

Fourth Sunday of
LENT



March 14, 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. 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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

On the Sundays of Lent, in church at 12 noon

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 LENT

Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 14-Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Maggie O’Gorman
10:30 a.m. Tom Vogt

Monday, March 15

6:30 a.m. Joseph Connelly
11:30 a.m. Thelma & Les McGraw, Sr. &
Les McGraw, Jr.

Tuesday, March 16

6:30 a.m. Jean McCarthy
11:30 a.m. Sydney Terrell

Wednesday, March 17-St. Patrick

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
9:30 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Rob Miller

Thursday, March 18-St. Cyril of Jerusalem

6:30 a.m. Intention of Michael Cetrulo
11:30 a.m. Jake Erpenbeck

Friday, March 19-St. Joseph, Spouse of the

Blessed Virgin Mary

6:30 a.m. Vince Michels
11:30 a.m. Joe Melching

Saturday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Betty Zembrodt
4:00 p.m. TJ Gleeson

Sunday, March 21-Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Roger & Lois Stephens
10:30 a.m. Ed Brundage

Rosary, Sunday, March 21st at 8:00 a.m.: Dan Summe

Staff Article

For God So Loved the World

Many of you know that I grew up Jewish and became Catholic as an adult. Our family practiced Reform Judaism. We only went to Temple on the High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with the exception of the occasional special occasion such as a Bar Mitzvah. Our services were both in English and Hebrew. Before it moved to Amberley Village, we attended Rockdale Temple in North Avondale. Although I didn't fully appreciate it all the time as a child, the music was beautiful. It was provided by a choir and various soloists accompanied on a beautiful pipe organ. With our family practicing in the Reform tradition, my Orthodox friends used to tease me, saying we went to Rockdale "Church." Although our attendance at Temple was limited, as a family we celebrated Jewish holidays together, including Chanukah, Pesach (Passover), Purim, and Succoth. I was sent to Sunday school from kindergarten through my sophomore year of high school when I was confirmed. I made my Bar Mitzvah at age 13 and even contemplated becoming a rabbi for a brief time.

By the time I was 16, like many my age, my interest in religion had faded. I thought that if there was a God, that He was off taking care of business somewhere else far away in the universe and that He didn't have time for me. It was shortly after I turned 18 that I had a moment of revelation. I was looking and marveling at a flower and/or a blade of grass and thought about the beauty, the complexity, and the immensity of creation. I couldn't see how all of this just happened to come about by accident. I acknowledged that there had to be some type of supreme being or intelligence that created this.

It was during that time that I had a follow-up appointment with my orthodontist. I had worn braces from 5th grade until 8th grade and hated every moment of it. I had always dreaded appointments with the orthodontist. It was at one such appointment shortly after I had turned 18 that out of the blue my orthodontist, Dr. Louie, asked me if I knew what the 4 SPIRITUAL LAWS were. That question caught me by surprise, but I was intrigued. He pulled out a little booklet and read to me the 1ST SPIRITUAL LAW. It said that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. The booklet went on to quote Scripture. The first quote was taken from John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but have eternal life." This was my first time hearing so closely of a God who loves. Dr. Louie went on to read the rest of the booklet, concluding with the 4th Spiritual Law that was an invitation to invite Jesus into my life as personal Lord and Savior. I didn't quite know what to make of all of this, but I took the booklet home. That night I read through the booklet and found myself kneeling by my bed and praying a prayer, inviting Jesus into my heart.

Not long after that I acquired a Bible with both Old and New Testaments and read it from beginning to end. It would be 7 more years before I entered the Catholic Church. All these years God has continued to nudge me bit by bit along my spiritual journey.

The passage from John 3:16 has been my number one passage in this walk. I composed the Mass of St. John that we sing at St. Agnes, inspired by my influence from these words. You'll hear these words this week both in our Gospel reading and the Gospel verse of our Lenten Gospel Acclamation.

May God's love be with you all!

Bobby Fisher,
Director of Music Ministries



Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus is soon to die on the cross...proof of God's unlimited love for us. Through our belief in Him we will have eternal life. How awesome is that!?

Adults: Do you ever wonder what would have happened to mankind if the Father had not sent Jesus to redeem us? Do you accept the teaching that if we believe in Jesus we can have eternal life? Why or why not?

Teens: Scripture tells us that Jesus was sent to this world so that we might have "eternal life!" What does "eternal life" mean to you? Can you spend about fifteen minutes each day this week thanking Jesus for all He has done for us and asking for a better understanding of what "redemption" means?

Children: Do you ever wonder what heaven is really like? Ask your parents and teachers what they think heaven is all about.

Next Sunday, March 21 , 2021

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

Each year at Easter we renew our Baptismal Promises. These promises reflect our commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to strive literally and figuratively to embody His teachings in our individual lives and in our life as His Church. Lent is a time set aside by our church for the purpose of preparing ourselves to renew these promises. It is helpful to keep this in mind as we study the readings during Lent.

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, the Gospel reading is from Mark. For the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent, the Gospel reading is from 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). This last Covenant is revealed/ established in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The second reading — from the New Testament writings — is chosen because of thematic relations to the Old Testament and Gospel readings.

Gospel (John 12:20-33): In the Gospel of John, the way Jesus is presented is in stark contrast to the

way He presented in the other three ("Synoptic") Gospels. John presents Jesus as always "in the know" and always in control. In John there is no agony in the garden of Gethsemane and no crying out of abandonment on the cross. In John, Jesus honestly and calmly confronts His captors and Pontius Pilate. In John, the crucifixion is referred to as the "Glorification of Jesus" and hence is not understood as a tragedy. This "glorification" is the final act of God's judgement on the world. God has chosen to drive out the "ruler of the world" and this will be done by Jesus' "glorification." Then, when Jesus is "lifted up from the earth" (resurrected!) He will draw all people to Himself. This Sunday's Gospel reflects these themes as well as what seems to be the major underlying theme of the Gospel of John, "... unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." It is as if the image of Jesus presented in John's Gospel says that once you truly accept this "death to self" you will be truly free and the world will no longer have any power over you.

First Reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34): Jeremiah ministered to the Jewish people in the years leading up to the Babylonian Exile. He tried to convince them to focus their energies on abiding by The Covenant with God rather than on military alliances with foreign/ Gentile (pagan) nations. In this reading we see that even in the midst of their failures, God is initiating a new covenant with the Jewish people. This new covenant will be written on their hearts (the Spirit of God), rather than on tablets of stone (as were the Ten Commandments).

Second Reading (Hebrews 5:7-9): This reading presents a Jesus who is depicted in very human terms. Quite a contrast from the way John depicts Jesus: "In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence."

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 Saint Joseph Window located in the annex of our church. Notice the symbols associated with Saint Joseph: his carpentry tools, the two doves from the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple, and the Lilies, symbolic of the Resurrection and Saint Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death. This Friday is the Feast of Saint Joseph, Spouse of Mary.

Parish Worship continued

Year of Saint Joseph: Prayer For Families

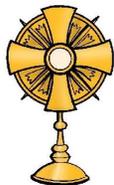
This Friday, March 19 is the Feast of Saint Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Here is a prayer for families that you may wish to include in your family's prayer life, particularly during this year dedicated to Saint Joseph.

Loving God, During this holy season of Lent, we ask for your blessing on all families. Let Mary's openness to your wondrous ways be an inspiration to place all trust in you. Let Joseph's courage provide hope during times of anxiety and uncertainty. Let Jesus' life ignite all families with a spirit of light and love. May the grace that encircled the Holy Family widen to embrace all families. For this we pray. Amen.

All parish families will receive, if they haven't already, a mailing from Bishop Foys which includes a brochure describing devotions to Saint Joseph, along with a prayer card with a Prayer to Saint Joseph.

Adorers Needed

Adorers are needed to fill the following hours in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel:
Monday-12AM, 1AM & 2AM
Wednesday-2AM
Friday-4AM
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.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 03/08/21) \$792,010
Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 03/08/21) \$849,355

2021 DPAA

"For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:17)

This past week parishioners should have received a letter from Bishop Foys and me regarding our 2021 Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal (2021 DPAA). As your pastor, I ask that you read this letter carefully. Included with this mailing is information about this year's DPAA. While our diocesan goal is the same as

last year (\$2,600,000) our parish's share in that goal increased somewhat from last year. This year our parish goal is \$160,500—an increase of \$1,800 or 1%.

Please read the materials you will be receiving, as well as articles in our diocesan newspaper *Messenger* and in the Sunday bulletin. Please be attentive to the presentations in church, particularly the video. This year's video is the best one yet I think. I think we can be very proud of the work our diocese is trying to do in so many areas, from education to social services, and more. As Catholics, "It's what we do!" You can share in this work through your support of our 2021 DPAA. Please pray about making a sacrificial gift. I personally find it helpful to recall: The measure of your generosity is not how much you give, but how much you have left over after you give.

—Father Mark Keene

2020 DPAA: Made It!

Through the generosity of several parishioners in the past couple of weeks, we have received nearly \$8,000.00 in additional gifts. This should put us over our goal and then some. All funds collected over our goal will be rebated back to Saint Agnes. We plan to use these rebates to help pay for tuck-pointing that we have to do to our convent building and our school building. A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to those who made a gift during these past couple of weeks, particularly if it was a second gift to the 2020 DPAA.

—Father Mark Keene

Parish News

Big Blue Bash Still Needs Your Help

St. Agnes School PTO's virtual Big Blue Bash this year is on March 26, 2021. Please consider helping out in any way! The best ways to help and show support for our school:

- 1. Make a monetary donation.** Send cash or checks to the school office at 1322 Sleepy Hollow Road, Ft. Wright, KY 41011. Or go to 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, it's all up to you.
- 3. Be an event sponsor.** Place your company logo or family name on our event website. For more info email 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.

Parish News continued

SVDP Update

Thank you so much for your continued support of our St. Agnes conference. As you may well imagine, we have been very, very busy during the COVID crisis. Calls for assistance are greater than we have ever witnessed, both in volume and in amount of assistance needed. Requests for assistance with food, rent, and utilities have skyrocketed. Because of the decreased in-person attendance at Mass, food and monetary donations are lower than usual. Our conference serves everyone within the parish boundaries of both St. Agnes and St. Ann in West Covington regardless of race or religion. We try to bring the message of Jesus to our clients and encourage them to go to church. Under normal circumstances we visit clients in their homes and sit down and talk to them. Due to COVID, we conduct our visits to clients by phone and bring food and household items to them on their doorstep.

Please know that we pray for you as our benefactors every day, and we ask your prayerful support as well. **Please continue to pick-up the blue SVDP bags in the back of church and return them with the items requested on the list in the bag.**

Thanks again for your support!



Kentucky State Legislative News

Please contact your State Senator regarding the following bills:

HB 91 - Would amend the Kentucky Constitution to make clear there is no state constitutional right to abortion. This bill has passed the House but now needs a vote in the Senate before the end of session. If we can get that vote, the amendment would then go on the ballot in November 2022 to be approved by the voters.

HB 148 - Would exclude the severely mentally ill from the death penalty. HB 91 has passed the House and been reported favorably by the Senate Judiciary Committee. It simply needs a vote on the Senate floor.

Contact your state Representative about the following issue

HB 563 Educational Choice - We need your help to get educational choice in Kentucky. As reported Friday, House Republicans plan to combine Education Opportunity Account (EOA) legislation with another bill, HB 563, that deals with enrollment at public schools and consider the combined bills for a vote on Thursday. But the new proposed version stipulates that families at non-public schools would

not be able to use EOA's for tuition assistance. This would leave out thousands of families who would like to attend Catholic schools as well as other types of non-public schools. There's still time to make sure legislators do the right thing. Please call or email your state house representative today and ask for them to fight to make sure families who want a non-public school option are not left out in 2021.

You can contact your legislators by calling 1-800-372-7181 and the operator will leave a message for your state representative based on your home address.

You can email your legislators by using this link (<https://www.votervoice.net/CCKY/campaigns/81910/respond>) Key Points:

- Ask your state house member to make sure HB 563 includes non-public school families.
- Kentucky has no educational choice programs, but is surrounded by other states that do provide families with choices.
- Approximately 46% of Kentuckians would choose a non-public school if cost was not a factor.
- The vast majority of Kentuckians want an educational choice program that includes non-public schools: 74% of Republicans, 65% of Independents, 53% of Democrats.

Need a COVID Vaccine?

You can call the COVID vaccine hotline at 1-855-598-2246 and for the hearing impaired call 1-855-326-4654

Faith Formation

RCIA

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the RCIA elect will celebrate the Second Rite of Scrutiny, reflecting on the Gospel of the man born blind. This Gospel story calls them, and all of us, to truly see Jesus and open our eyes to a Christian vision of the world. They challenge us to prayerful introspection, surrender, and conversion. May our Lenten commitment to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving lead us more deeply into the mind and heart of Jesus. Please join our RCIA Elect, Charlie, in turning your hearts and minds in prayer to your own Way of the Cross, calling your own wounds by name, and giving them to our Divine Healer. Please continue to pray for Charlie.

If you are interested in learning about the Catholic faith or if you know anyone who might be interested, please contact Paula at pfritz@saintagnes.com or call the parish office at 431-1802.

