



**ST. AGNES PARISH**

245 North Amos Avenue  
Springfield, IL 62702

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

5:30 p.m. Mary & James Kelly - Kate Kelly

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

8:15 a.m. Steve Hall - Ann & Jerry Mack

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

6:30 a.m. Leona Kervin - Bryan & Maureen Crowe

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29**

8:15 a.m. DOMS - Jim Schwalbach

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30**

NO MASS

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

5:00 p.m. Frances Loro - Joan Hanrahan

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

10:00 a.m. Parishioners of St. Agnes

**ALTAR SERVERS**

**December 27, 29:**

8:15 a.m. Jack Ramage, Olivia Prichard  
8:15 a.m. Matthew Johnson, Massimo Polistina

**December 31, January 1:**

5:00 p.m. Kyle Rolf, Zach Megginson  
10:00 a.m. Jack Ramage, Peyton Blackburn, Charlie Dunham

**READERS, DEC. 31-JAN. 1**

5:00 p.m. Susan Dodson, Shirley Cowles  
10:00 a.m. Bev Dillon, Holly Kesterson

**COMMUNION MINISTERS**

**DEC. 31 - JAN. 1**

**5:00 p.m. Team A**, Karen Beckmann, Kathy Kraft, Michael Kraft, Debra Mann, Jim Morris, Judy Nordstrom,

**10:00 a.m. Team L**, Carrie Becker, Cliff & Donna Erwin, Richard Koerper, Keith & Marie Washburn

**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

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

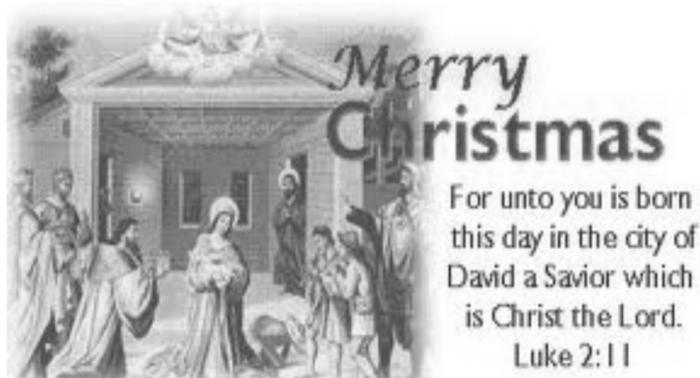
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

**Sunday:** Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21





### Solemnity of Mary Mass Schedule:

**Saturday, December 31,** New Year's Eve: Mass at 5:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 1:**  
(Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God): Mass at 10:00 a.m.



### 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.

### GREETERS - JANUARY

4:30 - Barb Kern

8:00 - Carolyn & Donna Chestnut

9:30 - Mike & Elizabeth Johnson

### PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:

The Parish Office will be closed December 26 for Christmas.

The Parish Office will be closed for New Year's, Friday, December 30. The office will reopen Monday, January 2, 2017.

*Merry*  
*Christmas*

### Ten Commandments of Christmas

by Greg Nemer

1. Put God First at Christmas "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."
2. Have no idols. Don't let the busy season, or even Santa Claus, take your eyes off Jesus. Make time for family, friends, and gifts but God is always 1st.
3. Honor God's name. Keep "Christ" in Christmas. Christmas is the perfect season to put on Christian Christmas music and gently witness to family/friends.
4. Honor the Sabbath day. Remember the 1st commandment & take time to rest. Don't skip church for family. Bring them with you!
5. Honor your parents by giving them gifts, spending time with them and visiting them. Choose to forgive if there is anything between you and your family.
6. Do not murder. Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus and New Life in Christ. If you're angry with your brother, it is murder. Don't get stressed out, depressed or angry. Tempers flair when busy. Keep calm and relaxed. Remember, God is in control.
7. Do not commit adultery. Adultery is more about lust. Don't lust over other people's possessions or life. Be satisfied and happy with the life you have, count your blessings and make "family" a priority during the Christmas season.
8. Do not steal. Make giving a priority. Remember God told us to think of the poor. People spend on their families and they forget to give to those less fortunate. Consider our Christmas project in the mountains of Chiapas. It's the end of the year and all gifts are tax-deductible.
9. Don't lie or speak evil of others. Make it a goal this year not to say a "bad word" about anyone. Practice it for just 30 days.
10. Don't covet. Be satisfied with what you have. Put others first. This season is supposed to be about sharing and caring, but too many make it about what they get.



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

**St. Agnes School Staff and students** wish all of our Parish families a Merry Christmas. Thank you for the wonderful support you give to our Parish School. May you receive of the blessings of this holy season – gifts of peace, joy and hope.

Christmas vacation has started for St. Agnes students. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 4.

*May the blessing of Christ  
 be with you,  
 And all your loved ones,  
 On this blessed Christmas time,  
 Indulge in all the Christmas fun,  
 Stay blessed,  
 Merry Christmas  
 and Happy New Year!*



**Congratulations to our eighth grade girls' basketball team** that is a collaborative team with three of Blessed Sacrament's eighth grade girls! The girls are the **2016 Class 3A State Champions for basketball!** They achieved a no loss season of 27-0 this year. The girls were, also, the 2015 Class 3A State champions in seventh grade. With this year's win, the team has a record of 52 wins and no losses. We are very proud of the girls and their accomplishments. Our gratitude to their coaches: Jane Brenneisen from St. Agnes and Greg Lois from Blessed Sacrament. Thanks to the spirited fans who cheered the girls on at their final game with Havana with a score of 34-31! Go, Aces!

**Memorial Bricks:** When considering your Christmas gifts, don't forget the Peacebuilder Playground memorial bricks in honor of or memory of loved ones. The bricks are available in three different sizes. The cost is \$100.00 for a 4x8 brick (3 lines); \$250.00 for an 8x8 brick (6 lines); or \$500.00 for a 12x12 brick (8 lines). 17 Characters are allowed per line. This includes spaces, commas and periods. These can be purchased through the school and church offices.

### **The St. Agnes Scrip Program would like to wish you a Merry Christmas!**

Wondering how Scrip works? The St. Agnes Parents' Club purchases gift cards from retailers at a discount and then sells the gift cards at face value. The difference is split between Parents' Club and our school families, or you can direct it to various funds such as tuition assistance or the Church. For example, we buy \$100 County Market gift cards for \$95, and then sell them at face value. The retailer provides the discount. There is no additional cost to YOU! Even if you do not have a student enrolled at the school, your support is welcome! Please stop by after Mass and see our sellers. We have gift cards to most major retailers, restaurants, and grocery stores on hand or we can answer any questions.

**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](http://www.dio.org/youthministry/mfl). Or contact Kyle Holtgrave, director for the Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 698-8500.



### CONTRIBUTIONS, DECEMBER 17-18:

Regular Contributions: \$10,816

St. Agnes Parish Capital  
Improvements Fund: \$776

**MAY GOD BLESS YOUR GENEROSITY!**



### 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.



From the archives of the Parish Health Minister:

### A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May there be harmony in all your relationships. May sharp words, envious thoughts, and hostile feelings be dissolved.

May you give and receive love generously. May this love echo in your hearts like the joy of church bells on a clear December day.

May each person who comes into your life be greeted as another Christ. May the honor given the Babe of Bethlehem be that which you extend to every guest who enters your presence.

May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul. May it be a foundation of courage for you when times of distress occupy your inner land.

May the wonder and awe that fills the eyes of children be awakened within you. May it lead you to renewed awareness and appreciation of whatever you too easily take for granted.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened as you gather with your family and friends around the table of festivity and nourishment.

May you daily open the gift of your life and be grateful for the hidden treasures it contains.

May the coming year be one of good health for you. May you have energy and vitality. May you care well for your body, mind, and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you each day.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart and visit the One who offers you peace. May you bring this peace into our world.

- Joyce Rupp



## 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](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.

## Bulletin Schedule for the Holidays:

The bulletin of January 1 has already been submitted due to the holidays.

## 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.

**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? Does talking only make it worse? For information on the Retrouvaille Program, visit the website [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. The next Program begins the weekend of FEBRUARY 3, 2017.



## RIGHT TO LIFE CORNER

For all Christians: May the light of Jesus' birth enflame our hearts to welcome and protect the gift of each person's life;

We pray to the Lord...



**Mercy still persists in Christmas.** When God took on our humanity in the **birth of Jesus**, he appeared in our flesh out of divine kindness, generous love, and covenantal mercy (see Titus 3:4-7, assigned to the Mass at Dawn). He literally “pitched his tent” in our midst (John 1:14, assigned to the Mass during the Day), lives where we live, likes and loves all those we like and love – plus all those we do not. Since we are saved “through the **bath of rebirth**,” that is, Christian Baptism, we are forever changed. Our behavior must always be like Christ, robustly alive in the gifted grace that comes from God alone.

- Even at Christmas, how will I be merciful?
- How will I manifest God’s free gift of grace to me by giving \_\_\_\_\_?
- Who will I like and love this Christmas season?

**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.

