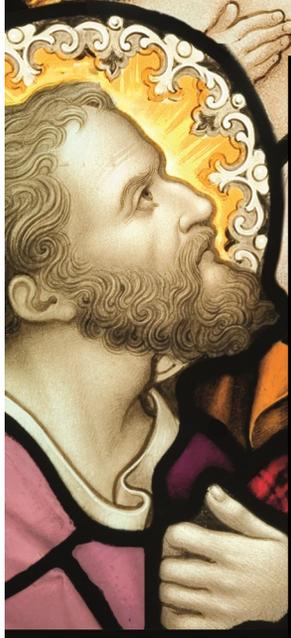




Holy Family



December 27, 2020

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Mass Intentions

- Sunday, December 27**-The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary and Joseph
8:30 a.m. Estelle & Camillo Cetrulo
10:30 a.m. Dick Maier
- Monday, December 28**-The Holy Innocents
6:30 a.m. Dodd & Connelly Families
11:30 a.m. All Members of Walking With Purpose
- Tuesday, December 29**-St. Thomas Becket
6:30 a.m. Intention of Fr. Jim Quill
11:30 a.m. Kevin McKinley
- Wednesday, December 30**
6:30 a.m. Steve Kenning
11:30 a.m. All Members of Walking With Purpose
- Thursday, December 31**-St. Sylvester I
6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
11:30 a.m. Nick Kreutzjans
5:00 p.m. Intention of Tevis & Theresa Gray
- Friday, January 1**-Mary, Holy Mother of God
8:30 a.m. Dec'd of Witt & Meyers Families
10:30 a.m. Elmer Cleves
- Saturday, January 2**-St. Basil the Great and
St. Gregory Nazianzen
8:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
4:00 p.m. Brian Hickerson
- Sunday, January 3**-The Epiphany of the Lord
8:30 a.m. Hilda Keltz
10:30 a.m. William Brungs

Rosary, Sunday, Jan. 3rd at 8:00 a.m.: Fred Summe

Staff Article

Christmas Days

Immediately after every Christmas since the 1970's I think of the beginning words of the John Prine song *Souvenirs*. It reads: "All the snow has turned to water, Christmas days have come and gone, broken toys and faded colors are all that's left to linger on." The song reminds me of the disappointment that I always seemed to feel on Christmas afternoon. It was not the disappointment because I didn't get what I wanted. It was that the excitement of "it could be anything" changing into the "this is what it is."

Of course, Christmas is much more than the things under the tree, although to a child the presents are very important. Christmas is the time to recall that Jesus Christ came to live with us as one of us. For a lot of us Christmas is a time of light in the darkness of winter, a time when the light breaks into the darkness and illumines our world. Even snow is welcome during the Christmas season. Once Christmas is gone, snow becomes an unwelcome nuisance.

Why does Christmas leave us? I don't mean the frenzied time of shopping and baking and wrapping presents and decorating the tree. I mean the realization that Christ has come as one of us to bring us light and love and forgiveness. We are called to not just have that light, love and forgiveness, but to share it. God has asked us, and continues to ask us, to take those gifts into the world and give them away.

We can give these gifts away by the way we live, by the way we act, by the way we speak. All of these can reflect our relationship with Christ, and help Christ to be born in the hearts of those who have not met our Savior. This will turn everyday into Christmas Day and "what is" will be more exciting than "it could be anything." God Bless you and have a Happy and Blessed New Year.

Deacon Gary Scott



Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Mary and Joseph take their infant son, Jesus, to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord, and there they meet Simeon and Anna, who say amazing things about Jesus.

Adults: Can you imagine how Mary and Joseph felt when they heard the predictions about their infant Son whom they loved so dearly? Then were told "you yourself a sword will pierce!" What emotions do you think they felt? How confused they must have been? Have you ever felt deep anxiety or concern for one of your children?

Teens: Scripture tells us that after Mary and Joseph had fulfilled the Law of the Lord when they returned to Nazareth and Jesus grew up and became strong and wise, and God was pleased with Him! If you lived in Nazareth at that time would you have been His friend...played ball with Him...went to school with Him, ...spent the night at His home?

Children: Who of your friends today reminds you the most of Jesus? Why? How can you be more like Him?

Next Sunday, January 3, 2021

The Epiphany of the Lord, Christmas Season (Cycle B)

Christmas Season begins on the afternoon of Christmas Eve and ends with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (January 10th this year.) The

Parish Worship continued

readings assigned to the Feast of the Epiphany are the same every year, regardless if it is Year A, B or C.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 2:1-12): The story of the visit of the Magi is found only in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. Like all stories in the infancy narratives about Jesus (which are found only in Matthew and Luke) the Magi story is full of symbolism and foreboding. The story of the Magi, who were foreigners, shows how Gentiles recognized and understood the coming of the Messiah through signs in nature (the star), yet the people who should have known from their religion (“Herod (the Jewish King) and all of Jerusalem”) fail to understand and so resort to trying to kill the child who will be their Savior—even to the point of massacring the innocent. Jesus as an adult will know the same treatment. The word “Epiphany” means “a revelation” or “a manifestation” or “a showing forth” and this feast has long been associated with the revelation of Jesus as a Messiah—the “Christ”—for all peoples, Jews and non-Jews alike.

First Reading (Isaiah 60:1-6): The historical context for this reading is the end of the Babylonian Exile and the Jewish people’s return to their homeland. It is a very hopeful reading reflecting the enthusiasm of the period and the promise of the restoration to prominence of the Jewish nation and religion: “Rise up in splendor Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you.” The reading features themes of Israel’s role in the salvation of all the world’s peoples: “Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance.” This is a characteristic theme of Isaiah.

Second Reading (Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6): This reading reflects the universalist theme that characterizes the Feast of Epiphany: “that the Gentiles are coheirs (with the Jews), members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.”

Catholic Traditions

Epiphany and the date of Christmas... The word “Epiphany” means “manifestation” or “revelation” or “showing forth.” In our context, it is concerned with the revelation or manifestation of Jesus to the whole world as Messiah. In other words, Epiphany is not so much about the visit of the three kings, but about who Jesus is as savior of the world (as opposed to the Jewish people only). There is a long tradition that associates three episodes in Jesus’ life with His epiphany: the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding at Cana (Jesus’ first “sign” in

the Gospel of John).

The oldest feast of the church is the weekly celebration of Easter on Sundays—which we still observe—followed by the annual celebration of Christ’s resurrection at Easter. The earliest known celebrations of Christ’s birth date from the third century in Egypt. It was celebrated on January 6th in Alexandria, Egypt. This date was associated with Jesus’ Baptism which was considered his real “birth” into the world. Thus, in the East, January 6th also became an important feast on which to celebrate the Baptism of Christians.

In the West, December 25th was the date chosen to celebrate Christ’s birth. No one is certain why. One theory asserts that this date was chosen because of its proximity to the winter solstice and the pagan feast of the “unconquered sun” (celebrating the now lengthening period of daylight). Another theory asserts a convergence of the order of nature and redemption. This view places the birth of John the Baptist at the summer solstice (as daylight begins to decrease). John had stated that he (John) “must decrease.” So his conception was assigned to the autumnal equinox, nine months earlier. This view posits Jesus’ conception (six months after John the Baptist’s according to Luke) at the spring equinox and his birth at the winter solstice.

In the fourth century, the East adopted December 25th as the day to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, and adopted January 6th for the Baptism of Jesus and the Wedding Feast of Cana. In the West, Jesus’ birth was remembered on December 25th, and the visit of the Magi, the Baptism of the Lord, and the Wedding at Cana were observed in association with January 6th. In our current Roman Catholic Lectionary and Missal, the Nativity of Jesus is observed on December 25th. Depending on the country, Epiphany is observed on either January 6th (12th day of Christmas) or the second Sunday after Christmas. The Baptism of the Lord is observed on the third Sunday after Christmas. In year C, the Gospel for the Sunday after the Baptism of the Lord is the Wedding Feast at Cana. (See *Sourcebook for Seasons and Sundays*)

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.



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Parish Worship continued

Year Dedicated to Saint Joseph

Pope Francis has declared December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021 as a year dedicated to Saint Joseph. There was a very good article about this in the December 11, 2020 issue of *Messenger*. More information will be forthcoming. For starters, please see the flyer in this bulletin. Also, special thanks to Father Trinity for his work on the Saint Joseph altar/shrine in our sanctuary. It should provide a beautiful reminder to us throughout this year.

—Father Mark Keene

Bulletin Cover Picture

The Saint Joseph Altar/Shrine decorated for the special “Year of Saint Joseph” declared by Pope Francis. The year runs from December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021. See the special flyer enclosed with this bulletin.

Monthly Intention of Pope Francis

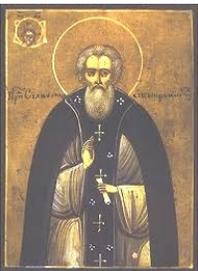
For use with The Morning Offering Prayer

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.

JANUARY 2021: For “Evangelization – Human Fraternity”... May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

Saint of the Week

Saint Sylvester



It is not known when Sylvester was born. We do know he was born in Sant'Angelo a Scala Avellino in southern Italy. Although he served as Pope during a very important time in the Church very little is known about him. It is known that during his papacy the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the church Santa Croce in Gerusalemme and Old Saint Peter's Basilica were

built or established. Also there are forged documents that state he had a close relationship with the Emperor Constantine. There is a story of the Emperor Constantine being cured of leprosy by the waters of Baptism administered by Pope Sylvester. He is also credited with slaying a dragon. He died on December 31, 335. He was pope from January 31, 314 until December 31, 335, which makes him the eighth longest reigning pope with a reign of 21 years, 11

months and 1 day.

What Sylvester is really famous for is New Year's. Since his feast day is on December 31st, he is associated with New Year's celebrations particularly in German speaking countries as well as other parts of Europe. One of the customs associated with Saint Sylvester day is the custom of Bleigiessen in which a small piece of lead will be melted over a flame in an old spoon and dropped into a bowl of cold water. From the shape you can supposedly tell your fortune for the coming year. For instance, if the lead forms a ball (*der Ball*) that means luck will roll your way. The shape of an anchor (*der Anker*) means help in need. But a cross (*das Kreuz*) signifies death. There are also Sylvester Balls on New Years Eve. In France there is a New Years feast called *le Réveillon de la Saint-Sylvestre*, which includes oysters and champagne. Happy Saint Sylvester day and Happy New Year.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

No totals due to early bulletin deadline.

2020 DPAA

Hope does not disappoint... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts. (Romans 5:5)
Even Closer Still! (Need a last minute tax deduction?)

As of November 30, 2020, 366 parishioners have committed \$147,024 in gifts and pledges toward our parish goal of

\$158,700. This leaves \$11,676 to go! If you have not yet made a gift of pledge and need a pledge card, please contact the parish office (431.1802).

I encourage everyone to make a commitment of some amount. No amount is too small. I think we all can be very proud of what we are doing as a church through DPAA supported ministries, particularly during this time of Coronavirus concerns.

Please help our parish reach its goal. We've never not made our goal. —Father Mark Keene



IRA Required Minimum Distributions, Tax Law and Donations to Saint Agnes

The federal income tax law that went into effect in 2017 substantially raised the standard deduction for income tax purposes. It reduced it so much so that many may no longer benefit from itemizing their deductions.

Stewardship continued

However, those who are age 70 ½ and taking qualified distributions from their IRA's can reduce their taxable income by arranging for distributions from their IRA to be made directly to charities of their choice, including Saint Agnes. Because of the Pandemic, required minimum distributions are not required this year (Congress suspended the requirement for 2020), however, Saint Agnes has benefitted from such donations in the past and of course still needs the funds. The calendar year 2020 is quickly coming to an end and some advance planning may need to be done to take any advantage of this strategy. Consult with your financial planner about your income tax situation this possibility.

—Father Mark Keene

Parish News

Parish Office Closed

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.

Family of God

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

Joseph Thomas Rohrkemper
Kaia Anne Rohrkemper
Aleli Grace Rohrkemper
Children of Evan & Karen Rohrkemper

First Thursday Rosary Cancelled

Sadly, in these times of needing prayer, we are cancelling our First Thursday Rosary on January 7th. As we take precautions following the Christmas celebrations, we are postponing gatherings here too. 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 p.m. Pray that we get back in February.

Faith Formation

Word of Life Bulletin Brief

“Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Living Out Christmas in the New Year”

RCIA



At Christmas, God gave us the greatest gift we can ever receive, His Son, Jesus. God also gave us the perfect example of family life in the Holy Family of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Our scriptures today remind us that the virtues of compassion,

kindness, humility, patience, forgiveness, and love are timeless values for family life. Our RCIA inquirer is considering becoming a member of our Catholic family. Please keep him in your daily prayers.

Invite someone new to join us in the RCIA to learn more about becoming a member of our Catholic family. Please have them inquire about the RCIA process at Saint Agnes. Call the Parish Office at 431-1802 or email Paula at p Fritz@saintagnes.com.

FORMED

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!

Virtual Discernment Retreat

Come and See Virtual Discernment Retreat with the Sisters of Divine Providence on January 15th & 16th. Meet some sisters, and together with other discerners, we'll explore what a call to religious life feels like. We'll have sharing, reflections, and prayer and offer insights about discernment, community and spirituality. This retreat is for single, Catholic women ages 18-50. Whether you're a serious discernor or just seriously curious about religious life, come and find out more. Email Sister Leslie Keener, CDP at vocation@CPDKentucky.org or sign up here: <https://forms.glesyXYsGghpN2ZaBqL7>.