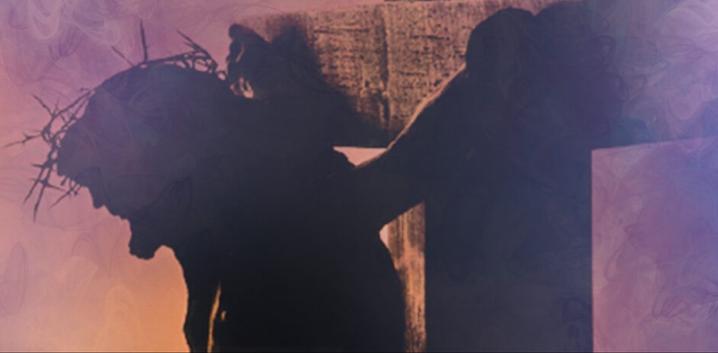


Fifth Sunday of

LENT



March 21, 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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 21-Fifth Sunday of Lent

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

Monday, March 22

6:30 a.m. Communion Service
11:30 a.m. Mary Ann Morrissey

Tuesday, March 23-St. Turibius

6:30 a.m. Tom Prieshoff
11:30 a.m. Bill & Ann Boehmer

Wednesday, March 24

6:30 a.m. Eugene Gleeson
9:30 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 25-Annunciation of the Lord

6:30 a.m. Mary Margaret Johnson
11:30 a.m. Ray Hemmer

Friday, March 26

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
9:20 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Anita Dodd Connelly

Saturday, March 27

8:30 a.m. Della Kinsella
4:00 p.m. Dave Mullen

Sunday, March 28-Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 a.m. Carl & Emma Kuchle Family
10:30 a.m. Charlene Keltz

Rosary, Sunday, March 28th at 8:00 a.m.: Theresa Gray

Staff

Yes

One of my favorite pictures is a painting by the American artist John Collier showing a young girl in what appears to be a school uniform. She is standing before a modern home in what looks like a modern suburb and she is looking at a book. Nothing unusual about this painting so far. What makes it interesting to me is the angel standing before the young lady. What this is, is a picture of the Annunciation. She is the Virgin Mary and the angel is, of course, Gabriel.

We all know that the Annunciation took place over 2000 years ago. It happened in a small dusty Palestinian village not in an American suburb. So why paint a version of the Annunciation as if it took place today and in an American setting?

Mary's yes was and is the single most important word in the history of the world. Mary's yes set into motion the salvation of the world. Jesus had to come as a man in order to pay the price of our sin to gain eternal life with God for all of us. Her "yes" opened her life to untold pain and suffering. This pain and suffering began with, I believe, her having to tell Joseph of her

condition and wait for his response. (He said "yes" to God when he listened to the voice of the angel that told him to marry her). Mary's pain and suffering were a companion through her life with Jesus, along with times of great joy. She was and is the paramount disciple of her Son Jesus.

I like the picture I described because the question that Gabriel asked Mary two thousand years ago is still being asked every day. Mary was asked to bring Jesus, the embodiment of God's love for us, into the world. Each day we are asked to bring that same person and that same love into a world that needs this love and man as much, if not more than it did in the time of Mary.

We are all being challenged to say "yes" to God's question. We are all called to be disciples of Christ. We are all called to bring Jesus into the world. Just like Mary we have a choice. God waits for our answer. This Lent and Easter let's say "yes" to God and begin to change the world.

God Bless You.
Deacon Gary Scott



Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus tells His apostles that a grain of wheat will only produce fruit when it dies.

Adults: Who showed Jesus in your life? For whom have you been a grain of wheat?

Teens: How is the life cycle of a grain of wheat like Jesus?

Children: How does God make food for us? How does a seed grow?

Next Sunday, March 28, 2021

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Cycle B

Palm Sunday is the beginning of Holy Week: the week which contains the most solemn observances of our religious Tradition. We begin our Palm Sunday observance with the blessing of palms and hearing the Gospel story of Jesus' entry and welcome into Jerusalem. Very quickly, our liturgy will remind us of just how short-lived this welcome was. The Gospel reading during Mass is the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of Mark. (The Tradition is to read the Passion Narrative from the featured Synoptic Gospel—Mark this year—each year on Palm Sunday. The Passion

Parish Worship continued

Narrative from the Gospel of John is read every Good Friday.) The first reading from Isaiah and the second reading from Philippians are always the same, regardless of which year we are in. They set the “mood” for the proclamation of the Passion and for Holy Week.

Gospel (Mark 14:1-15:47): The Gospels are thought to have been written in stages over the years. It is believed that the oldest, intact story or “narrative” about Jesus in the Christian Tradition is the “Passion Narrative” – the story of Jesus’ betrayal, trial and crucifixion. This would account for the similarity of the Passion Narratives in all four Gospels. With time, stories about the public life of Jesus, about His teachings and His miracles (and eventually His birth in Matthew and Luke) were added to these Passion narratives. The Passion Narrative in each Gospel was edited into its final form to reflect the unique themes that each Gospel developed in describing the public life of Jesus. Regardless of the details however, the Passion Narrative in each Gospel points us toward the central Revelation of Jesus as the suffering servant Messiah of God and His death through which humanity is saved (human history repaired/restored).

First Reading (Isaiah 50:4-7): In the latter part of the book of Isaiah, Isaiah introduces a character called “the Servant.” This servant probably stands for an idealized Israel, who trusts in God and never fears disgrace. This of course stands in contrast to the way Israel has really behaved. But this reading comes from the time of the end of the Babylonian exile, and so it is full of hope that the people have learned their lesson and that they will move toward identifying with this “servant” that Isaiah describes. These “Suffering Servant Hymns” (there are four in all) might also represent an attempt to find salvific meanings in the sufferings of the Israelites, particularly during the Babylonian Exile. There are obvious resonances between the “Suffering Servant” and Jesus.

Second Reading (Philippians 2:6-11): This reading from Philippians is thought to have been at one time an independent hymn or oracle that pre-existed the Letter to the Philippians and was incorporated by Paul into this letter. Hence it gives us sense of just how the earliest Christians understood Jesus, His crucifixion and the mystery of the Incarnation. This hymn is called “The Kenotic Hymn” from the Greek word *kenosis* which means “emptying.” The words are familiar: “Christ Jesus, though He was in the form of God did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, He emptied Himself....” This hymn reflects a very developed understanding of Jesus and the meaning of His life, death and resurrection.

Catholic Traditions

Holy Week and Easter Season

Next Sunday is PALM SUNDAY, and we begin HOLY WEEK, the most solemn week of our church calendar of Worship. There are many services and rituals which reflect nearly every aspect of our Church life: The Paschal Mystery, the Scriptures, Vocation (via Baptism and Orders), the Sacraments, (particularly Baptism and Eucharist), Mission and Service.

On Tuesday (March 30th) our diocese will gather at our Cathedral for the CHRISM MASS. Bishop Foys will bless the holy oils that will be used by our diocesan church this year: the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism. At this same Liturgy, the priests of our diocese will renew their promises of priestly service.

The Season of Lent will end on the evening of Holy Thursday (April 1st) when we gather for the Holy Thursday “Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper.”

The summit of Holy Week, which is also the summit of the entire Year of Worship is the *TRIDUUM* or “The Three Days.” The Triduum presents us with quite an array of the richness of our Scriptural Heritage. The three “services” on these days are actually considered one continuous service. There is no dismissal at the end of the service on Holy Thursday or Good Friday.

On HOLY THURSDAY, the readings focus on the Eucharist (Holy Thursday is considered the anniversary of the Institution of the Eucharist by Jesus.) and Christian Service (In the Gospel reading, Jesus washes his disciples’ feet and instructs them to wash one another’s feet.). At this service we also receive the oils blessed at the Chrism Mass on Tuesday. The service ends with a procession with the Eucharist to an altar of repose, followed by adoration until midnight.

On GOOD FRIDAY the readings focus on the Passion of Jesus, featuring the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of John. We also have the Veneration of the Cross and the reception of Communion (consecrated at the Holy Thursday service the night before). The Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday.

At the EASTER VIGIL, we begin by blessing the new fire and the new Easter Candle. The *Exultet* (Easter Proclamation) is sung. We then have a number of readings that outline Salvation History, culminating with the Resurrection of Jesus. We then celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with our Elect and Candidates and renew our Baptismal Promises, followed by the Eucharist.

On EASTER SUNDAY, the readings reflect the joy of the Resurrection. It is in the midst of these readings about the Resurrection that we renew our Baptismal Promises.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Parish Worship continued

With Easter Sunday, we begin the "OCTAVE OF EASTER". For eight days we celebrate Easter Sunday. This octave concludes on the Second Sunday of Easter, which was designated as "Divine Mercy Sunday" by Pope John Paul II. This "Octave" designation notes the special solemnity of Easter. The only other Feast in our Liturgical Year that is celebrated with an octave is Christmas.

With Easter Sunday, we also begin the EASTER SEASON (a "week of weeks"), which will last through Pentecost, which is May 20th this year. During Easter Season, for both weekday and Sunday Masses, the first reading will be from the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts of the Apostles is a New Testament book and is thought to be the second volume of a two-volume work composed by Luke. (The first volume is the Gospel of Luke.) The Acts of the Apostles relates life in the early days of our Church.

Bulletin Cover Picture

The Stations of the Cross, depicted by our grade school a couple of years ago. The Eighth Station: *Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem.*

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.

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 03/15/21)

\$829,428

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 03/15/21)

\$875,000

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)

By now all registered 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, which can be viewed via our diocesan website: <https://covidio.org/stewardship-missions/>. 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.

—Father Mark Keene

Endowment Fund Collection

Last month in the parishioner envelop packet there was a special envelop for our Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School. This collection resulted in \$10,262.00 being added to the *corpus* of the endowment fund. This fund currently contributes about \$50,000/year to our school budget, helping to keep everyone's tuition lower. This amounts to about \$250/year per school family in tuition assistance. Gifts can be made any time during the year.

As a parish we contribute 1% of our offertory contributions to the endowment fund. Some of our parish fund-raisers also dedicate a certain percentage of their earnings to the endowment fund. Often, this endowment fund is suggested as way to make a gift in memory of someone. It can also be named as the beneficiary of an IRA, a will, life insurance, etc. For more information, please contact the parish business office (431.1802) or pcunningham@saintagnes.com.

—Father Mark Keene

Parish News

Parish Reconciliation Service

Please join us on Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. for a Lenten Penance Service. Prepare your hearts as you pray for Jesus as He suffers for us. Individual Confessions are part of this service.

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. 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!

Sisters of Notre Dame "Pancake Breakfast"

This year the Sisters of Saint Joseph are not hosting their annual Pancake Breakfast for the Uganda Mission, but they are selling Breakfast Boxes with a homemade baked good and pancake mixes in its place. A box is \$25 and contains:

- 1 homemade baked good
- 3 flavors of pancake mix
- 1 bottle of syrup
- Lots of love from the SNDs in the US and in Uganda/East Africa

All proceeds benefit the SND missions in Uganda and East Africa. Side note: The Uganda economy was hit HARD by the pandemic; the country went into a very strictly enforced lockdown. Most families meager income was even less this past year. The link to order online is tinyurl.com/UgandaBox or call Margie at 392-8229.



Faith Formation

RCIA

The RCIA Elect celebrate the Third (and final) Scrutiny today. Please pray that as our Elect, Charlie, seeks life in the Sacraments, the Holy Spirit will increase his faith, hope and love that he may come to share in the fullness of life through Christ's resurrection.

Also today, we present our Elect with The Lord's Prayer, our prayer of hope that summarizes our entire Christian life. We present these precious words to those entering our Church this Easter as a symbol of our passing down our heritage of prayer, learned at the feet of our Savior and nurtured in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit who is the Church. Please keep Charlie in your prayers.

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.

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. **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.



Word of Life Bulletin Brief

"To celebrate the Gospel of life means to celebrate the God of life, the God who gives life...in every child which is born and in every person who lives or dies we see the image of God's glory. We celebrate this glory in every human being, a sign of the living God, an icon of Jesus Christ." (*The Gospel of Life* 84)