



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Some who are last will be first,



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August 21, 2016

PARISH OFFICE 3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519

Tel: (925) 689-0838 Fax: (925) 689-7899

Office Hours: 9:00am - Noon * 1:00pm - 4:30pm, Monday-Thursday

Website: www.stagnesparish.net * E-Mail: stagnesoffice@comcast.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5PM

Sunday: 7AM, 9AM, 10:45AM & 5PM

Daily Mass in the Chapel at 8AM

Monday - Saturday

(Communion Service on Wed.)

Confessions: Saturday 3:30PM

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham
chemans@gmail.com

Deacons

Bill Drobick—deaconbill3@gmail.com
Tony Reyes—deacontonyr@gmail.com

Business Manager

Marlene McCann
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Lila Rutkowska
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Donna Cassianos
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May Hembrador
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Liturgical Musician

Lily Melendrez

Youth Ministry Coordinator

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Bulletins

Please submit your articles to:
donnaroberts1956@gmail.com

Pastoral Council President

David Wood
david@koc15344stagnes.org

SCHOOL OFFICE

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord

Tel.: (925) 689-3990

Office Hours: 7:30 - 4:00 M-F

Principal: Jill Lucia

jlucia@csdo.org

Secretary: Ana Kelley

akelley@csdo.org

Website:

www.stagnesconcord.com

Dear Friends,

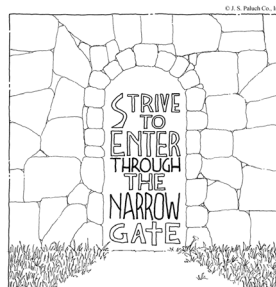
Someone once said to Paderewski, the great pianist, "Sir, you are a genius." He replied, "Madam, before I was a genius I was a drudge." He continued: "If I missed practice one day, I noticed it; if I missed practice two days, the critics noticed it; if I missed three days, my family noticed it; if I missed four days, my audience noticed it." It is reported that after one of Fritz Kreisler's concerts a young woman said to him, "I would give my life to be able to play like that." He replied, "That's what I gave." The door is narrow. Why should we think we can "drift" into the Kingdom of God? The Christian life is a constant striving to do the will of God as Jesus revealed it. We need to strive because there are forces of evil within us and around us, trying to pull us down.

In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly explains that anyone who follows him through the narrow gate of sacrificial service and sharing love will be saved. Jesus also admonishes his followers to concentrate on their own salvation by self-discipline.

Salvation is a past, present and future event. We were saved when we were baptized as children or adults. We are being saved at present, when we cooperate with God's grace by loving others as Jesus did -- by sharing our blessings with the needy and by being reconciled with God daily, asking His forgiveness for our sins. We will be eternally saved when we hear the loving invitation from Jesus, the Judge at the moment of our death and on the day of the Last Judgment, saying: "*Good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things, enter into the joy of your Master.*"

So we need to cooperate with God's grace daily by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in daily prayer and Bible reading and through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist; by choosing the narrow way and the narrow gate of self-control and self-disciplining of our evil tendencies and evil habits and addictions and by loving others, seeing the face of Jesus in them and sharing our blessings with them sacrificially.

Fr. Johnson



SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR AUGUST 14: \$10,341.00

Building Improvement Fund: \$2,605.00

Includes Faith Direct Giving

We thank you for your Stewardship.

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 20, 2016

5:00 p.m. Ernie Holt—Special Intention

Sunday, August 21, 2016

7:00 a.m. Harold Hale—Repose
Johnson Abraham—Special Intention

9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes
Living and Deceased

10:45 a.m. Neal Coenen—Repose
Anna Lunardi—Repose
Amanda Rubio—Repose

5:00 p.m. Vilma Capitule—Repose

Monday, August 22, 2016

8:00 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. John Stoker—Repose
Josefina M. Arayata—Repose

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, August 25, 2016

8:00 a.m. Capt. John Hallett III—Repose
Tomas Legaspi, Sr.—Repose

Friday, August 26, 2016

8:00 a.m. Maria Velasco—Repose
Ernie Holt—Special Intention

Saturday, August 27, 2016

8:00 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose

5:00 p.m. S. Johnson—Repose

Sunday, August 28, 2016

7:00 a.m. Grant Cvitanich—Repose
William Hurley—Repose

9:00 a.m. Darren Blattler—Repose
Chris Morris—Special Intention
George & Lynda Conlow -
Special Intention

10:45 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

5:00 p.m. Patricia Afinowicz—Repose

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, August 21, 2016

Fair Trade at all Masses this weekend.

12:15 p.m. Baptisms

Monday, August 22, 2016

First Day of School for St. Agnes

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

6:30 p.m. Tea Meeting—G.P.

7:00 p.m. Back-to-School Night—Church

Tuesday, August 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

7:30 p.m. Schola Practice—Music Room

Wednesday, August 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel

7:30 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice—Church

Thursday, August 25, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting—A.R.

7:00 p.m. CYO Meeting—EX

Friday, August 26, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel

8:00 p.m. Young Adult Meeting—Cauchi Hall

Saturday, August 27, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church

8:30 a.m. Cursillo—A.R.

10:30 a.m. Anointing Mass - Church
Reception Following in Hall

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday: St. Rose of Lima

Wednesday: St. Bartholomew

Thursday: St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanz

Saturday: St. Monica

REMINDER:

St. Agnes School starts on Monday, August 22. Please drive carefully through the parking areas.



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Parish News and Activities

FAIR TRADE SALES THIS WEEKEND

We're ready with a full supply of fairly traded and organically grown **Aromatic Coffees, Invigorating Teas, and Rich, Smooth, Dark Chocolate Bars** to please the most discriminating taste! *"When you purchase fairly traded products, you ensure farmers to live and work with dignity, their children going to school, and their communities made stronger through trade."* (Equal Exchange)
Thank you for your support of Fair Trade Products.

ANOINTING MASS Saturday, August 27 at 10:30 a.m.

"The special grace of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has as its effects: the uniting of the sick person to the passion of Christ, for his own good and that of the whole Church; the strengthening, peace, and courage to endure in a Christian manner the sufferings of illness or old age; the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of penance; the restoration of health, if it is conducive to the salvation of his soul; the preparation for passing over to eternal life" (CCC 1532).

If you are ill, stressed, or emotionally hurting, please plan on joining us for the Anointing Mass next Saturday, August 27. This special Sacrament is no longer reserved for those who are at death's door.

A reception immediately follows Mass.

SAVE THE DATE IT'S TEA TIME!



October 22, 2016, is the date to save for our Women's Guild Tea. This is a good time to get together with your family and friends for a wonderful afternoon filled with delicious food and tea. We'll be having fabulous auction baskets and entertainment too.

If you are interested in helping out with the planning of the tea please come to our meeting on August 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room. If you have any questions give us a call, Diannia Strupeck at 925-998-6398 and Mary Ann Castro at 925-381-5557.

ST. AGNES CYO BASKETBALL 2016-2017 Season Sign-Ups



Online registration will run through September 7th. **To register on-line, visit our website at <http://www.stagnescyo.com>.**

Walk-in registration is September 7, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Cauchi Hall.

Cost is \$215.00 per player (\$250 after Sept. 7.)

DISCIPLINE

It is no accident that the words "disciple" and "discipline" are nearly identical. Their relationship in Christian faith and life, however, has fallen somewhat out of favor in the past generation, as certain prescribed Church rules and regulations have been reduced and relaxed. These rules were often referred to as "disciplines." We are mistaken, however, to think that it no longer takes discipline to follow Christ. The Letter to the Hebrews assures us of that today. Our discipline is more like that of an athlete pursuing a victory or a personal best, or a musician striving for a concert career or to master a new piece of music. This discipline comes from desire, not from regulations. It was the desire to do the will of God that led Jesus on the path to his cross. It is that same desire he encourages in us today: to strive to enter through the narrow gate, to find ourselves in the kingdom with a surprising assortment of people who are there not because of mere observation of rules, but out of a genuine desire to recline at the table of the heavenly banquet.

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NOTICE: The Italian Dinner has been canceled due to lack of ticket sales. We hope you are all enjoying delightful summer vacations, resting and relaxing, before the busy fall season begins.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 20-21 Fair Trade after all Masses
- 22 First Day of School
- 27 Anointing Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- 30 STARS Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP – Part 2 of 3

Last week we discussed the topic of “What is Stewardship?” This week we will cover a bit of the history of stewardship at St. Agnes Parish.

St. Agnes became a Stewardship Parish in 1990 when Father George Mockel brought up a new movement to the Parish Council that incorporated the time and talent of parishioners with the financial support of the parish. After that first year, Stewardship became a way of life for us, and with your support over the years, St. Agnes was recognized as a mentor in the Stewardship movement, as well as a model of Stewardship for our Diocese. It isn't just about encouraging our parishioners to place their checks and dollars in the collection basket, but also about encouraging them to invest the gifts of time and talent that God gave them back into the church through its various ministries.

Currently, St. Agnes sponsors over 50 different ministries in our parish, providing lay help with administration, worship, social gatherings, and even reaching out to help others within the local community. Our volunteers have taken the gifts of the Holy Spirit (wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, fear of the Lord and piety – Isaiah 11:2) and the fruits of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – Galatians 5:22-23), along with their skills and interests, and invested those gifts into their work for their church and local community. Most will tell you that they receive far more back in joy and satisfaction than what they give in time and energy.

In addition, as part of Stewardship, St. Agnes tithes back to the community. Just as we are expected to tithe a portion of our income to the church, our parish tithes a portion of the collections we receive back to deserving organizations. In 2015, St. Agnes generously gave \$42,627 in donations to local groups such as Birthright, Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, Concord Share, Food Bank of Contra Costa County, St. Vincent de Paul and almost a dozen others.

What will you give back to God from the blessings you have received? Next week we will tell you how you can help your parish and local community and Make Stewardship a Way of Life.

Community News

Annual Respect Life Conference

The 2016 San Francisco Archdiocesan Respect Life Conference will provide information on developing a wider and deeper understanding of the sense of loss, grief and spiritual alienation experienced by many after abortion, and to offer priests, deacons, counselors, mentors and other lay persons recommendations for providing help and support.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has called the Church to reach out, encourage and offer sacramental reconciliation to persons who suffer spiritual pain from a past abortion and who seek reconciliation with a spirit of repentance. Project Rachel Ministry is seeking to follow the Pope's call by talking about the programs, resources and help available here in our archdiocese.

The workshop will feature Vicki Thorn, founder and director of the National Office of Post Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

This event, offered by the archdiocesan Respect Life Program and Project Rachel Ministry, will be held at St. Brendan Parish, 29 Rockaway Ave., San Francisco, on Saturday, September 17 from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Cost is \$25; please register by contacting the Respect Life Office, [415-614-5533](tel:415-614-5533) or e-mail masfs11@gmail.com or vevans1438@att.net.



Potluck Luncheon Tuesday, August 30



STARS (St. Agnes Retired Seniors) is a social outlet for the active retired seniors of St. Agnes Parish. The next luncheon meeting of STARS will be on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. All seniors, retirees and guests are welcome. This luncheon will be a “potluck,” so those who plan to attend are asked to bring their choice of either a main dish, a salad or a dessert (enough for 6).

STARS meets 10 times per year (not July or September) and features guest speakers and activities. Five of those monthly meetings are catered, and reservations are required. The remaining five meetings are potlucks and for those no reservations are required. STARS also sponsors Casino Bus Trips, Retreats and other activities.

The next Casino Bus Trip for STARS will take place on October 11 to Thunder Valley Casino. Please see the flyer at the Welcome Table with information or call Bob Rigor.

Please Join Us! There are no dues or membership requirements. For further information, you may call Bob or Sandi Rigor at 925-282-0387 or inquire at the church office.



August 21st is National Senior Citizen Day. We are thankful for all of our “experienced” parishioners and wish them a very special day!