



**ST. AGNES PARISH**

245 North Amos Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62702

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12**

5:30 p.m. Francis VonDeBur - Sandy Roberts

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13**

8:15 a.m. Thomas Brady - Helen Woods & Family

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

6:30 a.m. Dorothy Cour - John & Chris Malmevik

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**

8:15 a.m. Gene & Margaret Damiani - Susan Owens Family

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**

NO MASS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17**

4:30 p.m. Mary Lewis - Debbie Lewis

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Agnes  
9:30 a.m. Bill Becker - Edna Rosa  
And Charles Brown - Beverly Buehner  
11:30 a.m. Joseph Ciaccio - Natalie Bales

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**December 13, 15:**

8:15 a.m. Rose Bartletti, Anna Curtis  
8:15 a.m. Charlie Dunham, Kyle Ward

**December 17-18:**

4:30 p.m. Sophie Billingsley, Andrew Frierdich, Lauren Frierdich  
8:00 a.m. Brad Loscher, Tony Mares  
9:30 a.m. Kyle Ward, Noel Ward, Maddie Warrington  
11:30 a.m. Max Hartwig, Sophie Kink-Tucker, Olivia Kink-Tucker

**READERS, DECEMBER 17-18**

4:30 p.m. Susan Dodson, Ellen Kuntzi  
8:00 a.m. Linda Distlehorst, Mary Ann Gatten  
9:30 a.m. Susan Hartll, Bill Duffield  
11:30 a.m. Jan Mulrooney-Kuhn, Ed Cobau

**COMMUNION MINISTERS  
DECEMBER 17-18**

**4:30 p.m. Team C,** Mike & Dawn Caveny, Barb Kern, Mark & Ellen Kuntzi, Rudy Kink  
**8:00 a.m. Team H,** Lois Bloechle, Rita King, Al & Sharon Mast, Rosie McCormick, Chuck Murphy  
**9:30 a.m. Team N,** Tom Arisman, Ann Devlin, Dave Kerwin, Becky Powell, Conrad & Kathy Rubinkowski  
**11:30 a.m. Team U,** Sr. Angelene Biderbost, Jan Koltun, Phil & Leigh Reed, Rick & Nancy Wilderson

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Zec 2:14-17; Lk 1:26-38  
**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32  
**Wednesday:** Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23  
**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30  
**Friday:** Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36  
**Saturday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17  
**Sunday:** Is 7:10-14; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

**PRAYER LINE REQUESTS**


8:00 AM-5:00 PM: Sheila Noonan 546-0012  
Barb Kern 546-7729  
5:00 PM-10:00 PM: Maureen Brady 787-3423  
Cinda Steinkamp 787-6439

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** The Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas is being offered here at St. Agnes on Saturday, December 17, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 20, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

**Advent Taizé Prayer** is coming to Blessed Sacrament on Monday evening December 12 at 7:00 p.m. A Taizé Prayer is an ecumenical service involving beautiful instrumental and chanted music in a prayerful candlelit atmosphere. With an emphasis on the Peace and Healing, this peaceful hour will inspire your Advent prayers and practices. Please join us and bring a friend & an item for the food pantry.

**Advent Discipleship Series:** A special faith formation session will be offered at St. Frances Cabrini Parish Hall. Sessions are free.

- Wednesday, December 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**Climate Change and the Universe Story**  
Presenter, Sr. Sharon Therese Zayac, OP
- Wednesday, December 21, 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
**Beyond Baby Jesus: An Adult Understanding of The Incarnation**  
Presenter: Sr. Beth Murphy, OP

 The family of John Coleman would like to thank the entire St. Agnes congregation for their loving support during our time of grief. Thank you to Fr. Jallas for his support of Jack and Peg over the years, and the kind words you shared in your homily at Jack's funeral Mass. The music by Sr. Francis Mary and the choir was beautiful. We received many compliments on the music and the choir. Thanks to all the members of the funeral committee that provided a wonderful meal. It was very nice to have the use of the facility and the delicious meal. Lastly thanks to all the St. Agnes parish family that came to pay their respects. It was comforting for us to hear all the friends they made at St. Agnes over the years.

  
*First  
Reconciliation*

Please keep in prayer the following children of our parish (School and Parish School of Religion) who will celebrate First Reconciliation on December 14. May they ever trust in the loving mercy of God for them!

Michael Albanese	Lilly Koerper
Alaina Brands	Ainsley Lambert
Isabelle Coleman	Emma Lawrence
Caden Comerford	Sophia Lawrence
Anna Denoyer	Brady Leichsenring
Kaylee Dillon	Kelan Long
Victoria Diveley	Luca Madonia
Ella Dunham	Dominic Mangiaracina
Isabella Farley	Kennadee Moore
Braeden Galloway	Peter Murr
Ella Geist	Riley Nesch
Maxx Geist	McKenna Norris
Madelyn Gernigin	Joseph Obert
Hadley Grider	Gabriella Orama
Michael Groesch	Naomi Pathinvo
Matthew Gunderson	Niko Pecori-Robinson
Ruthie Harrison	Viviana Pilapil
Alyvia Hinds	Lydia Ressler
Kayleigh House	Austin Rutter
Charlie Hughes	Benjamin Schad
Ella Jarmer	Zane Shelton
Benjamin Johnson	Henry Stevens
Michael Johnson	Olivia Walcher
Colton Kaufmann	Spencer Wieneke

PLEASE  
NOTE



### **Bulletin Schedule for the Holidays:**

- Articles for the bulletin of December 25 must be received in the Parish Office by 10 a.m. Friday, December 16.
- Articles for the January 1 bulletin must be received in the Parish Office no later than 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 21.

FAX: 793-3212

EMAIL: sac245@comcast.net



**ST. AGNES SCHOOL**  
*catch our spirit*  
A PeaceBuilder School

### Sunday, December 11

Please support our Catholic Schools and attend the K of C breakfast today, December 11 at the K of C on Isles. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 6-12, and kids five and under are free. All proceeds benefit our Springfield Catholic Grade School Scholarships (tuition assistance). The breakfast extends from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Students from our various schools will be performing through the morning. St. Agnes Singing Aces will be singing at 10:30 a.m.

### Monday, December 12

- Advent Wreath lighting at 10:30 a.m. in the gym.  
- St. Agnes first and second graders and the Singing Aces will be presenting their Christmas program: "Noel Critters" present: A Tiny Bit of Heaven at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym. Please come and enjoy this Christmas gift! Refreshments will follow in the school.

### Tuesday, December 13

- St. Agnes Student Council Christmas Party will be held from 3:15 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. We are very proud of our Student Council and all they do as leaders in our school. Their Christmas decorations in the school tell of their great spirit.

### Wednesday, December 14

- St. Agnes Parents' Club will be sponsoring the Secret Santa Workshop for students to shop for Christmas for moms, dads, brothers and sisters and other relatives and friends Wednesday, December 14 through Friday, December 16. This event will be held in the Parish Hall.  
- Robotics Club meeting from 3:15-4:30 p.m. in the Science room.  
- 2nd grade First Reconciliation in Church at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments after in the school gym.

### Thursday, December 15

- St. Agnes students in grades 3-8 will have an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at 9:30 a.m. in the Church.  
- Technology Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the school office area.



**Come to save us.** That is our prayer. It is God's promise. How do we know? Our own eyes will show us. Our own ears will tell us. The feeble are made strong. The frightened do not fear. The blind see. The sick are healed. The poor are cared for. Jesus' ministry of healing and mercy is evident everywhere. At this mid-point of Advent, this time of waiting for the Second Coming of Christ is not a passive waiting in easy chairs. It is active. It is robust. It is filled with behavior as if Jesus is right here, right now. Because he is!

- In what ways can his ministry of healing and mercy be my own?
- Who needs a ride to doctor or grocery?
- Who needs a visit to ease loneliness or fear?



### **Have Breakfast with Santa in the Parish Hall after all Masses on Sunday, December 18.**

Parents and grandparents - take the kids to see Santa that morning. (The adults are invited to come too!) Remember to bring your cameras to take pictures of the kids (and their families) with Santa. Sponsored by the Holy Name Society.



*Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord." (Jas 5:7)*



**CONTRIBUTIONS, DECEMBER 3-4:**

Regular Contributions: \$1,875

St. Agnes Parish Capital  
Improvements Fund: \$24,047

**MAY GOD BLESS YOUR GENEROSITY!**

**The Holy Name Society** will meet on Monday, December 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will discuss the results of the Chili Supper, and make final plans for Breakfast with Santa. All men of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.



**WELCOME** to the following parishioners who registered at St. Agnes Parish in September:

**Josh & Page Houser Family**  
**Megan Leichsenring Family**  
**Thomas & Carol Pigati**  
**Alora Taylor**  
**Thomas & Tabitha Yancy**  
**Francis & Betty Zake**

**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. Including 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](http://www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl) or call Kyle Holtgrave at 698-8500.



Dear Parishioners of St. Agnes,

After all Sunday Masses this weekend and next (December 17/18), a special book entitled, "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic" by Matthew Kelly will be distributed to all adults. Inside each book is also contained a bookmark with the group discussion dates focusing on the content of the book.

Treat yourselves! This is an easy read with engaging content on living our lives of Catholic Christian faith. It shouldn't be a burden during and after the "holidays!" Consider this book a Christmas gift from the Lord and share it with others. More later.

Advent Blessings,  
*Fr. Bob*



**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

You may make a donation for Christmas decorations in memory of a loved one. There is a special envelope in your December packet for this purpose, "Christmas Flower Offering." Please put in the amount of donation, and **on the reverse side, who the donation is in memory of.** You may put the envelope in the collection or mail to the Rectory. A list of memorials will be in the bulletin in January.

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**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday, December 24,**  
 Christmas Eve: 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (Choir begins at 9:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 25,** Christmas Day:  
 10:00 a.m.

**Saturday, December 31,** New Year's Eve (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God): 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 1,** New Year's Day:  
 10:00 a.m.

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### 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 the 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](mailto: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.

**SHG Christmas Show:** The Choral Department of Sacred Heart-Griffin High School will present their annual Christmas Show, "Christmas Memories" on Tuesday, December 13, at 7 p.m. in the SHG Dominican Hall Theatre, 1200 West Washington in Springfield. Tickets do not need to be purchased; however, a free-will offering will be accepted at the show.

**You Can Help Your Marriage** – 25% of surveyed couples say they are "Happily Married." For everyone else there is Retrouvaille. Are you frustrated, hurt or angry with each other? Are you constantly fighting? Or so you simply shut down? Have you thought about separation or divorce? For more information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. Next date is February 3, 2017.

**Blue Christmas:** Not everyone is cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our community. The King's House in Belleville is pleased to offer an evening of gentle, ecumenical prayer and fellowship to anyone who finds themselves feeling "blue" this Christmas season. Please join us for our "Blue Christmas" celebration on Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in our chapel. Questions? Call 618-397-0584.



### RIGHT TO LIFE CORNER

For parents who receive a difficult prenatal diagnosis: May they be comforted by the assurance of God's loving plan for their child's life;

We pray to the Lord.....

**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 opens Oct. 19, 2016 and closes Jan. 11, 2017. The courses run Jan. 15–Feb. 18, 2017. For more information, visit the VLCFF web site or contact the Office for Catechesis.

**Worldwide****Marriage****Encounter:**

“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom.” As we await the coming of the Lord, let us rejoice and encourage our marriages to bloom by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on February 3 – 5, 2017. To register or for more information call 314-649-7317 or go online to [www.stl-wwme.org](http://www.stl-wwme.org).

**Funeral Luncheon Dishes:** Over the last few months, several dishes have been brought in for funeral luncheons but never picked up after the luncheon. Please stop by the parish hall and claim your casserole dishes and bowls. We will be disposing of unclaimed items in December. Thank you for your assistance!