



PENTECOST



May 23, 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.

**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

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Mass Intentions

Sunday, May 23-Pentecost Sunday

8:30 a.m. Hilda Keltz
10:30 a.m. Tepe Family

Monday, May 24-The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

6:30 a.m. Communion Service
11:30 a.m. Mary Margaret Johnson

Tuesday, May 25-St. Bede the Venerable; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi

6:30 a.m. Joseph Connelly
11:30 a.m. Grace Poncer

Wednesday, May 26-St. Philip Neri

6:30 a.m. Helen Wells
9:30 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Vince Melching

Thursday, May 27-St. Augustine

6:30 a.m. Deacon Ralph Grieme, Jr.
11:30 a.m. Judy Fewell

Friday, May 28

6:30 a.m. People of the Parish
9:20 a.m. Special Intention
11:30 a.m. Richard Maier

Saturday, May 29-St. Paul VI

8:30 a.m. Margaret "Peggy" Bender
4:00 p.m. Bill Boehmer

Sunday, May 30-The Most Holy Trinity

8:30 a.m. Norbert Lewin
10:30 a.m. Jake Erpenbeck

Rosary, Sunday, May 30th at 8:00 a.m.: Jesse Boone

6:30 a.m. Servers:

May 24th-Jim Bramlage June 1st-Tony Eilerman

Staff Article

Tithing Fund Approaching \$2M Landmark

Back in 2003, Steve Averdick, Paul Finke and Paul Kleier were on our Parish Council. It was a very "tight" time financially in our parish. In the midst of this financially challenging time, they proposed that we begin to tithe as a parish. Many of us had heard of the concept of tithing. It takes several forms, but most center around a person or household setting aside 10% of their income for charity. That 10% often gets split as follows: half for your church (so 5% of total income) and half for other charities (the other 5% of total income).

I had never heard of a parish tithing though and neither had most of Parish Council. Steve, Paul and Paul presented it in a very inspiring way. The parish would take 10% of what we receive from Sunday offerings off the top and set it aside for outreach. It was presented

that we should even set up a special checking account so that the tithing funds are explicitly set aside for outreach, away from the rest of the parish budget.

We discussed this at several council meetings and Parish Council voted unanimously to recommend to me as pastor that we do this. I was a bit concerned because of the financial situation at the time and I was aware that our parish already did a lot along these lines. Then, as now, 5% of our collections and also our school tuition income goes into our Diocesan Secondary School fund where it is used for tuition assistance for students to attend our Catholic High Schools. Another 5.25% of nearly all income supports various diocesan ministries. Also, there were then, as now, the Diocesan Parish Annual Appeal (DPAA) and other special collections. I thought we already did much to support causes and organizations beyond our parish.

However, I very much liked the idea that we would as a parish commit ourselves to various additional outreach causes and institutions, come what may. I liked the idea of our being directly committed "through thick and thin" so to speak. I thought the important thing was the commitment. That our Parish Council was willing to start this during a financially "lean time" I thought boded well for the success of this practice.

This was the start of our "Tithing Fund" which also goes by the "We Are His Hands Fund." We started out at 7% and each fiscal year added a percentage point until we got to 10%. About a third of the funds allocated provide tuition assistance for families to send their children to our grade school. The rest of the funds get used to support various organizations. Some of these organizations/causes have varied over the years. Parish Council periodically makes recommendations about who receives these funds. Currently, each month we send a checks to:

- Monsignor John Francis Murphy Endowment Fund for Saint Agnes School
- Alliance for Catholic Urban Education (ACUE)
- Rose Garden Mission in Covington
- Saint Augustine City Heights Mission
- Notre Dame Urban Education Center
- Saint Vincent de Paul Society, Saint Agnes Chapter
- Saint Agnes Christian Service Committee
- Family Promise of Northern Kentucky

The Tithing Fund has also financed some specific formational projects in our parish—Most recently our equipping and staffing our ability to live-stream Masses during the pandemic. This is a service we plan to continue offering.

Within the next month our so, our parish will surpass

Staff Article continued

the \$2,000,000 mark in funds set aside for outreach via our Tithing Fund since its inception. I am very proud of our parish for doing this since 2003 and I hope every member of Saint Agnes is also proud. The tithing fund represents a remarkable commitment on the part of our parish to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.



Father Mark Keene

Parish Worship

Faith Sharing Questions

Theme of this week's Gospel: Jesus breathes on His disciples to indicate that He is conferring the Holy Spirit on them and tells them they have the power to forgive or retain sins. This shows the origin of the Sacrament of Penance.

Adults: Do you ever doubt some aspects of your faith? Which teaching is the most difficult for you to understand and accept? Do you think the apostles understood everything that Jesus told them?

Teens: Do you ever pray to the Holy Spirit? Can you and your friends discuss what you believe about the Holy Spirit?

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

Next Sunday: May 30, 2021 Most Holy Trinity, Cycle B, Ordinary Time

On the day after Pentecost (May 24th this year) we return to "Ordinary Time" as the Liturgical "Season" and we will remain in Ordinary Time until Advent (November 28th this year). The Liturgical color that characterizes "Ordinary Time" is green. There are three special "Solemnities of the Lord" that follow Pentecost. The first Sunday after Pentecost is the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The second Sunday after Pentecost is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*). The Friday after the Second Sunday after Pentecost is also a Solemnity of the Lord, The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

With the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, we summarize the workings of the Triune God that we have commemorated during Easter Season: The Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (Second Person of the Trinity) which redeemed human

history... the coming of the Holy Spirit (Third Person of the Trinity) which sanctifies humanity... and the Creation of all that is redeemed and sanctified by God the Father (The First Person of the Trinity) who holds all in being. Our readings on this Sunday give us insights into the nature of God as expressed in the Scriptures. Trinity Sunday was declared a feast for the universal church by Pope John XXII in 1334.

Gospel Reading (Matthew 28:16-20): This passage is from the conclusion of the Gospel According to Matthew. The scene is Jesus on a mountain, speaking His final words to His disciples. This depiction of Jesus upon a mountain calls to mind Moses on a Mountain speaking his last words to his people as described in the Book of Deuteronomy. It also calls to mind other depictions of Jesus on other mountains in Matthew's Gospel: the mountain of the "Sermon on the Mount," the "Mountain of the Transfiguration," and the "Mountain of Calvary." In the Bible, mountains are sacred places where earth reaches up to heaven and heaven reaches down to touch earth. On this occasion Jesus instructs His disciples to Baptize "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." These Trinitarian words are the words that are still used today in the Rite of Baptism and are considered necessary for Christian Baptism.

First Reading (Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40): The Book of Deuteronomy is fashioned as a series of "final addresses" of Moses to the Israelites as they are about to enter the Promised Land. Typically, these addresses remind the people of what God has done for them and direct the people to never allow themselves to forget what God has done for them. For their part—and for their own good—the Israelites should follow the Laws of the Lord. The result of this remembrance and observance will be prosperity. Failure to remember will result in loss of the land. By the time Deuteronomy was written (by religious leaders), the Israelites had experienced this lesson many times over, particularly with the loss of their land at the time of the Babylonian Exile (598-538 B.C.).

Second Reading (Romans 8:14-17): In this reading, Paul speaks of how those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. This Spirit is not one of slavery (to the Jewish Law) but rather one of being an heir with Christ, our brother: "The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and join heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

Bulletin Cover Picture

A detail in the Saint Agnes window: The Holy Spirit

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Parish Worship continued

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.

Adorers Needed

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

Monday-12AM, 1AM, 2AM

Tuesday-6PM

Wednesday-2AM

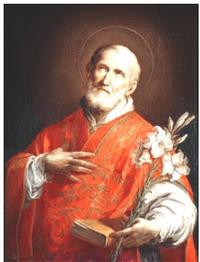
Friday-4AM, 7AM

Saturday-9AM, 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.

Saint of the Week

Saint Phillip Neri



On Wednesday, May 26th, we celebrate the feast day of St. Phillip Neri. He is the patron saint of laughter, humor and joy (as well as US Special Forces). He also prayed, "Let me get through today, and I shall not fear tomorrow". Saint Phillip Neri came at a time when the Church needed renewal and revitalization.

The future saint was born on July 21, 1515 in Florence, Italy to a noble Florentine family. He was schooled by the Dominicans and at 18 he was sent to live with a merchant uncle with the hopes that he would become his heir. While there he had a conversion experience and lost all interest in worldly matters. He went to Rome and lived as a recluse for several years, after which he began studies with the Augustinians. Then he began to work with the homeless and the people of the streets of Rome. He became known as the "Apostle of Rome". He also began a confraternity to help the many poor pilgrims who came to Rome. This confraternity introduced devotion to The Forty Hours of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the confraternity's church.

After all of this he was ordained a priest in 1551 and then founded an Oratory (a group of priests who come together but are not bound by the same vows as monks or nuns). The oratory form has spread throughout the world.

Saint Phillip was joyful and playful. He considered a cheerful heart more Christian than a melancholy one. He was reported to have worn ridiculous clothes and to have gone around with half of his beard shaved off to make people laugh, and he was found at one time listening to another priest read jokes from a book. He was very serious about prayer, but if someone came to see him for confession he would leave his prayers and go to them. He would say "We must leave Christ for Christ". He died on May 25, 1585 at the age of 79 and was canonized on May 11, 1615. What we have here is just the tip of the iceberg about this wonderful saint. You are encouraged to look him up on line or at the library for more about his interesting life.

Stewardship

Status of Sunday Collection

Actual Collections (07/01/20 thru 05/17/21)

\$1,061,343

Budgeted Collections (07/01/20 thru 05/17/21)

\$1,083,290

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 April 30th (the latest day we have figures for) 325 parish households have given or pledged a total of \$134,841.17 (\$103,065.17 actually given) toward our parish goal of \$160,500.00. So as of April 30th, this leaves \$25,658.73 to reach our parish goal.

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

Faith Direct (EFT Donations)

This past week parishioners who are not already using Faith Direct, should have received 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



Stewardship continued

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, located in the vestibules of church.. 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

Parish News

Wedding Banns

I-Emily Beimesch, Saint Agnes & John Beutel

Baby (Bottle) Envelope Campaign

The envelopes for the Baby (Bottle) Envelope Campaign were in the May 9th bulletins. If you were not able to get an envelope, there are extra envelopes in the vestibules of the church. 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.

Donations from this year's Baby (Bottle) Envelope Campaign will go to the student Pro-Life groups at Thomas More University and Northern Kentucky University to help with their pro-life missions. Donations will also be distributed to Madonna House (www.madonnahousenky.org), The Rose Garden Home Mission (www.exclusivesoftware.com/RoseGardenMission) and the Lifeline Fund at Catholic Charities. Donations can be made with cash or checks. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Beth Scott (jacobber@fioptics.com) or 859-586-4017.

Christian Service Committee

We would like to remind parishioners and school families that the St. Agnes Christian Service Committee may be able to provide assistance if you are in need of help with utilities, rent, mortgage, food, medical treatment/medicine, repairs, or other needs. Many individuals and families who never thought they would need help are now finding themselves in difficult situations. The Christian Service Committee has been assisting St. Agnes parishioners and school

families for almost 50 years. All information is kept confidential and only known to the five members on the committee. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please call the parish office and provide your contact information. One of the committee members will reach out to you.

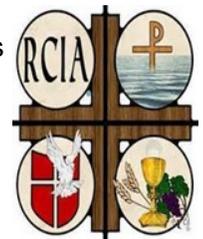
Sincerely,
St. Agnes Christian Service Committee
(Carol Allison, Steve Lorenz, Dave Rehtin, Kevin Schwartz & Ted Vogelpohl)

Faith Formation

RCIA

Alleluia! Our new Catholic, Charlie, has completed his RCIA study of our faith! May he go forth now to more deeply experience the Holy Spirit working in his life and calling him to ministry in his family, his work, his community, and our Church. We encourage Charlie to continue growing in faith through his own personal study as well as through the many faith formation and liturgical experiences offered at St. Agnes and within our Diocese. Please welcome Charlie more fully into our parish family with invitations to serve the Lord with us in our many ministries. May the Holy Spirit grant us all His peace.

If you know someone who is, or if 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 for information on how to learn more about Jesus and His Holy Catholic Church.



FORMED

This Easter Season, would you like to grow in your faith? If yes, how can you do that in the midst of the demands of your already busy daily life? The answer is **FORMED**. Register now for our free parish subscription to **FORMED** where you can access at home at your convenience prayer experiences, Bible studies, documentaries, movies and more that will deepen your love for Jesus and help you become a more effective and powerful witness to our Catholic faith. It's EASY and FREE to Register! Go to www.formed.org Click the "sign in" button in the middle of the page. Next choose "I belong to a Parish..." Then enter St. Agnes Church Ft Wright Kentucky and select our parish. Enter your name and email. Click "sign up" and you are ready to enjoy FORMED. Every time you go to www.formed.org you will be sent to the sign in page. No password needed, just click sign in and you are there! Please sign up today!