Adviento

December 13, 2020

St. Agnes Parish

St. Agnes Church

245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-793-1330
Office Hours: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm & 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Mon-Fri

Rev. Daniel Bergbower, *Pastor*	*dbergbower@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Deacon Roy A. Harley	*rharley@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Bill Hurley, *Parish Business Manager*	*bhurley@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Tami Dillon, *Parish Secretary*	*tdillon@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Cathy Becker, *Director of Faith Formation*	*cbecker@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Karen Ferguson, *Music Director*	*kferguson@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*
Nancy Wilderson, *Formation Assistant*	*nwilderson@StAgnesCatholicParish.org*

office@StAgnesCatholicParish.org
Website: www.StAgnesCatholicParish.org
now on Facebook: facebook.com/StAgnesParishSpringfieldil

St. Agnes School

251 N. Amos Ave., Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-793-1370
Office Hours: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm Mon-Fri
Summer hours vary

Rachel Cunningham, *School Principal*	*rcunningham@StAgnesCatholicSchool.org*
Karen White, *School Administrative Assistant*	*kwhite@StAgnesCatholicSchool.org*
Pam Kink, *School Secretary*	*pkink@StAgnesCatholicSchool.org*

info@StAgnesCatholicSchool.org
Website: www.StAgnesCatholicSchool.org
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DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS
Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
www.dio.org

~ Mass Schedule ~

Weekday Masses will continue to be streamed online at:
Facebook.com/StAgnesParishSpringfieldIl

Saturday: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 9 :00 am
11:00 am

~ Sacrament of Reconciliation ~
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm on Saturday or Anytime by Appointment

~ Mass Intentions ~

Tuesday, December 15
5:30 pm Genevieve Knoedler ✞
Roger Distlehorst ✞

Wednesday, December 16
8:15 am Charlotte Burdzilauskas ✞

Thursday, December 17
8:15 am Matt Penning ✞

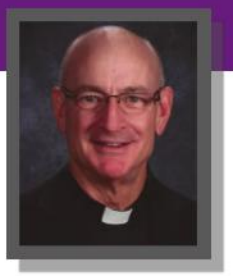
Friday, December 18
8:15 am Susan Denton ✞

Saturday, December 19
4:30 pm Joseph Ciaccio ✞
Parishioners of St. Agnes

Sunday, December 20
9:00 am Tom Domagalski ✞
Jeanne Scott ✞
11:00 am Danielle Hensley ✞

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - Noon
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

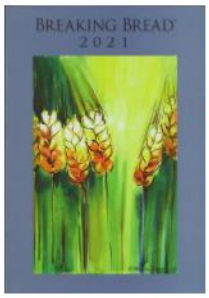
Bulletin Deadline
Tuesday, 9:00 am
tdillon@StAgnesCatholicParish.org



"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say Rejoice."
Philippians 4:4-5

A message from Fr. Dan

This third Sunday of Advent is called "Gaudete" Sunday. This means "Rejoice." Our scripture readings shift from the emphasis of Christ's return at the end of the world to His coming into Humanity as an Infant, His historical entry into our world. The color used in the Liturgy this Sunday is Rose, albeit a very "pink" shade of rose! This week let us count all of our blessings and spend time thanking God and Rejoicing that we are so, so, Blessed!



NEW MISSALLETTES (BREAKING BREAD) These are available in the Gathering Space or just ask any staff member or give us a call at the Parish Office. These are a gift for individual personal use. You may recall during this pandemic these are not in the pews.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOU
We could all use some joy and hope this advent so Fr. Dan is gifting us with this new, excellent book by Matthew Kelly, *I HEARD GOD LAUGH.* Feel free to take your copy this weekend at Mass. Not getting to Mass? You can call the parish office and drop by to pick one up - contact free - during the week. We will hold a weekly BOOK CLUB via Zoom for those who would like to get together to share, reflect and pray on the reading. http:// https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81419261931

RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Celebrated on Saturday Dec. 19th from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. This will be your last and best opportunity to receive this Sacrament before Christmas.

A CHRISTMAS TRADITION Many parishes invite parishioners to consider an **ADDITIONAL Month's worth of their normal parish offering** to say thank you to God for another year of blessings. You may have noticed that the parish budget is about a month or so behind. Thank you for considering your parish as part of your Christmas Gifting!

SIGN-UP ONLINE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES BEGINS DEC. 15. You may also call the parish office to sign up beginning Dec 15.

A GENTLE REMINDER **The City Mask Mandate includes both St. Agnes Church and School facilities from entering to exiting our parish facilities. Thank You for caring!**
And: *If at all possible, please continue to sign-up online for Masses.*

We continue to await the birth of Jesus over the 12 days. This is a very exciting time of year filled with much anticipation. We will have our own final Advent prayer services on Monday and Friday this week. The students, teachers and I gather via Zoom to prepare for the coming of our Lord. You may have your own family tradition such as opening windows on an Advent calendar, adding pieces to a Nativity set during each day of Advent, or counting down the days until Christmas on an Advent chain. Whatever your tradition is, remember that this helps prepare our hearts for Christ's birth.

Giving Tuesday

Many, many thanks to all of you who donated funds to St. Agnes School on "Giving Tuesday". Well Over $7,500 was raised for the purchase of two new Smartboards for our classrooms. Our goal for this day was $10,000. We're almost there!! For those of you who would still like to donate to help us reach this goal, you may click on this link: *https://stagnes.ejoinme.org/givingfest* to contribute. Little by little, we will be replacing all of the current boards with new and upgraded models.

Advent is the New Year of the Church so HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There are lots of ways to celebrate and prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas. See the attached pages for activities and prayers for you to use at home. Also, check out FORMED. Our parish subscription offers lots of video and media for you. There's even a special Advent daily reflection that can be sent to you directly. Check it out here: www.formed.org and at https://advent.augustineinstitute.org/ .

Christmas Generosity

Each year, it is tradition that our classes choose a charity to assist at Christmastime. Our students will be helping the following organizations:

Pre-K 3 & 4 - Sojourn Shelter
KA - Heifer International
KB - Kumler Outreach
1st grade - Hickory Glen Retirement Home and Operation Christmas Child
2nd grade - Military Troop care packages
3rd grade - Catholic Relief Services
4th grade - St. John's Children's Hospital - Joey's Classroom
5th grade - Ronald McDonald House and Letters/Cards to our Military Troops
6th grade - hats & gloves for St. Alexius Parish in Beardstown
7th & 8th grades - Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to our generous students and their families

~ Important Dates ~

Monday, December 14
Student Council Meeting
2:30 pm

Tuesday, December 15
Committee Meeting Night
6:30 pm

Thursday, December 17
Christmas Programs Recording
(grades 1/2 & Singing Aces)

Friday, December 18
Christmas Parties
10:15 am

11:30 DISMISSAL
CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS
No Late Day

December School Calendar Link
www.stagnescatholicschool.org/uploads/December2020UpdatedCalendar.pdf

December Lunch Calendar Link
www.stagnescatholicschool.org/uploads/DecemberLunchMenu.pdf

St. Agnes Catholic School
251 N. Amos Ave
Springfield, IL 62702
Office: (217) 793-1370
www.stagnescatholicschool.org

Office Hours
8:00 am - 3:30 p.m.

Rachel Cunningham
School Principal

Karen White
School Administrative Assistant

Pam Kink
School Secretary

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2020
Sign up begins Tuesday, December 15

Christmas Eve Masses:
4:30 pm ~ 6:30 pm ~ 8:30 pm

Christmas Day Mass:
10:00 am

Masses in both the MAIN CHURCH and (the newly up-dated) PARISH CENTER
(Livestreamed into the Parish Center And Communion will be brought to you)

Sign up to attend Weekend Masses at
www.StAgnesCatholicParish.org

Continue watching our LIVE STREAM of Weekday Masses
Tue: 5:30 pm
Wed, Thu & Fri: 8:15 am
Rosary livestreamed 30 minutes before Daily Mass

Facebook.com/stagnesparishspringfieldil

Prayer of Spiritual Communion
(for use during online Masses)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You have already come, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

WEEKEND MINISTRIES

December 12-13:

4:30 pm
Reader: ***Susan Dodson***
Euch. Minister: ***Mary Mucciante***
Susan Dodson
Altar Server:

9:00 am
Reader: ***Cindy Callan***
Euch. Minister: ***Kathy Rubinkowski***
Conrad Rubinkowski
Altar Server: ***Ludolph Family***

11:00 am
Reader: ***Melissa Bland***
Euch. Minister: ***Tricia Hopkins-Price***
Patrick Dennis
Altar Server: ***Josh Becker / Leah***

December 19-20:

4:30 pm
Reader: ***Linda Distlehorst***
Euch. Minister: ***Kelle Lee***
Donna Erwin
Altar Server:

9:00 am
Reader: ***Ed Cobau***
Euch. Minister: ***Mike Bauer***
Vicki Bauer
Altar Server:

11:00 am
Reader: ***Pathy Ekal***
Euch. Minister: ***Meredith Koerper***
Rich Koerper
Altar Server:

Readings for the Week
May we find comfort in God's Word

Monday, December 14
NM 24:2-7, 15-17a
MT 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15
ZEP 3:1-2, 9-13
MT 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16
IS 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25
LK 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17
GN 49:2, 8-10
MT 1:1-17

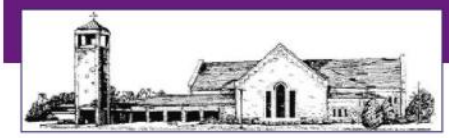
Friday, December 18
JER 23:5-8
MT 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19
JGS 13:2-7, 24-25a
LK 1:5-25

Fourth Sunday of Advent
2 SM7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
ROM 16:25-27
LK 1:26-38

Prayer Line Requests

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Sheila Noonan 546-0012	Maureen Brady 787-3423
Barb Kern 546-7729	Cinda Steinkamp 787-6439



A "Brick and Mortar" and a "Virtual" Parish.
Meeting You Where You ARE!

STEWARDSHIP

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP
(Retirement Fund for the Religious)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul urges us to remain steadfast in helping others: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up" (Gal 6:9). During these unprecedented times, many are hurting and need our assistance, including elderly religious. As we approach the annual ***Retirement Fund for Religious*** collection, I encourage your continued support.

As you may know, senior religious were instrumental in establishing Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. Often this progress came at great sacrifice, and many older sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little to no pay.

Today, hundreds of religious communities do not have enough retirement savings and struggle to provide for a growing number of elder members. Covid-19 has only increased the challenge to provide adequate care.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for medications, nursing care, and more.

In these difficult days, you may feel as though your generosity has been exhausted. I ask just two things. First, please join me in praying for God's protection for all our elderly religious. Second, please support the Retirement Fund for Religious collection as you are able - and know that women and men religious across the country hold you and your loved ones in grateful prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Says….

WEEKLY PARISH OFFERINGS

Nov 21/22	Weekly Total	Total to Date
Regular Church Support	$15,178.25	$386,820.34
**Budget Goal ~ week 21*	*$25,100.00*	*$527,100.00*
Difference	***(-$9,921.75)***	***(-$140,279.66)***

WEEKLY PARISH OFFERINGS

Nov 28-29	Weekly Total	Total to Date
Regular Church Support	$19,366.25	$406,186.59
**Budget Goal ~ week 22*	*$25,100.00*	*$552,200.00*
Difference	***(-$5,733.75)***	***(-$146,013.41)***

give central *inspire giving*

Online Giving is a safe, secure and easy way to continue supporting you faith community. If you would like to sign up for online giving, please follow the link below.

www.givecentral.org/location/327/allevents
or call Tami in the parish office at 793-1330

MASS ATTENDANCE
Church seating capacity = 180 (6' Distancing)
Virtual Parish Capacity = Unlimited

Date	Church	Facebook	TOTALS
Dec 5/6	563	1085	**1648**
Nov 28/29	348	896	**1224**
Nov 21/22	276	553	**829**
Nov 14/15	479	533	**1012**

FORMED

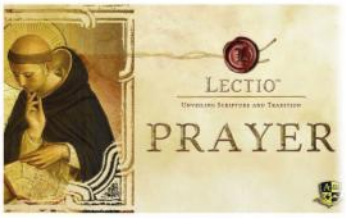
PICK OF THE WEEK

December 13, 2020

WATCH

SAINT TERESA OF ÁVILA: A STUDY IN PERSEVERANCE

Both St. John of the Cross and his dear friend St. Teresa of Ávila lived heroic lives of prayer. In honor of these spiritual masters, enjoy this film depicting the Carmelite way of life and the virtue of perseverance.



LECTIO: PRAYER—AN INTIMATE DIALOGUE

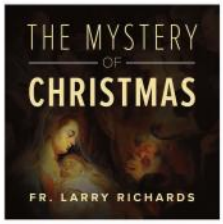
St. John of the Cross, Doctor of the Church, had a deep desire to help others grow in prayer. In honor of this mystical saint, join Dr. Gray as he dives into the simplicity and mystery of prayer.

LEARN

LISTEN

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS BY FR. LARRY RICHARDS

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift—the gift of his Son to the world.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

RCIA

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

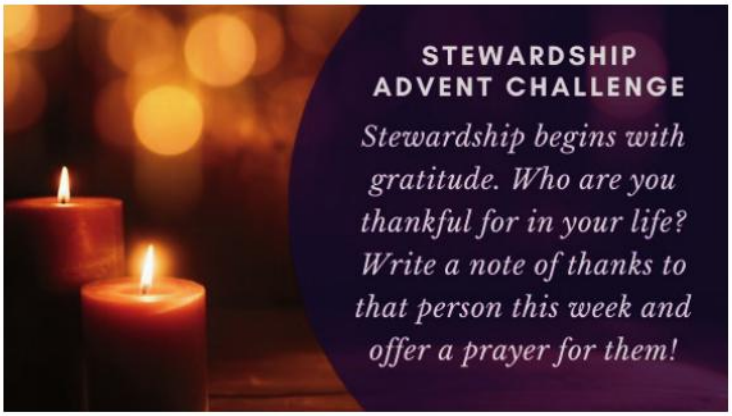
Say hello to our RCIA inquirers and candidates!

Brett Dickerson, Mandy Dickerson, Amy Eddington, Brandon Foster, Brandon Potthoff

Pray with and for them and welcome them to the journey. Invite them to join you at events or coffee! Or, take the next step and consider being a sponsor for one of them. Contact Cathy Becker if you are interested in sponsoring.

RCIA Schedule (all are welcome to join us)

Tuesday, January 5:
via Zoom, 6:00 pm - TBD
Tuesday, January 12:
via Zoom, 6:00 pm - TBD



DECEMBER 20 is our next ALL FAMILY SESSION. It is so important for you to get to these events. They are the one time we are together in some way and I know your kids have been missing that. Although we won't be going back to classroom model we will be holding more of these dynamic and impactful events. I HOPE WE WILL BE ABLE TO DO THE DECEMBER 20 event in person but we will let you know the details that week before.

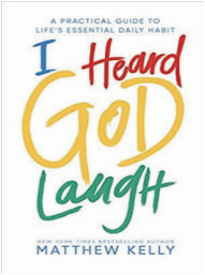
December Family Formation

Dec 20	**Family Formation Session II** Advent/Christmas

#StAgnesFaithFormation

This is shaping up to be a Christmas feast like never before. Families will be zooming, facetiming and finding creative ways to celebrate. Isolation and grief is often difficult even in the best of times. So, we need to really commit to Advent and spend some good time "cleaning up". We need to be deliberate in opening our hearts for Christ because He will be found in some pretty hard situations and as always, in the least among us who need to stay connected. Here is another idea to help you move through Advent to Christmas Joy:

Take a look https://www.americamagazine.org/advent2020 for weekly podcasts and reflections on Advent.
From week 1: Saturday: Imagine Advent Ep1: The Incarnation
Sunday: What does it mean to 'be alert' during Advent?
Sunday: It's Advent and it's okay to be sad
Monday: Being a disciple means being a student of Jesus



Please do pick up your gift copy of *I Heard God Laugh* by Matthew Kelly. Read it at your leisure, join the Book Club (on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm via Zoom) pray with it, start your own discussion group. Here are some reflection questions for Parts One and Two:

- What surprised you in these chapters?
- What challenged you?
- What is the difference between "knowing about" a person and "knowing" a person? (or Jesus or prayer)
- Why do you pray?
- What would you tell someone else about prayer?
- How can you do better at "the practice of prayer/ faith"? Lord, your servant is speaking?
- What habits do you need to increase so you can reach your God given potential?
- Who has taught you to pray? What would you say to them now?

worldwide marriage encounter

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7-Session Virtual Enrichment Experience
Monday and Thursday Evenings
January 18 - February 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
Apply online: https://stl-wwme.org
Or call: 314-649-7317 for more information

Date: January 28 - 29, 2021

Differences: Due to Covid, the March for Life will look a little different this year. Teens accompanied by parents/guardians and other family members are invited to join us. We will be there to greet you, feed you, organize prayer and programming, and provide a place for the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois to gather. Sister M. Karolyn, FSGM (vocations director for the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, in Alton, IL) will be there to speak and lead us in games, prayer, and music.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2021
Together Strong: Life Unites

Transportation: On your own

Hotel: A block has been reserved at Crystal Gateway Marriott in D.C. Call to book at (703) 920-3230 $129 per night

Includes: 2 meals, 2 nights of programming and Mass

Registration: dio.org/youthministry/mfl

Questions: Email Sr. M. Veritas at vwilks@dio.org or Tony at tcerveny@dio.org

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11. Luke1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Who Am I? As we long for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, let our Advent be perfectly holy. To help us, Saint Paul reminds us of these basic Christian attitudes: (1) rejoice always, (2) pray without ceasing, and (3) always give thanks.

- In whom or in what will I rejoice this week?
- How will I pray every day this week?
- For whom and for what am I thankful? What will I do because of this thanksgiving?

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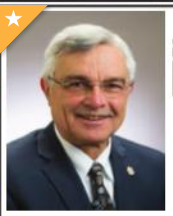

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