

The Parish of St. Agatha

Milton ~ Quincy, MA

April 4-5, 2020

StAgathaParish.org

ST. AGATHA RECTORY

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9am-4pm
432 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

ST. AGATHA SCHOOL

440 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Daily Masses:

Monday – Friday: Livestreamed daily at 9 am on
Saturday & Holidays: stagathaparish.org

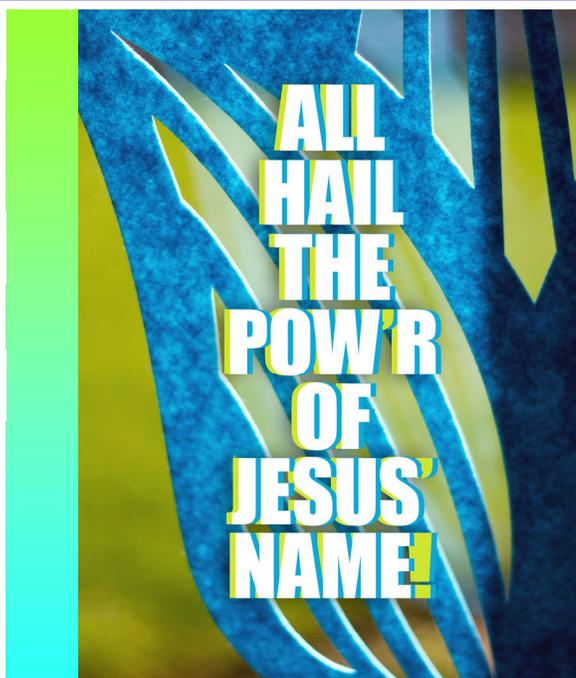
Reconciliation: Suspended until further notice.

Weekend Masses:

Saturday: Suspended until further notice
Sunday: per directives from the Archdiocese of Boston. Daily livestreams are available on stagathaparish.org

Holy Days: As Announced

- There are assistive devices for the hearing impaired available in the Sacristy before all Masses.
- Low gluten hosts are available. Please see priest before Mass if needed.



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Agatha Parish is a Christian Community of Catholics from Milton, Quincy and beyond, whose Mission is to demonstrate Love by:

- proclaiming and celebrating God's Presence on earth;
- being open and welcoming to all;
- reaching out to our sisters and brothers near and far; providing opportunities for prayer, service, education and recreation.
- In living this Mission, we accept our responsibility for giving witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY April 5

Mass Livestreamed at 11:00 am

Monday, April 6 • Tuesday, April 7 • Wednesday, April 8

Daily Mass Livestreamed at 9:00 am

HOLY THURSDAY April 9

Morning Prayer Livestreamed at 9:00 am
Mass of the Lord's Supper Livestreamed at 7:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY April 10

Morning Prayer Livestreamed at 9:00 am
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Livestreamed at 3:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY April 11

Morning Prayer Livestreamed at 9:00 am
Easter Vigil Livestreamed at 8:00 pm

EASTER SUNDAY April 12

Mass Livestreamed at 11:00 am

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion • Apr 4-5—Year A

This Week's Readings can be found at

https://lifelongcatechesis.osv.com/sunday_readings/en/palm_sunday_of_the_lords_passion

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, lgulino@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

Music Ministry

MusicDirector@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Julie Fay, Director of Music and Parish Organist

St. Agatha School

School@StAgathaParish.org

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

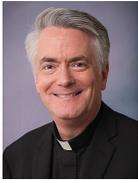
Grades 1-6 FaithFormation@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Beth Peterson, Director
Mrs. Jenn Caputo, Administrative Assistant

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

YoungChurchMinistry@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Helen Waring, Coordinator



A Note from Our Pastor,

I most sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are well in the midst of the disruption to all of our lives in our attempts to minimize the lethal physical effects of COVID-19. When we had no particular intention at our daily Masses this past Monday and Tuesday, Fr. Pat and I offered Mass on Monday for all the first-responders, including of course doctors and all medical personnel who are putting their own health at risk to tend to the needs of those who have the virus. On Tuesday our intention was all those in serious financial straits as a result of this crisis and those who are at home tending to the care of their children who normally are in school. Kudos to the teachers and the parents who are keeping the students engaged with online learning and digital classrooms. I commend the members of the St. Agatha School community and those who are members of the public and other private schools in Milton and Quincy for their efforts in engaging the minds and hearts of their students in these very strange times. In fact, Friday April 3rd Fr. Jay celebrated the 9 am Mass and Mrs. Julie Fay and Mrs. Kathy Fitzpatrick provided the music for our St. Agatha School community through the marvel of such electronic media.

I also offer my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have mailed in or dropped off contributions to our parish at this time when we are not having public Masses. I'm also very gratified that several people have decided to enroll in electronic giving. There will, however, have to be some reductions in services and tightening of our belts here until we get over the current crisis and are able once again to open our Church doors and have our regular schedule of Masses and other sacramental, prayer, and social events. On this matter of finances, the Cardinal has decreed that the Easter collection this year can be retained by the parishes rather than go to the Clergy Health and Retirement fund. If you are making a contribution at Easter, and if you are using the Easter collection envelopes, we'll interpret that to mean that you intend your contribution to go to the parish. If you intend instead to contribute to the clergy health and retirement fund, please indicate that on the outside of the envelope or on the check enclosed. If there are no such notations, it would be my understanding that you intend your offering to go to St. Agatha Parish.

This promises to be the most peculiar Holy Week of my life, and for many of you too I might imagine. I'm sure those who have been deployed in the military during wartime have lived through very peculiar and obviously far more hazardous circumstances, but for our "skeleton" crew here to be celebrating the most important events of our faith and salvation in Jesus Christ by ourselves, it will be like nothing I've experienced before, and, quite frankly, I'll miss your physical presence, although I know you'll be with us in prayer and will be part of these liturgies in a virtual way. Please do keep in your prayers this week the six people who were planning on being received into the Church and sharing in the Easter Sacraments this Saturday evening at the Easter Vigil. The Archdiocese has said that their initiation will have to wait until the Feast of Pentecost on May 31st. Please pray with me that we'll be back as a parish

community worshipping together, not merely virtually, but physically in the pews of our beautiful Church at that time! And then we can truly celebrate with them and with one another and experience the powerful presence and joy of the Holy Spirit.

This week—Holy Week—the most sacred week in the Church Year, I am happy to say that thanks to the Herculean efforts of Deacon Dan Sullivan and Mr. Steve Wessling our Holy Week liturgies will take place in our beautiful upper church. Our Mass for Palm Sunday will be at 11am; Masses Monday through Wednesday will be at 9am; on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, we will pray Morning Prayer at 9am. If you Google "IBreviary" you should be able to download what is called the Liturgy of the Hours, and click on Morning Prayer each of those three days. The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday will be at 7:30pm; the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday will be at 3pm; the Easter Vigil will be at 8pm on Saturday; and Easter Sunday we'll have Mass at 11am. All of these liturgies can be accessed on our St. Agatha Parish website. Know that although we shall be physically separated from one another, we'll be united in faith and prayer and gratitude to Almighty God for what our Savior Jesus Christ has done and continues to do in our lives. And as you gather virtually for these Holy Week liturgies, perhaps we all might try to picture in our mind's eye fellow parishioners who might be struggling at this time with stresses surrounding their health, their employment, their finances, their family, or the recent death of a loved one, and all of us can bring these people in our prayers to the liturgies we are celebrating, and ask our loving Savior to be with them to strengthen, comfort, console them, and bring them peace.

I have two suggestions to offer us all. Some of you may well be doing this already, but when you tune in to our website for Mass or other prayer services, perhaps you can set up the room where you are watching and listening to our prayer together with a cross and some other religious art or pictures that you might have. If you have a Missal of some sort at home, use that to follow along, and join your voices to ours here by responding to the prayers and other responses. That way while we are physically separated from one another, there will be a greater sense that you are part of a group of people worshipping the Lord with one another. This second suggestion came to me from two different individuals. On Palm Sunday we are unable to distribute palm to our parishioners, but if each of us can find some bit of green vegetation, or a leaf, or a branch, and attach it to our front doors, it would be a way to unite with one another and express to one another that we are joined together in our praise of our Lord Jesus Christ who on this day was greeted with palm branches as He rode into Jerusalem.

I pray that the grace of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ who gave Himself totally for us and our salvation, with no strings attached, will make His presence known in an ever deeper way to all of us, as we so earnestly desire to receive and reflect His amazing and completely sacrificial love.

Have a blessed and healthy Holy Week!

Fr. Palardy

FEATURED WEEKLY READING

Read Reflect Respond

THEME: Holy Week—the mystery of our faith.

As you hear Paul's words to the Philippians, what touches your heart? What phrase from this reading now lingers in your memory?

Reading II : Phil 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VIRTUAL PARISH SCHEDULE

On Friday, April 3 at 3 PM there will be a “Watch Party” on the Stations of the Cross accessed through our Facebook page.

On Fridays from 10–11 AM Lisa Gulino will be hosting a Zoom Bereavement Group. If you have lost someone over the last few years and would like to work through your grief, please join. All are welcome—if you have been in one of our Bereavement Groups prior—please feel free to join in. Email Lisa at lgulino@stagathaparish.org to join the group.

On Mondays at 7 PM Helen Waring, our Youth Minister will host a virtual Pizza and Prayer on Instagram Live. Check out St. Aggies Youth Group Instagram to stay connected with our Youth Ministry (@staggiemilton).

On Monday, April 6 & Tuesday, April 7 at 10 AM Fr. Palardy and Lisa Gulino will discuss the rich meanings of Holy Week.

On Wednesday, April 8 please join us for virtual Holy Hour.

Please check our parish Facebook page for more resources. Click this box to be linked there.

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

Another week of seemingly endless crises has passed. Hopefully it means that we are another week closer to the end of the ordeal. Everyone is struggling on multiple fronts as we all do our best to take it “one day at a time”. On the parish and school level we are struggling as well to deal with drastically reduced revenue and an uncertain future. But as so often is the case in times of extreme difficulty some very positive things have emerged. Financially another 8 people have registered for online giving. This is a huge help. Over the course of the week dozens of parishioners mailed in or dropped through the mail slot at the Rectory checks totaling just over \$7,000! Some were Weekly Offertory envelopes and some were just identified as gifts; but they were all given from the heart and all greatly appreciated. We also received tremendous support from the Archdiocese of Boston Pastoral Center. The staff there have been working very long days to not only give us information we desperately need, but they have given us concrete financial relief as well. They suspended health premium payments in the school for the month of April and deferred pension billing until next year. They also waived our property and liability insurance payments for the month of April. Finally the Archdiocese has begun an initiative to help parishes stimulate revenue during this crisis. It is called “90 Days Now—for Your Parish” and offers a very easy way to make a contribution to the parish through a link provided by the Archdiocese. An email went to every household about this, but if you did not receive one please go to: <https://bcatholic.sites.bostoncatholic.org/90DaysYourParish> to contribute. All of the funds (less credit card fees of course!) go directly into the parish's savings account and are available for immediate use by the parish. We are so grateful for the support of the Archdiocese.

Unfortunately, this health crisis has created a financial crunch which is beyond our ability to manage with our income stream. As the Cardinal requested all regular employees were paid through this past week. However, regrettably we have been forced to reduce the hours and consequently the pay of all of our hourly and salaried staff in both the parish and school, with the exception of the teachers in the school who continue to provide web based education for their students. We have an exceptionally talented and dedicated staff who embody the Mission Statement of our parish and of whom the parish can be proud. Unfortunately this unprecedented crisis has made this necessary, although we hope it will be for a short time. Please pray for all of the affected employees as we all pray for a return to normalcy.

Jack Riley

**ASSISTANCE TO OUR ELDERLY OR THOSE IN NEED**

St. Agatha Parish is beginning a grocery delivery service for elderly parishioners. If you are interested in having groceries delivered to your house, please contact Helen Waring via phone (678-910-2957) between the hours of 10 am–2 pm or at any time via email at: hbornhorst@stagathaparish.org. Groceries can be paid via check or cash (no change) to the parishioner delivering groceries. We will work to deliver groceries within a few days of receiving an order. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



The Sacred Pause

Lisa M. Gulino—Pastoral Associate

A day in the life of the clergy during the pandemic involves some of the same routine and yet also some very different challenges, but definitely full days.

In order for you to catch a glimpse of how the days are going, I have put a little photo essay together. Special thanks to Fr. Jay and Deacon Dan for helping to take some of the photos as well.



In order to bring the Mass to you daily, Deacon Dan has dedicated many many hours in assembling professional quality equipment to bring the Mass into your living room. Each day Fr. Palardy, Fr. Pat, and Fr. Jay each take turns celebrating the Mass and the others concelebrate. The Mass is always celebrated for the intentions of the day.

This past Sunday there were two babies baptized. Deacon Dan baptized one of the babies and Fr. Palardy baptized the other. In the photo, we see Deacon Dan waiting to open the door for those arriving for the baptism. No more than 10 people can be at a gathering.



Fr. Jay Makos has a special invitation to those in Recovery. For further information, please contact Fr. Jay at: jmakos@stagathaparish.org. Here are two websites to check out as well:

- www.gethelpgivehelp.info: for those who know people struggling with addiction or are in recovery, and
- www.intherooms.com: a website and app that enables people in need of a virtual 12-step meeting to gain quick and confidential access to the support of others dealing with a similar addiction. This can be particularly helpful to those unable to leave their premises to gather for local, in-person meetings.

Join Fr. Jay weekly at 12:30pm on Tuesdays for virtual Meditation and Steps.



Each Wednesday, we host a virtual Holy Hour. In the photo above we see Fr. Jay and Deacon Dan praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Also we see the technology it takes to bring these events into your home during this time of isolation. We recall that Jesus Christ is present with us.

Additionally, Fr. Palardy and Fr. Jay have joined me in short little interviews on our Instagram page and our Facebook page and website. Fr. Jay has spoken about his work with those in Recovery and the blessing it is to be able to stay connected via online meetings. A list of recovery resources are on our webpage and FB page. Next week, Fr. Palardy will walk us through Holy week with rich prayers, signs, and symbols.

One of the most comforting images that I am privy to is as I walk through the upper church, I often come upon Fr. Pat sitting by the tabernacle and praying. Truly the heart of this priest is united to the Lord as he prays for our intentions.

Thank you to our priests for their continuous prayers and ministry to us. Please do not hesitate to call the rectory if you need a priest in an emergency.

On another note, starting April 17 I am hosting a bereavement group by Zoom from 10:00–11:00 am on Friday mornings. If you would like more information please email: Igulino@stagathaparish@gmail.com and I will send you a zoom invite.



God is with us!

While Gov. Baker's stay at home rule is in effect, please join us as Masses are livestreamed on our website, www.stagathaparish.org. Our priests will be celebrating Mass daily in our Chapel at 9:00 am, Monday–Saturday and 11:00 am on Sunday. Links will be posted on our parish Facebook page for viewing at your convenience.

If an emergency exists, please call the Rectory (617-698-2439) or reach out by email, and one of the priests will make appropriate arrangements.

Keeping in mind that for most readers, this Bulletin will be an electronic version in the form of a pdf, hyperlinks have been added. This will enable the reader to click on the website listed or in some cases, blue text, and they will be linked to the appropriate web page.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATES

Due to school closures until May 4, **our weekly Faith Formation Sessions have concluded.** Thanks and much gratitude to the children, families and the many volunteers in the program for wonderful year.

Given the evolving situation of the coronavirus and with an abundance of caution for the safety of our families, **all First Holy Communion Masses are postponed.** Alternate plans will be announced once social distancing measures are lifted and Masses are allowed to resume.

Join the fun at Vacation Bible Camp this summer at St. Agatha Parish! July 6–10 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm daily. Children entering grades 1 through 6 in September 2020 will enjoy music, arts and crafts, bible lessons and sports. **Adults are needed to supervise, rising students in grades 10–12 are needed as Group Leaders, rising students in grades 7–9 are needed as Counselors.** Service Hours and Confirmation Points will be awarded. Please contact the Faith Formation Office for any questions or to volunteer. Registrations



have been emailed to our Faith Formation Families and can be accessed on the parish website. **Registration closes on April 17. A minimum of 25 registered campers by April 17 are needed to run the camp.**



Our Music Ministry is finding new ways to make music and stay connected! Our adult choirs began virtual rehearsals this week on Zoom. It was great to be able to make music together, with Julie leading from her

home piano and everyone else chiming in on their parts from where they were! While singing for Mass is on hiatus until we are able to be together in church again, we are practicing current selections and reviewing old favorites. There's nothing like group singing, and it's wonderful to be able to continue to make music together during this time of necessary social distancing.

For the Youth Choir, I've launched a project called "Singing Together While We're Apart." I'm uploading videos each week to our [St. Agatha Youth Choir YouTube Channel](#), so our young singers can practice some of the Youth Choir's warmups and "greatest hits" until we can sing together again. With the schools now closed until May 4, it's important to help students feel connected to the parts of their lives that are on hold. I hope our practice videos enrich our young singers, keep them singing, and give them a fun activity to try at home, too.

CONFIRMATION & YOUNG CHURCH MINISTRY

FOLLOW THE YOUTH GROUP *St. Agatha Youth Ministry* page or @staggiesmilton



All Youth Ministry programs are suspended until further notice. This includes EDGE, Youth Group, and Confirmation sessions. The Sacrament of Confirmation is also postponed.

We will try to reschedule the 3-on-3 tournament!

St. Agatha's Youth Ministry will begin providing resources for growing Parish teens in their relationship with God. Please be on the lookout for these resources on Instagram, Facebook, and Email!



Instagram @staggiesmilton



Facebook St. Agatha Youth Ministry



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: Suspended until further notice.

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



Check out the link to the Youth Choir YouTube channel, and if you would like to be part of a virtual choir rehearsal, drop me a line at musicdirector@stagathaparish.org and I'll send you the link to join. If you're shy about your singing voice, just hit the "mute" button until you feel more confident! It's a great way to connect with your fellow parishioners and make some music together, so please join us. See you online!

In Christ,
Julie Fay,
Music Director



SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL



Saint Agatha School community remains strong and connected embracing distance learning (& teaching)!

MRS. CHRISOM & PJ enjoy sending morning messages to KIB. She misses her students a whole bunch and can't wait to be back in the classroom with them very soon!

MS. POWERS is working hard with her science classes. They are Zooming weekly, doing Google Classroom assignments, and just chatting it up! When she's not teaching, she takes her adorable dog Nyla for long walks.



#distanceteaching

MRS. LEARY read her First Grade Class "Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party". Nice job Mrs. Leary!

Registration is ongoing and tours will be back when school is back in session. In the meantime, please contact Mrs. Carr, Principal, at ncarr@stagathaparish.org with any questions.



Early Childhood through Grade 8

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Open Enrollment —Now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year! Visit us @: StAgatha.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 8:00am 4:30pm	April 4 Memorial 7th Anniversary	Francis Punch John A. Haughn
Sunday 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 5:00pm	April 5 For the 6th Anniversary 2nd Anniversary Memorial 13th Anniversary Anniversary	Palm Sunday Parishioners of St. Agatha Margaret M. Cronin & Albert E. Cronin Jr. June Warren Lee and Rosemary & Earl Warren Andrew Veneto Sr. Joseph Corso
Monday 7:00am 9:00am	April 6 Memorial	Mary A. Duggan
Tuesday 7:00am 9:00am	April 7	
Wednesday 7:00am 9:00am	April 8	
Thursday 9:00am 7:30pm	April 9	Holy Thursday Morning Prayer Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 9:00am 3:00pm	April 10	Good Friday Morning Prayer Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 9:00am 8:00pm	April 11	Holy Saturday Morning Prayer Easter Vigil
Sunday 11:00am	April 12	Easter Sunday Easter Mass

All Holy Week liturgies (beginning on Palm Sunday) will be livestreamed from the Upper Church.

Public Masses have been cancelled until further notice. See our Holy Week schedule on the front page (and above). Our priests will be celebrating Daily Mass at 9:00 am Monday –Wednesday this week and livestreamed on our website.

The scheduled Mass intentions are being announced at these Masses and remembered in prayer. The livestreamed Masses will be posted on our Facebook page as well.

Masses from the Archdiocese of Boston are available on watchthemass.com/. If you are reading this online, click the link to open that webpage.



- **BINGO HAS BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** ●
- Please check our [website](#) for up to date information
- Thank You Volunteers!!



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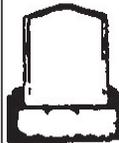
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