



Pope Leo XIV blesses the lambs on January 21, 2026, the Feast Day of St. Agnes.

ST. AGNES FEAST DAY—BLESSING OF THE LAMBS

The blessing of the lambs on the feast of St. Agnes is a custom that dates back to the 6th century in Rome. According to an ancient legend, St. Agnes appeared to her parents and friends at her tomb eight days after her passion amidst a great number of virgins in vestments of gold and silver with a great light shining in front of them, and holding a pure lamb in her arms. According to the account, St. Agnes told her parents not to be sorrowful, but to be joyful with her, because she has been given the brightest dwelling and is joined with Jesus Christ in heaven.

Historical records show that two lambs were once considered the rent paid by the monks of the Basilica of St. Agnes Outside the Walls to the basilica of St. John Lateran. Since the 1880s, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth receives the lambs on the eve of St. Agnes' feast day. They are washed, fed and cared for. On the feast day, they are placed in baskets and adorned with roses (red for martyr and white for virginity) and covers with initials S.A.M. and S.A.V. A car from the Basilica of St.

John Lateran arrives in the morning to take the lambs to a solemn Mass at the Basilica of St. Agnes Outside the Walls.

The church, Cardinal, and priests are decorated with red, white, and gold. After Communion, there is a procession of little girls, veiled, in white dresses with pale blue ribbons, followed by officers carrying the lambs. They are blessed and incensed and then taken to the Pope for his blessing. From there, the lambs are given to the Benedictine nuns, who care for the lambs until Easter. During Holy Week, the labs are sheared and their wool woven into palliums. A pallium is a vestment which covers the shoulders of the archbishop. It symbolizes the sheep they now shepherd, that they are yoked to the Pope, and that they are to also live a life of purity and great virtue.

Archbishop Grob receives his pallium from Pope Leo XIV on June 29, 2025.



CHILI

**SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY
14TH,
2026**

**HAFFORD
HALL
5:00PM -
8:00PM**

1
**COOK AND
COMPETE**



2
**TASTE AND
VOTE**

Calling all Chili Enthusiasts and Culinary Wizards!

St. Agnes Parish Council is hosting yet another **CHILI COOK-OFF** to warm up the winter season! Come join the fun!

Cook and Compete

- Bring your chili recipe and compete against other St. Agnes families.
- Participants must bring their own crockpot(s), chili toppings, and napkins. (Tasting bowls and spoons will be provided.)

Taste and Vote

- Stroll through and sample each chili, then vote for your favorite!
- Top 3 chilis will be awarded prizes!

Enjoy more than just Chili

- Raffle
- Concession stand with beverages and snacks

Registration to be a competitor for this event ends Friday, February 6th. (See bottom*)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Mass 4:00 pm
- Chili Cook-Off: Immediately following

COST

- \$7 per individual
- Proceeds benefit our kids volunteering in Catholic Heart Work Camp

*To register to be a competitor, and for any further questions, please contact Tanya Bissen at tanya.bissen@gmail.com



Join us for our Lenten Mission

LIVING a

Christ Centered
LIFE

February 22, 23, 24

6:30 - 8:00 PM

Presented by Fr. Brad Krawczyk

Director of Liturgical Formation, St. Francis de Sales Seminary

YOUNG ADULTS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR:

Good News & Brews



*Grow your faith
with scripture study
and casual
group discussion!*

JAN 19TH

FEB 16TH

MARCH 23RD

APRIL 27TH

MAY 18TH

6:30-8:00PM



O'DONOGHUE'S

13225 Watertown Plank Road
Elm Grove, WI

Brought to you by volunteers of
St. John Vianney Parish

Questions? Contact Drew Burgoyne 414-640-2196