

# The Parish of St. Agatha

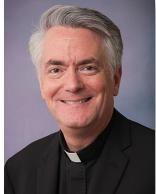
Milton ~ Quincy, MA

December 21-25, 2019

[StAgathaParish.org](http://StAgathaParish.org)



## A Note from Our Pastor,



Heartfelt thanks to the many people who have worked tirelessly for us to lift up our hearts and souls in praise of God for the birth of His Son and our Savior Jesus Christ: the Boy Scouts who set up our manger outside the church; the 8<sup>th</sup>-graders from St. Agatha School who transported all the figures and delicately positioned them in that same manger; the members of our Art and Environment Committee who decorated the upper church and the chapel so beautifully; our Faith Formation students who decorated the Christmas trees up and down; our several choirs who with Julie Fay have been rehearsing for our Christmas Masses, and Jane Cleary and Kathleen Hill who will be providing the music in our Parish Center/Gym on Christmas Eve; Lily Curley and those working with her in organizing and directing the Christmas Pageant, and of course the children who participate in it; Lisa Gulino, parish council members, and others for organizing a group of families and other parishioners who will be serving as greeters at the Christmas Masses; my brother priests, Deacon Dan, and all our liturgical ministers for their service in the sanctuary at our Christmas Masses; and those many, many parishioners whose labors and donations to My Brother's Keeper have brought such joy to needy families throughout our region.

Please note the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Schedule here on the cover of the bulletin. The one collection

## St. Agatha Parish Christmas Mass Schedule

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00pm – Choir with Brass  
(Upper Church)

4:00pm – Congregational Singing  
(Parish Center Gym)

6:00pm – Pageant & Children's Choir  
approx. 11:45 pm – Prelude Music  
12 Midnight – Choir

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

DECEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>

7:30am – Congregational Singing  
9:00am – Congregational Singing  
10:30am – Choir with Brass

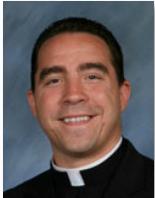
12 Noon – Congregational Singing  
**NO 5:00PM MASS**

taken up at the Christmas Masses supports the Clergy Health and Retirement Fund for the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. Thank you for your support, especially since we have 2 wonderful senior priests in Fr. Pat McLaughlin and Fr. Tom Powers here who serve our parish with such dedication and who benefit directly from this collection.

We have a lot of wonderful activities here at St. Agatha Parish, but I want to alert everyone to something that is very spiritually enriching that we'll be launching in several months. I enthusiastically announce to you that on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 all are invited to come, see, and join your fellow parishioners as we embark on a new and exciting initiative we shall host at our parish—Alpha! Alpha is an opportunity to share a meal together and to participate in interactive sessions where all those present are able to explore life and Christian faith freely in a friendly, and informal environment. The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like: "Who is Jesus?" "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?" You will be hearing more about this from us priests, other parish staff members, and your fellow parishioners—so please mark your calendar for March 4<sup>th</sup>!

Have a blessed Fourth Sunday of Advent and a holy and joy-filled Christmas!

*Fr. Palaridy*



## Merry Christmas!

The original *Cantique de Noël* or O Holy Night's English translation says "The entire world thrills with hope on this night which gives us a savior." The unfathomable gift of Jesus should make us literally giddy with joy!

A joy that must be shared! In the midst of our chaotic lives let's pause and thank God and say Merry Christmas.

**Fr. Jay Makos**



## Come Lord, Jesus

Those who pray the Breviary recite a hymn on all feast days called "Te Deum". The title is from the first words of a poem that was included in a hymn book by St. Ambrose in the 4th century. It praises God the Father for sending his Son out of love to redeem us. Even before that there were Christians who recited the short phrase "Come, Lord Jesus." Some of them said it 50, 100 or more times a day. It continued until the Blessed Mother sanctioned the Rosary as her favorite prayer. I have put them together. You might want to reflect upon them during the Christmas season and maybe even after it.

*You are God; we praise you; You are Lord; we acclaim you; You are the eternal Father: all creation worships you. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you, the noble fellowship of prophets praise you, the white-robed army of martyrs praise you.*

*Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. ~ Come Lord Jesus.*

*You, Christ are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became a man to set us free you did not spurn the Virgin's womb. ~ Come Lord Jesus.*

*You overcame the sting of death, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at the right hand of the Father in glory. We believe you will come again and be our judge. ~ Come Lord Jesus.*

*Come then Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting. ~ Come Lord Jesus.*

May you and your loved ones have a Happy Christmas.

**Fr. McLaughlin**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent—Dec 21–22—Year A**  
This Week's Readings can be found at  
**# 1000** in the *Gather* books

## On Christmas ~ One Collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust

Merry Christmas from all the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. At all our Christmas Masses, our only collection will be to support the retirement, medical and financial needs of priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. These priests have given their lives to faithfully serve Christ, the Church, and you. On behalf of all of our priests, thank you in advance for your generosity. For more information, please visit [www.clergyfunds.org](http://www.clergyfunds.org).

### SCHEDULE OF MASSES

#### Daily Masses:

**Monday–Friday:** 7:00am & 9:00am

**Saturday & Holidays:** 8:00am

#### Reconciliation:

3:45–4:15pm on Saturdays. Any other time by appointment



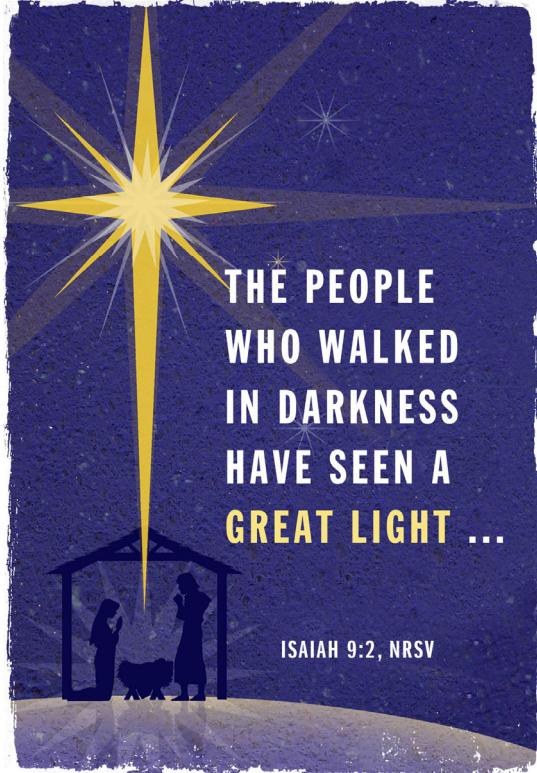
#### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 4:30pm

**Sunday:** 7:30am • 9:00am • 10:30am • noon • 5:00pm

#### Holy Days:

As Announced



**For New Year's Day, January 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a vigil Mass at 4pm on Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and the Wednesday Masses will be at 8am and noon.**



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## Time to Celebrate & Give Thanks

You will notice that the weekly financial reporting is missing this week. This is not an oversight, and it will return next week. But this is a time to set aside the issues of bricks and mortar and dollars and cents and focus on the wonderful Holyday we celebrate and the many blessings we as a community have been given. It is a time to rejoice in the birth of Our Savior, and to give thanks to His Mother Mary for saying yes to God's call. It is a time to share memories of days gone by, and a time to renew our hope for the days ahead. It is a time to give of ourselves to family, friends and those in need. It is also a time to give thanks for the many gifts God has bestowed on us as a parish community.

Those gifts are indeed manifold. When you look around you on Christmas, consider how fortunate we are to have the beautiful worship space and our renovated Lower Church. Consider also the gifts of so many people who give of themselves to help make our experience of the Liturgy so meaningful. From the priests, to the various liturgical ministers, to the Choirs, to the team that decorates and beautifies the Church at Christmas and throughout the year—we are so blessed to have this myriad of people who share their gifts with all of us. Then consider the many people who so willingly give of themselves to serve others. From outreach to the those in need, to serving those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, to educating our young people in the Faith, to our sacramental preparation programs, to our ministry to the homebound, the examples of our community's caring and sharing are many. We are also blessed by a wonderful school which provides a superb Catholic education in a warm and supportive environment. God is so good. As we take pause in our busy lives to reflect on His goodness to us, may this season also be a time for each of us to consider how we can make a gift to Him—by making a difference by becoming involved—or perhaps re-involved—in this vibrant and caring community. Have a Blessed Christmas season!

*Jack Riley*

### St. Agatha Parish

Rectory@StAgathaParish.org  
Parish Website: StAgathaParish.org

#### Clergy

Rev. William B. Palardy, Pastor  
Rev. Jason M. Makos, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan  
Rev. Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Priest in Residence  
Rev. Thomas Powers, Senior Priest in Residence  
Deacon Shawn Simchock, Seminarian Intern

#### Pastoral Associate

Dr. Lisa M. Gulino, Igulino@StAgathaParish.org

#### Parish Administration

Mr. Jack Riley, Finance and Operations Manager  
Ms. Dale Blanchard, Operations Assistant  
Ms. Kathy Monahan, Administrative Assistant/Bulletin Editor  
Ms. Eileen Callahan, Administrative Assistant/Bulletin

Phone: 617-698-2439

Fax: 617-698-1517



We are very blessed here at St. Agatha's to have many parishioners share their talents with us at the Christmas season. The accompanists, cantors and choirs who have been rehearsing to make each service inspiring and joyful as well as the members of the Arts & Environment team who have decorated the Church so beautifully. **THANK YOU!**



## 'Tis the Season to Get Engaged!

Did you know that 43% of couples get engaged from November through January? If you are one of those couples, the parishioners and staff of St. Agatha Parish offer our faith-filled congratulations on your engagement. This is a very exciting time in your lives and in those of your family. A guiding principle in planning your wedding is to remind yourselves that you are celebrating a sacrament, a sign of God's love. It is your faith-filled and loving presence to each other in marriage, celebrated in the presence of God, family and friends. If you would like to be married at St. Agatha Parish, now is the time to contact Fr. Palardy, Fr. Makos or Deacon Sullivan to set an appointment for you and your fiancé to discuss possible wedding dates and times. You may call the Rectory: 617-698-2439, or send an email: Fr. William Palardy: wpalardy@StAgathaParish.org, Fr. Jason Makos: jmakos@StAgathaParish.org or Deacon Daniel Sullivan: dsullivan@StAgathaParish.org. Generally, you will meet with the priest or deacon three times. This number will increase or decrease depending upon the circumstances of your wedding. Couples preparing for marriage are required to attend some form of marriage preparation and instruction beyond the meetings with the priest or deacon. More details about scheduling your wedding can be found on the Marriage page under Sacramental Life on our Parish web site: www.StAgathaParish.org.

*Deacon Dan*

### Music Ministry

MusicDirector@StAgathaParish.org  
Mrs. Julie Fay, Director of Music and Parish Organist

### St. Agatha School

School@StAgathaParish.org  
Fax: 617-696-6288

School Website: StAgatha.org

Mrs. Nancy Carr, Principal

Mrs. Michelle Tierney, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Joan Brown, Tuition Coordinator

**ST AGATHA FAITH FORMATION** 617-696-1388

Grades 1-6 FaithFormation@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Beth Peterson, Director

Mrs. Jenn Caputo, Administrative Assistant

**Grade 7-10 & Young Church Ministry** 617-696-8978

YoungChurchMinistry@StAgathaParish.org

Ms. Helen Bornhorst, Coordinator



## ~ Carry Your Candle ~

Saint Agatha School is blessed to be part of Saint Agatha Parish and strives to support its parishioners and the community. This holiday season we continued to carry out the theme of our ministry ~ “Carry Your Candle.” by creating an awareness of the importance of community outreach in support of our fellow brothers and sisters in an attempt to bring the hope and light of Jesus to everyone in our community. Our middle schoolers once again visited My Brother’s Keeper warehouse in Easton and held a bake sale to support it. The students also held a food drive for the needy and donated to St. Jude’s Children Hospital during the holiday season.

Wishing all at Saint Agatha Parish and School Community a Merry and Blessed Christmas!

*Mrs. Nancy Carr, Principal*



*By mid-December, 105 coats were donated for the coat drive. Keep those coats coming—we are collecting thru January 10th! Thank you to those who dropped coats at our school and church.*



Early Childhood through Grade 8

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**Contact Information**

**NAME:**

First

Last

**Address:**

Number

Street

Town/City

Zip

Residence phone (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(please print)

Please return this form to the rectory office, or place it in the collection basket. Questions?? Please call Kathy at the rectory 617-698-2439.



## **God is good all the time!**

**God is good all the time! All the time God is good!** God is good to bless us with the beautiful children of Faith Formation in grades 1–6 who come weekly with open hearts and minds to grow closer in their relationship with God. They are a true source of JOY! For example, this year for the first time in October we prayed a “Living Rosary” during our Faith Formation Session, requiring over 70 student volunteers to represent a bead on the rosary. We were amazed at the enthusiastic participation from the children as they all came together and joyfully prayed the Glorious Mysteries. In November the children were asked to participate in a “favorite Saint” project. They drew pictures of their favorite Saint along with a few facts about the Saint and the Gathering Space was adorned with their artwork. The Christmas Trees you see in the foyer of the Church and in the Gathering Space are decorated by the children with the creative ornaments they made. Every week we are privileged to see the goodness of God at work through the children of Faith Formation and the JOY they bring!

God is good for sending us the wonderful families who set the example for their children and are dedicated to raising their children as disciples of Jesus. The kindness and support we receive from our families is awesome!

God is good for providing us an amazing team of over 60 wonderfully dedicated volunteers who make our program possible, we are so grateful to them. Our Catechists, our door and hall monitors and office helpers—we are truly blessed to have these volunteers live out their call of discipleship.

God is good for providing us with a fantastic parish and school staff. We are thankful to have kind, caring, and committed people to work with and who support the Faith Formation Program.

Wishing you blessings for a very merry Christmas and a joy-filled New Year!

***Mrs. Beth Peterson & Mrs. Jenn Caputo***



## **Music Ministry Notes**

*All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth, break into song; sing praise. (Psalm 98:3-4)*

Our Savior is born! Just like the angels who announced the birth of Jesus, we sing our praise and thanksgiving to God for his great victory over sin and death. *Glória in excelsis Deo!* Glory to God in the highest!

The music ministry at St. Agatha’s helps to lead our parish’s sung prayer at Holy Mass and for other parish celebrations throughout the year. We are:

- The Youth Choir, welcoming singers in gr. 3-8 and singing the 9am Sunday Family Mass during the school year;

**ST. AGATHA  
YOUTH MINISTRY**  
igniting a fire and leading teens closer to Christ

***Merry Christmas!*** At St. Agatha’s, we welcome and invite all teens into community and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We have many events and activities that center around forming them into disciples!

Our youth group meets twice a month on Sunday Nights from 6-8 pm. We discuss relevant faith topics through witness talks and small group discussion, spend time laughing through games and upbeat activities, and we end our nights in a time of prayer in the Chapel. This Fall, we kicked off Pizza & Prayer which focuses on building community and introducing teens to new methods of prayer that they can use in their own lives. In addition, many of our Confirmation candidates that will be confirmed this March attended a weekend retreat this past November to dive into the freedom we find in Christ. They enjoyed time building foundations of authentic community and prayer.

Our annual Appalachia Service Project Trip doubled in size this past summer and more people were able to experience a deeper love and service for many low income families in need of home repairs. With the Giving Tree Project, we began a new initiative to connect the dots between faith and service. The hope is to incorporate prayer, reflection, and the sacraments in union with monthly service opportunities!

At the core of all that we do is a drive to give teens an outlet where they feel accepted, appreciated, wanted, and loved amidst the busyness and craziness of their lives. Please pray for our ministry that it would be God’s light in their lives.

Consider following us on social media at St. Agatha Youth Ministry (facebook) and @staggiesmilton (instagram). Have a wonderful holiday!

***Helen Bornhorst***

- The Traditional Choir, welcoming singers of high school age through adulthood, singing the 10:30am Sunday Mass;
- The Contemporary Choir, welcoming singers and instrumentalists of high school age through adulthood, singing the 12pm Sunday Mass; and
- The Youth Band, welcoming teen and young adult singers and instrumentalists, providing music for the 5pm Sunday Mass.

Our music ministry welcomes new members throughout the year. If you enjoy music and are thinking about joining us, why not try it? It could be the musical and spiritual resolution that makes 2020 a year of renewed faith and fellowship for you! Drop me a line at [musicdirector@stagathaparish.org](mailto:musicdirector@stagathaparish.org), call the office or stop by the organ console after Mass sometime. We would love to welcome you!

***Julie Fay***

## #GodIsTrending

Christmas joy to you and your family! We at St. Agatha Parish know **who and what our greatest gifts are**:

- **GOD** reveals his personal and eternal love for each of us by becoming one of us!
- **YOU** and your **families!** Parish life is “a community of communities”—that is to say—parishes are alive because of the love and beauty of people who come and worship together.
- **SACRAMENTS**—the gifts freely given which bring to the depths of our soul and the restlessness of our heart—God’s peace and grace.

A parish is a place to find community as we **grapple** with life’s questions, as we **rejoice** in our blessings, and as we **profess faith**.

The New York Times recently reported Google stats for searches about God. God is “**trending**”, “meaning of life” search is “blowing up the net”, and spirituality and worship topics are being “**googled**” with incredible frequency. The average **monthly** U.S. searches about God questions are:

- *Who created god?* 25,142 searches per month!
- *Why does god allow suffering?* 9,769 searches!
- *Why does god want us to worship him?* 348 searches!

We invite you “come and see” and “search” with others (not the impersonal Google) to look for answers and the meaning of life and to discover ways to grow in spirituality. On March 4, 2020, (here before you know it) we launch ALPHA—which helps us to informally relax over a meal, watch a video, and explore the quest for happiness and fullness of life.

Christmas time reminds us—God is not some remote highest being, forever inaccessible. He is very close to us; we can call to him; we can always reach him. God has time for me—he awaits us in the crib, in the Word, and in the Eucharist. *May your Christmas and New Year be filled with wonder and awe!*

*Lisa M. Gulino*

### SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

**Baptism:** 2:00pm on the 2nd/4th Sundays of each month. Please call the Rectory to arrange/ask questions regarding other arrangements.

**Reconciliation:** 3:45-4:15pm on Saturdays.  
Any other time by appointment.

**Marriage:** Call one of the parish priests or deacon. Arrangements are ordinarily to be made at least 6 months before the proposed marriage.

### MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 21</b>	
8:00am	Birth. Memorial	Barbara Truesdale
4:30pm	29th Anniversary	Anthony F. Spinelli
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 22</b>	
7:30am	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha
9:00am	Anniversary	Jim MacInnis
10:30am	Anniversary	John P. Linehan
12:00pm	5th Anniversary	Mary & Ray Byron
5:00pm	Memorial	Molly Stenson
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
7:00am	Birth. Memorial	John E. Toland
9:00am	1st Anniversary	Judy MacCurtain
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>
8:00am	20th Anniversary	Anne A. Donahue
4:00pm	<i>Upper Church</i>	Choir with Brass
4:00pm	<i>Parish Center Gym</i>	Congregational Singing
6:00pm		Pageant & Children’s Choir
11:45pm		Prelude Music
Midnight		Choir
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 25</b>	<b>Christmas</b>
7:30am		Congregational Singing
9:00am		Congregational Singing
10:30am		Choir with Brass
12:00pm		Congregational Singing
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 26</b>	
7:00am	Memorial	Betty S. Duffy
9:00am	Memorial	Maggy & Rita Leonard
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 27</b>	
7:00am		Anna Macdonald
9:00am	Anniversary	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 28</b>	
8:00am	1st Anniversary	Timothy Mullen
4:30pm	Memorial	Charles & Rachel Seminatore & Charlene Mulhern
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 29</b>	
7:30am	Memorial	Bridget & James Ed. O’Connor
9:00am	Memorial	Maggy & Rita Leonard
10:30am	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha
12:00pm	Memorial	Elizabeth McVeigh
5:00pm		



**Bingo  
Night**

*There will be NO BINGO on  
Monday, December 23*

*BINGO returns on Monday, December 30.*

*Thank you to all the players & the volunteers  
that make it run smoothly every week.*

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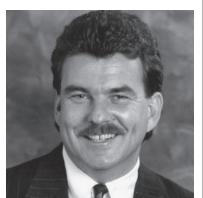
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