

# 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



January 31, 2021

## 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

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday, January 31-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Charlene Keltz  
10:30 a.m. Dave Mullen

#### Monday, February 1

6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory  
11:30 a.m. Intention of Thomas Groh

#### Tuesday, February 2-Presentation of the Lord

6:30 a.m. Charles Dahlenburg  
11:30 a.m. Anna Mueller

#### Wednesday, February 3-St. Blaise; St. Ansgar

6:30 a.m. Ruth Dahlenburg  
11:30 a.m. Edward Stieby

#### Thursday, February 4

6:30 a.m. Richard Rolfsen  
11:30 a.m. Ron Amend

#### Friday, February 5-St. Agatha

6:30 a.m. Vince Melching  
9:20 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Tom Vogt

#### Saturday, February 6-St. Paul Miki

8:30 a.m. Deacon Joe Cleves  
4:00 p.m. Jerry Webster

#### Sunday, February 7-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Tom Lewin  
10:30 a.m. Tom Vogt

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Rosary, Sunday, Feb. 7th at 8:00 a.m.: Theresa Gray

### Staff Article

## Harden Not Your Heart

As a young adult I chose to answer the call to Christianity and to Catholicism. Having been raised in a Jewish home, this was very upsetting to my parents. When my mother became ill with cancer, I put off my plans for Baptism and waited until 6 months after her death before I was Baptized. While my dad still loved and respected me, my decision to be Baptized Catholic put a strain on our relationship. This added to the disappointment he had when I chose a career in music over a career as a lawyer. However, after taking up the fiddle and experiencing success as a musician playing at sold out venues with my band, our relationship improved. My dad became one of our biggest fans. As my family grew, our two children became a source of great joy to my dad. On Tuesday mornings my dad and I often would play golf whenever I was in town and weather permitted. We became golfing buddies. It was our common love of music, golf, and the children, among other things that allowed my father and I to enjoy a close relationship up until the time of his death in spite of our differences regarding religion. While he never fully approved of my decision to become Catholic, I believe he came to

an understanding of it. In the long run we were able to have conversations about most anything other than religion.

I'm writing this article the day after what was a peaceful inauguration of our new president. The message brought forth that day was one of hope and a call for healing and unity for all Americans. As a nation we have never been more divided since the Civil War. What took place on January 6th is evidence of this. Many people have little to no patience or tolerance for others who may have different views on politics and/or religion. The hateful rhetoric that we see on social media has only encouraged and exacerbated this situation. I am fully aware that there are people within our own parish and even within my own music ministry who may have starkly different political views than my own. These differences have also shown up in my extended family, in my friendships, and with colleagues both near and far. Many of us are very passionate about what we believe.

In light of all of this, I feel called to attempt to take a path similar to the one I took in my relationship with my father. I was inspired by a program I heard on NPR earlier this week about people who are in relationships with people whose views are diametrically opposed. They discussed how they have dealt with this by finding areas of common ground which they shared. As people of God, let us begin the difficult work that can lead to the healing of our divisions. Let us look for what we share in common as believers. We may likely find that we agree on more than we thought. By building on that foundation perhaps we can then take the next steps toward listening to each other's views with open minds and hearts.

In our psalm this week we are told "If today you hear the voice of God, harden not your heart." May we hear God's voice and listen to each other with soft hearts. Lord Jesus, give me ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart to love. Amen

Bobby Fisher  
Director of Music Ministries



### Parish Worship

## Faith Sharing Questions

**Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus teaches in the synagogue with authority and the people were amazed at what He told them. Then an "unclean spirit" shouts out and Jesus commands him to leave...and he does.**

Adults: Have you ever thought of what it must have

## Parish Worship continued

been like for the early followers of Jesus to believe all that He was preaching? Do you think they had a lot of questions and doubts? What aspect of your faith do you find the hardest to accept? Why?

**Teens:** Do you think “unclean spirits” are with us today maybe in the form of drug dealers, sex offenders or child abusers? What can you do to keep them away or out of your life?

**Children:** If you had been living when Jesus performed His first miracles and started His public ministry, would you have been afraid of him, awed at His wisdom or just unsure of who He was?

## Next Sunday, February 7, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

We have a few weeks of the Liturgical Season called “Ordinary Time” between the end of the Christmas Season (the last day is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord) and the beginning of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17th this year).

We are in “Cycle B” this year, and so our Gospel reading on Sundays will usually be from the Gospel of Mark, however there are some exceptions when the Gospel reading will be from the Gospel of John. During Ordinary Time the first reading, from the Old Testament, is chosen because of a thematic relation to the Gospel reading. During Ordinary Time, for the second reading we read semi-continuously from a New Testament letter (currently 1 Corinthians).

**Gospel Reading (Mark 1:29-39):** The Gospel of Mark is not known for its detailed descriptions of things. It tends to give the necessary facts and moves on. In today’s reading, Jesus leaves the synagogue, goes to Peter’s house, cures Peter’s mother-in-law, cures many in the town, goes and prays, and then moves on to the next village. The mood is captured by Peter’s telling remark: “Everyone is looking for you.” All of this is described in just ten verses. There is an urgency communicated by this lack of detail. The Gospel of Mark is characterized by a sense of urgency throughout. It is thought that this sense of urgency was based on the belief that Jesus would return in the very near future to usher in His kingdom. The evangelist is trying convince people to believe NOW and to change their lives... there’s not a moment to waste!

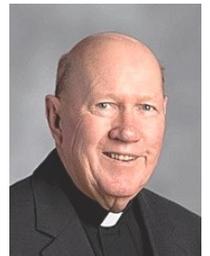
**First Reading (Job 7:1-4,6-7):** This reading communicates a sort of urgency, not so different from that in today’s Gospel reading. Job is despondent about life itself and what for him has become its apparent lack of meaning or purpose. At

this point in the Book of Job, Job has lost everything: family, property, personal health, etc. Job is going through a certain “Dark Night of the Senses/Soul,” which many if not all of us go through. This is when the experience of a certain sense of the “groundlessness of life” impresses itself upon us. Job and all of us must be content to wait it out with faith that life on the other side of this “dark night” will vindicate our having waited faithfully.

**Second Reading (1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23):** In this reading, Paul accounts his preaching of the Gospel as the fulfillment of a responsibility entrusted to him, in fact Paul understands it as an obligation. He sees himself as merely being a good steward who can take no personal credit for what his life has become: “Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible... I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the Gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.”

## Bulletin Cover Picture

Father Quill’s first Mass, May 31, 1953. As was described in last week’s bulletin, Father Quill has moved to The Lodge at Saint Charles after 26½ years in retirement at Saint Agnes. But Father Quill’s association with Saint Agnes goes back to his ordination and before.



## Anniversary of the Dedication of Our Church

The anniversary of the dedication of our church building is this coming Friday. On February 5, 1939 our current church building was dedicated by Bishop Francis William Howard, D.D., the fifth bishop of our diocese. At



that time, it consisted of what is now the central nave, sanctuary and bell tower. The rectory/parish office wing was added in the 1950’s. The annex extending toward Sleepy Hollow Road was added in the 1960’s, as were the stained-glass windows in the church, which until then had been an opaque glass. The anniversary of the dedication of a church can be celebrated as a “local solemnity” meaning that in the parish/community for which the church was dedicated, a special Mass can be celebrated, eclipsing even the regular Sunday Liturgy if the day happens to fall on a Sunday.

## 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-11PM

Friday-4AM & 10AM

Saturday-12AM

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).

### Monthly Intention of Pope Francis

For use with The Morning Offering Prayer

FEBRUARY 2021: Universal Intention - "Violence

Against Woman": We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

## Saint of the Week

### Saint Ansgar

The future Saint Ansgar was born in the town of Amiens in Picardy, France to a noble family. His birthdate was September 8, 801. His mother died when he was young and he was educated in the Benedictine abbey in Corbie, also in Picardy. Ansgar was ambivalent about spiritual matters until he had a vision of his mother in heaven with the Virgin Mary. At some point he became a monk.



He and a group of monks were sent to Jutland (now part of Denmark) to help with the Christianization of Denmark. He was called back from Denmark in 822 to become a missionary in Westphalia (in western Germany), where he helped establish the abbey at Corvey. Ansgar helped open the school attached to the abbey and taught there. He was there until 829 when King Bjorn at Hauge (Sweden) asked for missionaries. Ansgar and an assistant, the friar Witmar, responded to his appeal and worked in southern Sweden. He worked among the slaves who were captured from other areas of Europe who were Christian. He was also able to convert the king's steward and a rich woman named Mor Frideborg who gave him a house. In 831 he returned to Germany where he was appointed Archbishop of Hamburg.

As Archbishop, Ansgar worked first in his Archdiocese, which was still considered mission territory. He also built a school to aid the mission to Denmark but it had

little success. Civil war in Denmark erupted in the 850's and Ansgar sided with King Horik the Elder and his son Horik II. They allowed Christianity to become a "tolerated" religion. Both Horik the Elder and Horik II felt that there was no better or upright man in the kingdom than Ansgar.

Ansgar returned to Sweden from 848 to 850 at a time when the pagans were attempting to take back the region. Ansgar's presence averted this. He returned again in 854. Ansgar died on February 3, 865 at the age of 63. He is buried in Bremen, Germany and his feast day is February 3rd. Saint Ansgar is the patron of Scandinavia.

## Stewardship

### Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 01/27/21)

\$660,887

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 01/27/21)

\$723,000

Actual Compared to Budgeted **-\$62,113**

### Our School Endowment Fund

The Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School was established in 1984. It was initially titled "The Saint Agnes School Endowment Fund." The name was changed in honor of Monsignor Murphy after he died in 2001. Monsignor Murphy was pastor at Saint Agnes from 1984-1994. The document establishing the endowment fund requires that only the proceeds from the fund each year be used for school operation expenses. If they are not used, the proceeds become part of the corpus of the endowment fund.

We are all familiar with promotional materials from mutual fund companies that show how rather modest investments, made years ago, would have grown into a fortune over the years. When I look at those charts, I think how wonderful it would have been if Saint Agnes Parish would have begun an endowment fund for our school back in the 1930's and steadily and persistently added to it each year. Think of what it would mean to our parish today!

As it is, our Monsignor Murphy Endowment Fund has grown since 1984. The estate of Edward Lankheit contributed a very large bequest (over 50% of the current corpus), as did the estate of Monsignor Murphy himself. Currently the corpus of the fund provides around \$50,000 to our school budget. To give some perspective, this is comparable to what the Big Blue Bash, or the Oktoberfest, or the School Annual Appeal contribute to our school budget each year.

## Stewardship continued

As a parish we currently allocate a small percentage of our Sunday offerings to the endowment fund. Many of our fund-raisers also allocate a percentage of their proceeds to the endowment fund. So the fund is growing. But the possibility for a much greater impact on our school budget, and hence our tuition has yet to be realized.

Every year in February's envelop packet there is an envelope for donations to the Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School. Contributions to the endowment fund are "gifts that keep on giving" in that they become part of the corpus of the fund immediately and help generate income that can be used each year to offset the cost of school operations. Please consider making a generous gift (or even a bequest) to our Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School and help secure our school's future.  
-Father Mark Keene

## Parish News

### Villa Madonna Honors

First Honors: Logan Lewis, Lorelai Lewis, Jonah Ramdass

Second Honors: Martin, Emmalyn, Keegan Wall, Quinn Wall

## School News

### Catholic Schools Week Mass

Bishop Foys will celebrate the Catholic Schools Week at a Mass on Wednesday, February 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The Mass is not open to the public. All the students of our Catholic schools will participate in the Mass view livestream. A link to the celebration will be posted on the Cathedral website:

[www.covcathedral.com](http://www.covcathedral.com) and the Diocese of Covington website: <https://covdio.org>.



### Virtual Science Fair

St. Agnes School will have its first-ever Virtual Science Fair on February 2nd and 3rd. Due to COVID, we will require a lot of volunteers, especially virtual judges. If you would like to help out, please contact Jorja Kremer at [jkremer@saintagnes.com](mailto:jkremer@saintagnes.com).

## Cafeteria Job Opening

St. Agnes School has an opening in the cafeteria. The job is full time from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Job duties include dish room, set up/break down, cleaning and filling in as needed in other areas. If interested, contact Jackie Kaiser at [jkaiser@covdio.org](mailto:jkaiser@covdio.org) or call her at 859-392-1536.

## Faith Formation

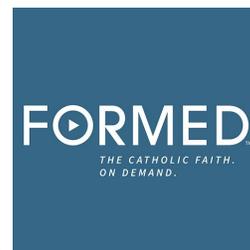
### RCIA

Today, Jesus challenges us to look into our lives and uncover any barriers that are preventing us from truly following Him. He invites us to recognize our brokenness, our selfishness, and give ourselves over to His healing Word. Our RCIA catechumen, Charlie, is studying the Sacraments, the instruments of God's grace poured out on us to heal our wounds and bind us to Jesus. Please keep Charlie in your prayers as he surrenders to Jesus' healing Word.



### FORMED

Now that 2021 is well under way and you are settling into the new year, have you considered adopting a plan for you and your family to grow in your love and knowledge of God and our Church? Formed.org provides a perfect resource in your own home for you and your family to enrich your faith. Check out under search *The Year of St. Joseph, Making Scripture Part of Your 2021*, and *Opening the Word*. For children, search *The Saints and Heroes Collection*, *The Jesus Stories*, and *The Animated Bible Stories*. There are incredible video, book, and study adventures at your fingertips, all free, when you register for [formed.org](http://formed.org). Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and click "sign up." Choose St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright and follow the instructions from there. You are ready to watch!



### Word of Life Bulletin Brief

"Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God's gift of life. Whatever storms or trails we face, we are not alone. He is with us, 'Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age' (Matthew 28:20)."