

St. Agnes Catholic Community

Many Visions † One People

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021



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Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights;
look to the east and see your children gathered
from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that they are remembered by God.
Baruch 5:5

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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

Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm,
Sunday at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am and 5:00 pm.
Daily at 8:00 am. No Daily Mass on Wednesdays.

MASS (via livestream)

8:00 am Mon-Tues and Thurs-Sat.
Masses are livestreamed on Facebook
at facebook.com/stagnesparish/

CONFESSION

Saturday at 3:30 pm in the church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Chapel daily 6:00 am—9:00 pm

PARISH OFFICE

3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519
Tel: (925) 689-0838 Fax: (925) 689-7899
Website: www.stagnesparish.net
E-Mail: stagnesoffice@comcast.net
Instagram: [stagnesparishconcord](https://www.instagram.com/stagnesparishconcord)
Twitter: [@stagnesparish](https://twitter.com/stagnesparish)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

STAFF

Rev Fr. Johnson Abraham, Pastor
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SCHOOL OFFICE

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Jill Lucia, Principal, jlucia@csdo.org
Ana Kelley, Secretary, akelley@csdo.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 4, 2021

5:00 p.m. Ed Lexon—Repose
Kathleen Ding—Special Intention
Greg Jung—Special Intention

Sunday, December 5, 2021

7:00 a.m. Gus Dekker—Repose
Michael Schouten—Repose
Jean Walsh—Repose
9:00 a.m. John Ouimet—Repose
Jean Walsh—Repose
Maureen Ryan—Special Intention
11:00 a.m. Jim Armstrong—Repose
Merv Hammond—Repose
Marc Pascual—Repose
5:00 p.m. Edgardo B. Castro—Repose
Dylan McEachran—Repose

Monday, December 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. Sofia Baniqued—Repose
Loreto Santos—Repose

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

8:00 a.m. Sofia Baniqued—Repose
Joseph Himsl—Repose
Elpedio Santos—Repose

Wednesday, December 8, 2021—Holy Day of Obligation The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Masses will be at 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. and offered
For the People of St. Agnes, Living and Deceased

Thursday, December 9, 2021

8:00 a.m. Jim Armstrong—Repose
Alma Teresa Legaspi—Repose
Tami McEachran—Repose

Friday, December 10, 2021

8:00 a.m. Beatriz Legaspi—Repose
Sal Lo Grasso—Repose
Manuela Santos—Repose

Saturday, December 11, 2021

8:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, December 5, 2021

10:00 a.m. Families of Faith Session—Cauchi Hall
12:00 noon Giving Tree Distribution
3:30 p.m. Retrouvaille—Assembly Room

Monday, December 6, 2021

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
10:00 a.m. Just Faith—A.R.
7:30 p.m. Knights of Columbus—A.R.

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
11:00 a.m. STARS Luncheon—Church
3:00 p.m. Liturgy Meeting—A.R.
6:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Pre-Baptism Class—G.P.

Wednesday, December 8, 2021—The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Mass—Church
6:30 p.m. Catholic Daughters—
Cauchi Hall
7:00 p.m. Mass—Church



Thursday, December 9, 2021

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
9:30 a.m. Bible Study—A.R.
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice—Church

Friday, December 10, 2021

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church

Saturday, December 11, 2021

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
9:30 p.m. Confession—Church

A BUSY MOTHER

Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children. —St. John Vianney

SACRAMENTAL NEEDS

For any of your sacramental needs, please contact the parish office at 925-689-0838.
The office is open from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Faith and Spirituality

FOR SPIRITUALITY:

RITE OF CATHOLIC INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA):

Please contact Donna Roberts by email at donnaroberts1956@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURE SHARING:

Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room.

For questions or information, contact:

Christine McDermott, 925-676-2384 or email cemcdermott@pacbell.net.

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.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY:

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

HELPING HANDS: Contact **Anne Kurylo**, 925-876-7510, anne.kurylo@gmail.com.

Helping Hands provides meals in time of need, such as funeral receptions, illness or births.



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Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

God has commanded

that every lofty mountain be made low.

— *Baruch 5:7*

Deacon's Reflection

Advent begins the new liturgical year for us to start anew. Advent is a period of repentance, reflection and waiting, as well as a time of preparation and anticipation. We let go of our past sin, seek repentance, and ask Jesus to enter into our lives. This time is about hope and joy, and to reflect on Jesus' birth and Jesus who humbled himself by coming as a child into this world entrusted to Mary the mother of God.

The first week of Advent is about being prepared for Jesus' coming. Always being attentive for his coming every day so that it prepares us to be ready for his glorious arrival at the end of the world and prepares us for the total transformation of our lives. Are we preparing with the same zeal that we have for Christmas shopping and the Christmas meal preparations?

The second week of Advent is about repentance of sin. This is shown by John the Baptist as the travelling preacher, preaching to repent and a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John the Baptist expressed an urgency that the kingdom of heaven is at hand and we must repent. He is the voice crying out in the wilderness. What can we do to repent?

The third week of Advent is about purification of the soul in that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Also, John the Baptist acting as a mentor to those who want to participate in the reign of God and preaching the good news about Jesus. John the Baptist shows great humility when he says he is not worthy to untie the sandal straps of Jesus. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask him, "What should we do?" To the crowds he said that whoever has two cloaks to share with the person who has none, and to share food. John the Baptist told the tax collectors to stop collecting more than was prescribed, and to the soldiers he said to stop practicing extortion, not to falsely accuse someone, and to be satisfied with their wages. He preached justice and mercy for the marginalized. What should we do?

The fourth week in Advent is about joy, with Mary visiting Elizabeth and John the Baptist leaping for joy in Elizabeth's womb. Elizabeth cries out to Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth is aware of the divine presence of our Lord. Do we perceive the divine presence in the Eucharist?

During Advent we contemplate Christ's birth through prayer and reflection and prepare for his second coming.

Deacon Sumner Peery

Parish News and Activities

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFT PROGRAM

Once again, the St. Vincent de Paul members are collecting names of children who may have a difficult time getting Christmas gifts this year. We will buy and give gifts to neighbors in need that we have worked with this year, as well as any other families that get referred to us.



Today is an exciting day! Giving Tree gifts are pouring in and will be distributed to our groups. Your generosity will make Christmas much brighter for all of them. If you forgot your gift card or couldn't bring it by the due date, please drop it off at the Ministry Center by the end of the day Monday December 6. God Bless!!

HOW YOU CAN HELP: You can refer families to us at 925-689-0838 x250 or just tell one of the members or leave a note at the Ministry Center. You can also choose a family to shop for—it takes a lot of time to do all of this shopping! Contact Donna Walton at 925-212-7679 or email djtcwalton@gmail.com.

2022 CALENDARS

St. Agnes Calendars for 2022 are available at the Welcome Table. The theme for 2022 is Feasts and Saints. The Welcome Table contains a variety of information as well as books or booklets. Please help yourself to anything at the front of the table that you want/need.

TELEPHONE UPDATE

If you are having challenges reaching the Ministry Center, please remember that effective October 24, the FCC changed the telephone requirements so that a telephone call requires entering both the three-digit area code and the seven-digit telephone number to complete the call. Therefore, you need to dial 925-689-0838 to reach us. You may need to update your automatic dialers or cell phones to add the area code.

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR:

Dianna Andrews	Zane Drobnick	Joey McClure	Connie Schulte
Norm Andrews	Joy Dixon	Hugh McManus	Marsha Selhorn
Ron Artale	Nancy French	Lily Melendrez	Sophia Senh
Aurora Asprer	Marie Frisbee	Ilia Minder	Heather Solari
Joaquin Bigol	Maria Luisa Garcia	Susan Noard	Lougene Simisim
Paul Boback	Monica Garcia	Jeff Null	Adenia Sullivan
Lynn Broaddus	Tony Harpouche	Lisa O'Brien	Margarita Torres
King Bunyi	Todd Hurst	Gerardo Palomo	Josephina van Hattem
Cara Carmody	Jon Ignacio	Rafael Preciado	George Villanueva
Patrick & Angela Chan	Suzanne Klassen	Ricky Quintana	Betty Wilson
Becky Chargulaf	Chris Klyse	Robert Rivera	
Kandy Chhi	Todd Long	Kayle Robinson	
George Conlow, Jr.	Lorna Macadaeg	Nena Rofon	
Eileen Conti	Joel Manalang	Robert Rogalinski	
Sandra Debrichy	Mike Marshall, Jr.	Maureen Ryan	

Parish News and Activities

Advent Reconciliation



Our Advent Reconciliation will be on Monday, December 13, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please come and experience God's forgiveness in this season of Advent.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

What earthly undertakings do I need to set aside
so that I can set out to meet God's Son?

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Worldwide Marriage Encounter

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Sign up today to prepare your marriage to follow the Lord by attending one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experiences. Both Virtual and In-Person Experiences are available. The next in-person Experience in the Oakland Diocese is March 4-6, 2022. Go to www.wwme.org to find the Experience that is just right for you!

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Nicholas
Tuesday: St. Ambrose;
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Wednesday: The Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
Thursday: St. Juan Diego
Friday: Our Lady of Loreto
Saturday: St. Damasus I

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

Psalms — The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

Second Reading — May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11).

Gospel — John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-3, 10ac, 11-13;
Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab;
Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80: 2ac, 3b, 15-16,
18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Parish News and Activities

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FREE THROW INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Congratulations to Caleb Cook, a 7th grader from St. Agnes School, who won the district, state, national, and international Free Throw Championship for 13-year-old boys!

Since 1972, the Knights of Columbus have sponsored a Free Throw Championship for boys and girls from the ages of 9 to 14 to provide an athletic outlet and encourage the values of sportsmanship and healthy competition. Kids compete within their own gender and age and progress from local level to district, regional and state/province competitions.



Caleb Cook (above) receives his award from Richard Milward, Grand Knight of St. Agnes Council #15344 of the Knights of Columbus.

JUST FAITH

The Just Faith Committee continues to explore how we can help our church and our nation to become more just. We have been reading Martin Luther King, Jr's "Letter from the Birmingham Jail." Here is our selection for this week:

"We have waited for more than 340 years for our constitutional and God given rights. When you have seen vicious mobs Lynch your mothers and fathers; drown your brothers and sisters; policemen curse, kick, and even kill your brothers and sisters; see you Negro brothers bothering in an airtight cage of poverty....when you are humiliated day in and day out; your first name is 'nigger'; your wife and mother never given the respected title of 'Mrs.'; harried by day and haunted at night by the fact you are a Negro; live at tiptoe since; never quite knowing what to expect next; plagued by inner fears and outer resentments; forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodies'—then you will understand...our legitimate and unavoidable impatience."



If you have been enjoying the photos from the parish pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima, the Apostleship of the Sea offers cruises and tours, including one from May 31-June 11, 2022 to Fatima, Lourdes and the Shrines of Spain. Ministry onboard cruise ships offer a wonderful opportunity for vacation, celebrating a special event, or even to recover from a loss.

If you would like more information about this or any of the other cruises offered, please visit

CatholicCruisesandTours.com or contact Eileen at **860-399-1785**.

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LOSS GATHERING

Last month we mourned our faithfully departed and celebrated their lives at a Mass of Remembrance. Holidays are an especially difficult time for those who have suffered a loss. We are inviting you to a gathering for those who have lost something very important to them such as ***A loved one, A job, An Opportunity, A hope or A dream.*** You may be experiencing symptoms related to these losses—for example: sleep disturbance, appetite changes, confusion, short-term memory loss, or strong emotions such as anger, sadness, fear, guilt or self-isolation.

Let us come together as a parish community for a spiritual search and social support. If you are interested, kindly contact Lynda Conlow via email at conlow@astound.net.

