

The Parish Community of Saint Agnes • Elyria, Ohio, 44035

Greetings to St. Agnes Parish

My Friends,

As we celebrate the mystery of Christmas, I wish you and your families true joy and peace. These gifts are hard to come by these days. We can't seem to put up enough Christmas lights but I fear it only masks our inability to enter into the true meaning and spirit of this feast. Like much of life in our world today, it never gets past the surface. True joy requires vulnerability and openness to the other. We want the 'high' without any commitment or investment of the self. As more and more people abandon their faith in God, we are becoming the victims of a narcissistic culture. We need walls and guns to protect ourselves and all our assets.

There is nothing more vulnerable than a God-man born in a manger. He comes to teach us how to love. This is the relationship he has with his Father, the God who is love. In Eucharist, he comingles his flesh and blood with ours. What greater gift could anyone dare to hope for, yet he is there for us every day of the year. I pray that this celebration of the Christmas mystery can be a time of spiritual renewal for all of us.

We pray for the safety and well-being of our families. May the Prince of Peace come into our lives and our world. We need an end to the violence in our streets. We need to get past our self-centered interests and reach out to those in need around us. We need the Word to become flesh in our lives. We need to give birth to Jesus in our time. The Bishops are calling us to a 'Eucharistic Revival.' May the celebration of the Christmas mystery help us to see and serve Jesus in our lives and in one another.

- Father Charlie

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High." Luke 1:30-32

Family Perspectives In the prologue to the Gospel of John, we hear the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel. These are often presented as dualities: light and dark, truth and falsehood, life and death, and belief and unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel, the theme of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify to Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will testify to Jesus' identity as God's Incarnate Word. Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms is particularly appropriate as we celebrate the Feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

Collection amounts for December 18 are unavailable due to the Christmas bulletin publishing deadline.

Collection Counters for this week are Crew 4.

Collection Counters for next weekend are Crew 1.



Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 24 (Laubenthal)

Christmas Eve

4:30PM — People of the Parish

Sunday, December 25 (Veigas)

Christmas Day

10:00AM — People of the Parish

Monday, December 26 (Ryba)

9:00AM — Adam Sciulli

Tuesday, December 27 (Diedrick)

9:00AM — The Deb & Celia Urig Family
& The Gill Family

Wednesday, December 28 (Diedrick)

9:00AM — Patrick Gorman

Thursday, December 29

9:00AM — at St. Mary's

Friday, December 30

9:00AM — at St. Mary's

Saturday, December 31 (Kraig)

4:30PM — Patrick Barden,
Month's Mind

Sunday, January 1 (Diedrick)

Solemnity of Mary

10:00AM — People of the Parish

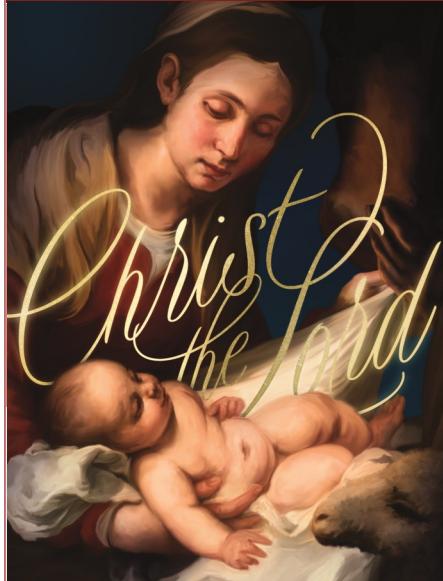
Scripture Readings for Next Sunday

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21.

Please read them prayerfully to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word.

December 25, 2022



The Table of Plenty Food Pantry next distribution date: Jan. 28th. Gates open at 9:30am - food distribution is 10am-Noon. Only Elyria residents, please. Anyone interested in helping with the Food Pantry, contact Mary Ann Schaefer at 440-669-4468 or Debbie Jerome at 440-669-1290.

Assistance Needed As prices increase, the number of families attending our pantry has increased. On the other hand, certain products have been more and more difficult to obtain from Second Harvest. At this time, we particularly need canned green beans, corn, and spaghetti sauce, as well as crackers. We greatly appreciate all of your donations, participation, and **especially** your prayers for our ministry and those whom we serve. In November, the food pantry served over 100 families!

New Year's Day Mass: Solemnity of Mary Vigil, December 31st at 4:30pm (regular Saturday Mass); Sunday, January 1st, 2023 at 10:00 AM (regular Sunday Mass time).

50+ Club News The Club will take a break for January and February and meet again March 8th.

The 200 Club St. Agnes's 200 Club is currently accepting memberships for the 2022 Winter 200 Club drawings and dinner. The winter dinner will be held at St. Agnes on December 2nd. Memberships are \$35; make checks payable to St. Agnes Church. Flyers are available on the side table.

St. Agnes Feast Day Celebration will be a catered breakfast on Sunday, January 22, 2023, after the 10:00 Mass. To have an accurate number of attendees, all reservations must be made by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023. There are sign-up sheets by the doors of the church.

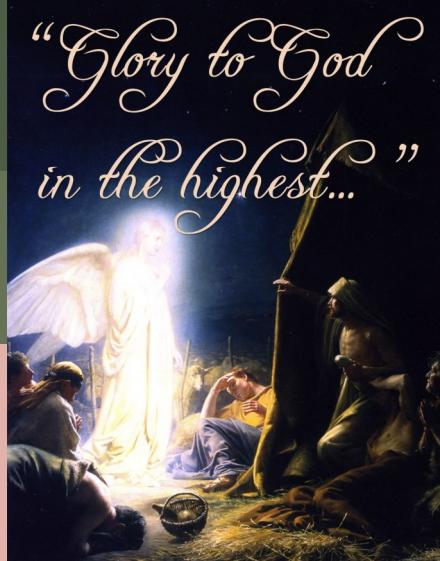
Mass Intentions for 2023 are available, with many weekend masses still open. Diocesan policy sets mass intentions at \$10 per mass. Please email or call the office or place your intention and the stipend in the collection basket.

Mass Help Signup Sheets are located on the side table. Please take a moment to sign up for January-March to be an Altar Server, Eucharistic Minister, or Greeter. We are in special need of altar servers.

First Friday Club of Cleveland Post Roe V. Wade: Building a PROLIFE Culture and Helping Women in Unplanned and Crisis Pregnancies. Date & Time: Thursday, Jan 5, 2023, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm. Location: The City Club of Cleveland, 850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114 Register online at www.FirstFridayClubCleveland.org.

Catholic Cemeteries Association offers free, safe, and compassionate monthly Grief Support meetings in-person in six of our offices and virtually. For details, visit <https://www.clecem.org/information/bereavement.aspx> or call 216-930-4866.

St. Mary's Snowfall of Cash Calendar Raffle will begin on January 1. Tickets are available on the side table. Each ticket is \$10 and is a chance to win each day in January! Tickets may be returned in the collection basket or to the office at St. Agnes or St. Mary. Please make checks payable to St. Mary Church.



Activities for the Week

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Music Begins
4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day
9:30 AM Music Begins
10:00 AM Mass

Monday, December 26

8:30 AM Rosary and Miraculous Medal Novena
9:00 AM Mass

Tuesday, December 27

8:30 AM Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy
9:00 AM Mass at St. Agnes

Wednesday, December 28

8:30 AM Rosary
9:00 AM Mass

Thursday, December 29

9:00 AM at St. Mary's followed by Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, December 30

9:00 AM Mass at St. Mary's

Saturday, December 31

4:00 PM Rosary
4:30 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 1

Solemnity of Mary
9:30 AM Rosary
10:00 AM Mass

*Sunday Virtual Mass: St. Mary's 8:30am live-streamed on the St. Mary Facebook page.

*Live from the Cathedral on WUAB 43 at 10AM and on demand on the Diocesan website for playback.



Angel Scholarship Fund ~ Turning Taxes into Tuition with the Catholic Community Foundation. This fantastic new program allows you to direct how your Ohio tax is spent! 2022 Contribution Forms are available at the side table. St. Mary School, St. Jude School, and Elyria Catholic are all able to receive scholarship money under this program. Dec. 31 is the deadline, so don't delay.