

# Ascension of the Lord



May 16, 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. 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

## ASCENSION OF THE LORD/SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### Mass Intentions

- Sunday, May 16**-Ascension of the Lord  
Seventh Sunday of Easter  
8:30 a.m. Dec'd of Tepe & Wells Families  
10:30 a.m. Dec'd of Scott & Havlicek Families
- Monday, May 17**  
6:30 a.m. Communion Service  
11:30 a.m. Joan Burkart
- Tuesday, May 18**-St. John I  
6:30 a.m. Deacon Ralph Grieme, Jr.  
11:30 a.m. Judy Reinersman
- Wednesday, May 19**  
6:30 a.m. Winnie Gleeson  
9:30 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Deacon Joe Cleves
- Thursday, May 20**-St. Bernardine of Siena  
6:30 a.m. People of the Parish  
11:30 a.m. Albonetti Family
- Friday, May 21**-St. Christopher Magallanes  
6:30 a.m. Intention of Jack Brueggemann  
9:20 a.m. Special Intention  
11:30 a.m. Bill Boehmer
- Saturday, May 22**-St. Rita of Cascia  
8:30 a.m. Kathleen Hodge  
4:00 p.m. Grace Poncer
- Sunday, May 23**-Pentecost Sunday  
8:30 a.m. Hilda Keltz  
10:30 a.m. Tepe Family

Rosary, Sunday, May 23rd at 8:00 a.m.: Theresa Gray

### Staff Article

#### Dear Friends

There is so much mystery that surrounds Jesus' ascension into heaven. For example why did the risen Christ leave the earth after only forty days? How was He lifted up physically into the sky? Did it happen instantaneously or over a period of time?

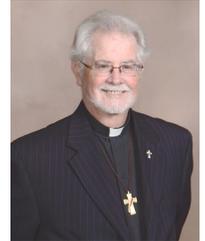
We may never know the answers to these questions, this side of heaven. But we can understand something of God's great love for us as we meditate on this feast.

First, the ascension tells us that when Jesus took on a human nature in the Incarnation, He didn't do it temporarily. The Word became flesh, not just for thirty-three years Jesus walked the earth, but forever. The Incarnation of Christ was an act of great humility-God stooping down to become a creature. But it was more than God stooping down. He was also lifting us up, because Jesus as much man as He is God, has taken His seat at the right hand of God. Now our own human nature is caught up in the life of the Trinity. That's how much God loves us.

Second, because we are praying to a God who is both human and divine, our relationship with Jesus is very personal. As we pray, we can picture a real human being standing before us, looking into our eyes and comforting us with a warm embrace. Not only that, but we know that in Heaven Jesus in His human body is physically interceding for us. How reassuring it is to know that He understands our human condition! He has experienced it Himself and so sympathizes with our weaknesses.

So I invite you today, spend some time at Mass reflecting on the great wonder of a God who loves you so much that He would become one of us—not just for a short time—but FOREVER!

God Bless  
Deacon Bob



### Parish Worship

#### Faith Sharing Questions

**Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus prays for His followers and asks His Father to take care of them and guard them from "the evil one!"**

Adults: What do you think Jesus meant when He said "His followers did not belong to this world?" Do you ever feel that you do not belong to this world? How can you live your life in this day and not "belong to this world?"

Teens: If you had been living when Jesus was alive do you think you would have had the courage to follow Him? How can you follow Him today?

Children: If you were asked to describe the Holy Spirit, what would you say?

#### Next Sunday, May 23, 2021 Pentecost Sunday, Easter Season, Cycle A

There is a set of readings for the "Vigil Mass of Pentecost" with various choices for the First Reading, or one can do all four Old Testament Readings and their Responsorials and Prayers. If only one reading is being done, the story of the "Tower of Babel" (Genesis 11:1-9) is the usual choice for the First Reading at the Vigil Mass. The New Testament Reading is always Romans 8:22-27, in which Paul reflects on the "groanings" of all Creation and the groanings of those who "have the first fruits of the Spirit." Paul then speaks of the role of the Spirit who "intercedes with inexpressible groanings" and who "intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will." The Gospel reading for the Vigil Mass is always John

## Parish Worship continued

7:37-39. In this reading Jesus speaks of the Spirit "that those who came to believe in Him were to receive."

For "Pentecost Sunday, Mass during the Day," there are readings assigned (with some options for the Second Reading and Gospel) for each Liturgical Year (A, B, or C). Regardless of which Liturgical Year, the First Reading is always Act of the Apostles 2:1-11.

**Gospel Reading (John 20:19-23 OR John 15:26-27, 16:12-15):** The passage from chapter 20 is referred to as the "Johannine Pentecost" and it describes Jesus as appearing to the disciples on the evening of the day of His Resurrection. During this visitation He "breathes" on them and says: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose sins you retain are retained." Here, it seems that the Spirit is given for a particular purpose, the forgiveness of sins. Jesus' claim to have the power to forgive sins is part of what led to His persecution by the religious authorities. Here Jesus is extending this controversial power to His disciples and the Church.

In the Gospel reading from chapters 15 and 16 (which is taken from the "Final Discourse" in the Gospel of John, chapters 14-17) Jesus speaks of an "Advocate" ("Paraclete" in Greek) who is the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father (cf. the Nicene Creed) and who will guide the disciples (the Church) to all truth.

Elsewhere The Gospel of John (chapter 14) Jesus describes to His disciples an "Advocate" who is the Holy Spirit who will be sent by the Father and who will "teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

**First Reading (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11):** This passage is the story of Pentecost that we are most familiar with. The disciples are "all in one place together." There is a tradition that holds that it was the same room where they had celebrated the Last Supper with Jesus. Suddenly there is a noise like a "strong, driving wind," reminiscent of the breath of God that blew over the abyss at Creation (Genesis 1:1-2). Then there appear "tongues as of fire" which "parted and came to rest on each one of them." They are all "filled with the Holy Spirit" and then proceed to proclaim "the mighty acts of God." In the Acts of the Apostles this happens 50 days after the Resurrection.

**Second Reading (I Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13):** In this reading Paul addresses the divisions in the Christian community at Corinth by reminding them that "No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." He goes on to stress that while there are

many spiritual gifts, there is only one Spirit who gives them. He uses the human body as an analogy: it has many different parts, and all parts are important and necessary, but they all serve the one body.

## Catholic Traditions

### Pentecost

The Greek word for Pentecost (Pentekoste) means "fiftieth," and in early Christianity it referred to the entire Fifty Days of Easter. The roots of Pentecost can be found in the Jewish festival of Weeks (Shavu'ot), the fifty-day celebration following Passover (Exodus 23:16). In the Jewish tradition, the number "seven" was a perfect number, so "seven times seven" or a "week of weeks" would only underline the solemnity of the commemoration. It was a harvest festival in which the first fruits of the harvest were offered to God in gratitude. It eventually became associated with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai.

Early Christians reinterpreted the Jewish festival as a commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, who precedes and is the successor to The Law in Christian Tradition. Acts records that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples when the festival of Pentecost was fulfilled (Acts 2:1-11).

The Christian Feast of Pentecost is the third most solemn feast in the Liturgical Year (behind Easter and Christmas). The Easter Candle, which was first lit at our Easter Vigil this year, has been lit during all the Liturgies of Easter Season. After today, it will only be lit at Baptisms and during funerals.

## Adorers Needed

Adorers are needed to fill the following hours in the Divine Mercy Adoration Chapel:

Monday-12AM, 1AM, 2AM

Tuesday-6PM

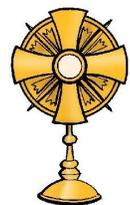
Wednesday-2AM

Friday-4AM, 7AM

Saturday-12AM

Sunday-8PM

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**

MAY 2021: The World of Finance - Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

## Parish Worship continued

### Live-Streaming 10:30 Mass to Murphy Hall

For the time being, we plan to continue live-streaming the 10:30 Sunday Morning Mass into Murphy Hall to accommodate any overflow. This may be an attractive alternative for families with small children, but mainly we are doing this so people do not have to worry about whether there will be room in church because of the Covid-19 protocols.

Some with younger children may appreciate the less structured environment for Mass and this may allow them to feel more comfortable and relaxed. We extend a special invitation to families with younger children.

I wish to be clear however, that families with younger children are certainly always welcome in the church proper. We should always be welcoming to families with children of any age. Recently, one of our board members who brings his children to Mass, relayed that another parishioner told him "how nice it was to see him and his children together at Mass." I share that sentiment as well, as do many others.

– Father Mark Keene

### Bulletin Cover Picture

Our church and our "iconic" Dogwood Tree.

## Saint of the Week

### Saint Rita of Cascia



Saint Rita (born Margherita Lotti in 1381) was an Italian Augustinian nun, widow and saint venerated in the Roman Catholic Church. Rita was married at an early age. The marriage lasted for 18 years, during which she is remembered for her Christian values as a model wife and mother who made efforts to convert her husband from his abusive behavior. Upon the murder of

her husband by another feuding family, she sought to dissuade her sons from revenge before their calamitous death.

She subsequently joined an Augustinian community of religious sisters, where she was known both for practicing mortification of the flesh and for the apparent efficacy of her prayers. St. Rita is venerated due to various miracles attributed to her intercession and is often portrayed with a bleeding wound on her forehead, which the Roman Catholic Church claims to have been a partial stigmata.

The Roman Catholic Church, under the pontificate of Pope Leo XIII, officially canonized Rita on May 24, 1900, while her feast day is celebrated every May 22. At her canonization ceremony, she was bestowed the title the *Patroness of Impossible Causes* while in many pious Catholic countries, Rita came to be known to be a patroness for abused wives and heartbroken women.

To learn more about Saint Rita of Cascia, go to [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita\\_of\\_Cascia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rita_of_Cascia)

## Stewardship

### Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 05/10/21)	\$1,018,373
Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 05/10/21)	\$1,060,935

### Faith Direct (EFT Donations)

On Monday, May 17th, parishioners who are not already using Faith Direct, should get a letter *via* email or US Mail informing them about "Faith Direct." Faith Direct is the service our parish uses that enables



parishioners to financially support Saint Agnes Parish through Electronic Funds Transfers (EFT). The program allows you to arrange for direct debits to your bank or credit card account.

Currently, our parish has been using Faith Direct for nearly ten years and over 240 Saint Agnes Families use Faith Direct for their contributions to the support of our parish. Many have found this very easy to use and convenient. You can enroll securely by visiting **faith.direct/KY493**. If you don't feel secure enrolling on line, you can enroll by completing an enrollment form and mailing it in to Faith Direct. Enrollment forms are included in today's bulletin. You can also call our parish office (431-1802) and we'll be happy to help you.

Also, FYI, you can elect to receive "offertory cards" in lieu of envelopes to be placed in the collection basket. I encourage everyone to read the materials you will be receiving and to give it your every consideration. Thank you. –Father Mark Keene

## Stewardship continued

### 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)**

Regarding our 2021 DPAA, as of March 31 (the latest day we have figures for) our parish has \$89,318 in pledges with \$51,630 in actual funds collected. Our parish goal is \$160,500. So we are \$71,182 under our goal as of March 31.

If you misplaced your pledge envelop, there are extras in the foyers of church, or call the parish office (431-1802) and we'll be happy to mail one to you. Thanks to everyone who has supported our appeal so far! –Father Mark Keene

## Parish News

### Vaccine Stories

Recently a parishioner shared with me a personal story about her experience regarding the polio vaccine. She was a nurse who worked in the polio ward of a local hospital in the mid-1950's. She remembered it as a great day when a polio vaccine came out and in a very short time they no longer had patients with polio.

My own mother worked on a pediatric polio ward at Saint Joseph Infirmary in Louisville in the mid-1950's. She once told me how heart-breaking it was to see the cute little children in iron lungs, and then the next day they would no longer be there, having died the night before. I think she would have had the same reaction as our parishioner when the polio vaccine put a halt to the scourge of polio. I don't recall anyone not taking the polio vaccine when it became available. It is remarkable that polio was essentially wiped out in the United States and Canada in the 1960's. Vaccines truly are world-changing.

I encourage everyone to get a Covid-19 vaccine. It is a way of protecting yourself, your neighbors and healthcare workers. If you have questions or concerns about getting one of the vaccines available, speak with your doctor or other healthcare provider. They can give you the best answers and they are someone you trust. Recent studies have indicated that persons hesitant to get the vaccine are most likely to be persuaded by their doctor. If you have questions about the morality of the development, testing or production of any of the vaccines, please feel free to contact me (431-1802 or [mkeene@saintagnes.com](mailto:mkeene@saintagnes.com)).

Thank you, Father Mark Keene

### Baby Bottle Envelope Campaign

Did you grab a bulletin last weekend? If you did then you found the envelope for this year's Baby Bottle Envelope Campaign. If you were not able to get a bulletin and would like to participate in the campaign, you can find some extra envelopes in the vestibules of the church. Both cash and checks are welcome. Your envelope can be dropped in the collection basket any weekend prior to, or on Father's Day. Envelopes can also be dropped off at the parish office.

## Faith Formation

### RCIA

Throughout the Easter Season, the Church invites us to reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our ongoing conversion. This is especially true this week as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord into Heaven, and await His sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Our faith teaches us that the Eucharist and the gifts of the Holy Spirit strengthen us to live as disciples of Jesus. This week may we be ever more aware of our oneness with Jesus through His gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. May our attitudes, our words, and our actions lead others to Him. Please keep praying for our new Catholic, Charlie, and for those who are being called to inquire into our faith.

**If you know someone who is, or you are, a non-practicing Catholic, a baptized non-Catholic, or an unbaptized person** please call the parish office at 431-1802 or email Paula at [pfritz@saintagnes.com](mailto:pfritz@saintagnes.com) for information on how to learn more about Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church.

### Beyond Belief

Save the dates! *Beyond Belief* is a summer informal gathering for women who are longing for deeper connections and a deeper faith. We will be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays starting on May 19th from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. Bring a chair, snack, and beverage of your choice. Questions? Call or email Shelly Sandfoss at 859-240-2452 or [shellysandfoss@gmail.com](mailto:shellysandfoss@gmail.com).

