The Parish of St. Agatha

Milton ~ Quincy, MA

December 4-5, 2021

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 -

Saturday: 9:00 am

Also livestreamed on our website. There will be no change to our Daily Mass livestreams

Sunday Masses:

Saturday: 4:30 pm Sunday: 7:30 am

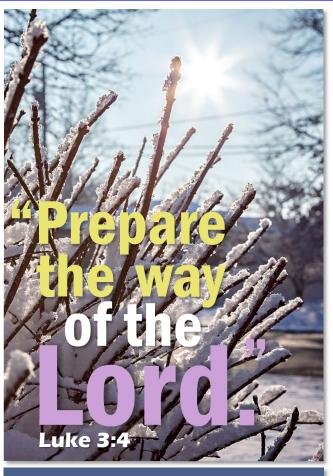
9:30 am 11:30 am 5:00 pm

Holy Days: As announced.

Sunday Livestreamed Masses are available on our website

Saturday at 4:30pm Sunday at 9:30am

- 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.



Second Sunday of Advent December 4–5—Year C

This Week's Readings can be found at https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/120521.cfm

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Masses • Dec. 8 • 9am & 7pm

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
- 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.

Updated COVID Protocols

The Archdiocese of Boston updated their COVID Protocols for all parishes in September 2021.

The section of the Church for those who want to wear masks and be sitting only near people who are wearing masks will continue to be the wing of the Church on the Organ side. Please visit our website for more details.

Fax: 617-696-6288

St. Agatha Parish

Phone: 617-698-2439 Rectory@StAgathaParish.org Fax: 617-698-1517

Parish Website: StAgathaParish.org

Rev. William B. Palardy, Pastor

Rev. Thomas J. Stanton, Parochial Vicar

Deacon Daniel F. Sullivan Deacon Kevin P. Martin Jr.

Rev. Patrick McLaughlin, Senior Priest in Residence Rev. Thomas Powers. Senior Priest in Residence Deacon Alex Olszewski. Seminarian Intern

Parish Administration

Mr. Adam Leskow, Director of Finance and Operations Ms. Dale Blanchard, Operations Assistant

Ms. Eileen Callahan, Administrative Assistant/Bulletin Editor

Mrs. Jean Curley, Administrative Assistant

Music Ministry

MusicDirector@StAgathaParish.org

Mrs. Julie Fay, Director of Music and Parish Organist

St. Agatha School Phone: 617-696-3548 School@StAgathaParish.org School Website: StAgatha.org

Mrs. Nancy Carr, Principal Ms. Jacqueline Miller, 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,

Many thanks to the O'Hanlons and those working with them in organizing our Giving Tree Program this year for families who turn to My Brother's Keeper for assistance. Thanks also to those who have taken

ornaments or turkey/meal tickets. There are still many more ornaments for the taking, and the ornaments with the attached gift should be brought to Church NEXT WEEKEND December 11th and 12th at any Mass EXCEPT the 5pm Sunday Mass.

We have a few more Advent booklets entitled *The Fullness of Time* with daily reflections by the late Fr. Henri Nouwen. Also we still have booklets entitled *Jesus, Fill My Heart with Joy* by Kathy Hendricks with prayers and activities appropriate for families with young children.

Supermarket gift cards may be placed in the collection baskets to help those who turn to St. Matthew's Food Pantry in Dorchester for assistance.

A reminder that we have a Coat Drive going on until December 31st, so please drop off gently used adult or youth coats in the boxes at the exits of the Church.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Holyday of Obligation, will be celebrated at two Masses this Wednesday December 8th at 9am and 7pm. It is under her title as Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception that our Blessed Mother is Patroness of the United States (and several other countries as well). Remember, there would be no Christmas without Mary, so let's be sure to give Almighty God and the Blessed Virgin the honor that is their due.

Also in our Church Calendar this week on Monday December 6th we celebrate St. Nicholas of Myra (in current-day Turkey) who is the patron saint of more kinds of people and professions than I have space to indicate, as well as of several regions of Europe. But if you read up on him online or in Catholic publications you'll quickly see why this 4th-century bishop is the model of gift-giving and charity to the poor which makes him the original Santa Claus!

On December 7th, while we as a nation recall those members of the US military and the civilians who were killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on this date in 1941 which propelled the United States to enter the Second World War, we as Catholic Christians commemorate St. Ambrose, another 4th-century bishop, from Milan who was a great teacher, preacher, poet and composer of hymns. Together with St. Monica, St. Ambrose was very instrumental in converting St. Augustine to Catholic Christianity.

On Thursday we honor St. Juan Diego who was a native Mexican in the 16th century who was blessed to be the one to whom Our Blessed Mother appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of all the Americas. We don't celebrate her feast day this year because it falls on a Sunday, but in honoring St. Juan Diego we are reminded of the unity we have as Catholic Christians with all our

brothers and sisters in Christ throughout all of North and South America, and especially with those of Native American and Latino/a ethnicity.

On Friday we celebrate a relatively new Feast Day in our part of the world honoring our Blessed Mother under the title of "Our Lady of Loreto". We commemorate the Holy House of Loreto where Mary was born and where the Annunciation occurred, and call to mind the faith and virtues of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and St. Joseph. The House is now located in Loreto, Italy.

On Saturday we remember Pope St. Damasus another 4th century bishop. He did much to build shrines to early Christian martyrs and to foster devotion to these courageous witnesses to Christ. He also encouraged St. Jerome to produce a new translation of the Bible in Latin called the Vulgate to make the Word of God much more accessible for all Christian believers.

Turning to a matter that is anything but saintly, I have been informed that some scammers have hacked into some of our email addresses here at St. Agatha's and have emailed parishioners requesting that they buy gift cards at my request or at the request of other members of our parish staff. Please do not respond if you receive one of these sorts of emails. If I or any of the other staff members have that sort of request to make, we'll either speak to you in person or call you on the phone.

There have been some questions from parishioners about when we'll be getting our 2022 Calendars from Thomas Funeral Home. We have been informed that there is a delay with no exact date given about when they will be arriving. Once we do receive them we'll make them available to you at church.

Continue to have a blessed Advent!

Fr. Palardy

Pastoral Planning

December 5 ~ Second Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord." This is what the Church calls us to focus on in these opening weeks of Advent. How might we prepare for the coming of Christ now and at the hour of our death? St. Paul offers some ideas for what we need to do. He prays that our love will increase in knowledge and perception, that we will discern what is of value, and that we will live pure and blameless lives. St. Paul encourages us with the reminder

that God has already begun this good work in us and will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. In this coming week, ask for the grace to keep the focus on Christ. Remember, that even in the midst of all that seeks to distract, God is with you.



Second Sunday of Advent

FEATURED WEEKLY READING

Read Respond

THEME: We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart? What lingers in your memory?

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight. and the rough wavs made smooth. and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

We're almost there! The Grand Annual Appeal continues to move along steadily towards our budgeted goal of \$200,000. As contributions are coming in on a daily basis, as of this writing, our current total is \$138,157! Thus far we have had responses from 323 households. If you haven't yet joined in, your help would be greatly appreciated. It would be a huge help if we could exceed our budgeted total as we did last year, because while our current offertory total is above what has been budgeted, our offertory budget has decreased significantly over the years. As always, thank you so much for your generosity!

I also wanted to bring to everybody's attention that there has been a significant software upgrade to our online giving platform, ParishSOFT Giving. I wanted to give all parishioners some quick instructions to ensure that they are able to properly log into their accounts:

When you access your normal online giving platform, "My Own Giving", you will be redirected to the ParishSOFT Giving portal. The first time you visit ParishSOFT Giving, you should choose the "Register a New Account" option, and use the same email address that was used when signing up for "My Own Giving". Using the same email address will associate all of your recurring gifts that were migrated to the new system.

We have received a few notifications that some parishioners were having trouble logging in, so we wanted to make sure that if there are any issues, that we can correct them right away. Please do not he sitate to either reach out to me via phone at the Rectory (617-698-2439), or you can send me an email with any issues at aleskow@stagathaparish.org.

Hope everybody has a great week...God Bless!

Adam Leskow



For the two week period of December 5-18, the Vigil Candle above the Tabernacle will be lit in memory of Martin J. DeMatteo, Jr. Donated by Martin & Judy DeMatteo. May the light of God's love surround you.



NEED HELP? The "Caring Circle" dares to care... Call 617

-337-3225 for short-term non-financial help or visit www.mcccaringcircle.org. **Ring Found:** A women's ring was found in the Church on November 18 under a pew. If you lost it and can describe the ring, please call Jean at the rectory (617-698-2439). We hope to find its owner.

COFFEE & CONVERSATION Join us in the Gathering

Space after the 9am Mass on Wednesdays.





Weekly Offertory Report Nov. 20-21 Nov. 20-21 Nov. 20-21 **Total** Weekly In-Pew Mail in **Electronic** Total Weekly Difference **Budget** Collection Drop off Collection Offertory **Difference YTD** \$10.840 \$5,642 \$795 \$4.065 \$10.502 -\$338 \$9.550

Weekly Offertory Report								
Weekly Budget	Nov. 27-28 In-Pew Collection	Nov. 27-28 Mail in Drop off	Electronic Collection	Nov. 27-28 Total Offertory	Weekly Difference	Total Difference YTD		
\$10,840	\$7,015	\$1,805	\$4,065	\$12,885	\$2,045	\$11,595		





2 PM (CHURCH & PARISH CENTER) 4 PM (CHURCH & PARISH CENTER) 6 PM (CHURCH)

CHRISTMAS DAY

8 AM (CHURCH) 11AM (CHURCH)

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The section of the Church for those who want to wear masks and be sitting only near people who are wearing masks will continue to be the wing of the Church on the Organ side. Please visit our website for more details.



GIFT CARD DONATIONS REQUESTED

St. Matthew's Food Pantry is asking for support from our generous parishioners to help feed the many hungry folks looking for

food. Last year we requested supermarket gift card donations rather than a holiday food drive at the Thanksgiving Masses. They were well received by the clients, as they could buy specialty or ethnic food. Any local supermarket, Star, Stop & Shop, Target, or Roche Bros. have gift cards of \$10, etc. The cards can be dropped in the church collection baskets or mailed to the Rectory. Smaller denominations of gift cards are preferred as it allows us to distribute the cards to more families. Your kindness and generosity are well appreciated, especially this time of year. Thank you and stay safe.

Attention Eucharistic Ministers

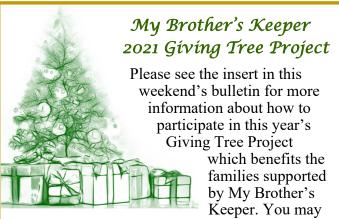
We are currently in need of Eucharistic Ministers who would like to bring Communion to homebound parishioners. If you are not currently a Eucharistic Minister and would like to become involved in this ministry, we would be happy to hear from you and have you join us. If interested please call Fr. Palardy at the rectory 617-698-2439 or Dell Staunton at 781-363-1471.

Attention Homebound Parishioners

Now that most of us have had our vaccine and possibly booster, we are once again offering homebound parishioners the opportunity to have Communion brought to you at home.

If you feel comfortable having someone visit you and would like to receive Communion, please call Dell Staunton at 617-696-1032 or 781-363-1471 or the rectory at 617-698-2439 to request a visit.





sponsor an entire family, buy an individual gift (or more) listed on an ornament tag or select a "turkey" ornament to contribute to a family's holiday meal. Please also consider volunteering to help out. We need many hands on Sunday afternoon December 12 at 12:30pm in the school cafeteria to do the final processing of the gifts. If you can help with this activity, please contact Mike and Gay O'Hanlon at 617-710-7955 or email mohanlonuva@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!



On Wednesday, November 24, 500 pairs of socks were brought to the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Roxbury for their community outreach for homeless veterans. We were honored to meet several veterans and thank them for their service. 100 pairs of socks were also brought to the new residents of the Marshfield Veterans Home. This brand new facility opened on Veterans Day and is providing permanent, independent apartments for 8 veterans struggling with homelessness. We were also able to help a young veteran in our community who recently came back from overseas who is getting on his feet and starting his life post military service. Thank you for your support!



St. Agatha Parish prays the rosary on Monday through Saturday mornings starting at 8:30am (before the 9:00am Mass) in the Upper Church. Bring your rosary and join us.

FAITH FORMATION UPDATES



An Advent Reconciliation Service for Faith Formation families in grades 3 to 8 will take place in the Upper Church on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 pm. An email was sent to families on Wednesday, December 1 containing a link to register for the service.

Sunday, December 19 bring the statue of Baby Jesus from your crèche to Mass and have it blessed. Blessings will take place at all of the Mases.

December on-line chapter syllabus for Faith Formation children in grades 1–5:

Sunday, December 5 Chapter 8 Sunday, December 12 Chapter 9

Sunday, December 19 Christmas/Epiphany Lesson

Sunday, December 26 No assigned lesson, time to catch up!

Assistance Needed to Help Settle Evacuees from Afghanistan

My name is Linda MacKay, a St. Agatha parishioner and volunteer at the International Institute of New England (IINE). This organization will be resettling over 425 Afghan evacuees in the coming months. Currently they are welcoming hundreds of arrivals. I am looking for others to join me in supporting these evacuees upon their arrival in our community.

Do you have furniture or household goods to donate? Or, do you have or know of storage space for furniture donations? Do you know any apartment or home owners who would like to donate to or rent an apartment to an arriving family? Please contact me at 617-696-0487 if you would like to join me in welcoming our newest

neighbors! Also, please pass on any information to others who may be interested in supporting this important work. All suggestions and ideas are welcome.





Thomas, brother of Debbie McLean, is in need of a kidney transplant.

If you are willing to give the gift of life, please contact Debbie, his Living Donor Champion at 508-838-1493 or email:

savetomslife723@gmail.com. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION & YOUNG CHURCH MINISTRY

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



Confirmation Registration is open! For information on the program and to register, visit the St. Agatha Parish website (www.stagathaparish.org).

ignite

dec. 5 and dec. 12 6-7 pm in the Gathering Space



All 9th-12th grade students are invited to join us for our Sunday Night Youth Group (Ignite) for fellowship and faith discussions.

YOUTH SERVICE

FR. BILL'S LUNCHES

Tuesday, December 7th (5:30-7 pm)

Email Helen Waring to sign-up!

Adoration at St. Agatha Parish

There is Adoration in the Chapel on Fridays following the 9:00am Mass, from approximately 9:30am-1:00pm. There is also Adoration in the Chapel on Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8pm.

COAT DRIVE

Please help us to help others! Donate a gently used adult or children's coat. Boxes in the school & church vestibules. We will deliver them to Anton's Cleaners.



Now through December 31st

SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

Baptism: Starting January 2022, 1:00pm on the 2nd/4th Sundays of each month. Please check our website for more information found under *Sacraments*. If you have already scheduled your child's Baptism and need to reschedule (or to ask any other questions), please call or email the Rectory.

Reconciliation: Saturday afternoons from 3:30-4:15pm (prior to the 4:30pm Mass) in the Reconciliation Room in the Chapel. Reconciliation is also available by appointment with one of our priests.

Marriage: Call one of the parish priests or deacons.

Arrangements are ordinarily to be made at least 6 months before the proposed marriage.



outside the Chapel. In the case of inclement weather, it will be held in the Gathering Space in the Lower Church. This event is sponsored by the SAS Family School Association and is open to the Parish and School communities. Cookies are provided by Montilio's Bakery.

Scrip Gift Cards

Just in time for holiday giving! Scrip is an easy way to raise money for our school!



When you make a purchase through Scrip, you are purchasing gift certificates and prepaid cards that are used just like cash (with NO service fees). You can use Scrip to purchase everyday items like food, clothing, toys, gasoline, teacher appreciation and other essentials.

To place an order, please return your Family Order Form to the school office before noon on Fridays, now through December 10 with a check made payable to St. Agatha School. We'll either send your gift cards home with your child or you may pick the gift cards up in the school office (you indicate your preference on the order form). Please plan on a 10 day turn around time and be sure to share this opportunity with your friends and other family members.

Contact Debbie Schlager at 617-828-9603 or via email schlager22@comcast.net with any questions.

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MON	Dec 6:	IS 35:1-10 / LK 5:17-26
TUE	Dec 7:	IS 40:1-11 / MT 18:12-14
WED	Dec 8:	GN 3:9-15, 20 / LK 1:26-38
THUR	Dec 9:	IS 41:13-20 / MT 11:11-15
FRI	Dec 10:	IS 48:17-19 / MT 11:16-19
SAT	Dec 11:	SIR 48:1-4, 9-11 / MT 17:9a, 10-13

MASS INTENTIONS

MAGO INTENTIONO						
Saturday 9:00am	December 4 Anniversary	Winnifred Farragher & Patrick Farragher				
4:30pm	1st Anniversary	Marie T. McDonnell				
Sunday 7:30am	December 5 Memorial	Patricia, Anthony and Michael Susi				
9:30am	Birth. Memorial	Edward H. Moore				
11:30am	4th Anniversary	Ann Wholey				
5:00pm	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha				
Monday 9:00am	December 6 30th Anniversary	Jo Ann F. Muldoon				
Tuesday 9:00am	December 7 2nd Anniversary	Sam Germaine				
Wednesday 9:00am	December 8 Birth. Memorial	Immaculate Conception John F. Dempsey				
7:00pm	10th Anniversary	Dr. Kenneth P. Girard				
Thursday 9:00am	December 9 Birth. Memorial	Mary Cooney				
Friday 9:00am	December 10 22nd Anniversary	Paul Clasby				
Saturday 9:00am	December 11 1st Anniversary	Marie K. Marr				
4:30pm	Birth. Memorial	Martin J. DeMatteo, Jr.				
Sunday 7:30am	December 12 11th Anniversary	Charles W. Duffy				
9:30am	11th Anniversary	Thomas Curley				
11:30am	21st Anniversary	Peggy Higgins				
5:00pm	For the	Parishioners of St. Agatha				

Masses are celebrated weekday and Saturday mornings at 9:00am and on Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am 11:30am and 5:00pm. The Masses on Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday (Family Mass) at 9:30am and weekdays/Saturday at 9:00am are also livestreamed on our website. The scheduled Mass intentions are announced at these Masses and remembered in prayer.

Reconciliation is available on Saturday afternoons, from 3:30-4:15pm (prior to the 4:30pm Mass) in the Reconciliation Room in the Chapel. It is also available by appointment with one of our priests by calling the rectory.

Early Childhood through Grade 8 SAINT AGATHA SCHOOL

Accepting online applications for for the 2021-2022 school year. To apply go to: StAgatha.org/admissions.

2021 Giving Tree Project

St. Agatha Parish and My Brother's Keeper are joining hands for our 30th Annual Giving Tree Project to help families in need throughout the South Shore and beyond. Last year was the most successful yet, as My Brother's Keeper helped 2,760 families in 76 cities and towns. In the last 29 years, you have contributed greatly to the exciting expansion of the ministry of My Brother's Keeper by helping over 2,750 families experience the warmth of friendship and the renewal of hope. With so many families struggling, we hope that this will be the best year ever!

We will again have an opportunity to join our "Helping Hands" with those of My Brother's Keeper as we kick off this year's effort on November 27. Many parishioners have made this a family tradition, and you and your family can join in this rewarding project in a number of ways:

- 1. **If you would like to sponsor an entire family** My Brother's Keeper asks that you send an e-mail to sponsor@mybrotherskeeper.org. By doing this, you can request a family whose size and make-up fits your budget and interests. Generally a Sponsor Card is sent to you the same day as your request is received.
- 2. If you would prefer to help by buying an individual gift, "Giving Trees" will be set up before and after each Mass on the weekends of Nov 27 28 and Dec 4 5 so that you may select an ornament with a child's or parent's name. On each ornament will be the name, age, sex, clothing size, and a <u>suggested</u> gift for the child or parent you will be touching with your generosity. You then purchase and wrap the gift, write on the back of the original ornament what you purchased, and attach it to the package. Then bring the gift with you to any Mass (except the 5:00 PM) on Dec. 11th or 12th. If you would prefer to buy an unwrapped generic gift to help families who make last minute appeals, those are most welcome as well. After the <u>11:30 Mass</u> on December 12th, volunteers from the parish will help group each family's gifts together for delivery, and the gifts will then be brought to My Brother's Keeper for distribution.
- 3. **You can also select a "turkey" ornament** which gives instructions for contributing \$10 towards purchasing a turkey or, if your means allow, \$35 to purchase a complete dinner.
- 4. **Volunteer to help.** If you would like to volunteer to help hand out ornaments before and after Mass on the weekends of Nov 27 28 and Dec 4 -5, or with the gift sorting and preparation on Dec 12 at 12:30pm, please email Mike and Gay O'Hanlon at mohanlonuva@gmail.com.

A special way of expressing our gratitude to God for giving us the gift of His Son is to share some of our blessings with those who are less fortunate. After all, He has no hands but ours. For those who are unable to afford a gift this year, your prayers for the success of this mission of linking St. Agatha Parish with the poor served by My Brother's Keeper will be more than enough in the way of support.

The St. Agatha Parish Community has been blessed in many ways, and has always responded by sharing of its treasure to help others. We thank you so much for your past support and hope that you will help make this year's effort - our 30th – the best yet!



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For further information, please call the Parish Office.

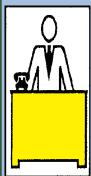
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