



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



March 20, 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

Parochial Administrator

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham
chemans@gmail.com

Business Manager

Marlene McCann
marlene.stagneparish@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education

Lila Rutkowska
lilar.stagneparish@gmail.com

Secretary-Religious Education

Donna Cassianos
donna.stagneparish@gmail.com

Director of Music Ministry

May Hembrador
may@stagneparish.net or
jnmh143@hotmail.com

Liturgical Musician

Lily Melendrez

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Linda D'Souza
lindastagnes@gmail.com

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

jluca@csdo.org

Secretary: Ana Kelley

akelley@csdo.org

Website:

www.stagnesconcord.com

Dear Friends,

We are entering into the most Holy week of our faith.

How can we not hear the account of Jesus' Passion and not be moved by it? Recently I heard of someone asking a young person "What would you think of someone who didn't cry while watching the movie *The Passion of the Christ*?" The young person responded, "He would be lost." That young person was so moved by watching the movie that he could not understand why anybody could not be moved by watching the film. The Passion of Jesus moves us. It moves us because Jesus suffered.

The Passion of Jesus moves us because it is we who have inflicted this suffering on Jesus. It was not just the chief priests, and it was not just the cruel Roman soldiers who brought this suffering on Jesus; it was our sins that inflicted this suffering on Jesus. There is no past, present or future for Jesus; he is outside of time. And when we sin, we crucify Jesus. So then the account of the Passion of Jesus moves us to flee from sin. That is why we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. The Passion of Jesus shows us up for what we are - sinners who have crucified Jesus - and in the Sacrament of Reconciliation we turn to Jesus again and ask for his mercy. And through the Passion of Jesus we receive forgiveness, "through his wounds we are healed." (Isa 53:5).

When we are hurt by things in our own life and hurt by what we see happening in the world around us and need answers and healing and reassurance, let us turn to meditating on the Passion of Jesus and find the answer there. In fact, in Luke's account of the Passion, there were two occurrences of healing that are recorded: Jesus healed the ear of the high priest's servant which was wounded during the fray in Gethsemane, and secondly the enmity between Herod and Pilate was healed. During the week ahead, meditate on the Passion of Jesus. Let it become a source of healing for us also. Do not waste this week. Spend this week with Jesus meditating on his Passion. Come to the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. The crowd which welcomed Jesus with palms turned against him just as quickly and abandoned Jesus. Peter too turned from Jesus to save himself. Do we hear our conscience crowing any more when we sin? See what we have done to Jesus. Flee from sin, and be healed, for "through his wounds we are healed."

Fr. Johnson

All children from toddlers to age 12 are invited to our annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:45 a.m. Mass on Easter Sunday, March 27. Meet us on the patio with your Easter basket directly after Mass to be directed to one of the locations for the hunt.

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 19, 2016

5:00 p.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Marjorie Cortney—Repose
Cathy Ruhnke—Special Intention

Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:00 a.m. Pascuala Duldulao—Repose
9:00 a.m. Bill Blackledge—Special Intention
10:45 a.m. Pablo & Maria Palomo—Repose
John & Geraldine VanNieuwbury—R
Santo Toribia Romo—Special Intent.
5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Monday, March 21, 2016

8:00 a.m. Leon Meyer—Repose

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

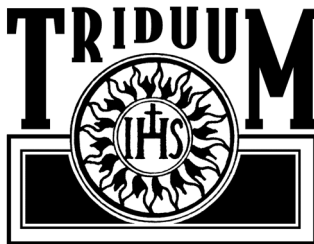
8:00 a.m. Sal & Irene LoGrasso—Repose

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, March 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer



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Friday, March 25, 2016

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Saturday, March 26, 2016

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 p.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Geoff Jung—Special Intention
Cathy Ruhnke—Special Intention

Sunday, March 27, 2016

7:00, 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.—All Masses are offered
for the People of St. Agnes, Living and Deceased

There is no 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:00 a.m. Couples for Christ—Cauchi Hall
3:00 p.m. Confirmation—Cauchi Hall
6:00 p.m. Life Teen—Cauchi Hall

Monday, March 21, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
5 & 6 p.m. Faith Formation—Classrooms
7:00 p.m. EDGE—Cauchi Hall

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
1:30 p.m. School Practice for Stations of Cross
6:00 p.m. PACE—Cauchi Hall
3:00 p.m. Little Vinnie's—A.R. & G.P.
7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Mtg—A.R.
7:30 p.m. Schola Practice—Music Room

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
10:30 a.m. Rosary Making—G.P.
1:30 p.m. School Practice for Stations of Cross
6:00 p.m. Seder Meal—Church Hall
7:30 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice—Church

Thursday, March 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Scripture Sharing—A.R.
7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass

Friday, March 25, 2016

Church Office is Closed.

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Chapel
11:00 a.m. Blood Drive—Cauchi Hall
12:00 noon Stations of the Cross—Church
2:00 p.m. Taize—Church
6:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy—Church

Saturday, March 26, 2016

7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast and Blessing
for Mexico Youth Group—Cauchi H.
8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Cursillo—A.R.
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Parish News and Activities

**St. Agnes Church
Annual Blood Drive
Good Friday, March 25, 2016
11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Cauchi Hall**



We ask that you consider making a donation during the Good Friday Blood Drive. To schedule your life-saving appointment: e-mail Pat Cesnik at stagnesblooddrive@gmail.com or call Pat at 925-381-0526.

Every 3 seconds someone, somewhere, needs a blood transfusion—please be a lifesaver! Your 1 donation will save 3 lives and go to recipients at over 50 Bay Area Hospitals.

LA MORITA MEXICO YOUTH MISSION

St. Agnes Youth are ready to head to Tijuana to build homes, leaving Saturday, March 26. This is our first year under the sponsorship of our new non-profit corporation instead of the Oakland Diocese. There are 72 youth and adults ready to build three homes for deserving families. Thank you very much for all of your support, especially on the Mexican Dinner, "Help Us Build a Home," and our letter-writing campaign. Your financial and spiritual support is what allows us to build these homes. If you would still like to help out, here are some ideas:

- ◇ Pray for our youth and their adult sponsors for health, safety, and energy!
- ◇ Bring homemade baked goods (cookies, brownies or breakfast breads) either to the Ministry Center or when we are packing at Cauchi Hall on Good Friday, March 25, at 5:00 p.m. We are asking that all baked goods be "without nuts."
- ◇ Donate craft materials up through Monday, March 21. You may bring them to the Ministry Center. We can use beads, pencils, coloring books, crayons, photo paper, colored construction paper, sequins, stickers, stamps with pads, binder paper.

Contact the Waltons at 925-825-7931 or e-mail jdwalton@astound.net for more information.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS for hosting our Friday Fish Fries during Lent. YUMmmmmmm. Many delicious fish dinners were served in the church hall during this Lenten season, without having to dirty our own kitchens or cleaning up the grease after. We wish to recognize the many man-hours of labor donated by Earl Koski, Carlos Garcia, Hugh McManus, David Wood, John Wright and the other members of the Knights and their families who supported this effort.

Remember, there will be no Fish Fry for this coming Good Friday. It is a day of fast and abstinence.



The next luncheon meeting of the St. Agnes Retirees is Tuesday, April 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. This is a catered lunch from Parma Deli, with Ham, Potato Salad, Roasted Veggies, Dinner Rolls and Dessert. The price is \$11.50 per person.

Please send payment to: Audrey Macedo-Burman, 3136 Windsor Place, Concord, CA 94518. For more information, telephone 925-689-5254. All St. Agnes Seniors and guests are invited.

The deadline for reservations is March 29.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH 2016

- 19/20 Palm Sunday
- 23 Seder Meal—5:00 p.m.
- 24 Holy Thursday—Mass 7:30 p.m.
- 25 Good Friday: Blood Drive 11:00 am-4:00 pm
Stations of the Cross—12:00 noon
Taize, Prayer around the Cross—2:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy—7:00 p.m.
- 26 Easter Vigil—8:00 p.m.
- 27 Easter Sunday Mass Times:
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
There is NO 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter.
Easter Egg Hunt—12:00 noon

As promised, following is the second winning essay submitted by St. Agnes School from the Knights of Columbus Essay Contest. Congratulations to both Cassidy Kelley and Dawson McDonald. And thank you to their parents and teachers who have encouraged and inspired them.

The Importance of Religious Freedom by Dawson McDonald

“Religious freedom is too sacred a right to be restricted or prohibited in any degree without convincing proof that a legitimate interest of the state is in grave danger,” (Frank Murphy). In many countries around the world, citizens of strict authoritarian rulers are fighting a losing battle for religious freedom. Although these crises take place in all four corners of the globe, I am blessed to be relieved of this problem. The importance of religious freedom to me is being able to go to a catholic school, celebrate my beliefs during mass, and be guaranteed freedom of religion under the First Amendment.

Many children throughout the world have parents who are being arrested or even tortured for freedom of religion. They would give up most of their life earnings to bless their children with a catholic education. I am lucky enough to be blessed with a catholic education to learn about my faith in a safe and supportive environment. This is important to me because I would not want to be a child of one of those parents, who are fighting for religion. I am very grateful that my parents sent me to a Catholic school to learn about my religion. Although I do not always have the opportunity to go to church and receive the Holy Eucharist, when I do have the chance to, I believe it is time well spent and not time wasted. During mass, I do feel like I am in the Holy Presence of God and I do take it seriously as a time of worship. We are often told during mass to participate and sing at our fullest, even when we do have our voices changing. I believe it was one of my teachers that told me, “God’s gift to you was your voice. Your gift to God is letting him hear your voice.”

The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791, and under the First Amendment, all citizens of America have the right to freedom of religion. This amendment, I feel is a foundation for religion in America. Without the First Amendment, citizens would not be able to practice their religion in public or in private. Also, without this freedom, the people of America would not be as diverse as they are today, and I believe that is what makes the United States so unique. You are able to practice any culture you want, freely and peacefully, and no one can stop you. In other countries, if you are peacefully practicing your religion, you could be arrested or tortured if you are not following tradition.

In conclusion, religious freedom to me is very important to make America what it is known as, the land of the free. I am thankful for being able to go to a catholic school, celebrate my faith at mass, and safely worship under the protection of the First Amendment. Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of a dream he had, and his dream was for racial equality, but also that everyone could have equal rights. He spoke of people of other religions who should have equal rights as well.

HOLY WEEK 2016

Wednesday, March 23—
Seder Meal



Holy Thursday, March 24
Mass, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 25
Stations of the Cross, 12:00 noon
Taize, Prayer around Cross, 2:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy, 7:00 p.m.



Easter Vigil, March 26, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27
Masses at 7, 9 & 10:45 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
12:00 Noon for children
up to 12 years old.
Bring your Easter basket!

