



ST. AGNES PARISH

245 North Amos Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

5:30 p.m. Dr. David Mack - Carrie Campo
Dinora

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

8:15 a.m. Judy Bennett - Susan Freeman
And Hilma Willenborg - Family

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

6:30 a.m. Lynda Evinsky-Krueger - Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

8:15 a.m. Ann Havey - Mary Clare Cummins

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

8:15 a.m. Howard White - Madonna White
12:15 p.m. John Hutches - Carrie Becker

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

4:30 p.m. Albert Homer & Irene Kearney -
Sharon Homer & Kathy Smith

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Agnes
9:30 a.m. Louis Gallo - Ralph & Roslyn
Brookens
11:30 a.m. Joe Dold—Clarice & Vic Alane

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Wednesday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13; Mk 1:7-11
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 2:1-11
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6

ALTAR SERVERS

January 3, 5, 6:

8:15 a.m. Adeline Gilmore, Emily Rapacz
8:15 a.m. Kyle Rolf, Beth VonBehren
8:15 a.m. Reagan Smudde, Rose Bartletti

January 7-8:

4:30 p.m. Kennedy Green, Elizabeth Mack,
Maxon Perkins
8:00 a.m. Peter Steward, Mike Noonan
9:30 a.m. Adam Kuchar, Grace Kuchar,
Isaac Vizral
11:30 a.m. Michael Enlow, Alison Enlow,

READERS, JANUARY 7-8

4:30 p.m. Maureen Farmer, Sr. Joan Sorge
8:00 a.m. Shirley Cowles, Susan Dodson
9:30 a.m. Rich Koerper, Susan Hartl
11:30 a.m. Don Steinkamp, Julie Davis

**COMMUNION MINISTERS
JANUARY 7-8**

4:30 p.m. Team B, Michael Farmer, Jim
Frank, Sharon Huck, Connor Kink, Dan Punzak,
Pat Steiren

8:00 a.m. Team G, Carolyn Chestnut,
Donna Chestnut, Tom Frost & Julie Davis, Brad
& Diane Loscher

9:30 a.m. Team M, Ralph & Roslyn
Brookens, Maribeth Farnham, Bob & Kathy
Sherman, Virginia Sprinkel

11:30 a.m. Team T, Eloise Baird, Jackie
Davis, Patrick Dennis, Linda Mueller, Don
Steinkamp

**SHARE THE WORD
JANUARY 7-8**

Pre K & K Gina Swehla
1st & 2nd Maria Rutter
3rd Becky Powell

GREETERS - JANUARY

4:30 - Barb Kern
8:00 - Carolyn & Donna Chestnut
9:30 - Mike & Elizabeth Johnson



January 1, 2017 – Fiftieth World Day of Peace

- Pope Francis urges us to practice active nonviolence and work to prevent conflict by addressing its causes, building relationships, and facilitating healing and restoration. He says in his message for World Day of Peace, “In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace.”

World Day of Peace Prayer

Recognizing the violence in my own heart, yet trusting in the goodness and mercy of God, I seek to practice the nonviolence of Jesus: by striving for peace within myself and seeking to be a peacemaker in my daily life; by refusing to retaliate in the face of provocation and violence; by living conscientiously and simply so that I do not deprive others of the means to live; by actively resisting evil and working nonviolently to abolish war and the causes of war from my own heart and from the face of the earth. God, I trust in your sustaining love and believe that you will give me the grace to live out this prayer.

(Pax Christi USA, adapted)



Mary, Mother of God

The solemnity of the Mother of God, which now coincides with the octave-day of Christmas and the beginning of the new year, was probably assigned this day because of the influence of the Byzantine Church, which celebrates the synopsis of the most holy Theotokos on December 26. This is in accordance with the Eastern practice of honoring secondary persons on the day after the feast of the principal personage (in this case, the birth of Christ). The Coptic Church celebrates this feast on January 16, but in the West, as early as the fifth century, the feast was celebrated on the Sunday before Christmas, although in France it was celebrated on January 18 and in Spain on December 18. Even before Pope Sergius introduced four Marian feasts in the seventh century (the Birth of Mary, the Annunciation, the Purification and the Assumption), the octave day of Christmas was celebrated in Rome in honor of the Maternity of Mary. Later, in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, the feast of the Circumcision was added, although it had been introduced into Spain and France at the end of the sixth century and was later included in the Missal of Pope St. Pius V. The recent liturgical reform has restored the original Roman practice, which replaced the pagan feast of the New Year, dedicated to the god Janus, with this feast honoring the Mother of God.

A popular movement began in Portugal in the eighteenth century for a feast honoring Mary's maternity, and in 1914 the date of the feast was fixed at October 11. It was extended to the entire Latin Church in 1931, the fifteenth centenary of the Council of Ephesus. The restoration of the feast to January 1, which falls in the Christmas season and has an ecumenical significance, coincides with other anniversaries; for example, the octave day of Christmas, the circumcision of the Infant Jesus (assigned to the first Sunday of January); the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus (which dates back to 1721); and the day for peace, introduced by Pope Paul VI.

In the encyclical *Marialis Cultus* (1974) Pope Paul VI states: “This celebration, assigned to January 1 in conformity with the ancient liturgy of the city of Rome, is meant to commemorate the part played by Mary in this mystery of salvation. It is meant also to exalt the singular dignity which this mystery brings to the ‘holy Mother . . . through whom we were found worthy . . . to receive the Author of life.’ It is likewise a fitting occasion for renewed adoration of the newborn Prince of Peace, for listening once more to the glad tidings of the angels, and for imploring from God, through the Queen of Peace, the supreme gift of peace. For this reason . . . we have instituted the World Day of Peace, an observance that is gaining increasing support and is already bringing forth fruits of peace in the hearts of many” (no. 5). - from EWTN.com



ST. AGNES SCHOOL
catch our spirit
 A PeaceBuilder School

St. Agnes School Staff wishes you a Happy and Holy New Year! May 2017 hold for you and your families a deep awareness of God's love and presence in your life.

Tuesday, January 3

- Grant Writing meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school office area.

Wednesday, January 4

- Classes resume for St. Agnes School students. Monday is a regular length school day with dismissal at 3:10 p.m. It is not an early dismissal day.

Thursday, January 5

- All-School Liturgy at 8:15 a.m. St. Agnes School children and staff will be celebrating their Christmas Mass. All are invited to join us.

- Annual Fund meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school office area.

Monday, January 9

- Dismissal at 1:30 p.m. for the monthly Faculty meeting.

- School Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school office area.



Holy Family Food Pantry: Next weekend, January 7-8, is our regular collection for the Holy Family Food Pantry. Please bring your food donations to the Gathering Space. Cash donations are always appreciated. Please make checks payable to "Holy Family Food Pantry." Thanks for your support all year long to this very important ministry.

FIRST FRIDAY—JANUARY

First Friday this month will be on January 6. Masses will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and at 12:10 p.m. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8:15 Mass, with reposition at noon prior to 12:10 Mass.

Join thousands of Catholics across the nation January 21-29, as we pray for a Culture of Life. Visit www.9daysforlife.com to receive novena prayers by text message, App, email, or on-line.

Blessings this New Year

"The Lord bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you, be gracious to you, give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26). These are beautiful words that may be used when speaking to friends, loved ones, and even ourselves this January first.

We are called to ponder the blessings of our past year and to be thankful for the many blessings we have received. These blessings can be our strength in the new year. Praise God for the many treasures that are ours. Let us stop the noise of our life for a few minutes and remember the ways in which God has brought us peace.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, teach us how to ponder our treasures, how to draw strength from our blessings, as we journey into this new year.

Living in Love Marriage Enrichment Retreat

- Couples who stay successfully and happily married make their marriage a priority. They are not content with having a marriage that is just 'okay', they want something much more. Living in Love provides an opportunity for couples to reconnect with their own personal love history and gain a renewed sense of purpose, hope and direction for their future. The next weekend is January 7-8 at the Villa Maria. For more information or to register, please contact Carlos Tejada at 698-8500.



CONTRIBUTIONS, DECEMBER 24-25:

CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN A LATER BULLETIN DUE TO THE ACCELERATED HOLIDAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE.



Signature Ad Campaign:

Springfield Right to Life will again sponsor a Signature Ad Campaign in the State Journal-Register, to be published the week of January 18, 2017. We encourage you to participate and sign your name to this life affirming campaign! You will have the opportunity to be a part of making a statement in the defense of LIFE. After all Masses January 7-8 and January 14-15, parishioners and guests may make a \$5.00 donation and complete the signup sheet to have their name included in the Right to Life advertisement. An individual, family or group name is acceptable for inclusion in the ad. Checks should be made out to Springfield Right to Life. Note: Anonymous donations will be gratefully accepted. Given the nature and intent of this public pronouncement, anyone who wishes to withhold their name from publication will be listed as "*Friends for Life.*"



Make a resolution to listen to AM 1410 & 88.9 FM WIHM Catholic Radio in the New Year. Tune in to daily Holy Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the

Rosary. Plus programs such as, Catholic Answers Live, Open Line, the Journey Home, and more. For a program schedule call (314) 752-7000 or toll free at (877) 305-1234.

Find Peace, Hope, Understanding, Healing, Community, Acceptance following separation or divorce: You are invited to attend Catholics Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG). You will hear inspiring stories of recovery from divorce and separation, and wisdom from Catholic speakers, writers and clergy on turning to God, for help. Our group meets Wednesdays, beginning JAN. 25, 2017 in Room 3 of St. James Parish Hall, 112 North 6th Street, Riverton, Illinois 62561. For more information, call the Office for Marriage and Family Life, Diocese of Springfield in Illinois at 217-321-1132 or call 217-494-3366 to speak with the facilitator. For a preview of the sessions go to <http://www.catholicsdivorce.com/Catholics-Divorce-Survival-Guide-Preview-Videos>

University of Dayton Online Learning-Courses for all Catholics

- All adult Catholics have the opportunity to take online college level courses through the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), a program of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton. The VLCFF offers online adult religious education and faith formation courses in support of the Church's catechetical ministry. This means that you can deepen your faith at a time and place convenient to you via the internet. Courses may be taken for undergraduate credit (for an additional fee) and some courses qualify for credit in our diocesan Catechist Formation Process. Registration for the 2017 courses closes Jan. 11, 2017. The courses run Jan. 15-Feb. 18. For more information, visit the VLCFF web site or contact the Office for Catechesis.





Young at Heart (YAH) Activities

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

* Sunday, January 8 – Fifth annual After-the-holidays dinner at Bella Milano. Starting time is 6:00 p.m. All adult parishioners and their guests are welcome. Last year, we had nearly 40 participants and a good time was had by all. We hope to see many of you again this year. Watch future bulletins for more information or call Cliff Erwin at 787-7017 to make a reservation.

*Saturday, January 28 – Grapevine Social at It's All About Wine. Starting time is 6:00 p.m. Friends are welcome and you do not have to drink wine to participate. Please bring a snack to share. Watch bulletin or contact Roslyn Brookens at 622-6299 for more information.

* Sunday, February 19 – Paint day from 2-4 p.m. in our parish hall. All parishioners age 10 (with supervision) and over are invited to this fun event. Cost is \$30.00 per person and includes canvases and snacks. (Bring your own beverages.) There will be three stenciled canvases to choose from and you will need to pick your canvas prior to the date so the artist will have enough of each canvas on hand. (A picture of the designs will be available in the Gathering Space after January 1.) For more information or to make a reservation, please contact Jane Snyder at 546-7084 or janesnyder167@yahoo.com by Friday, February 10. A maximum of 40 people can be accommodated and we anticipate a good turnout so early registration is encouraged. Come out and beat the winter doldrums!

* Tuesday, March 21 – Elvis will be in the parish hall for our first potluck of the year. Come to hear the songs you grew up with and relive old times. Social will be at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. and Elvis will perform at 6:30 p.m. For more information, watch the bulletin or contact Barb Kern at 546-7729.

St. Valentine's at the Villa - Why not celebrate the joy and humor of Christian married love with your sweetheart this St. Valentine's Day? Dinner, Drinks and Entertainment \$50.00 per couple. Open to all married, engaged and dating couples. Entertainment provided by comedy writer Tom Leopold. A comedy writer finds God - A personal journey of faith... one joke at a time! From writing episodes of Seinfeld and Cheers to working with such comedic legends as Bob Hope, Billy Crystal, Lucille Ball and Chevy Chase, Tom has been at the epicenter of comedy for nearly forty years.

Fish Fry will be held at the Riverton K of C on January 6 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Menu includes walleye, shrimp, catfish, baked fish. Dinners include coleslaw, choice of fries, baked potato or potato salad For carry-out orders call 629-7207 after 4:30 p.m.

March for Life 2017: Information about the diocesan pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, DC January 25-29 is currently available on the diocesan website. This includes the evening prayer portion of the Life is Very Good conference on Thursday, the March for Life demonstration parade on Friday, visits to our members of Congress, free time to explore downtown Washington, DC, and a visit to Gettysburg National Military Park on the way home on Saturday. Details are on the diocesan website at www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl. Or contact Kyle Holtgrave, director for the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 698-8500.



RIGHT TO LIFE CORNER

Trust in the mercy of God's love. Do you know someone who is carrying the grief and sorrow of past abortions? Share with them the Good News of God's merciful love. Call Project Rachel for a confidential referral to those who can help: 1-877-RACHEL-5.



Rules for the journey. As the People of the Hebrews moved from Egypt in their desert passage to the Promised Land, they understood and believed that God alone is the source of blessing. Blessing becomes effective when (1) it is spoken and (2) it is followed by some action confirming the blessing. As we journey in Christian living, as we travel to heaven, our real home, let us be amazed at what we see and hear – just like the Mother of God and the hastening shepherds. Let us sing the refrain of Psalm 67: “May God bless us in his mercy.” Then, let us act to confirm it.

- What acts will I resolve to continue in this new year?
 - What Christian behavior will I start anew?
- How can I be merciful on this common journey to heaven’s home?

I Am the New Year

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn’t find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn’t achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn’t dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have—these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, “Behold, I make all things new.”