Joseph responds accordingly. His response to the will of God contributes to the fulfillment of Jewish prophecy/God's will. Matthew's community was composed largely of Jewish followers of the Gospel. In Matthew's Gospel, there are many allusions/references to people and events in the Old Testament. The language about Jesus himself is modeled after Moses. Jesus' "coming up from Egypt" would have reminded the Jewish-Christians for whom Matthew wrote his Gospel of their people's Exodus from Egypt and of Moses who led them.

First Reading (Sirach 3:2-7,12-14): In this reading the writer speaks tenderly of honoring one's father. It reminds us that one day every one of us all will be old and depend on others for our care.

Parish Worship continued

Second Reading (Colossians 3:12-21): The reading consists of an exhortation by Saint Paul to the people of the church at Colossae. He exhorts them to lead lives of virtue and gratitude.

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.

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' miracle at the Wedding in Cana (His first miracle 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, the Gospel is the account of the miracle at the Wedding at Cana from the Gospel of John.

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.



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. Under the Pandemic protocols, we can only seat round 25% of our normal 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 are 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.

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.

Saint of the Week

Saint John of Kanty



This future saint was born on June 24, 1390 in Kety, a small town in southern Poland, to Stanislaw and Anna Kanty. He attended Krakow Academy and in 1418 was awarded a doctorate in Philosophy. While preparing for the priesthood he taught at his *alma mater*, the Jagiellonian University (*alma mater*

of Pope John Paul II). During this time he also attained a Doctorate of Theology. He became a Professor of Theology and held that post for the rest of his life. He studied by copying out scripture, theological tracts and other theological and scholarly works. He also studied physics and, with others, helped develop the theory of impetus, which deals with force and motion and was a precursor to the works of Galileo and Newton.

While in Krakow, John of Kanty also was well known for his care of the poor, particularly poor students. He was very frugal and lived only on what was necessary to sustain his life. The rest of what he had was given to the poor. During his life he made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and four pilgrimages on foot to Rome. He died on December 24, 1473 at the age of 83. His body was interned at the College Church of Saint Anne in Krakow and is a popular pilgrimage site.

John of Kanty was beatified in 1676 and canonized in 1767. His feast day was originally October 20th. In the 1969 revision of the General Roman Calendar his feast day was moved to December 23rd, to be closer to the actual day of his death, December 24th. He is the patron of students, the countries of Poland and Lithuania, the Jagiellonian University and the Diocese of Bielsko-Żywiec in Poland. There are churches named for him in every area where Poles immigrated. In 1998 the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius was founded in Chicago.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 12/14/20)
\$476,254
Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 12/14/20)
\$530,774

Parish News

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.

Faith Formation

RCIA

This week in RCIA, we are exploring our belief in the Incarnation and the Paschal Mystery, the connections 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. Please pray that as we come to the end of Advent and celebrate the Christmas Season, our RCIA inquirer will appreciate the Lord's presence in his life more fully and seek to serve the Lord through the Catholic faith. On your journey through Advent, invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you. **Then invite them to inquire into our RCIA process by calling the Parish Office, 431-1802 or emailing Paula, pfritz@saintagnes.com.**

FORMED

Advent is a wonderful time to commit to strengthening your faith and that of your family. One way to share and deepen your faith as a family is through the parish subscription to FORMED. Register today to give your family this awesome gift. It's EASY and FREE to register! Go to www.formed.org and click on the "sign in" button. 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!

Word of Life Bulletin Brief

"Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother." Learn tips at respectlife.org/support-her.