

The Parish of St. Agatha

Milton ~ Quincy, MA

May 2-3, 2020

StAgathaParish.org

ST. AGATHA RECTORY

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9am-4pm

432 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

Offices
closed

ST. AGATHA SCHOOL

440 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Daily Masses:

Monday – Friday:
Saturday & Holidays:

Livestreamed
daily at 9 am on
stagathaparish.org

**Sunday
Mass:**

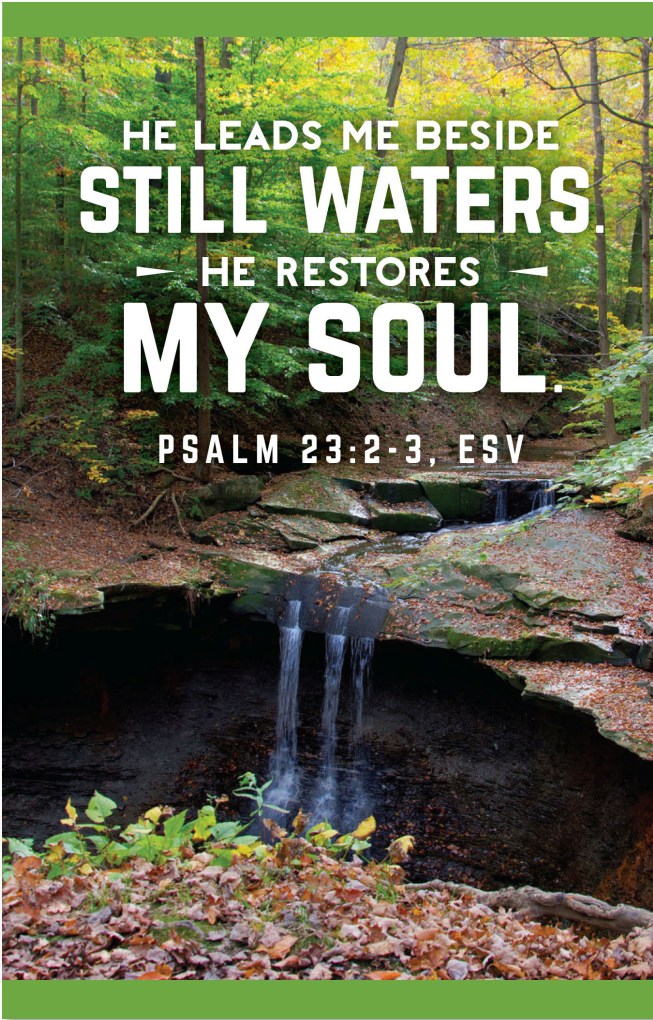
Livestreamed
Saturday at 4:30pm
Sunday at 11am

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

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

Reconciliation: Suspended
until further notice.

Marriage: Call one of the par-
ish priests or deacon. Arrange-
ments are ordinarily to be made
at least 6 months before the
proposed marriage.



HE LEADS ME BESIDE
STILL WATERS.
— HE RESTORES —
MY SOUL.

PSALM 23:2-3, ESV

Fourth Sunday of Easter • May 2-3—Year A

This Week's Readings can be found at
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/050320.cfm>

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Agatha Parish is a Chris-
tian 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.

The Archdiocese provides a
very easy way to make a contri-
bution to the parish through a
link called **"90 Days Now—for
Your Parish"**. An email went
to every household about this,
but if you did not receive one
please **click here** 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 your support.

St. Agatha Parish

Rectory@StAgathaParish.org

Parish Website: StAgathaParish.org

Phone: 617-698-2439

Fax: 617-698-1517

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

Phone: 617-696-3548

Fax: 617-696-6288

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

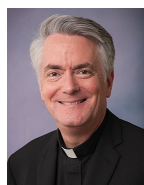
Mrs. Beth Peterson, Director
Mrs. Jenn Caputo, Administrative Assistant

Grade 7-10 & Young Church Ministry

617-696-8978

YoungChurchMinistry@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Helen Waring, Coordinator



A Note from Our Pastor,

Earlier this past week I received a phone call from someone who was looking for some suggestions from me as to what Scriptural texts would be beneficial to use as a springboard for prayer while we are making our way through this healthcare crisis. In addition, there was a fine article on the back page of this past week's Pilot, the newspaper of our Archdiocese, entitled "Where is God right now? How imagination can aid our faith in quarantine." 15 years ago I made a 30-day Ignatian retreat, following St. Ignatius of Loyola's Spiritual Exercises at the Jesuit Retreat House in Los Altos, California. So, the phone call I received, the article in the Pilot, and the spiritual benefit I received from making that Ignatian retreat provide the basis for a few suggestions that I shall offer to aid our spiritual life, our relationship with God through prayer right now in this strange and challenging time for us all.

The Bible, as we know, is God's word, God's communication to human beings down through the ages. It is a major way that God speaks to our minds but also, and perhaps more importantly, to our hearts. So, although the words of the Bible were addressed to particular groups of people of various historical eras, they are words packed with divine power, if you will, and are meant to be a very significant way that God speaks and relates to each one of us personally. You probably have your own favorite Biblical passages, and, if so, turn to them and let the Lord enter your hearts through those Biblical texts. Allow me to mention a few texts that help me to connect with the Lord. The Psalms in the Old Testament are wonderful in that there are a variety of psalms which capture a wide span of human emotions. Some examples—Psalms 3 to 7 plead for God's help in troubling circumstances; Psalm 8 and 139 address the beauty of creation and especially the dignity of the human being; Psalm 51 expresses sorrow for one's sins; Psalm 23 is a favorite of many people in addressing God as a Good Shepherd; Psalm 13 is a lament, a very honest and forthright expression of disappointment in a time of serious illness. Really whatever you are feeling, whatever is your strong emotion, you'll find a psalm that will capture what you are going through.

Turning to the New Testament, what St. Ignatius invites us to do is to choose some Gospel passages, and imagine that you are there in the presence of Jesus and His disciples as He is preaching, or teaching, or healing someone, or having a meal, or forgiving a sinner, for example. Read the Biblical passage slowly, and then close your eyes and imagine you are there. What does Jesus look like? Imagine the things you see there. What do you hear? What do you smell? What is the expression on Jesus' face or the faces of the people present? What is the tone of Jesus' voice? Perhaps you might want to choose a Gospel text describing Jesus' suffer-

ing and crucifixion. What emotions do you feel? What does the Blessed Mother look like at the foot of Jesus' cross? What is the feeling you experience from the people who have gathered watching Jesus die? Or turn to one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' resurrection. Imagine yourself as one of those who came and found the tomb empty? What emotions are stirring within you? In doing this, yes, you are using your imagination as you try to situate yourself in the presence of Jesus in these Gospel accounts, but remember that thanks to Jesus' resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Jesus is in our midst and wants to capture your heart.

In addition to imagining myself in some of the Gospel stories, I also like to spend time with Chapters 13 through 17 of St. John's Gospel where Jesus gives His final teachings on Holy Thursday and addresses us as His friends, and speaks about His love for us and our love for Him and for one another, and where He reveals what is in His own heart as He addresses our hearts.

The article in the Pilot mentions the assistance to this kind of prayerful imagination that listening to sacred music or having some religious art to look at, or smelling incense that one lights can provide. And even a prayer form such as the Rosary can be a good way of feeding our imagination spiritually. The point of the Rosary is to meditate on each of the mysteries, using the Our Father, the Hail Marys, and the Glory Be as repetitive prayers that help us quiet down and put our focus, our attention on the particular mystery we are praying. Using our imaginations in praying the Rosary and in reading the Bible in this way is not a case of "Let's pretend," but a way of putting us into deeper contact with our saving and loving God who is close at hand and who desires to enter more deeply into our minds, but especially into our hearts, to offer us His solace, His peace, His companionship, and His love.

So, in the variety of emotions that this COVID-19 crisis evokes in you and me, ease yourself into a Bible passage or two or three, or meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, use your senses and your imagination, and let the Lord speak to your heart. The bottom line is that, as amazing as it may sound, our Lord wants to be in relationship with you and with me, and the Bible is His word, after all, which He has desired to speak to us and all the human race. So, let's try to give the Lord the opportunity to speak His word of love to us by using the Scriptures with our senses, our imagination, and our heart, so that Christ who said, "I came that they might have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10) may shepherd us through this current crisis and lead us to lifegiving pasture. Imagine that!

Have a blessed, healthy, safe, and, dare I say it, inspirational week!

Fr. Palardy

FEATURED WEEKLY READING

Read Reflect Respond

THEME: We enter life to the full through Christ.

As you hear the words of Peter in this reading, what line or phrase strikes you most powerfully?

Reading II : Peter 2:20b-25

Beloved:

If you are patient when you suffer for doing what is good, this is a grace before God.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in his footsteps.

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.

When he was insulted, he returned no insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten; instead, he handed himself over to the one who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness.

By his wounds you have been healed.

For you had gone astray like sheep, but you have now returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Pastoral Planning

May 3 ~ Fourth Sunday of Easter

“The Shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” These words from today’s Gospel are both comforting and challenging! Jesus is calling each of us by our name. If we are confident that Christ is leading us, then we must respond to what Christ asks of us. What he asks is that we share the “Good News,” that we invite others to get to know Christ, our Good Shepherd. This week pray for openness to the voice of the Good Shepherd and ask for the grace to be responsive to His call.



ASSISTANCE TO OUR ELDERLY OR THOSE IN NEED

St. Agatha Parish is providing a grocery delivery service for elderly or those in need 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 via email: **hbornhorst@stagathaparish.org** at any time. 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 contact us if you have any questions.

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

As I mentioned last week, St. Agatha parishioners have been very generous in rallying to the financial aid of the parish. Since we have not had regular weekend Masses since March 7th, our regular revenue has dropped precipitously, as has virtually every other source of revenue. However, many people have dug deep and made the extra sacrifice in these very hard times to send in or drop through the mail slot at the Rectory Offertory envelopes or outright gifts—in some cases for a number of weeks in arrears or in advance. We also were allowed by the Archdiocese to keep the Easter Collection except those donations clearly identified for the Clergy Health & Retirement Fund. So here is the breakdown for the last six weeks:

Weekly Offertory (including Easter)	\$36,990
Gifts	\$8,950
Good Friday (This total is sent to the Archdiocese to support the Shrines in the Holy Land)	\$1,070
Clergy Retirement	\$570

In addition, the Archdiocese began a program called “**90 Days for your Parish**” through which people can pledge a certain amount per day for the next 90 days. So far the response by St. Agatha parishioners has been fantastic—in the top 10 of the nearly 300 parishes in the Archdiocese. A total of \$10,810 has been pledged by 53 households! The program continues and the link is on the front of this week’s Bulletin. It is difficult to find words to describe how grateful we are for your support. This is going to be a long battle, but the strength, faith and commitment of our parish community will ensure victory in that battle.

Jack Riley



The St. Agatha Church sign has been re-installed this week thanks to Garrity Sign Co., the same company that originally built and installed it in 1999. The refurbishment of the sign was donated by a generous parish family in honor of Dr. Colin F. and Mary T. McDonald.

Special thanks to Noel Schaub for his work on this project.



The Sacred Pause

Lisa M. Gulino—Pastoral Associate

Today's Sacred Pause is one of my favorite Scripture passages, JN 1: 35–41. We read:

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon.

The two begin to follow Jesus. Perhaps they were shy so they followed from a distance. **Jesus did something entirely characteristic of who he is and what his mission is about**—He turned and spoke to them. Jesus took the initiative

- he met the disciples halfway.
- He made things easier for them.
- He opened the door that they might come in.

Jesus asked them: **"What are you looking for?"** These are the first words of Jesus in the Gospel of John. And it is **a question**. It **won't be the last question Jesus asks**. Scripture scholars tell us that Jesus asked approximately 300 questions throughout the New Testament!

Jesus' question is telling—it signals the way God acts toward us—God takes the initiative. **It is always God who takes the first step**. When the human mind begins to seek and the human heart begins to long, **God comes to meet us far more than halfway**. As St. Augustine said, we can't begin to seek for God unless **he had already found us**.

God **waits for us and looks for us on the road of our daily life**.

Jesus' simple question: *"What are you looking for?"* is **fundamentally, the question asked of us**. We need to answer. Within the answer **we will discover what do we "search for" and where does this pursuit lead?** Does it lead us to emptiness? Or fulfillment? Isolation? Or a profound life-giving relationship.

Right now—this year of 2020 puts us, I think *at a crossroad in our life*—individually, nationally, and even globally—**our lives have indeed changed**. To what degree and for how long **we are not sure**. I am sure of this—**we can truly trust in the God who comes to meet us** in our questioning, in our challenges, and in our desires.

The two disciples answer Jesus' question with a question, "'Rabbi' *where are you staying?*'" The word Rabbi was the title, given to teachers by those seeking wisdom. They are not following Jesus out of mere curiosity. Scripture scholar William

Barclay stated that the disciples wanted **to linger with him—and talk out their problems and their troubles and to seek wisdom**.

Let's imitate the two disciples:

- linger with the Lord and discuss with him our problems, concerns, and trouble.
- encounter Jesus, **not as an acquaintance but as a friend and our Savior**
- invite Jesus **into our own home and lives more intentionally**.

Our passage ends with a very telling statement, **"it was about four o'clock in the afternoon."** This is significant—the disciple can never forget the moment his life was changed forever because he encounters Jesus.

Let's be like this disciple and never forget that 2020 was the year we truly gave our lives more fully to Jesus. Two proposals:

- read the Word of God and discover the questions Jesus asks—they are relevant for our faith journey and
- never take the gift of the Church and the sacraments for granted again.



NEED HELP? The "Caring Circle" dares to care... Call 617-337-3225 for short-term non-financial help or visit www.mcccaringcircle.org



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Musical Notes for Good Shepherd Sunday

The idea of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is a familiar and comforting one. It's a beautiful image of total dependence on God, with the comfort and assurance that the Lord will protect and take care of us, even to the point of laying down his own life.

The responsorial psalm we sing this weekend, "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want," describes God's loving care for us in beautiful detail: he lets us rest in beautiful surroundings; he accompanies and protects us through difficult and frightening times; he treats us as an honored guest at an abundant banquet; and he assures us that we will live with him forever. It is an extraordinary vision of rest, safety, abundance and love, and is especially comforting to those struggling with stress, illness, worry and fear during this time.

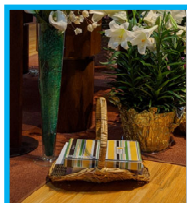
If you need an antidote to the turmoil of life during a pandemic, may I suggest reflecting on the ways the Lord comforts, protects, provides for and loves you? Let the words of Psalm 23 guide you, reading them slowly and visualizing each picture the words create:

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures He gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me; He refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley, I fear no evil;
For you are at my side, with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.
You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come.*

May we always remember and rest in the Good Shepherd's love for us.

In Christ,

Julie Fay, Music Director



If you would like to add an intention to our Book of Prayers, please email Lisa Gulino at lgulino@stagathaparish.org and she will write your intention into the book. The Book of Prayers is present at every Mass being said.

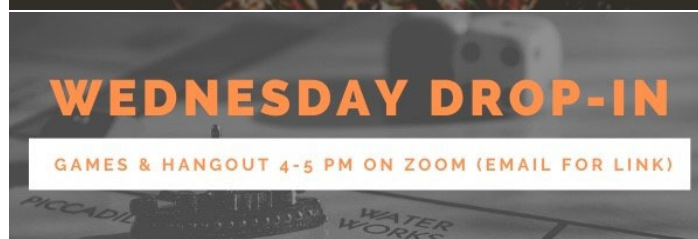
PRAYER NEEDS

Several of the members of our Spiritual Growth & Adult Faith Formation Committee are committed to joining together for a 1/2 hour of

Intercessory Prayer on Tuesdays to pray for our parishioners and for an end of the Pandemic. We are here for you. Please let us know how we can pray for you, email: lgulino@stagathaparish.org

CONFIRMATION & YOUNG CHURCH MINISTRY

Please check out Youth Ministry resources on Email, Instagram (@staggiesmilton) and Facebook (St. Agatha Youth Ministry).



FAITH FORMATION UPDATES

First Holy Communion Masses will be announced once social distancing measures are lifted and Masses are allowed to resume.

Faith Formation Registration for the 2020-2021 year will be available online on the St. Agatha Parish Website on June 1.

VIRTUAL PARISH SCHEDULE

Fr. Palardy and Fr. Makos are presenting an Adult Education video series about **Fathers of the Church**. Fr. Jay offered his thoughts on *Maximus the Confessor: Champion of Prayer & Unity*. Fr. Palardy's presentation is on the *Nicene Creed*. Look for Part 2 this coming week. The short videos are available on the parish [website](#) or directly on the [vimeo page](#).

On Wednesdays, join Lisa Gulino on the parish facebook page as she discusses selected bible passages on her new feature **Wednesdays with the Word**.

On Fridays from 10–11 AM, Lisa Gulino is 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. 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.

On Wednesdays from 4–5 PM there are games and hangout **Drop-In** with the Youth Group. Email Helen at hbornhorst@stgathaparish.org for the link to join in.

SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL

Congratulations to Mrs. Kalaijian! Recipient of the Archdiocese of Boston Excellence in Education Award

This annual award honors elementary and secondary school teachers' commitment to developing saints and scholars in the Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Boston. Mrs. Kalaijian and I joined Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Tom Carroll, the Superintendent of Schools, and others on a zoom call yesterday when the announcement was made. On the call, Cardinal Seán O'Malley said that the teachers have "gone above and beyond to create a welcoming environment and a culture of success." We heartily agree! I know you all join with me in congratulating Mrs.



Kalaijian on this well-deserved award. A reception is planned for the Fall to celebrate Mrs. Kalaijian and the other recipients accomplishments to be attended by pastors and principals as well. We too will celebrate together in the near future! Thank you for all you do for the Saint Agatha Community, Mrs. Kalaijian!

Saint Agatha School community remains strong and connected through distance learning!

Grade 1 was happy to be back from April Staycation!



Please support our online **Book Fair (thru May 10)**. We were scheduled to have the books at our school next month to get the kids ready for summer reading but now you can get those books—and much more—delivered to your door. Rekindle your love of books or add to your existing library. Click [here](#) to shop. As always, every purchase from the book fair earns rewards for our school.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	May 2	
8:00am	Birth. Memorial	Richard Killeen
4:30pm	Birth. Memorial	Marion H. Keenan
Sunday	May 3	
7:30am	37th Anniversary	Stephen F. Gallagher
9:00am	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha
10:30am	1st Anniversary	Charles Hopkins &
	4th Anniversary	Marjorie Hopkins
12:00pm	Memorial	O'Sullivan, Kelly & Gibbons Families
5:00pm	Memorial	Jacqueline Wuestefeld
Monday	May 4	
7:00am		
9:00am	Anniversary	John Cattaneo
Tuesday	May 5	
7:00am	Memorial	John A. Irwin
9:00am		
Wednesday	May 6	
7:00am	Anniversary	Richard Hynes
9:00am	Living &	Deceased Members
	of the	Legion of Mary
Thursday	May 7	
7:00am		
9:00am		
Friday	May 8	
7:00am		
9:00am	Birth. Memorial	James P. Kennedy
Saturday	May 9	
8:00am		
4:30pm	Memorial	Bonomo Family
Sunday	May 10	
7:30am	Memorial	James & Margaret Waldron and Family
9:00am	9th Anniversary	Joseph Greene
10:30am	Memorial	All Mothers
12:00pm	Memorial	Powers & Shine Families
5:00pm	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha

Public Masses have been cancelled until further notice. Our priests will be celebrating Mass daily at 9:00 am in our Chapel and livestreamed on our website. Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on our website on Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 11:00 am. 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.



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for up to date information
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