August 9, 2020

Sunday Masses: .................Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. Sunday, 9:00 am. and 11:15am
Weekday, 7:30 a.m., Saturday Morning 8:00 am
Sacrament of Penance: CURRENTLY SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Baptisms: A baptism preparation session is required prior to having your baby baptized. Baptisms are by appointment. The standard time for baptisms is 12:30 p.m. Sunday.

Marriage: Please call the church office one year in advance. Marriage preparation classes are required. The standard wedding time is 200 p.m. Saturday.

Sponsor Certificates for Baptism and Confirmation: Anyone needing a sponsor certificate must be registered in the parish for at least 6 months, have all of their Sacraments (if married, be a Catholic Marriage), attend Mass regularly and support the Church.
FROM THE PASTOR:

Non Avete Paura Non Habete Timor

The first words of the newly elected Pope John Paul II in 1978 were “Do not be afraid.” (In Italian, of course.) This Sunday’s gospel speaks to fear. Jesus has just fed the large crowd with just two fish and five loaves of bread. He dismissed the people to sail to the other side of the sea of Galilee. He went to an isolated place to spend time in prayer.

Meanwhile, the disciples are struggling to navigate a severe storm. And then they see a figure walking toward them on the waves. “It is a ghost”, they said, and they cried out in fear. At once, Jesus spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.”

Peter said to Him in reply, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” He then he steps out of the boat. Notice, that as long as Peter kept his eyes on Jesus, he actually walked on water! But, once he paid more attention to the wind and waves, he sank. A cry for help and Jesus stretched out His hand and saved him from a watery death. Once they got into the boat, the wind died down and the sea became calm.

Meditation: We face many fears besides COVID-19. The wind and storm in the gospel are symbols of such fear—powerful forces that are beyond our ability to control. Jesus enters the picture and initially is a source of even more fear. But His first words are “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” Recall that in the resurrection appearances, Jesus says the same thing. It is not only His Word, but also His presence that is the source of peace.

Peter learned that. When he kept his focus on Jesus, he could “Walk on Water” amidst of the storm. Once the fears dominated, he lost his connection to the Lord and succumbed to his fears. Like last week’s reading from the letter of Romans, the antidote to fear in a close and personal relationship to the Lord Jesus.

COVID-19 Spiritual Tool Box

We now live in a world dominated by wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, contending with limited number who can gather, sanitizing, and self-quarantining. These procedures are focused on our physical health - fine. But many of you are understandably afraid to come to Church. Many of you have not received the Eucharist since March 15. As your Pastor, I must confess that I am concerned about your spiritual health - the one that affects our eternal destiny. However, being deprived of the Eucharist, does not mean that your spiritual life cannot be nourished.

The Word of God: In Jeremiah 15:16, we read, “When I found Your words, I devised them; they became my joy and the happiness of my heart.”

In contending with Satan in the desert, Jesus rebuked Satan, “One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Our COVID-19 spiritual tool kit needs to include spending time daily with the scriptures.

Eucharistic Adoration: St. Peter Julian Eymard joined the Marists in 1839. During his years as a Marist, you would have seen a deepening of His Eucharistic devotion, especially through his preaching of Forty Hours in many parishes. Members of the men’s community which Peter founded alternated between an active apostolic life and contemplating Jesus in the Eucharist. Our COVID-19 spiritual tool kit needs to include spending time in Eucharistic Adoration - think Thursdays. There is plenty of open space and all the adorers wear masks.

Prayer: If you not have developed a devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Rosary, please start today. Saints and popes for centuries have taught the power of this prayer form as a means of intercession. In her apparitions, the Blessed Mother strongly encourages her children to pray the rosary for the conversion of sinners and peace in the world. Our COVID-19 spiritual tool kit needs to include praying the rosary daily.

T H O U G H T S O N G I V I N G:

“He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.” (Matthew 14:29)

When you hear Jesus calling, do you respond immediately and trust that He knows what He is doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say “yes” to Jesus, we feel the power of His presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen to how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has intended for you.

Readings for the Week

SUN: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
MON: 2 Cor 9:6-10; Ps 112:1-2, 5-9; Jn 12:24-26
TUE: Ez 2:8 - 3:4; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Mt 8:1-5, 10, 12-14
WED: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Ps 113:1-6; Mt 18:15-20
THU: Ez 12:1-12; Ps 78:56-59, 61-62; Mt 18:21 - 19:1
FRI: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 [59-63]; Is 12:2-3, 4b-c-d; Mt 19:3-12
SAT: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2; Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14; 1 Cor 15:54b-57; Lk 11:27-28: Day: Rv 11:19a;
SUN: Is 56:1, 6-7; Ps 67:2-3, Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28

August 9, 2020
LITURGY SCHEDULE

8/8 SAT: 4:30pm † TED SQUIRES, ROBERT SQUIRES & JACK SQUIRES - Karen Kustra
8/9 SUN: 9:00am † DOMINIC BONFIGILIO - The Mercadante Family
11:15am † WAIGHT & WILKINSON FAMILIES - Bob & Joanne Waight
8/10 MON: 7:30am † JAMES FERRANTI - Priest & People of St. Agnes
8/11 TUE: 7:30am † VINCENT & MARGARET FITZMAURICE - Children
8/12 WED: 7:30am † FRANCES EKL - St. Agnes Christian Mothers & Ladies Guild
8/13 THU: 7:30am † MARIA FRANCHI - Vi Franchi
8/14 FRI: 7:30am † ROBERT KANDRA - Joe & Cynthia Kandra
8/15 SAT: 8:00am † JAMES A. DUNN - Rosemary
4:30pm † WILLIAM KOSCHAR - Sister & Family
8/16 SUN: 9:00am † JAMES FERRANTI - St. Agnes Christian Mothers & Ladies Guild
11:15am † LARRY & ROSE VOGEL - Family

This Week in Our Parish

Parish Update:
The Parish Office is back to normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our Parish Mission Statement
We, the People of St. Agnes Parish are a Catholic Faith Community inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit. Sharing in the mission of Jesus Christ, we are committed to spreading the Good News of God’s love in our Parish and in the World. As we continue our journey of Faith, we pledge to love and support each other, give witness to Christ, and welcome all who desire to be part of our Parish Family.

Tuesday, August 11
6:30pm - 8:00pm - Dementia Friendly Faith Community, Res. Hall, Room 306

Wednesday, August 12
8:30am - 10:00am - Legion of Mary, Res. Hall, Room 303/305

Thursday, August 13
8:00am - 7:00pm - Adoration, Church

Saturday, August 15
9:00am - 11:00am - Our Lady of Guadalupe Pro-Life Mtg. Res. Hall, Room 306

CLEARANCES - We are asking all volunteers to take some time to provide us with updated clearances and trainings. Our 5-year anniversary is upon us, which means many clearances have expired. For a complete list of requirements and instructions or to become a new volunteer, visit stagneschurch.info - click on the Clearance slider. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

NEWMELY BAPTIZED:
Anne Teresa Faulkner. We welcome this child into our Faith.

St. Agnes Parish

PRAYER CORNER - In your charity, please pray for those members of our parish family who need our prayers, especially:


In order to keep our Prayer Corner current and up-to-date, we ask that you call once a month if you wish to remain on the prayer list.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jill McCulloch who passed away recently. May she rest in peace. †

Stewardship of Treasure - August 1/2

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Ministry Schedule for August 15/16

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<td>Lector</td>
<td>Carol Hevia</td>
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<td>Sherri Kopko</td>
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<td>Extra-ordinary Minister</td>
<td>Deacon Bill Wilson</td>
<td>Deacon Bill Wilson</td>
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ST. AGNES MISSION COMMITTEE - would like to thank all of you for donating items for ThinkActPeace Foundation. The children and families in the areas served by TAP will be greatly blessed by your continued generosity.

CONGRATULATIONS - to Erica Peters. She is the recipient of the 2020 Tim Meszar Scholarship. As always, each applicant displayed a level of maturity and excellence in the areas of faith and academics. Best wishes to her as she ventures forth into the world. Continue to keep God in your life!

COMFORT BLANKET MINISTRY - Thank you to all who have been making comfort blankets and for dropping them off to the parish office. They are beautiful and greatly appreciated! Currently, we are in need of cotton material. Please drop it off to the Parish Office during normal business hours. If any questions, call Eileen at 412-754-0125. Thank you.

GRIEF SUPPORT - Monthly meeting on August 12, at 6:30 p.m. via zoom. Please contact members of the Grief Support Team: Cheri Hall (chall@dioceseofgreensburg.org) or Sandy Monier (smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org) for the zoom invite. Fall Grief Support Program – Coming in September! Watch future bulletins and our social media for dates and locations or contact the Grief Support Team (Cheri Hall, Sandy Monier & Mike Ralph) for more information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - We have a tradition at St. Agnes of praying for the families of our First Holy Communion group each year. Please stop by the Church Office Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and pick up a "Chalice Ornament" with a child’s name and pray for their family. Thank you for your prayerful support!

PARISH COMMUNITY OUTREACH - It’s not too late to help local community families that are still in need during these unprecedented times. One way that we can help is by purchasing gift cards through Queen of Angels Catholic School’s Scrip Program. No going to the store required!!! Queen of Angels will fill your orders and return the gift cards to St. Agnes. St. Vincent DePaul will then distribute the gift cards to area families in need. If you would like to donate, please send a check (payable to Queen of Angels Catholic School) to St. Agnes Parish Office. THANK YOU for your continued support.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY FAITH COMMUNITY will meet on August 11, at 6:30 p.m., Room 306, Resurrection Hall. This is a group of individuals who come together to support one another as they strive to provide excellent care for their loved one diagnosed with dementia. The meeting is open to all family members or friends of individuals with dementia. We will open with prayer, scripture and reflection then share with one another what the Spirit is prompting from God’s Word. For more information contact Sandy Monier at smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org or the St Agnes parish office at 724-863-2626.

13TH OF THE MONTH ROSARY GROUP - “The Rosary is the most excellent form of prayer and the most efficacious means of attaining eternal life. It is the remedy for all our evils, the root of all our blessings. There is no more excellent way of praying.” (Pope Leo XIII). JOIN US, the 13th Of The Month Rosary Group as we continue to honor our Blessed Mother’s wishes and pray for PEACE by praying the rosary. Please note the time change...Thursday, August 13, at 7:30 p.m. outside at the “Rosary Walk” (in the Church if it rains).

PASTORAL CARE UPDATE - Support groups for Caregivers of Dementia patients and individuals suffering from grief after the death of a loved one are still meeting during the Pandemic either via Zoom or in person at an outside location. Please register through the main office or by emailing smonier@dioceseofgreensburg.org in order to receive a monthly invite to the meetings.

CANDLES - If you’d like to light a candle, send in a $3.00 donation to offset the cost of the pillar candles. Mail in a check payable to St. Agnes Church OR drop off a check or cash to the St. Agnes Church Office (Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.) A staff member will light your candle. Candles burn for 7 days.

SHARE YOUR STORY - From our COVID-19 experiences, we’ve had trials and tribulations, but we’ve also had the chance to strengthen bonds with family and friends, and Jesus! Please visit our blog by going to the parish web site, stagneschurch.info, and clicking on the slider with the "COVID-19 book" shown here. Read what others have contributed and don’t forget that this is your story too. Please share your story!
Queen of Angels Catholic School

Congratulations to the Class of 2020. A beautiful Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, July 28, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church with Father John Moineau and Father Michael Sikon. The faculty and staff, along with the graduates and their families, celebrated safely and respectfully. We are so proud of our 8th grade Class of 2020.

Vincent Bryan Brown
Nicholas Donald Dlugos
Gabriela Grace Maria Fennell
Dominic Charles Gadagno
Ashlynn Elizabeth Johnson
Jillian Ann Korpar
Liliana G. Monte
Andrew Dorian James Muzy
Jennifer Marie Novak
Charisma Snow Raszewski
Lydia Catherine Reith

American Legion Awards

Jennifer Novak and Dominic Gadagno, eighth graders at Queen of Angels Catholic School, were recently awarded the American Legion Award. This award is presented to one male and one female student who best exemplifies the qualities of Honor, Americanism, Service, Leadership, Scholarship, and Courage. Mr. John Koller and Deborah Javor presented these awards on behalf of the American Legion. Congratulations Students! (Pictured Left to Right: Jennifer Novak, John Koller, Dominic Gadagno.)

Daughters of the American Revolution Youth Citizenship Award

The DAR Youth Citizenship Award program was designed to offer a concrete tangible plan for training in American citizenship. Education of our youth in American citizenship is of supreme importance and is believed that attention to patriotic education means building a stronger nation. The requirements for this award are based upon the five qualities of Honor, Service, Courage, Leadership and Patriotism. The Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award was presented to our eighth grader, Vincent Brown. (Pictured: Vincent Brown). Congratulations!