



**PARISH STAFF**

Rev. Robert J. Jallas, Pastor  
Rev. Pawel Augustyniak, Parochial Vicar  
Deacon Roy A. Harley  
Karen Ferguson, Music Director  
Kathy Vizral, Parish Administrative Assistant  
Nancy Wilderson, PSR Coordinator

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Parish Office ······793-1330  
Parish Fax ······793-3212  
Parish Email ······sac245@comcast.net  
Parish Website ······stagnescatholicparish.org

**SCHOOL STAFF**

Sr. Joan Sorge, O.P., School Principal  
Karen White, School Administrative Assistant  
Sharon Swehla, School Secretary  
Mathew Fitzgerald, Maintenance

School Office ······793-1370  
School Fax ······793-1238  
School Website ······stagnescatholicsschool.org  
School Email ······info@stagnescatholicsschool.org

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & CONTACT PERSONS**

Caregiving Ministry ······ Barb Kern  
Choir & Song Leaders ······ Karen Ferguson  
Communion Ministers ······ Elaine Arisman  
Gift Bearers ······ Debra Mann  
Greeters ······ Barb Kern  
Holy Name Society ······ Mike Noonan  
Readers ······ Deacon Roy A. Harley  
Parents' Club ······ Julie Ressler  
Parish Council ······ Carrie Becker  
Parish Finance Council ······ Tom Frost  
Right to Life ······ Cliff Erwin  
School Board ······ Ann Holtrop  
St. Vincent de Paul Society ······ Jim Ketchum  
Young at Heart ······ Jane Lacascio, Roslyn Brookens

# ST. AGNES PARISH

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday** 4:30 p.m.  
**Sunday** 8:00, 9:30, 11:30 a.m.  
**Monday** 5:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday** 8:15 a.m.  
**Wednesday** 6:30 a.m.  
**Thursday** 8:15 a.m.  
**First Friday** 8:15 a.m., 12:10 p.m.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after 8:15 Mass until noon.

(No daily Mass on Fridays except for First Fridays)

**Holydays** Consult the bulletin prior to the Holyday

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Call the Parish Office to schedule other times.

**ST. AGNES PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Loved and chosen by God, we are the St. Agnes Parish family. Through Baptism we share responsibility for continuing the mission of Jesus. We are called to be a community whose members enable and support the gifts given to each by the Spirit. We are sent to make Christ visible in our world through worship, proclamation of the Word, and service to all God's people. We, the people of God, in the Catholic Christian community of St. Agnes, in northwest Springfield, Illinois, commit ourselves to seek first the Kingdom of God in our life together.

**WELCOME!**

If you're new to our community and not yet registered, we invite you to call or stop by the Parish Office.

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Call the Parish Office to arrange a time.

**INFANT BAPTISMS**

Infant Baptisms are celebrated on the **first and third Sundays of the month** at 12:30 p.m. Attendance at the Pre-Baptismal Preparation Class is required. Call the Parish Office to register for the class and to arrange for a Baptism.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is open to the unbaptized who are interested in joining the Catholic faith, those baptized Christian who are considering becoming a Catholic, and baptized Catholics who are not fully initiated. Inquiry sessions for those interested in joining the Catholic faith are held periodically throughout the year. Please call the Parish Office for additional information.

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE**

Arrangements for weddings must be made at least six (6) months in advance. Please contact the Parish Office.



**ST. AGNES PARISH**

245 North Amos Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62702

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 18**

5:30 p.m. Margaret O'Donnell (Family)

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19**

8:15 a.m. Kay McDonald (Christine Rakin)  
And Frank Owens (Susan Owens and Family)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20**

6:30 a.m. Walter Brown (Barb Kern)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21**

8:15 a.m. Gene & Margaret Damiani (Susan Owens & Family)  
And Betty McGann (Family)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22**

No Mass

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23**

4:30 p.m. Bernadine Venturini (Dorothy & Frank Katalinich)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Agnes  
9:30 a.m. Bill Becker (Don, Judy & Doug Buckley)  
And James Reuther (Shirley Reuther)  
5:00 p.m. Virginia Stannard (McConnell & Stannard Families)  
10:00 p.m. Ed Canny (Mike & Colleen Troesch)

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25  
**Wednesday:** Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**DECEMBER 19, 21:**

8:15 a.m. Kyle Ward, Jack Ludolph  
8:15 a.m. Emma Markwell, Olivia Prichard

**DECEMBER 23-24:**

4:30 p.m. Zach Megginson, Maxon Perkins, Emily Rapacz  
8:00 a.m. Tom Frost, John Brunzman  
9:30 a.m. Jack Ramage, Peyton Blackburn, Charlie Dunham

**SERVERS CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY: TBA**

**READERS, DECEMBER 23-24**

4:30 p.m. Maureen Farmer, Harry Mitchell  
8:00 a.m. Linda Distlehorst, Sharon Mast  
9:30 a.m. Richard Koerper, Roslyn Brookens

**READERS, CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:00 p.m. Children  
10:00 p.m. Adrian Gandhi, Bob Bussing

**READERS, CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 a.m. Linda Distlehorst, Bev Dillon

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

**DECEMBER 23-24**

**4:30 p.m. Team D,** Judi Bloome, Susan Dodson, Dan Dollison, Sharon Huck, Mary Mucciante, Kathy Smith  
**8:00 a.m. Team I,** Mary Ann Gatten, Robert & Nancy Gorman, Steve & Julie Johnson, Louis Kink  
**9:30 a.m. Team O,** Bill & Cindy Callan, Richard & Meredith Koerper, Doug McDonald, Becky Powell

**CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24**

**5:00 p.m. Team A,** Karen Beckmann, Rudy Kink, Kathy Kraft, Debra Mann, Jim Morris, Judy Nordstrom,  
**10:00 p.m. Team F,** Mike & Vicki Bauer, Jean Goetz, Rita Messinger, Joan Reed, Sr. Joan Sorge

**CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25**

**10:00 a.m. Team S,** Camille Arisman, Tom & Elaine Arisman, Grace Kuchar, Ben Rogers



**REST IN PEACE**

Please keep in your prayers **Margaret Aebel and Jack Clarke** of our parish who died recently. May they know the fullness of joy that the Risen Lord desires to share with us.



**Advent Reconciliation:** In preparation for Christmas, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered here at St. Agnes on **Tuesday, December 19, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.**



**Stop by the Parish Hall TODAY, December 17, after all Masses to have breakfast with Santa!**

Parents and grandparents – take the kids to see Santa. Remember to bring your cameras to take pictures of the kids (and the entire family) with Santa. Sponsored by the Holy Name Society.



**Thank you** to all parishioners who donated cookies for our annual "Cookies for the Homebound" program. Thanks also to those who helped package and deliver them. There was such a good turnout and the homebound residents were so appreciative. Thanks again for taking time out of your busy schedules to help brighten their day.

**Tune in to Catholic radio on AM 1410 & 88.9 FM WIHM.** Programming includes daily Holy Mass, the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, live call-in shows, local programming and much more. For a program schedule and a free CD, please call toll-free (877) 305-1234.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**Bulletin Schedule for the Holidays:**

- The bulletin for December 24 will be submitted as normal. Articles must be received by 8:00 a.m. December 19.
- Articles for the December 31 bulletin must be received in the Parish Office no later than noon on Wednesday, December 20.

FAX: 793-3212  
 EMAIL: sac245@comcast.net  
 Mail: 245 N. Amos, Springfield, IL 62702

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**Christmas Mass Schedule:**

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

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

Due to Christmas falling on a Monday this year and Christmas Eve Masses on Sunday evening and night, we will not have 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 24.

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

Please Note: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day 2018) falls on a Monday. There is not the obligation to participate in Mass, nonetheless, Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m.

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**BAPTISM**

We welcome into the Body of Christ, the Church, the following children who were recently baptized:

**Henry Fanale  
 Riggs Jugan  
 Etta Peebles  
 Beckett Rapaport  
 Zachary Stephenson  
 Aria Wetmore**

May the Light of Christ shine brightly in and through them!



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

Monday, December 18

- Advent Wreath Lighting in gym at 10:30 a.m.
- After school is the Student Council Christmas party until 4:30 p.m.
- Enrollment Marketing Meeting in the office area at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19

- Gala Planning Meeting in the school library at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

- Student Council Dress Down Day for students. They may wear Christmas spirit clothing.

Thursday, December 21

- Christmas Prayer Service in the school gym at 9:30 a.m.



- Classroom parties follow, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Dismissal for Christmas vacation will be Thursday, December 21 at 11:30 a.m. There will be no late day this day. Enjoy your Christmas vacation!

**Classes will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2018**



**Illinois Department of Revenue Education Expense Credit:**

Attending a Catholic school became more affordable with the passage of the Illinois Department of Revenue Education Expense Credit. Effective January 1, 2000 an Illinois resident who is a parent or legal guardian of a student (K-12, full time student under the age of 21) in an Illinois elementary or secondary school is eligible to take a tax credit. Their Illinois individual income tax credit is 25 percent of the student's remaining qualified education expenses up to \$500 per family. To claim this credit, complete the Education Expenses Credit Worksheet in the IL-1040 instructions. You must attach the written receipt you receive from the school to your tax return. If the school does not provide you with a written receipt, you must complete Schedule ED, Credit for Qualified Education Expenses. How much credit will you be allowed for education expenses? When figuring your family's education expense credit, you must first deduct the first \$250 of qualified education expenses. You will then be allowed a credit of 25% for the remaining educational expenses you paid during the calendar year. Your total credit amount shall not exceed \$500 in any tax year, regardless of the number of qualifying students. Any credit amount that exceeds your tax liability will not be refunded. The education expense credit must be claimed for the calendar year in which the qualified education expenses are actually paid. Any part of the education expense credit not claimed or allowed in a calendar year shall not be claimed in any other calendar year. You can obtain an updated form and additional information by looking at Publication 112 on the Illinois Department of Revenue's website: [www.tax.illinois.gov](http://www.tax.illinois.gov)

**SHG Placement Test Makeup for 8th Grade Students:**

All area eighth graders are invited to Sacred Heart-Griffin on Saturday, January 6 from 8:30 until 11:00 a.m. for the Placement Test makeup for incoming freshmen. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Students should enter through the circle drive entrance at 1200 W. Washington St. and bring two #2 pencils and a \$10 testing fee. Calculators are allowed. Pre-Registration for the makeup test is required. Please call Stephanie Phillips at 787-1595, ext. 126, or e-mail [phillips@shg.org](mailto:phillips@shg.org) to register.

**St. Valentine's @ the Villa** – Come celebrate St. Valentine's Day with other dating, engaged and married couples from throughout the diocese on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. Drinks, dinner and comedy entertainment is only \$50 per couple! For more information and to register go to <http://www.dio.org/familylife/events.html>.



### CONTRIBUTIONS, DECEMBER 9-10:

Regular Contributions: \$14,181

St. Agnes Parish Capital  
Improvements Fund: \$483

**MAY GOD BLESS YOUR GENEROSITY!**



### Thank you for such an incredible blessing!

Catholic Charities would like to say thank you to everyone who gave to the angel tree. Donations were much greater than in past years and these donations are much appreciated

because there is a greater need this year. Catholic Charities has 985 children signed up for the toy store. All toys donated will be organized by category and set up like a real store. The parents/guardians of the children will come to “shop” for each child. Each child will get two brand new, unopened gifts, 2 stocking stuffers, a bag of candy and a book. Each family will also receive a coloring book and crayons and a roll of wrapping paper. ALL of this would not be possible without the support of parishes like yours. Smiles of Gratitude!

### PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

The Parish Office will be closed for Christmas from Friday, Dec. 22 thru Tuesday, Dec. 26.

For New Year's, the Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 1 & Friday, January 5.



### 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.

**From the Vatican** – Proclaiming the joy of the Gospel is the mission entrusted by the Lord to his Church. In keeping with this mission Pope Francis is introducing a new approach through a 2018 Bishops’ Synod with the topic, “Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.” The Church has decided to examine herself on how she can lead young people to recognize and accept the call to the fullness of life and love, and to ask young people to help her in identifying the most effective ways to announce the Good News today. In terms of hearing directly from young people, the Vatican has launched a survey for youth and young adults. The goal of this questionnaire – aimed at young people throughout the world from 16 to 29 years of age – is to provide young people with the opportunity to communicate, express and recount who they are and what they want to say about themselves. Here is the link: <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>.

Save the Date!

*St. Agnes Grand Gala*  
*Saturday, March 3, 2018*  
*Abraham Lincoln Hotel*



### Young at Heart (YAH) Activities

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

\* Tuesday, January 9: Open meeting for YAH Planning Committee at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall. All are invited to provide input on future activities. Contact Roslyn Brookens (622-6299) or Jane Locascio (306-3037) for more information.

\* After the Holidays Gathering: Plan to join us for our sixth annual dinner event at Bella Milano's Restaurant on **Sunday, January 14, 2018** at 6:00 p.m. This event is open to all parishioners and their friends. For more information, contact Cliff Erwin at 787-7017.



### 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. For more information and to register go to <http://www.dio.org/familylife/events.html>



### Worldwide Marriage Encounter:

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; . . ." Let your spirits be augmented by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend with your spouse. The next Weekend in Springfield, IL is on March 23-25, 2018. The next Weekend in the St. Louis area is on February 2-4, 2018. To register or for more information, call 314-649-7317 or go online to [www.stl-wwme.org](http://www.stl-wwme.org).

### Courses for all Catholics – University of Dayton Online Learning

– Cycle 1 begins January 2018. The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), is a program of the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton which offer adult faith formation classes. Our partnership with the University of Dayton allows the people of our diocese to take these classes at half price. These adult faith formation courses support the Church's catechetical ministry and are for all Catholics. 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 all courses qualify for credit in our diocesan Catechist Formation Process. Classes for the 2018 year (Cycle 1) are January 14–February 17, 2018. Registration for Cycle 1 – 2018 goes through January 10. For more info, visit the VLCFF web site ([vlcff.udayton.edu](http://vlcff.udayton.edu)) or contact the Office for Catechesis, 698-8500.

### Totus Tuus Team Applications

for staff for the summer 2018 Totus Tuus season in the diocese are now being accepted. Totus Tuus hires college students and seminarians to staff teams that will travel throughout this diocese and neighboring dioceses over the course of the summer to present the Totus Tuus program with students in 1st through 12th grades. There is a 10-day training program that starts on May 30 at Villa Maria. The commitment is through July 28 with a break over the week of the Independence Day holiday. For more information about the role of the summer staff or to bring Totus Tuus to your parish, please contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154, or visit <http://www.dio.org/youthministry/staff-information.html>.



### RIGHT TO LIFE CORNER

For those who feel lonely or abandoned: May their hearts be consoled by the genuine and loving care of others;

We pray to the Lord.....



**LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDY CANE**

To celebrate Christmas, a candy-maker decided to make a candy that would include several symbols of the life of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane.

He began with a stick of pure white, solid candy; white to symbolize the Virgin birth and solid to symbolize the firm love Jesus has for all of us.

The candy maker made the candy in the shape of a "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus. Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker added red stripes. He used three small stripes to represent the nails that held Jesus on the cross and a large stripe to show the blood shed by Jesus, giving us the promise of eternal life. Then he added the wonderful flavor of peppermint which is a royal gift of spice.

So perhaps the next time you look at this familiar Christmas decoration you will remember the candy maker and the real meaning behind the Christmas Candy Cane: The Wondrous Birth of Jesus and His Great Love for all of us.

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