

Second Sunday of
LENT



February 28, 2021

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 28-Second Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Charlene Keltz
10:30 a.m. Judith Ann Berling

Monday, March 1

6:30 a.m. Communion Service
11:30 a.m. Grace Poncer

Tuesday, March 2

6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
11:30 a.m. George Karwish

Wednesday, March 3-St. Katharine Drexel

6:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory
9:30 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Earl Arnold

Thursday, March 4-St. Casimir

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
11:30 a.m. Sidney Trelle

Friday, March 5

6:30 a.m. Bill Becker
9:20 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Bill & Ann Boehmer

Saturday, March 6

8:30 a.m. Mary & Robert Cannon
4:00 p.m. Ann Dickman
6:00 p.m. Wedding: Schuh/Athenas Families

Sunday, March 7-Third Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. Henny Mecklenberg
10:30 a.m. Grace Poncer

Rosary, Sunday, March 7th at 8:00 a.m.: Fran Lee

Staff Article

The Divine Comedy Revisited

*Midway in our life's journey, I went astray
from the straight road and woke to find myself
alone in a dark wood. How shall I say*

*what wood that was! I never saw so drear,
so rank, so arduous a wilderness!
Its very memory gives a shape to fear.*

*Death could scarce be more bitter than that place!
But since it came to good, I will recount
all that I found revealed there by God's grace.*

*How I came to it I cannot rightly say,
so drugged and loose with sleep had I become
when I first wandered there from the True Way.*

*But at the far end of that valley of evil
whose maze had sapped my very heart with fear!
I found myself before a little hill*

*and lifted up my eyes. Its shoulders glowed
already with the sweet rays of that planet*
whose virtue leads men straight on every road.*

*In Dante's time, the sun was considered a planet. The sun represents divine illumination.

And so begins John Ciardi's translation of Dante Alighieri's *Comedy*. (It was later named by others *The Divine Comedy*.) As I described in my homily this past Sunday, after a lifetime of hearing references to *The Divine Comedy* and probably reading small excerpts from it in Literature classes, ten years ago I came across this edition/translation and decided it was time I actually read this classic of Catholic and really human literature.

The Divine Comedy was originally written in Italian and so I am left to trust that Ciardi's translation is faithful to both the "feel" of it in Italian as well as its content. All that I have read or seen about it indicates that Ciardi's translation fulfills this very well. As you can see/read, there is a beauty in the English which I suspect is even more evident in the Italian. As Ciardi observes in his "Translator's Note" in the beginning, English is a "rhyme-poor language" and much of the rhythm and rhyme of the Italian I suppose gets lost, or is at least different in the Italian. Still, Ciardi's translation, now upwards of 70 years old, makes for very edifying and inspiring reading. His introductory descriptions of each Canto are very helpful, as are the footnotes, particularly those explaining the allusions to those personages and circumstances contemporary with Dante (AD 1265-1321).

Dante's journey through hell and purgatory accompanied by Virgil (Reason) and then through Paradise accompanied by Beatrice (Faith) can be the occasion for a rather searing examination of one's own life. But it is worth the effort when you read the last lines—having read all that proceeds:

*Here my powers rest from their high fantasy,
but already I could feel my being turned—
instinct and intellect balanced equally*

*as in a wheel whose motion nothing jars—
by the love that moves the Sun and the other
stars.*

Father Mark Keene

Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a high mountain and is transfigured before them and they heard God speaking, telling them to listen to His Son!

Adults: Do you think the apostles understood why Moses and Elijah appeared on the mountain with Jesus? Do you always understand everything you are

Parish Worship continued

asked to believe? What is the most difficult aspect of your faith for you to accept? How can you resolve your doubts?

Teens: If you had been on the mountain with Jesus, Peter, James and John and seen the “transfiguration” and then been told not to tell anyone what you had seen, do you think you could have kept quiet? Why or why not?

Children: If you could be granted one miracle, what would you ask for? Why?

Next Sunday, March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

We are in “Year B”, and in Year B the Gospel of Mark is featured in our readings at Sunday Mass, though not without exceptions. For the first two Sunday’s of Lent in Year B, the Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of Mark. For the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Gospel Reading is from the Gospel of John. During Lent, the first reading—from the Old Testament—is always about the history of salvation. During Cycle B years, this reading is concerned with one of the five covenants of the Old Testament (with Noah, with Abraham, with Moses/The Ten Commandments, with David, and a covenant “inscribed in human hearts” [Jeremiah]), which point to the final covenant in Jesus which we commemorate at the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter). The second reading—from the New Testament writings—is chosen because of thematic relations to the Old Testament and Gospel readings.

Gospel (John 2:13-25): In the Gospel of John, Jesus is depicted as going to Jerusalem several times over the course of his public ministry, usually when there is an important religious feast. Today’s reading is from John’s description of a trip to Jerusalem for Passover, when Jesus cleanses the Temple. In John, this trip takes place at the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry. (In the other Gospels, this trip takes place at the very end of Jesus’ ministry, just before his crucifixion.) The “cleansing of the Temple” is a highly symbolic story. What John is saying is that from the very beginning of Jesus’ public ministry “something new” is being initiated. The “old way,” symbolized by money-changers and merchants in the Temple, is depicted as being completely corrupt. It had become little more than a money-making opportunity for the already wealthy to take advantage of the poor and ignorant pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. By reading about this action of Jesus, the reader is enticed to read on in the Gospel of John about Jesus and his “something new” that turns the tables on the old.

First Reading (Exodus 20:1-17): At Mount Sinai

the Jewish people entered into a special relationship with God called “the covenant.” With covenant agreements, the terms are spelled out. God had already proven his fidelity to Israel by leading them out of Egypt and freeing them from slavery. Our reading today contains the Ten Commandments, given to Moses. They spell out what the Israelites must do to live up to their side of the covenant.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:22-25): In this reading, Paul depicts both Jews and Greeks as each having their own shortcomings with regard to faith. God’s grace through Jesus can and has overcome them all, for “the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

Easter Flowers: Gifts in Memory Of

Easter Season lasts from Easter Sunday (April 4th this year) through Pentecost Sunday (May 23rd this year). In past years we have used Easter Lilies, Mums, Hydrangeas, Azaleas and English Ivy to decorate our Sanctuary. We would like to continue this tradition.



Again this year, we would like to finance these flowers as we did at Advent/Christmas by providing the opportunity for people to donate flowers in memory of someone. Memorials can be made at two levels: \$40 and \$25, corresponding to flower sizes/ prices.

If you would like to donate one or more of the Easter Flowers as a gift to the parish or in memory of someone, please clearly mark your gift and put it into the regular Sunday collection, or send your gift to the Parish Office. Please remember to indicate the memorial intention. The memorial intentions will be published in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. All donations must be received by Monday, March 15th. Thank you very much! –Father Mark Keene

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.



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Worship continued

Monthly Intention of Pope Francis

For use with The Morning Offering Prayer

MARCH 2021: Intention for Evangelization -

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the Sacrament of Reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Bulletin Cover Picture

The beautiful roses that were donated last weekend on the occasion of the 40th Wedding Anniversary of a couple in our parish.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 02/22/21)

\$727,518

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 02/22/21)

\$800,786

2020 DPAA

Hope does not disappoint... the love of God has been poured out into our hearts. (Romans 5:5)

Last Call! As of January 31, 2021, parishioners have committed

\$154,747 in gifts and pledges toward

our parish goal of \$158,700. This

leaves \$3,953 to go! \$145,031 has

actually been collected so far, so fulfilling pledges is

very important. If you have not yet made a gift or a

pledge and need a pledge card, please contact the

parish office (431-1802).

We will be beginning the 2021 Diocesan Parish Annual

Appeal very soon, so this will be the last appeal of

behalf of the 2020 DPAA. If you have not yet made a

gift to the 2020 appeal, please consider doing so. 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. Our parish has never not made our goal.

–Father Mark Keene

School Endowment Fund Collection

Our recent collection for The Monsignor John Francis

Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School

totaled \$9,982. These funds will be added to the

corpus of the fund, which currently contributes around

\$50,000 to our school budget. Contributions can be

made at any time and of course are encouraged.

School Endowment Fund Bequests

We also recently received word that The Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School is the beneficiary of a bequest from the estate of Mary Coulson of our parish. The bequest is in excess of \$14,500.00. Unless otherwise specified by a donor's estate, we deposit all bequests into the school endowment fund where it is invested and income from the investments benefits our school budget. Consider making this endowment fund a beneficiary in your estate planning, Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA's), life insurance, etc.

–Father Mark Keene

We Are His Hawks

Thank You Letters

We recently received "Thank You Letters" from the Rose Garden Home Mission and Welcome House of Northern Kentucky for financial contributions our parish has made in support of their work.

Parish News

Wedding Banns

III-Madison Schuh, Saint Agnes & Jack Athenas

Kentucky State Legislature Issues

HB 149 (Education Opportunity Accounts) is on the move! Ask your State Representative to make sure HB 149 is passed out of committee as soon as possible and that they vote for the bill when it reaches the House floor. Families are depending on them to bring educational choice to Kentucky!

Education Opportunity Accounts are privately funded by citizens and businesses who donate to non-profit Account Granting Organizations (AGOs). The AGOs then use the donations to award needs-based funding to eligible families. Funding can be tailored to a student's specific needs and used for K-12 public and non-public school tuition and fees, online learning programs, tutoring services, therapy programs, transportation to and from school, and more.

You can send a direct email supporting HB 149 to your Representative. You can send an email supporting either or both bills by using this link: <https://www.votervoice.net/CCKY/Campaigns/79053/Respond>. You can also call (800-372-7181) and leave a message about both bills. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Faithful Citizenship!



Parish News continued

First Thursday Rosary Returns

Rosary Night will be on Thursday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for 30 minutes of prayer and meditation. A perfect time to pray as Lent progresses. Pray to Mary, Our Mother to guide and protect our country. Pray especially for those affected by COVID. Pray for an end to this and other problems in our world. Join your prayers for special intentions, world peace, our priests, and families. Rediscover the power and peace of prayer. *Enter by way of the annex door by Sleepy Hollow Rd.*



Baseball/Softball Registration

Spring sports and baseball have been approved! With that, it's time to get registrations going. There's nothing like playing baseball (a VERY socially distanced team sport) with friends and classmates for the Wildcats!

St. Agnes offers teams from Pre-K T-ball through 8th grade including girls softball where there is enough interest to field a team. Instructional fees (Pre-K through 1st) are \$35 and baseball/softball fees are \$90. The season typically runs from mid-March through mid-June.

Registration remains online at:
<http://tshq.bluesombrebro.com/saintagnesboosters>.
We're looking forward to an amazing season!

Faith Formation

RCIA

In Lent, our RCIA Elect move into the final period of preparation, the period of "Purification and Enlightenment," for the Sacraments of Initiation. The Church calls us all to enter into this time of reflection on our own lives by identifying sins that keep us from becoming holy, by seeking our own purification through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by expressing our gratitude to God through sharing with the poor from our own material and spiritual bounty. All RCIA elect will celebrate liturgical Rites during Lent that are meant to nourish them in grace as they embrace God's call. These Rites provide us all with the opportunity to pray for our RCIA elect, Charlie. Please pray that Jesus will transfigure Charlie's life, as well as our lives, with His redeeming grace, bringing us all to conversion, a genuine desire to be holy as He is holy. (Association for Catechumenal Ministry)

FORMED

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT THIS YEAR? LENT 2021 IS THE PERFECT TIME TO JOIN FORMED.ORG! NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW AND LIVE YOUR



CATHOLIC FAITH. Our parish has an online subscription to FORMED, which offers multiple Catholic resources for each of us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and in our desire to share our faith with others. FORMED includes faith-based movies, documentaries, books, audios, children's resources, Lenten Bible studies, all beautifully presented to help you and your children grow in your love, understanding and zeal for our faith. Commit time this Lent to growing in your faith so that you can know, love and serve the Lord more intently each and every day. **Please register for FORMED (it's FREE)** by going to www.formed.org and click on "sign up." That will take you to a page where you can enter and choose St. Agnes Church, Ft. Wright. Follow the instructions from there and you will be signed up. No password to remember.

Virtual Bible Studies

The Book of Job with Fr. Timothy Schehr

Job was perfectly upright. But there was room for improvement even in the perfect Job. Let's read his story and find our how. Along the way we will also learn about the many friends who walked beside him on the journey of suffering.

This Study will be held on March 9th, 16th and April 6th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will be streamed live from Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium through Google Meet. The cost for the study is \$35.

Christian Morality with Fr. Ray Enzweiler

This course will discuss the sources of morality and basic moral principles. A particular focus will be on the relational nature of morality founded on love of God and neighbor. Topics will include natural and divine law, the human act, sin, conscience, freedom, role of will and intellect, and virtue.

This Study will be held on March 13th and 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and will be streamed live from Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium through Google Meet. The cost for the study is \$35.

Details on both courses and online registration is available at covdio.org/catechesis-and-evangelization. For more information, email dcooley@covdio.org or call 859-392-1500 ext. 1592.