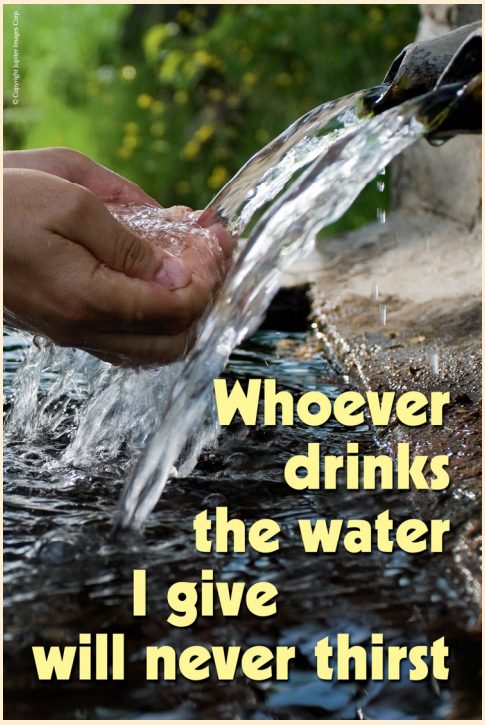
St. Agnes Catholic Community

Many Visions † One People

3rd Sunday of Lent — *March 15, 2020*



OUR PARISH MISSION

To know Christ, and to make Him better known by all, teaching and sharing the Faith, providing worship and spiritual growth opportunities, and serving those in need.

MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

7:00 AM | 9:00 AM | 11:00 AM | 5:00 PM

MONDAY—THURSDAY

8:00 AM in Chapel

(Communion Service on Wednesday)

FRIDAY

8:15 AM in Church

SATURDAY

Daily Mass: 8:00 AM in the Chapel
Reconciliation: 3:30 PM
Sunday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM

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Instagram: stagnesparishconcord
Twitter: @stagnesparish

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday 9:00am - Noon & 1:00pm - 4:30pm

STAFF

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Mike McDermott, Pastoral Council Chair
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Jill Lucia, Principal
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Ana Kelley, Secretary
akelley@csdo.org

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 14, 2020
5:00 p.m. Nancy Rivera—Repose
Maria Costa & Daniel Rosario—Repose
St. San Martin Porres—Special Intention

Sunday, March 15, 2020
7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes, Living and Deceased

9:00 a.m. John Anderson—Repose
L. Schmidt—Repose

11:00 a.m. Ronald Pawelchak—Repose
Gerry Rugani—Repose
Nicanor Talosig—Repose

5:00 p.m. Jim Armstrong—Repose
Mary Currao—Repose
Gilberto Palomo—Repose

Monday, March 16, 2020
8:00 a.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Eduardo Joaquin—Repose
Telesfora Legaspi—Repose

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
8:00 a.m. Consuelo Dominguez—Repose
Tomas Legaspi, Jr.—Repose

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, March 19, 2020
8:00 a.m. Carmen Santos—Repose

Friday, March 20, 2020
8:15 a.m. Katie Hatfield—Special Intention

Saturday, March 21, 2020
8:00 a.m. Carter Born—Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Jim Armstrong—Repose
Tony Ferrari—Repose
Oscar Villanueva—Special Intention

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, March 15, 2020
10:00 a.m. RCIA
3:00 p.m. Confirmation—Year 2—Cauchi Hall

Monday, March 16, 2020
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Council Meeting—Church Hall

Tuesday, March 17, 2020
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Bible Study—Cauchi Hall
7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Communications Meeting—G.P.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
6:30 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Youth Band—Church

Thursday, March 19 , 2020
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Scripture Study—A.R.
6:00 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper—Church Hall
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice—Church
6:30 p.m. ICF Meeting—Cauchi Hall
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice—Church

Friday, March 20, 2020
8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
5:30 p.m. Friday Fish Fry—Church Hall
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross—Church

Saturday, March 21, 2020
8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
All Day Confirmation Retreat—Cauchi Hall
Hospitality and Fair Trade after Weekend Masses

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES
Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent
Tuesday: St. Patrick
Wednesday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Thursday: St. Joseph; Spring begins
Friday: Abstinence

Faith and Spirituality

FOR SPIRITUALITY:

DAILY MASS IN THE CHAPEL—Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM. (Communion Service on Wednesday.)
Friday morning at 8:15 AM in the Church.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Chapel daily from 6 am—9 pm. Contact Veronica Peery at 925-286-6794 for scheduling.

FOR ADULT LEARNING:
SCRIPTURE SHARING: Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room.
Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. in Cauchi Hall.

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: Contact **Cecilia Aronson, cnaronson@gmail.com.**
Helping Hands provides meals in time of need, such as funeral receptions, illness or births.

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY:
Please contact the **St. Vincent de Paul Hotline at (925) 689-0838, Ext. 250.**

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR MARCH 1: $13,104
SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR MARCH 8: $10,726
Includes Faith Direct Giving
We thank you for your Stewardship.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2020

While we were still sinners Christ died for us.

— Romans 5:8

Diaconate Candidate's Reflection

Jesus seems to like going to places he's not supposed to go and being with people he's not supposed to be with.

Like Samaria, for example. It was a territory north of Jerusalem. The bitterness between Jews and Samaritans--who shared a common religious heritage--went back centuries. Samaritans rejected the centralization of worship in Jerusalem and any scriptures other than the Five Books of Moses. Jews felt that Samaritan religion had been corrupted by their accommodating attitude toward the series of pagan empires that had ruled over Israel. Jews travelling from Jerusalem to Galilee generally avoided Samaria.

But Jesus goes there.

Then there's the matter of the woman he meets at the well. It's bad enough that she's a Samaritan. But she's also clearly someone with a difficult past, which may explain why she's gathering well water alone in the heat of midday rather than in the morning with the other women of the village. Small wonder that the disciples were "amazed" to see Jesus talking to her. A pious Jewish man of that time would have kept his distance.

But Jesus goes there. Seeing a pattern here?

Many people today describe themselves as "searching for God." But the message of the Gospel is that God is searching for us. Before we take a single step toward God, he's already running toward us at top speed. There is no place he won't go and nothing in our past that will scare him off.

The disciplines of Lent--prayer, fasting, almsgiving--aren't about proving how spiritually tough we are or how much suffering we are willing to endure to please God. He's already pleased, more than we can know or understand. He's always reaching out for us. Lent is about cutting out the things that keep us from reaching back, the noise that makes it harder to hear God's voice. Like the Samaritan woman, we are being called by Jesus to trade well water for living water, isolation for communion, and fear for bold proclamation that the "savior of the world" has come.

Peter Nixon

Parish News and Activities

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER MEETING

It's time for our annual Eucharistic Minister meeting. This meeting is on **Saturday, March 28, at 9:30 a.m.** We are asking that all Eucharistic Ministers plan on attending this meeting to review our ministry, learn about the upcoming Triduum and Easter Services, discuss any concerns and answer any questions. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

CHRISM MASS

All parishes and members of the Diocese are invited to celebrate the annual Chrism Mass on **Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland.** Join with us as the chief shepherd of our Diocese, Bishop Michael Barber, S.J., blesses the Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick and consecrates the Sacred Chrism, all of which are taken back to the parishes for the celebration of the sacraments. This year's celebration begins with the musical prelude at 6:30 p.m.

JUSTFAITH THURSDAY LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Come join us each Thursday in Lent for hearty, homemade soups, bread, coffee, tea and juice, followed by a penetrating look into the Corporal Works of Mercy as practiced by St. Agnes Parishioners in Ministries to our disadvantaged brothers and sisters.

PROGRAM 6:00-6:30 p.m.—Homemade Soups, Bread, Drinks
6:30-7:00 p.m.—Speaker

Please bring your own Soup Bowl and Spoon

MARCH 19 **We Ask Ourselves, How Can We Welcome the Stranger?**

Just Faith Group Exploring Migration
Showing movie "4.1 Miles"

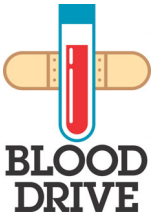
ST. AGNES CHURCH ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Good Friday, April 10, 2020
11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Cauchi Hall

We ask that you consider making a donation during the Good Friday Blood Drive. To schedule your life-saving appointment:

1. Sign up after all masses the weekend of March 20-21 or March 28-29.
2. Email Pat Cesnik at patcesnik@gmail.com
3. Visit vitalant.org click: Donate, Locate a Blood Drive, and enter CODE: Good Friday

Every 3 seconds someone, somewhere needs a blood transfusion - Please be a lifesaver! Each donation may save 3 lives and go to recipients at over 50 Bay Area Hospitals!



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR:

Jim Adams
Dianna Andrews
Ron Artale
John Bedecarre
Paul Boback
Cara Carmody
Fr. Ricardo Chavez
Kandy Chhi
Marian Comber
Eileen Conti
Sheila Doonan
Maria Luisa Garcia
Monica Garcia
Merv Hammond
Tony Harpouche
Peggy Hepa-Lobato
Todd Hurst
Janine Judge
Suzanne Klassen
Chris Klyse
Ed Lexon
Todd Long
Lorna Macadaeg
Joel Manalang
Tom McEachran
Robert Rivera
Kayle Robinson
Nena Rofon
Ellie Rowe
Connie Schulte
Marsha Selhorn
Heather Solari
Bill van Hattem
Lougene Simisim
Jeorge Villanueva
Geoff Wilcoxson

Parish News and Activities

Rice Bowl Story: Meet Yvone from Kenya. She learned proper nutrition and hygiene practices to help keep her healthy and in school. Yvone now has a chance to dream and the strength to follow those dreams. How can you ensure that young people in your community receive proper nutrition?
Visit **crsricebowl.org** for more.

The St. Agnes Knights of Columbus are conducting a **"40 Cans for Lent"** program during Lent. The collected food will go to SHARE to help those in need of assistance. Collection receptacles are located at each of the church exits until Easter Sunday (April 12). Any non-perishable food is welcome. Thank you for making a positive impact in our community.

FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY

Each Friday during Lent, our Knights of Columbus are holding a Fish Fry at 5:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. No need for reservations—tickets are sold at the door.

Menu: Fried Fish (2 pieces cod), French Fries, Salad, Coleslaw, Clam Chowder
Beverages available for added cost.

Price: $10 (free for kids 3 and under)

Questions? Contact King Bunyi at ***enrico_bunyi@yahoo.com.***

The **Spring Casino Bus Trip** will be to **Cache Creek on Thursday, April 23.** The bus departs at 9:00 a.m. (following morning Mass) on Chestnut Ave. in front of the Chapel. The **cost per attendee is $30**, which includes the driver gratuity and $20 Bonus Play. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table with details. Paid reservations are required, and seats are limited to 46, and are first-paid—first-seated.

REBUILD MY CHURCH
Bishop's Appeal

Don't forget the Bishop's Appeal. If you did not receive a donation envelope in the mail, there are extras at the Welcome Table. The Bishop's Appeal provides funds to help offset some of the following programmatic expenses: Parishes & Schools in Need, Clergy Formation and Support, Religious Education and Faith Formation, Pastoral Ministries & Services and Priest Retirement & Care. This year the goal for St. Agnes Parish is $43,200, and we hope to reach this goal to support the mission of the Diocese.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

14 St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
19 Lenten Soup Meal, 6:00 p.m.
20 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.
21/22 Hospitality Sunday, Fair Trade
24 Parish Reconciliation, 7:00 p.m.
26 Lenten Soup Meal, 6:00 p.m.
27 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.
31 School Reconciliation, 9:30 a.m.

March for Life 2020 by Mike McDermott

I was able to participate in the March for Life West Coast in San Francisco on Saturday, January 25. Several other St. Agnes parishioners attended as well as many others from our neighboring parishes. Father Johnson asked me to share my own reflections on the event, and some pictures (*back page*).

This march brings people from all over the bay area, as well as cities in central and northern California. I would estimate 70% or more of the attendees are Catholic, but everyone is welcome regardless of religious or political viewpoint. This peaceful, prayerful, hopeful, life-affirming march is supported by our California Bishops Conference and our Diocese.

This is my fourth year attending, and each time the size and organization of the march impresses me. Tens of thousands of people, including thousands of young people representing the wonderful ethnic diversity of our state, arrive in fleets of buses and BART trains. SFPD was out in force and doing a great job keeping everyone safe.

The march organizers do their best to keep the march family friendly, with no graphic, offensive, or hate-filled signs or chants allowed. You will hear songs like Amazing Grace, America the Beautiful, and traditional prayers being sung along the way.

On a personal level, my viewpoint on the sanctity of life was first formed 50 years ago, when I was a 15-year-old in high school biology class. My teacher had access to formaldehyde-filled jars containing intact pre-born children from various stages of gestation. The smallest was about an inch long, and the largest the size of an avocado (around 4 months). These beautiful little babies were from miscarriages delivered naturally (not dismembered or crushed as happens in abortion).

When I saw them, I felt very sad and I grieved for these (obviously human) little ones who would never know the joys of life. That same year in another class we saw the old reel-to-reel videos of the Nazi concentration camps. Another profound memory I carry with me after 50 years.

Were my teachers wrong to show these disturbing images to high school students as a part of our moral formation? I don't think so. I don't believe abortion, genocide, or other immoral acts against human life would be commonly accepted if the truth were known – as shocking as it is.

Sometimes high school students can see reality (and morality) more clearly than adults. They aren't as jaded or inured to violence as older people, and don't have the need to rationalize or make excuses for what our Catholic Catechism calls "intrinsically evil acts".

I would encourage you to consider taking a few hours to attend this march next year. It is great to see so many young people marching and speaking truth to power on behalf of the most vulnerable.

If you missed the movie ***UNPLANNED*** at St. Agnes, there will be a free movie screening on March 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Bonaventure Catholic Community, 5562 Clayton Road, in their large hall.
UNPLANNED is the powerful story of one woman's journey to truth, conversion and redemption. Abby Johnson was Director of a Planned Parenthood clinic, who abruptly quit her job and became an ardent advocate for life. Whether or not you favor a women's "right to choose," no one will leave this film unmoved by Abby's journey. There will be a second showing in Spanish on Friday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Bonaventure Church in Classrooms B1 & B2.

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Photos from the March for Life Rally in San Francisco on January 25, 2020.
Mike McDermott's reflection on the rally is on page 6.