



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



SAINT AGNES FIL-AM GROUP (08/12/17)

**Luau at St. Agnes
August 12, 2017**



September 3, 2017

PARISH OFFICE 3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519

Tel: (925) 689-0838 Fax: (925) 689-7899

Office Hours: 9:00am - Noon * 1:00pm - 4:30pm, Monday-Thursday

Website: www.stagnesparish.net * **E-Mail:** stagnesoffice@comcast.net

Instagram: [@stagnesparishconcord](https://www.instagram.com/stagnesparishconcord) * **Twitter:** [@stagnesparish](https://twitter.com/stagnesparish)

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5PM

Sunday: 7AM, 9AM, 10:45AM & 5PM

Daily Mass in the Chapel at 8AM

Monday - Saturday

(Communion Service on Wed.)

Confessions: Saturday 3:30PM

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham
chemans@gmail.com

Deacons

Bill Droick—deaconbill3@gmail.com
Tony Reyes—deacontonyr@gmail.com

Business Manager

Marlene McCann
marlene.stagnesparish@gmail.com

Confirmation/Life Teen Coordinator

Deacon Bill Droick
deaconbill3@gmail.com

Religious Ed/Liturgy Coordinator

Linda D'Souza
lindastagnes@gmail.com

Secretary-Religious Education

Donna Cassianos
donna.stagnesparish@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry

May Hembrador
may.stagnesparish@gmail.com

Liturgical Musician

Lily Melendrez

Bulletins

Please submit your articles to:
donnaroberts1956@gmail.com

Pastoral Council Chair

Linus Farias
linusfarias@sbcglobal.net

SCHOOL OFFICE

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord

Tel.: (925) 689-3990

Office Hours: 7:30 - 4:00 M-F

Principal: Jill Lucia

jlucia@csdo.org

Secretary: Ana Kelley

akelley@csdo.org

Website:

www.stagnesconcord.com

We Cannot Always Fix the Situation

In Last Sunday's Gospel, when asked by His Followers, "who do people say that I am," Peter answers, "you are the Christ of God." Jesus praises Peter for this statement. In this Sunday's Gospel, Peter is not the hero. When Jesus predicts His upcoming death, Peter says, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." Jesus rebukes Peter and says, "Get behind me Satan."

Peter's response would be the same response any of us would have if a loved one was going to be harmed in some way, diagnosed with a disease or come across an evil that was out of anyone's hands. Suffering is one of those things we can't understand: At first, we deny it, "No it can't be." "Why me? I am a good person," "Why do bad things happen to good people?" "Why do evil people get away with so much?" We don't want to suffer and all the more we don't want our loved ones to suffer. It is our nature to fix the situation or to dull the pain. We quickly realize we cannot always fix it. When Peter hears of Jesus' prediction, Peter can't bear it. Despite how many times Peter messes up in the Gospels, Peter loves Jesus and many times wants to protect Him. We are no different than Peter.

Jesus answers harshly to Peter by saying "Get behind me Satan." You're not thinking as God does, but as a human-being. Was Jesus unfair the way He reacted to Peter? Let us not forget Jesus was human and divine. I think Jesus was often disappointed in His followers for not getting what He was about!! After all, they were supposed to be His closest friends and support system. Yet despite this, they often either did not grasp situations or were selfish in their own thoughts and actions.

My middle brother has a saying when things go wrong which can't be controlled, "It is what it is." It is a phrase, that when heard, sounds like a phrase of defeat, but if used in proper context can be a phrase of faith. In the eyes of faith, suffering is not an end. God does not wish us to suffer. We can learn acceptance or surrender. Suffering is humbling and, if we are people of faith, we realize suffering helps us see we are not masters of our own lives. Suffering leads us to rely only on God. If suffering ends in death, then we believe in a loving and merciful God who takes us to a Place of Light, Happiness and Peace. The question to ask is what is true faith?

In my first assignment as a priest, where I spent 14 years of my life, there was a widow who never missed daily morning Mass. She was my protector. I could do no wrong in her eyes. I learned more from her than I learned in nine years of seminary, because she was a lady of genuine faith and wisdom. She had lost her only child, a daughter, to cancer just six months after her husband died. As time went by, many of the older people lost spouses and would wallow in it. I heard her say more than once, "Why are you wallowing in your sorrow? Look at me, I lost my husband and only child and you don't hear me talking about it. You come to church every day. Why? If you have faith, you would celebrate your loved one is in heaven." Why has this stuck in my mind and heart for so long? Because it was not a pious platitude, her faith allowed her to believe this.

The truth is we cannot always fix situations in our lives. We need to lean on a God we don't always understand and yet a God who never abandons us. The sad part of society today, is more and more I see the lack of God and faith in the lives I minister to. It has become a secular society in which career, money and lifestyle rules our lives. I can only hope and pray that God comes back into the lives of our society, or end of life will be a very empty end. The wonderful thing about God is if we are open, God will always embrace us and it is never too late.

Fr. Jeffrey J. Finley, C.P.P.S.

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR AUGUST 27: \$11,574.00

Includes Faith Direct Giving

We thank you for your Stewardship.

Faith and Spirituality

DAILY MASS IN THE CHAPEL

Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM. (Communion Service on Wed.)

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Chapel

Contact Sumner or Veronica Peery at 827-0916 for scheduling.

FOR ADULT LEARNING:

SCRIPTURE SHARING - Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room. New series begins September 7.

FOR MINISTRY:

PRAYER TREE - A ministry of people who pray specifically for those who are ill. Please notify the parish office if you or a member of your family are in, or going into, the hospital.

HELPING HANDS: Please call **Joanne Doorack: 798-1735.**

MARTINEZ SHELTER MEALS: Plan a meal for 35 residents. Purchase & prepare food; serve dinner at the shelter. Please contact to volunteer: **Anne Kurvlo, 925-876-7510 or Anne.kurvlo@gmail.com.**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

Please contact the **St. Vincent de Paul Hotline** at
(925) 689-0838, Ext. 250.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Please call Naomi Holt at (925) 768-3587.

CARING HANDS-JOHN MUIR HEALTH:

Contact **Stacy Appel** by e-mail at ***Stacy.Appel@johnmuirhhealth.com***.

Life Teen/Peer Ministry

Deacon Bill is having a meeting in the Assembly Room of the Ministry Center at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 17th for recent confirmandi who might wish to help with Confirmation. We are building a youth group, not just preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and we need your help. So if you are still in high school and want to help, please join us!

CONFIRMATION & LIFE TEEN

Sacramental preparation is now part of a blended Life Teen program that journeys two years. We are creating a Youth Group that is essentially a Small Christian Community of young adults. Deacon Bill is leading this exciting new ministry and hopes your high school student would like to be part of it. Enrollment begins in 9th grade.

Recent Confirmandi are also invited to serve as Teacher Aides in Small Group discussions. If you have questions, please contact Deacon Bill at: deaconbill3@gmail.com or call the Religious Ed. Office at 689-0838.

CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION K-5 AND EDGE 6-8 GRADES

Registration packets are available in the Church, the Ministry Center and online. Classes start on September 18th.

Children's Faith Formation - Kindergarten through the 5th grade meets Monday nights from 5:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.

Edge - 6th through 8th grades meets Monday nights from 7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m.

Please register soon to guarantee your spot for a fun, faith-filled year. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Ed. Office at 689-0838.

ADULTS interested in becoming Catholic or being confirmed, please contact Deacon Bill at deaconbill3@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR:

<i>Ron Artale</i>	<i>Dave Dewan</i>	<i>Joel Manalang</i>	<i>Gina Rubin</i>	<i>Val Vallis</i>
<i>April Azucena</i>	<i>Stephen Dixon</i>	<i>Tim McCrackin</i>	<i>Jack&Maureen Ryan</i>	<i>Yvonne Egter</i>
<i>Mary Brennan</i>	<i>Jim Farrington</i>	<i>Marv McKean</i>	<i>Greg Scaletti</i>	<i>Van Wissekerke</i>
<i>Amalia Bunge</i>	<i>Le-Chi Feng-Hsiang</i>	<i>Joshua Monitz</i>	<i>Connie Schulte</i>	<i>Pat Weisinger</i>
<i>Ana Bunge</i>	<i>Judy Guarina</i>	<i>Tom Mullegue</i>	<i>Joy Duque Sian</i>	<i>Catherine Werner</i>
<i>Trinity Cereghino</i>	<i>Anna Hennessy</i>	<i>Edward Nettelmann</i>	<i>Margaret Scott</i>	<i>Judy Wiget</i>
<i>George Conlow</i>	<i>Maria Hills</i>	<i>Mary Perez</i>	<i>Rick Smith</i>	<i>Brenda Woodshed</i>
<i>Marie Costa</i>	<i>Sharie Hunter</i>	<i>Natalie Petrini</i>	<i>Barbara Buscaglia</i>	
<i>William Cumins</i>	<i>Ken Kloves</i>	<i>Micah Pilkerton</i>	<i>Striblitz</i>	
<i>Anthony Davi</i>	<i>Camila Koven</i>	<i>Diane Pollard</i>	<i>Linda Taylor</i>	
<i>Kevin Dever</i>	<i>Travis Lash</i>	<i>Phyllis Ray</i>	<i>Carolyn Thompson</i>	

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, September 2, 2017

5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Lee Family
Deceased Members of the Nguyen Family

Sunday, September 3, 2017

7:00 a.m. Ray Asselin—Repose
Barbara McKinnin—Repose
9:00 a.m. Gary Leal—Repose
Dick McGoldrick—Repose
Gary Gabriel—Special Intention
10:45 a.m. Roberto Icaza—Repose
Gary Leal—Repose
Deceased Members of the Grewis Family
5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Monday, September 4, 2017

8:00 a.m. Stephen Cox—Repose
Ramon Santos—Repose

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

8:00 a.m. Lynn Howard—Repose
Loreto Santos—Repose

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, September 7, 2017

8:00 a.m. Elpidio Santos—Repose
Consolacion De Los Reyes—Spec Int.

Friday, September 8, 2017

8:15 a.m. Maria Teresa Legaspi—Repose
Sal Lo Grasso—Repose

Saturday, September 9, 2017

8:00 a.m. George Conlow—Special Intention
5:00 p.m. Harry & Theresa Paolicchi—Repose

Sunday, September 10, 2017

7:00 a.m. Ray Asselin—Repose
9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living & Deceased
10:45 a.m. Peggy, Cy & Neal Coenen—Repose
Carmen Gabriel—Repose
Gary Leal—Repose
5:00 p.m. Vernal & Catherine Howard—Repose
Gary Gabriel—Special Intention

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Monday, September 4, 2017

Ministry Center Closed for Labor Day

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Baptism Preparation Class—GP
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Officers—AR

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
10:30 a.m. Rosary Makers—GP
11:00 a.m. School Disaster Drill
6:00 p.m. CYO Basketball Registration—Cauchi

Thursday, September 7, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Bible Study—A.R.
10:00 a.m. Tutor Meeting—G.P.
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

Friday, September 8, 2017

8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
1:30 p.m. Ministry to the Sick—A.R.
5:30 p.m. Fish Fry—Church Hall
6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel

Saturday, September 9, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
9:00 a.m. Work Party—Grounds
9:00 a.m. Catechists' Retreat—Cauchi Hall
6:00 p.m. Retrouvaille—A.R.

Welcome Back! Our Parish Choir will resume rehearsals beginning on Thursday, Sept. 7. Children will meet at their regular time of 6 p.m., and Adults will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room. Looking forward to seeing everyone all rested and ready to sing for our Lord once again! Hope you all had a wonderful summer vacation!

New members for the Children and Adult Choirs are welcome to join. For information, please call May Hembrador (Director of Music Ministry) at 925-689-0838, ext. 208.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO LIKE TO SING!

Children: The Children's Schola practices begin again on September 18th at 4:30 p.m. in the church music room. Practices are only two times per month. We sing on the 2nd Saturdays of the month with the Adult Schola at the 5:00 p.m. Mass. This is a great opportunity for children to experience being part of Schola chant. For ages 7 and up. It's fun!

Adults: The Adult Schola practices are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the church music room. We sing on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month at the 5 p.m. Mass. Singers of all levels are welcome. Just show up, or for questions, contact **Diana Farias, music leader at 925-348-2744 or sairafL@yahoo.com.**

Parish News and Activities

PRAYERFUL LIVING, GRATEFUL GIVING *Our Stewardship Theme for 2017* *Part 2 – Grateful Giving*

Grateful Giving seems like an easy concept to understand. However, it is not just pulling dollars out of your pockets on Sunday to throw in the collection basket. It is meant to be thoughtful and representative of the first fruits of the gifts of treasure that God has given you. One of the ways you can do that is to participate in the Faith Direct EFT program. Pre-determining at the beginning of the month or year, how much of your financial gifts you will offer to your parish is a direct component of Grateful Giving.

Admittedly, some of us are more blessed financially than others, and those individuals are called upon to give more. However, the size of the gift isn't the main concern. You will remember the story of the widow's mite (Mark 12:41-44 and Luke 21:1-4). A widow donated two small coins in the temple treasury, worth only a few cents, while the wealthy people donated much more. Jesus explained to his disciples that the small sacrifices of the poor mean more to God than the extravagant donations of the rich because the poor woman gave out of her subsistence.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gifts you have bless us with. We ask that you help us to treasure them and to use them for your glory. Amen.

ST. AGNES FISH FRY Friday, September 8, 2017



The first weekend of September is Labor Day weekend, which will be the last weekend for families to get away before school starts in earnest. For that reason, the Knights of Columbus First Friday Fish Fry will be moved to the second Friday of September from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Get out of the heat of your kitchen, and let the knights cook your dinner. Enjoy a fried fish dinner for only \$7 (kids 3 and under are free). Beverages will be available for purchase for a separate fee.

ST. AGNES GERMAN DINNER September 30, 2017

Menu: Bavarian Brats—Hotdogs
Homemade German Potato Salad
Bavarian Beans
Sauerkraut and Apple Strudel



Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$5 Children 5-12, under 5 Free

No Host Bar: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at the Welcome Table and at the Ministry Center.

Questions? Call Kathey Ambacher at 798-7936

Raffle prizes are appreciated. Bring donations to the office.

NO TICKETS SOLD AFTER SEPT 25th.

SAVE THE DATE OCTOBER 14, 2017



The Knights of Columbus will host a Crab and Tri-Tip Dinner on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Tickets go on sale October 1st and are \$50 each.

More information will be coming. Also, if you have any raffle items to donate, please drop them off at the Church Office.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER

- 4 Parish Office Closed for Labor Day
- 6 Walk-in Basketball Regis., 6 p.m., Cauchi Hall
- 8 Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m.
- 10 SVdP Commissioning Mass, 9:00 a.m.
- 17 RCIA classes begin, 10:30 a.m.
- 17 Baptisms, 12:15 a.m.
- 18 CFF (5:00 p.m.) and EDGE (7:00 p.m.) begin
- 20 Confirmation Parent's Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 23/24 Commitment Sunday
- 23/24 Hospitality after all Masses
- 30 SVdp Walk for the Poor, 9:00 a.m.
- 30 German Dinner, 6:00 p.m.

ST. AGNES CYO BASKETBALL Season Sign-ups



CYO basketball sign-ups are open to all boys and girls in grades 2-8 who attend St. Agnes School, live within parish boundaries, or who participated in the CCD program last year.

Walk-in Registration is on September 6, 2017, from 6-9 p.m. at Cauchi Hall. Check for \$215 made payable to St. Agnes CYO (no player refused for financial circumstances). You will need a copy of the birth certificate and proof of residency. To register on-line, visit <http://www.stagnescyo.com>.

ST. AGNES TUTORS

Do you know that St. Agnes Parish has a tutoring ministry? This ministry is in need of **teachers, classroom paraprofessionals, and others experienced in working with students.** We need volunteers on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 PM to work with tutoring students in grades 1 to 3. If you are interested in volunteering your services to tutor, please contact one of the following:

Terryann Sturiale at 925 827-1085 or email satter3@astound.net

Sandi Rigor at 925 682-0387 or email sandirigor@aol.com



Did you get that Email from Father Johnson?

Recently our parish started using a new email and texting service for parish-wide and large ministry email and/or text message delivery. The service is called "Flocknote" and it is built to uniquely serve Catholic parishes like ours. We downloaded about 350 parishioner names, email addresses, and cell numbers provided to us during the parish census activity two years ago. We then uploaded the data into Flocknote, and this allowed Father Johnson to send his first parish-wide email. **Did you get that email?**

We did have about a 10% "bounce" rate, probably due to data errors (wrong email address), but most of the 350 went through. The email was sent on Monday, August 21 and should show a from-address of "Saint Agnes Church" and a subject-line: "Greetings from Father Johnson at St. Agnes Church." If you did not see it, please check your spam folder. If you did not receive it at all and would like to receive these messages going forward, **there will be a sign up clipboard at the Welcoming Table so you can add your name and contact information, or add your cell phone number if you wish to receive text messages.**

We will use this service to send out an advance copy of our Sunday bulletin each week, and occasionally some additional messages you may find helpful or inspiring. We will also be able to quickly send out a brief message by email or text when time-sensitive events happen (e.g. parishioner funeral notices, Mass schedule changes, etc.).

No worries: Flocknote will not sell or use your contact information. It is only for communications within our parish. Also, we will be respectful of your time and not send out messages every day like so many organizations do. Once or twice a week should do it for us! If you have any questions or would like to sign up by email, please contact our St. Agnes Communications Committee (chair: Mike McDermott mtmcder@pabcell.net).

Community Activities

IMPORTANT CATHOLICS CARE DATES

Catholics Care Weekend—September 9-10, 2017

Respect Life Workshop—September 16, 2017

**Thanksgiving Mass for Healthcare Providers
September 30, 2017**

Bishop Michael Barber has designed Sept. 9-10, 2017, as "CatholicsCare" weekend. The intention is to call attention—through the homily to the pressing need to better accompany individuals and caregivers in the Diocese of Oakland who are spiritually, mentally and physically challenged. See diocesan website for more information at www.oakdiocese.org.

SAVE THE DATE

LA MORITA MEXICO YOUTH MISSION

Come join the La Morita Mexico Youth Mission as we begin to plan for our 23rd homebuilding trip to Tijuana, Easter Week, 2018. Our first meeting will be Thursday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Agnes Cauchi Hall. For more information, contact Donna or Jack Walton at jdwalton@astound.net or telephone 925-212-7679.



“ALOHA” TO ST. AGNES LUAU DINNER DANCE **By: Diane Pascual**

On a warm August night (Aug. 12th), the St. Agnes church hall was transformed into a tropical island setting where 200 parishioners and guests who responded to the allure of this island paradise were treated to a night of fun, food, drinks, dancing and entertainment. This event, hosted by the St. Agnes Filipino-American Community (Fil-Am), began the planning stage over 6 months ago with its Chair, Precy Fiscus and Co-chair, Joel Manalang leading the various committees on its tasks. The luau night, as evidenced by its sold-out ticket sales over 2 weeks before the event, multiple solicited donors for the souvenir program, and the unprecedented sale of raffle tickets, was a tremendous success from all accounts.

The night started with the stream of guests arriving – the “wahine” (women) in their dazzling, colorful mu-mus decked in leis and some with haku in their hair, and the “kane” (men) in their Hawaiian shirts and kukui nut necklaces. Friends reconnected with friends, new friendships were made and the place was abuzzed with shrill sounds of excitement. As guests settled in, welcome remarks were given by the Fil-Am chair and co-chair and by Fr. Johnson who also gave the blessing before meal. Then the luau dinner, which featured a 12-course buffet menu, was served and it lasted for almost 2 hours as the 200 guests feasted on it. Immediately following dinner, there was a beautiful rendition of the island’s traditional hula and Tahitian dances performed by “Da Island Way” dance troupe, with dancers ranging in age from 8 to 18. They were truly a spectacular group that added authenticity to the evening’s Hawaiian Luau theme.

The night continued on with the guests crowding the dance floor to show off their terpsichorean skills, as they danced to the cha-cha, boogie, line dance and the difficult tango. In between sets of dance music, they raffled off door prizes and the most awaited raffle of the major cash prizes of \$200, \$300, and \$500. By the end of the evening, even the table decorations of fresh pineapples were given to those who were seated in chairs that were marked with blue tape that were not visible to anyone until the secret was revealed by our energetic emcee of the night, Eric Camaddo.

Everyone went home happy including our supportive pastor, Fr. Johnson Abraham, who repeatedly expressed his appreciation to the Fil-Am for a job well done.

And to all, we say “Mahalo”.