

*5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*



*February 7, 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

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Mass Intentions

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

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

#### Monday, February 8-St. Jerome Emiliani;

St. Josephine Bakhita

6:30 a.m. Communion Service  
11:30 a.m. Joe Melching

#### Tuesday, February 9

6:30 a.m. Dodd & Connelly Families  
11:30 a.m. Charles Keltz

#### Wednesday, February 10-St. Scholastica

6:30 a.m. Cyril Zembrodt  
9:30 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Intention of Thomas Groh

#### Thursday, February 11-Our Lady of Lourdes

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
11:30 a.m. John LeVan

#### Friday, February 12

6:30 a.m. Jeff Brown  
9:20 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Intention of Maryann Curtin

#### Saturday, February 13

8:30 a.m. Robert C. Cetrulo  
4:00 p.m. Chanel Delaney

#### Sunday, February 14-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Earl Abeln  
10:30 a.m. Rudy Pohlabein

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Rosary, Sunday, Feb. 14th at 8:00 a.m.: Jesse Boone

### Staff Article

#### Daily Mass

Ever since we started having Mass after the COVID lockdown I have been assisting at Mass six or seven days a week. I am able to do this because I am retired. There are times when I thought that this was not what I expected retirement to be like. I have driven from my home in Burlington to Saint Agnes so many times that I think that I could drive it blindfolded.

If it were anything but Mass, I would think that this is drudgery. Why do I have to go every day, rain or shine, snow or not, to do this? I have to be honest, there are times that I think this even though I am a deacon.

But I was walking out of church after Mass last Monday and it struck me, as it has in the past, how lucky I am to be able to be with the priest and assist him when he, through his priestly office, turns bread and wine into the body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing more important or more beautiful in the world than to be at the Mass.

I also realized that I have changed. I am not the same person I was when all of this started. Daily Mass and daily reception of the Eucharist has transformed me and brought me closer to Christ. It has caused me to be a better man, a better deacon, a better husband and a better friend. Christ did this and wants to do it for all of us. Christ is not finished with me. I still have rough edges that need to be made smooth, quite a few of them. I am human and fallible. But daily Mass has helped me see these flaws clearly and how to work to be rid of them, or at least diminish them.

Lent is coming soon. I know many of you are unable to attend daily Mass because of work or other commitments. I was like you before I retired. That being said, I can recommend that each of us attend Mass as often as we can. When we can't, then there is the option of prayer, Lectio Divina, and the resources on the web site, Formed.org, among others. Mass, and these other opportunities, will draw us closer to Christ and will make a change for the better.

God bless you.  
Deacon Gary Scott



### Parish Worship

#### Faith Sharing Questions

**Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus visits the home of Simon and Andrew and cures Simon's mother-in-law and also expels many demons...then he went alone to pray.**

Adults: Jesus cured many people in one day and amazed the whole town...then spent much time in prayer. How much time do you spend each day in prayer? How easy is it for you to find excuses for not praying? Can you set aside a minimum of fifteen minutes to pray each day?

Teens: If Jesus said you could ask him to perform one miracle for you today, what would it be? Why?

Children: Jesus often went off alone to pray. Do you ever pray alone, with your family, with your friends? Try each way and then decide what works best for you.

#### Next Sunday, February 14, 2021

#### Sixth 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 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

## Parish Worship continued

reading on Sundays will usually be semi-continuously 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 (Mark 1:40-45):** In this reading, from the very beginning of Mark's Gospel, Jesus heals a man with leprosy. He also tells the man to keep it a secret. However, the man tells everyone. (How could he keep something like that a secret?) This is the beginning of a pattern in Mark's Gospel where Jesus wishes to keep his identity as the "Messiah and Son of God" a secret. Demons, the sick and foreigners see who Jesus is, but the people religiously closest to him do not or cannot. This "pattern of secrecy" in the Gospel of Mark has been labeled by some Scripture scholars as the "Messianic Secret." It reaches its climax at the end of the Gospel when a Roman soldier (a pagan no less) at the foot of the cross declares "This truly was the Son of God." It is also worth noting that in his Gospel, Mark describes a world which seems "ready" or "ripe" (desperate?) for Jesus' ministry. We read in this passage: "He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere."

**First Reading (Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46):** The Book of Leviticus is one of the first five books of the Bible which are collectively known as "The Pentateuch" or "The Law (of Moses)" or "The *Torah*." Leviticus concerns itself almost exclusively with sacrificial and other ritual laws prescribed for the priests of the tribe of Levi, hence its name. However, Leviticus also tells of how the community is to keep itself "pure." This reading tells of how the community should handle cases of leprosy and gives insight into the desperate life that lepers, such as the one in today's Gospel reading, lived.

**Second Reading (1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1):** The church of Corinth was plagued by great divisiveness. Various interest groups were easily taking offense at other groups, etc. Paul instructs them to be bigger than their divisions and "do everything for the glory of God."

## Bulletin Cover Picture

Our church as originally constructed. The anniversary of the dedication of our church building was this past Friday, February 5 (1939). See the article in last Sunday's bulletin.

## Religious from Saint Agnes

The Feast of the Presentation (February 2) is a Feast dedicated in a special way to prayer for members of religious orders and for all of those contemplating religious life in a religious order, sometimes referred to as "Consecrated Life." The following are sons and daughters of Saint Agnes Parish who have served in the Church as religious:

- Sr. M. Shauna Bankemper, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. M. Tereze Deye, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. M. Margaret Droege, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. Mary Elizabeth Duffey, CP (Passionists)
- Sr. M. Jolene Flynn, SND, (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. Maria Fidelis Gray, OP (Dominican Sisters)
- Sr. Jean Marie Hoffman, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Brother Tony Kreutzjans, SJ (Jesuits, deceased)
- Sr. M. Norene McCormick, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. M. Noella McEntee, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Fr. Paul Nienaber, SJ (Jesuits, deceased)
- Sr. M. Carmella Schneider, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. M. Janet Stamm, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)
- Sr. M. Ellen Strunk, SND (Sisters of Notre Dame)

Christine Rice is a young woman who worshiped with us for several months last year while she was discerning a religious vocation. Last fall she began an "Aspirancy" with the Society of Our Lady of the Trinity. She wrote us a very nice note, thanking Saint Agnes Parish for our prayers. If you know of others from our parish who are religious (living or deceased), please contact the Parish Office (431-1802).

## 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).



## Stewardship

### Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 02/01/21)  
\$668,694

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 02/01/21)  
\$726,536

### 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.

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 envelope 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

### Moral Considerations on the Covid Vaccines

On December 11, 2020, Archbishop Naumann of Kansas City and Bishop Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, respectively Chairmen of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committees on Pro-Life Activities and Doctrine, jointly issued a letter treating "Moral Considerations on the Covid Vaccines." The letter treats the moral considerations with regard to the three vaccines then currently available: Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca. The letter notes that:

*Neither Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccines used morally compromised cell lines in the design, development or production of the vaccine. A confirmatory test however, employing the commonly used but morally compromised HEK293 cell line (which has its origin in kidney cells taken from the body of an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) was performed on both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any connection to morally compromised cell lines, in this case the connection is very remote from the initial evil of abortion. In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their connection to morally compromised cell lines. In addition, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ought to be understood as an act of charity toward other members of our community [keeping in mind that some people cannot themselves be vaccinated and must rely on the rest of the community's becoming immune through vaccination so that the disease does not travel through the community and infect them].*

*The AstraZeneca vaccine is more morally compromised. The HEK293 cell line was used in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing... The AstraZeneca vaccine should be avoided if there are alternatives available. It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others. In such a case, just as accepting a vaccination for rubella with a morally compromised*

## Parish News continued

*vaccine is morally permissible because of the lack of alternatives and the serious risk to the public health, so it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine.*

There is a caution against complacency: *While having ourselves and our families immunized against COVID-19 with the new vaccines is morally permissible and can be an act of self-love and of charity toward others, we must not allow the gravely immoral nature of abortion to be obscured. It is true that one can receive benefits from an evil action in the past without intending that action or approving of it. The association with the evil action that comes with receiving benefits from that evil action, however, can have a corrupting influence on one's perception of the evil action, making it more difficult to recognize it as evil... With this in mind, we should be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research.*

Serious concerns are described in this letter. Our Church has a long tradition of trying to rationally discern what is morally permissible in such situations of conflicting values. I encourage people to read the whole document at: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>. –Father Mark Keene

## Big Blue Bash Still Needs Your Help

St. Agnes School PTO must move forward with a virtual Big Blue Bash this year on March 26, 2021. Our school needs your support more than ever. Please consider helping out in any way!

The best ways to help and show support for our school:

1. **Make a monetary donation.** Cash or checks can be sent directly to the school office at 1322 Sleepy Hollow Road, Ft. Wright, KY 41011. Or go to [www.BBB2021.givesmart.com](http://www.BBB2021.givesmart.com) to donate.
2. **Donate an item.** Drop off any new/unused items to the school office. Suggestions include but not limited to are household/décor items, gift cards, make a themed basket (popular themes include coffees, wines & spirits, pet items, "Best of" Cincinnati, Northern KY, Fort Wright).
3. **Be an event sponsor.** Place your company logo or family name directly on our event website. Sponsor levels are available for additional publicity options by emailing [amykilgore18@gmail.com](mailto:amykilgore18@gmail.com) or call the school office at 859-261-0543.
4. **Buy a raffle ticket.** CASH! CASH! CASH!

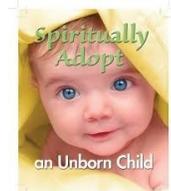
\$5,000 Grand Prize raffle proceeds go directly to the Big Blue Bash event. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the school office or at [www.BBB2021.givesmart.com](http://www.BBB2021.givesmart.com).

The volunteers on the Big Blue Bash Committee want to thank you for your continued support!

## Spiritual Adoption

### Month 1 - Developing Baby

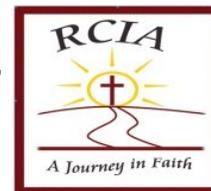
**"My heart is beating!"** Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. His heart began to beat on the 21st day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from his/her mother's. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all — the gift of life.



## Faith Formation

### RCIA

Today's Scripture readings speak to us about the downtrodden, the brokenhearted, the poor, and the sick, reminding us of Jesus' compassion for these people. We know that as Christian disciples we are called to follow Jesus' example in caring for those who are suffering. As our RCIA catechumen, Charlie, continues his study of our faith, may he accept the challenge of Christianity to live a life of compassion and service. Please keep Charlie in your prayers as he journeys toward the Easter Sacraments of Initiation.



### Formed

Is this the year you will turn off the TV and social media to enjoy a faith-filler night each week? If your family is up for sharing some relaxing time together, then [formed.org](http://formed.org) is for you. Register now to enjoy Catholic films, Bible studies, documentaries, book and more for adults and children. Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org) and click "sign up." That will take you to a page where you enter St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright. Follow the instructions from there and you will be signed up. No password to remember. You are ready to watch!