



# *St. Agnes* Catholic Community

*A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish*

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**



*April 16, 2017*

**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](http://www.stagnesparish.net) \* **E-Mail:** [stagnesoffice@comcast.net](mailto: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  
marlene.stagneparish@gmail.com

### Director of Religious Education

Lila Rutkowska  
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### Secretary-Religious Education

Donna Cassianos  
donna.stagneparish@gmail.com

### Director of Music Ministry

May Hembrador  
may.stagneparish@gmail.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 Chair

Linus Farias  
linusfarias@sbcglobal.net

## 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,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!!!

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Easter! May the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord be with you all!

On the first Easter morning the message is “you came back.” Let us remember that no one expected what the disciples experienced on Easter morning. The disciples never understood fully the teaching about resurrection. They did not expect Easter!

But from the beginning God made it clear that he was in the business of life and not death. God works to give and promote life. Every time we thought everything was lost, God comes back. God always comes back to give us life. God is in the resurrection business. God has been from the beginning...So how could the tomb be other than empty?

Easter is not a history but the mystery we share. In our personal life when we felt God has given us up... beaten down by death, fear, powerlessness, sickness, loss, abandonment and grief... God comes back.

For me, the important question is not so much “Do I believe that God raised up Jesus 2,000 years ago?” but rather, “Do I believe that God can raise up someone like you and me?” The existential question is not so much whether God empowered Jesus to come forth from the dark place of death, but whether you and I can believe that God can empower us to come forth from our dark place of pain, sin and suffering. Hopefully, our answer is a resounding “Yes!” If so, we have Easter faith. Let us place our hand in God’s hand and trust that God can raise us from our dead places just as Jesus was raised to new life.

He is risen alleluia.... We are an Easter people and we need to be in the business of life. It could be by being patient and forgiving; more generous and honest; a deeper prayer life and a gentle tongue; feeding the hungry, helping the poor and visiting the sick; working for justice and defense of human life; following a different career and a decision to volunteer; the daily task of parenting, spousing or befriending and paying attention to the responsibility that is placed in our hands.

Our invitation today is to be partners with God in the business of life and resurrection. We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song.

Fr. Johnson



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# Calendar for the Week

## Mass Intentions

**Holy Saturday, April 15 and  
Easter Sunday, April 16**

All Masses are offered for the People of St. Agnes,  
Living and Deceased.

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Lawrence Alan Daly—Repose  
Beatriz Legaspi—Repose  
Deceased Members of the  
Frisbee Family—Repose

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Joe Cornella—Repose  
Dottie Hubrig—Repose  
Honorato Perez—Repose

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Telesfora Legaspi—Repose  
Felicisimo Santos—Repose  
Gladys Sorbol—Repose

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Mary Boots—Repose  
Tomas Legaspi, Jr.—Repose  
Capt. John J. Shaughnessy, USMC—R

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Eduardo Joaquin—Repose  
5:00 p.m. Lois Auld—Repose  
Dr. German Galvan, Sr.—Repose  
Teresita O. Miranda—Repose

**Sunday, April 23, 2017**

7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,  
Living and Deceased  
9:00 a.m. William Michael Jordan—Repose  
Honorato Perez—Repose  
Gloria Schmidt—Repose  
10:45 a.m. Leland Eller—Repose  
Fr. Peter Loffredo—Repose  
Joaquin Perez—Repose  
5:00 p.m. Leland Eller—Repose  
Deceased Members of the  
Grewis Family—Repose

## Parish Events and Meetings

**Sunday, April 16, 2017**

12 noon Easter Egg Hunt—Hall, Patio, Field  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Monday, April 17, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Business  
Meeting—Church Hall  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Tuesday, April 18, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds—A.R.  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Rosary Makers—G.P.  
6:45 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—A.R.  
7:30 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Thursday, April 20, 2017**

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
9:30 a.m. Bible Study—A.R.  
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice—Church  
6:00 p.m. ICF Meeting—Cauchi Hall  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice—Church  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Friday, April 21, 2017**

8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Church  
7:00 p.m. Dance Class—Cauchi Hall  
7:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church  
9:00 a.m. St. Vincent de Paul Training—  
Cauchi Hall  
4:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena—Chapel

**Hospitality after 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**DANCING FOR JOY**

The people say that the sun dances on this day in  
joy for a risen Savior.

—Alexander Carmichael



# Parish News and Activities

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE EASTER COLLECTION

The Parish Finance Council has budgeted \$30,000 for this year's Easter Collection. We ask that each household be generous in making your Easter gift to the Parish. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

## ANOINTING MASS Saturday, April 29

Our next Anointing Mass is scheduled for Saturday, April 29th, at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch in the Church Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Whether you are ill physically or emotionally, or perhaps even suffering from stress, the anointing will provide graces and strengthen your spirit, as well as offering peace and comfort.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to our fabulous choir, all our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, ushers, Deacons, Environment Committee, cleaning crew, Ministry Center staff and volunteers, and everyone else who worked so many hours to make our Holy Week activities so meaningful. There is no doubt that our Father is pleased with the gifts of your time and talents.

**SHARE:** All nourishing food donations are appreciated. No glass, please. April's focus is canned fish or meat: tuna, chicken, turkey, spam or corned beef. Thanks so much for your donations.

## LOST AND FOUND

For those of you who have found your way to our Parish for this very special Holy Day, we welcome you and invite you to stop by the Welcome Table at the back of the Church to check out some of the current activities we have at the parish.

Also, if you have misplaced sweaters, keys, glasses or umbrellas, we usually keep them at the Welcome Table for a week or two, then move them to the Ministry Center for reclaiming. Please stop by the table or call the church office.

## RICE BOWLS

A box will be in the back of the church on Good Friday, Easter Sunday and the Sunday after Easter to collect the Lenten Rice Bowls. Thank you for your generosity during Lent. All the money that is collected will go to Catholic Relief Services—25% will be used for local needs in the Oakland Diocese, and 75% will be used by CRS abroad. May God bless all of you for your help.

## ST. AGNES SCHOOL OPENINGS

There are still openings for St. Agnes School for the next school year, including Kindergarten. Please call the school at 925-689-3990 if you have questions. Application forms can be downloaded from the school website, [www.stagnesc Concord.com](http://www.stagnesc Concord.com). Catholic education is one of the finest gifts you can give to your children. St. Agnes School provides a safe and loving environment where your children will learn about their Catholic faith and values, as well as receive a top-notch education.

## FIX-IT CHITS

The Buildings & Grounds Committee's job is to keep the parish facilities in good condition as everything is getting older and needing more repairs. If you see something that you think should be looked at, please take a minute and fill out a FIX-IT CHIT. The CHITS are available at the table in the back of the Church or at the Ministry Center. Just leave them on the table or at the Ministry Center. Thank you!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

- 15 Happy Easter! Easter Egg Hunt at Noon!
- 22/23 Hospitality Weekend

### MAY

- 2 StARS Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.
- 5 School Mass, 1:30 p.m.
- Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
- 6 First Communion, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

# Community Activities

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Easter is nearly three weeks later this year than last. Why does the date wobble around the calendar so? The way of calculating the date was set by the Emperor Constantine in 325. The decision ended a very bitter controversy in the church. Some people wanted to synchronize the Pasch with Passover on the fourteenth day of the Jewish month Nissan, and their opponents wanted it after the Passover was complete, on the Sunday after the first full moon of springtime. The ecclesiastical rules do not exactly connect with the astronomical rules. The emperor squashed the hopes of the quartodecimans, as the fans of 14 Nissan were called, and chose Sunday. The traditional rule is that Easter is the first Sunday after the first ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox, the fourteenth day of the new moon, and later than March 21. Thus, Easter wobbles between March 22 and April 25.

The actual tables and methods for computing the date are extraordinarily detailed, with subtle variations and mind-bending exceptions and charts with “golden numbers,” “dominical letters,” and “epacts” measuring leap years. In 1954 and 1962 the ecclesiastical calculations actually overrode the astronomical new moons and bumped Easter back a month! Today, there is a movement in the World Council of Churches (Protestants and Orthodox) for all Christians to combine their celebrations, based on the star charts for the Jerusalem skies. In principle, the Catholic Church is open to an ecumenical agreement on a fixed date for Easter, but we desire a unanimous decision from the World Council.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT

Friday – Sunday, April 28 - 30

Gloria Maldonado 510-384-6875

[AfterTheChoice.org](http://AfterTheChoice.org), [chernandez@oakdiocese.org](mailto:chernandez@oakdiocese.org)

[gloriamaldonado375@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gloriamaldonado375@sbcglobal.net)

The Diocese of Oakland will host a Rachel's Vineyard weekend healing retreat the weekend of April 28 - 30. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and Post-Abortion Healing groups offer hope, help, and healing for the soul in a loving, supportive environment, and result in life-changing transformations. Confidential sign-ups for women, men, and couples are happening now. Don't delay your healing and renewal in Christ any longer! To register or find out more, contact Gloria Maldonado, see above, or visit [AfterTheChoice.org](http://AfterTheChoice.org).

### Catholic Daughters of the Americas St. John the Baptist de la Salle, Court 1934 JOIN US FOR A MEXICAN FIESTA

**Saturday, May 20, 2017, from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm** at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, 5562 Clayton Rd., Concord.

Tickets are \$20 and includes a taco bar. There will also be raffle prizes.

For tickets, call Sandra Blanco at 925-864-5280 or mail your check payable to CDA #1934, 901 Hastings Dr., Concord, CA 94521.

RSVP no later than May 8, 2017.



### FAUSTINA—Messenger of Divine Mercy

**Friday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Our Lady Queen of the World Church Hall**

3155 Winterbrook Drive, Bay Point, CA 94565

St. Luke's Production will present a live multi-media drama "Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy," on Friday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at

Our Lady Queen of the World Church in Bay Point. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for youth, and can be purchased online at [tinyurl.com/OLQWplay](http://tinyurl.com/OLQWplay) or at OLQW parish office. Suitable for ages 13 and up.

For more information, contact Katt Embody at 925-439-7246 or e-mail [kattembody@gmail.com](mailto:kattembody@gmail.com).



**Excerpts from a letter from Bishop Michael C. Barber to the Priests of the Diocese of Oakland dated March 28, 2017, regarding diocesan action on immigration:**

“When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.” (Matthew 25:35) ...The Church is the Body of Christ. So when one part of the Church suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. This is the case in our diocese today, with the prospect of children coming home from school and finding one or both of their parents missing because they have been deported.

I want to be up front that I, and all Catholic bishops in the USA, believe every nation has the right to establish and control its borders. We also believe that criminals: drug dealers, human traffickers, thieves, etc. should be arrested, prosecuted, and — if need be — deported. No one disputes that.

...The number one issue all Catholic bishops and I favor is Comprehensive Immigration Reform. ... America is a country of immigrants. We are a Church of immigrants. Our Catholic Faith teaches that we should welcome the stranger, the immigrant, the widow, and the orphan. ... Even more, in the Catholic Church, all the baptized are not only equal “members”, but are brothers and sisters in Christ. ...

Here is what we are doing as a Church to follow God’s express command to help:

1. Representatives of the US Bishop’s Conference are meeting with leaders of our government in Washington to intercede for our immigrant community, asking that parents not be separated from each other or from their children.
2. Archbishop Cordileone and I are meeting in early April with the head of ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in the Bay Area to intercede for our own local communities.
3. I ask all pastors and principals of Catholic parishes and schools not to allow agents from ICE to enter our church and school properties without proper legal warrants. If needed, please contact Cristina Hernandez at the chancery for immediate assistance at [chernandez@oakdiocese.org](mailto:chernandez@oakdiocese.org) or by phone at 510-267-8379.
4. We will continue to provide service to those who seek assistance, such as food, shelter and legal aid, through our related organizations, such as Catholic Charities, regardless of the person’s national origin, religion or immigration status. Contact Catholic Charities of the East Bay, and St. Vincent de Paul chapters for assistance.
5. The diocese is organizing Training Sessions and Workshops in every region and deanery so people may know their rights and protections under the law. I ask pastors to publicize these workshops to the greatest extent possible. There are many community and legal resources for our people that are just a phone call away. “Knowing your rights”, and “What to do if ICE should come knocking”, is one of the greatest assets to reduce the level of fear and anxiety in our people. You can access this information at [www.oakdiocese.org/immigration](http://www.oakdiocese.org/immigration).
6. The Diocese of Oakland supports the dignity of all persons without regard to immigration status. The Church asks the congress and president to pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Until that happens, the Church stands in solidarity with those who are currently living “in the shadows”.

I realize people of good will may have differing opinions on immigration. But if you are a Christian and consider yourself a disciple of Christ, I ask you to please consider the situation from Christ’s point of view. We do not demonize those with whom we disagree. We are Americans, yes. But Christians, first. Remember what happened when Joseph was commanded by the angel to get up in the middle of the night, take Mary and the Child, and flee to Egypt. Would you have deported them from Egypt, because they did not have papers? Deported them back into Herod’s hands?

I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your faithful ministry to all our brothers and sisters, especially those in the peripheries. May the Lord bless you and reward you.

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ  
Bishop of Oakland