

The Good Word

We, the people of St. Agnes, are called by God as a Catholic Christian community to be prayerful, compassionate servants to all God's people. — *Mission Statement*

ST. AGNES CONGREGATION, Butler, Wis.

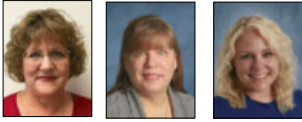
www.stagnesparish.org

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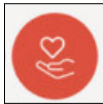
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Nov. 8: Join us at the fair for arts, crafts, bakery and more.

We grow as a Christian community

Dear brothers and sisters, may the grace and love of our good God be with each one of you.

The Lord has been good, and for that we are glad (Psalm 125). There are many blessings received from our great God, and for that we proclaim His greatness in our lives.

During these last few months, we have had some events that have helped us grow as a Christian and parish community, and I would like to highlight some of them:

1. During the summer, we have had the opportunity to meet the Lord in the Eucharist as the Blessed Sacrament has been exposed between the Sunday Masses, and with this, the donation of a new monstrance that beautifies the altar and gives a more dignified place to the Lord when we do Eucharistic adoration.

2. On Aug. 30, the Archbishop presided over the celebration of the Eucharist in our parish, and during that Eucharist, he installed me as the pastor of Saint Agnes. This rite of Installation gives stability to the priest and the community for a determined period of six years as pastor.

3. Security is one of the priorities, especially for the school, which is why since last year we have been working to provide more

security to the building. Some exterior doors have been secured, and soon the remaining ones will have the same system. Because of this, I ask for your patience while we adapt to and get used to the new security system.

Keep in mind that we continue working in communion for the improvement of the parish facilities and also to grow spiritually.

I thank God for the opportunity to serve this community of faith and I ask Him that every decision made may be for His glory to help each one of you get closer to Him.

I hope this autumn time helps us reflect on the changes that are necessary for our lives, how nature itself sheds its old leaves to return to a new life and thus continue to bring beauty and harmony to creation.

Remember: "God loves you, God loves me, God loves us."

Reverend Sergio Rodriguez, Pastor

Fr. Sergio Rodriguez
rodriguezs@stagnesparish.org



Archbishop Jeffrey Grob presides at the Mass of Installation of Father Sergio Rodriguez on Aug. 30.

New in parish positions, but familiar to all at St. Agnes

Although these new hires may be in new positions at St. Agnes, they are long-time parishioners and employees who know their way around. That is what makes them so efficient and valuable to the office team.

Patty Kaiser has transitioned to the parish administrative assistant position. She is also the bookkeeper where her focus is on the parish, no longer on Christian Formation. She's the first person you hear on the phone when you call the office.



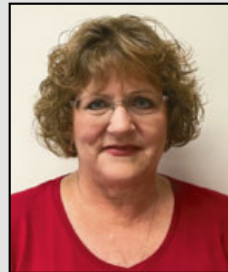
Patty Kaiser

Patty makes sure the bills are paid, puts together the bulletin, handles requests, works with finances, reimbursements, ordering and mailings, as well as with school staff, parishioners, Christian Formation staff, the food pantry, the festival committee, and more.

"There are new things to learn; it's

a complex job," she said. "I'm excited to work here full time, and I can interact with people more now."

Peggy Ferch has returned from her retirement as a classroom teacher to join the office staff. She is now the administrative assistant for the Christian Formation program. As school is just starting, Peggy is familiarizing herself with the parameters of her job and learning the full extent of her responsibilities, including new software.



Peggy Ferch

"Learning is a work in progress," Peggy said. "But I'm glad to be back at St. Agnes again."

Michele Matthews is the first Youth Minister here at St. Agnes since COVID. She said she was called back to the Church as an adult and now feels compelled to share the gifts given to her

by the Holy Spirit with the youth.

As Father Sergio said during his first homily at St. Agnes, her goal is to bring our 6-12th graders closer to God by offering engaging and spiritually fulfilling activities and events.

Michele held the first Youth Night on Sept. 4, offering pizza and games in the Youth Room. They had an amazing turnout with almost 30 youths!

Michele partners with Corinna Ramsey at Good Shepherd and Maggie Rielley at St. James to offer an event each month to the youth groups.

In October, they will be visiting Cedarburg Creek Farms for some Fall Fun! Michele will also bring back monthly Open Gym nights! All details can be found on our parish website and social media accounts (@stagnesparishwisconsin).



Michele Matthews

Jackie Schulz shares some of her favorite prayers

Pope Leo's Prayer for This Season of Creation

Lord, You love everything You have created, and nothing exists outside the mystery of Your tenderness. Every creature, no matter how small is the fruit of your love and has a place in this world. Even the simplest or shortest life is surrounded by Your care. Like St. Francis of Assisi, today we too want to say: "Praised be You, my Lord! "Through the beauty of creation, You reveal Yourself as a source of goodness. We ask You: open our eyes to recognize You, learning from the mystery of Your closeness to all creation that the world is infinitely more than a problem to solve. It is a mystery contemplated with gratitude and hope. Help us to discover Your presence in all creation, so that, in fully recog-



nizing it, we may feel and know ourselves to be responsible for this common home where You invite us to care for, respect and protect life in all its forms and possibilities. Praised be You, Lord! AMEN

Mother Teresa's Prayer

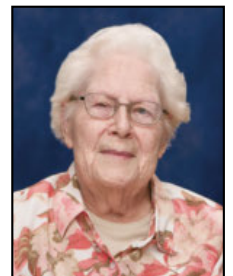
Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters. Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed. Lord, open our heart, that we may love each other as you love us. Renew in us your spirit. Lord, free us and make us one. AMEN.



Prayer by Sr. Gabriel, SSND

The 'Hem of Your garment' Lord, please let me be that everyone I touch or help or see will be drawn in love for You

through me. Use me as Your 'in-between.' Keep me totally unseen but somehow let me work for You, and let Your healing love flow through to all who need Your help today. It is this I pray... I ask for them — just let me be Your garment's hem. AMEN.



Evening Prayer of St. Augustine

Watch O Lord, with those who wake, or watch or weep tonight, and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones, And all for your love's sake. AMEN

Jubilee Year of Hope

Prayer, liturgy and profession of faith

As we near the end of this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded of how much we need hope in our world today. So many things try to distract us from the eternal Hope of heaven that we become discouraged and “lose hope.” The last three characteristics of a Jubilee that will be reviewed here are the foundations of our faith and offer us those moments to restore the “Hope that does not disappoint” (Rom. 5:5). Prayer, Liturgy, and Profession of Faith naturally go together. Let’s first consider each one individually.

Prayer

There are many reasons and ways to pray, but at the root of prayer is always the desire to be open to God’s presence and His offer of love. It is the Spirit of the Son that calls the Christian community to prayer. It was Jesus who entrusted His disciples with the Lord’s Prayer. The Christian tradition also offers other texts, such as the Hail Mary, that can help to find words to address God: “By a living transmission—Tradition—the Holy Spirit in the Church teaches the children of God to pray” (CCC 2661). Through prayer the pilgrim holds the path to God “in his heart” (Psalm 83:6).

**Liturgy**

The liturgy is the public prayer of the Church: in the words of the Second Vatican Council, it is the “summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; [and,]

at the same time it is the font from which all her power flows.” (Sacrosanctum Concilium, 10). At the center of the Christian liturgy is the Mass – the Eucharistic celebration, where the Body and Blood of Christ are truly received. One liturgical rite that is specific to the Jubilee year is the opening of the Holy Door. Within a solemn choral liturgy, the Pope pushes open the door from the outside, passing through it as the first pilgrim. This and the other liturgical expressions that accompany the Holy Year emphasize that the Jubilee pilgrimage is not merely an intimate, personal gesture, but is a sign of the journey of the whole people of God toward the Kingdom.

Profession of Faith

The profession of faith – also known as the ‘Symbol’ – is a sign of the identity of the baptized person. The profession of faith expresses the central content of the faith: it succinctly captures the main truths that a believer accepts and witnesses to on

Shelly Fellin

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Formation & Liturgy

the day of his or her baptism and shares with the entire Christian community for the rest of his or her life. Originally formulated in 325 at the Council of Nicaea, (in present-day Turkey), and then refined at the Council of Constantinople in 381, to say the Creed with faith is to enter into communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst, we believe” (CCC 197).

Liturgy is the highest form of Prayer, and during Sunday Mass we make a Profession of Faith when we recite the Nicene Creed. This year we celebrate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which created the Nicene Creed to defend the faith against heresy. They all connect one to another, Prayer-Liturgy-Profession of Faith along with the Holy Door, Reconciliation, Indulgences, Charity and Pilgrimages. Each of these characteristics of a Jubilee help us to fully participate and receive the many graces that this Jubilee Year of Hope can offer.

[Taken from <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/segni-del-giubileo/liturgia.html>]

Christian Formation/Evangelization to focus on family

by Shelly Fellin

Family Faith Formation is a new approach to Christian Formation that the St. Agnes Christian Formation & Evangelization Committee has implemented this year. **What is “Family Faith Formation”?** Family Faith Formation is the idea that families are the first teachers of the faith to their children. This isn’t a new concept; it’s been the foundation of our faith from the time of the early church. At the baptism of their children, parents promise to “raise them in the faith.” This responsibility is lived out in the life of the family.

The family is a community of love and of life, made up of “a complex of interpersonal relationships...” The future of

persons and of the human and ecclesial communities depends to a large extent on the family, the basic cell of society. ... Therefore,...the Church looks to the families who remain faithful to the teachings of the Gospel, encouraging them and thanking them for the testimony they offer. The family is a proclamation of the faith in that it is the natural place in which faith can be lived in a simple and spontaneous manner. ... It is indeed, a Christian education more witnessed to than taught, more occasional than systematic, more ongoing and daily than structured into periods. (#226-227 Directory for Catechesis)

This year our parish families, with elementary children (K5-8) participating

in Christian Formation, will be learning how to live out the faith in their daily family life. Family Faith Formation will bring the Catholic Faith into our families’ homes. The curriculum from Sophia Institute called **A Family of Faith** is a four-year series using the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Profession of Faith, Celebration of the Christian Mysteries (Sacraments), Life in Christ (Moral Teaching), and Prayer.

Families will gather two Sundays per month. One Sunday parents receive a lesson while their children attend a session in the classroom. The other Sunday the families stay together and work on a year-long project that celebrates their faith. I look

Continued on page 5

Stewardship

What do we really own?

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

—Job:1:21

There's the joke about the nosy neighbor attending a rich woman's funeral. Peering into the coffin with a friend, he asked, "How much money did she leave?" The friend smiled and replied, "All of it, of course!"

As Job laments, we come into the world naked and leave the same way. We may be dressed in our best clothing on our way out, but we take it to the grave, not the afterlife.

The joke and Job reveal a basic concept of stewardship: We don't really own anything. We may take possession of it for a period of time, but we eventually leave it for others.

Yet we spend so much of our energy and life accumulating more and more — as if we were going to have it forever, as we were going to live forever. The danger is that absorbed with accumulating wealth, we shortchange the most valuable treasures — loving the Lord our God with all our being and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

That's why the Bible consistently warns us about wealth. Jesus repeatedly points out the pitfalls. Money and possessions can turn us inward, stunting our growth and preventing us from being the people God created us to be.

Generosity is the preventative cure for this malady. The Bible counsels that tithing — giving away 10 percent of our income — is a good benchmark for faithful giving (although on several occasions Jesus told his disciples to give away ALL their possessions).

Giving 10 percent, or any amount substantial enough to be sacrificial, is a declaration that you are free from the power that money might have over you. Because however much money you can accumulate in life, you will be like the rich woman in the joke: You will leave it all.

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Karen Lebiecki, lifetime member, cherishes St. Agnes Parish family

Baptized by Father Hafford, schooled at St. Agnes, and married by Father Wilbur, Karen Lebiecki cherishes her life and family that have revolved around St. Agnes Parish and the village of Butler.

"I'm proud to be a Catholic," she said. "I could never leave this church and join another parish."

"I think the world of St. Agnes School," Karen said. "We had good teachers. The sisters were wonderful." Today they have volunteer reading specialists to help the students and support the teachers.

"We kids used to help with the parish picnic and — a turkey dinner in the hall every year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving," she said. These days she helps out in the parish food pantry.

The SHARE program is packaged here and distributed to those who apply for it. Karen helps with this work, too.

"For many years I was a greeter on Sunday mornings and later we counted the Sunday collection money. When COVID hit, that job was transferred to the people in the office," she said.

One of the great things about St. Agnes Masses is the choir, Karen added. "They are outstanding, year after year. We are so blessed to have them."

Karen recalled working at the parish festivals for many years. She and her husband also worked the Friday Fish Fries. "We were so busy," she said. "That was very popular, but after COVID, we didn't do that any more either."

One thing that hasn't changed for her at St. Agnes is baking for funerals and for the parish festival.

"We all do this to help the church," she said. "We want it to survive."

Karen still makes time for personal enjoyment. She likes watching programs on the Hallmark channel and she watches Brewer and Packer games on TV. This was something she shared with her husband



Karen Lebiecki enjoys the beautiful flowers in her yard.

until he passed away two years ago.

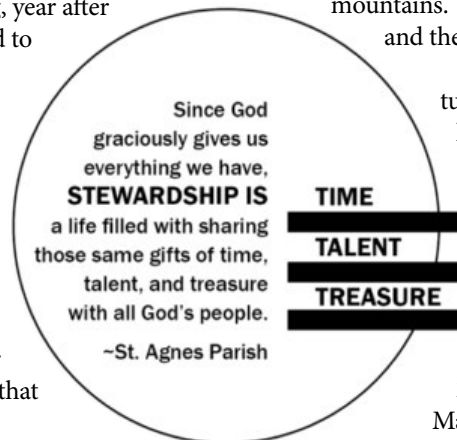
Karen recalled the trips they took together — to Mexico, all over the United States, and a beautiful trip to Switzerland, Germany and Italy.

"It was beautiful," she said, "and I was especially taken by Switzerland. We could look out the train windows and see the mountains. We saw cows grazing and they had bells on them."

Karen's recollections turned to her family — her daughter Stacy, her son Darren, and her grandchildren, Haley and Nathan. Haley is at UW Madison studying to be a doctor. Her twin brother, Keith, passed away in 2013. Her sisters, Anna Mae and Diane, have also passed away.

"I try to stay strong. I pray for all of them," she said. "Father Sergio came to pray with my husband and give him the last rites. I can't thank him enough. I am so happy that we have a pastor. We prayed for this for a long time."

Karen appreciates the friendship and support of her friends, Debbie Beilfuss and Carol Guardia. We stick together," she said.



Human Concerns Committee

How the committee decides on distribution of funding

As the title indicates, we are part of our parish's Human Concerns Committee which reports to our parish council. As a sub-committee we review requests from local, state, and national organizations that ask for funding by St. Agnes Parish.

"I really enjoy being on this committee," Jean Reed said. "I help by doing the monthly checks with the 2.5 percent tithing we receive from the parish."

Our criteria for granting such requests includes the submission of financial and mission statements. Once a month after reviews of such appeals, our members submit decisions to the entire Human Concerns Committee. After the approval of their decisions, donations are made and information published in the St. Agnes Church newsletter.

In recent years, we have kept our donations a bit more local as the need in our community, state and neighboring states has

increased. We have been donating to churches/organizations that help people in need such as the homeless, infants, handicapped, etc.

"It feels so rewarding to be able to send monetary donations to organizations who help those in need," Dawn Endries said. "It's great that we can help others fulfill their mission! It is rewarding to witness a more physical or tangible donation with being a part of the food pantry as well!"

If you are interested in meeting with us once a month to review the requests we receive for financial aid, please know you are always welcome.

Even though you may not be able to spend time on the committee, you

may have knowledge of other organizations who have needs. We would welcome that information and encourage you to contact us. The other committee members are Pam Doweiko and Amy Retzer.



Tithing report — 2nd quarter 2025

Since God graciously gives us everything we have, STEWARDSHIP is a life filled with sharing those same gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure with all God's people. This is the saying on our Stewardship logo. As a tithing parish, we are committed to sharing 2.5% of our treasure with those who need our financial support. Our Human Concerns Committee is tasked with this mission. For the second quarter (Apr.-June) of 2025, we donated approximately \$2,625. Following is the list of organizations that St. Agnes has supported with these donations:

Father Carr's Place: Provide shelter or men, women and children with various needs

Father Gene Help Center: Provide free clothing to people in need

Franciscan Missions: Help the poor and restore houses of worship

Franciscan Peacemakers: Help with street ministry, reaching out to those victimized by human trafficking

H.O.P.E. Network: Help support ongoing projects for families in need



Mary's Pence: Funding and support for women's social justice organization

Milwaukee Rescue Mission: Help prepare Thanksgiving meal for the homeless

Society of Divine Word: Supporting the young missionaries in their studies and older missionaries in their retirement

Wisconsin Right to Life: Support the Wisconsin Right to Life Mother's Day Roses program

Christian Formation *Continued from page 3*

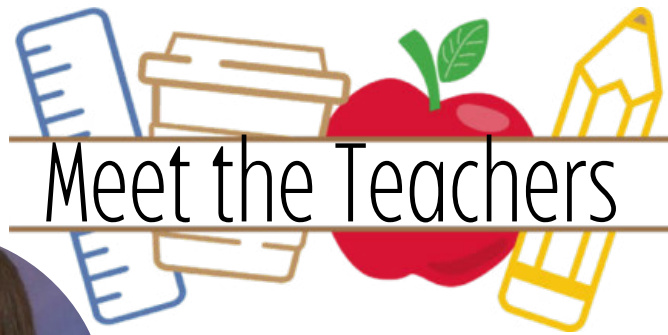
forward to the fruits of this new program that I am hopeful will grow the faith in the homes and into the community.

On Sept. 19-20, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee presented a "Life in the Spirit" seminar. At this event participants listened to engaging and inspiring speakers who guided them in reflections on the Holy Spirit in their own lives. At Baptism (and Confirmation) we receive all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but often times we neglect these gifts and the fire of the Holy

Spirit is diminished in our life. In the last part of the seminar, the Charismatic team members prayed over each participant, with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Prayer that helped to revive those flames and renew the spiritual life of the participant. The participants at the seminar had an opportunity to form faith friendships during small groups. Starting the week of Oct. 5, St. Agnes CF&E Committee will be offering small groups as a part of our parish life. Contact the Christian Formation office to learn more or sign up to

participate in a small group. It's free and easy to join and the only requirement is an open heart to the Gospel.

This year's annual Advent event, presented by the Evangelization team, will be on Sunday, Dec. 7. Watch for details in the next few weeks. The Advent presentation will bring together song, reflections and prayer. It is always a good opportunity to take time from your busy schedule to remember the "reason for the season." Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Meet the Teachers



Ms. Serafino
K4 Teacher

My name is Mackenzie Serafino and I am excited to join St. Agnes as a K4 teacher! This will be my 4th year teaching K4. I have previously taught at a community partner site of the School District of Waukesha and at Holy Family Parish School. I graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I am from Chicago and have lived in the Milwaukee area since graduating. I look forward to a wonderful year!

St. Agnes School



One Family

Ms. Carr



1st
Grade Teacher

Hello! My name is Deanna Carr and I'm a passionate and dedicated educator teaching first-grade. My heart is rooted in faith and a deep love for teaching. I strive to create a nurturing environment where young learners thrive academically and personally. First grade is a place where students are valued, encouraged, and inspired to explore the world around them. Outside of school, I find joy and companionship with my own kiddos and three dogs, often sharing stories of our adventures with students.

Mrs. Matthews

Physical Education Teacher



My name is Michele Matthews and I am excited to come back to St. Agnes as your Gym Teacher! I have worn many hats in my career journey, but my favorite was serving St. Agnes as the Gym Teacher from 2020 to 2023. I've truly missed teaching since I have left and I am so blessed that the stars have aligned and brought me back! My passion is sharing my love of Christ and teaching our Youth how to stay active and have fun doing it. My family and I have been Parishioners at St. Agnes since 2009, so outside of school, you will find me at Mass and the many awesome events we hold here. I also enjoy riding on our Harley with my husband, Jimmy. We have been to Sturgis, SD twice on our bike and intend to make the trip at least every other year until we can't ride anymore!



Mrs. Gamm

Middle School ELA Teacher (6th Grade Homeroom)

My name is Teresa Gamm and I am excited to join St. Agnes School as the new 6th grade homeroom teacher and middle school ELA teacher. I enjoy being able to work at a place where I can also practice my faith. I am excited to join St. Agnes and be part of an excellent team.

I graduated from UW Oshkosh for my degree in education. I have been working as a middle school teacher for the past 8 years. I taught ELA for 6 years and for the past 2 years I have been teaching history and religion. I believe that all students' efforts pay off and will reflect in their growth. I find it rewarding when students see how much they have grown and become proud of themselves.

I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband and I love to fish during the summer. I also enjoy getting together with my children and grandchildren. We enjoy going to parks and having cookouts as one large family. I also spend a lot of time taking walks and reading during the summer.

Mrs. Radewahn

Hello! My name is Krista Radewahn, and I'm excited to join the St. Agnes family as the middle school science and math teacher. I have somewhere around 20 years of experience teaching math and/or science in various parochial schools in the greater Milwaukee area and in Illinois. I am looking forward to teaching at St. Agnes as I have heard such wonderful things about the staff and students. Plus, I get to share Jesus every day! Although I grew up outside of Chicago, my husband, Jim, and I live "down the road" in Menomonee Falls, where we share our home with our 2 golden retrievers. We have 3 grown daughters: 2 who live in the area, while our oldest lives in Memphis with her husband. I am a fan of the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Blackhawks, and I enjoy reading, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends.



Middle School Math and Science Teacher (7th Grade Homeroom)

Mr. Meindl



Middle School Social Studies and Religion Teacher (8th Grade Homeroom)

Hello! I'm Andrew Meindl, and I'm honored to be joining the St. Agnes team as the middle school Social Studies and Religion teacher. I've spent over a decade in public service, working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Forest Service, and General Services Administration, where I managed environmental programs, infrastructure projects, and community initiatives across the Midwest. I currently serve on my city's Common Council, as well as my parish's Pastoral and Youth Councils, and I am a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus.

As a career-changer, I felt called to bring my passion for faith, civic engagement, and lifelong learning into the classroom. What drew me to St. Agnes is its strong Catholic identity and commitment to forming both the hearts and minds of students. Outside of school, I enjoy music, exercising, riding motorcycles, rooting for the Bears, Brewers, and White Sox, playing Magic: The Gathering, and spending time with my wife, our two boys, and our two dogs.

I am honored for the opportunity to teach your children and help form the next generation of thoughtful, faithful community leaders.



ST. AGNES HOLLY FAIR

Nov. 8
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$1 ADMISSION
or ONE NON-PERISHABLE
FOOD ITEM for the Food Pantry

**More than 40 handmade arts and crafts,
seasonal items & home-based businesses**

***** MRS. SANTA SHOP *****

**Hot food and beverages, bake sale,
used book sale, holiday cookies, raffles!**

12801 W. Fairmount Ave., Butler

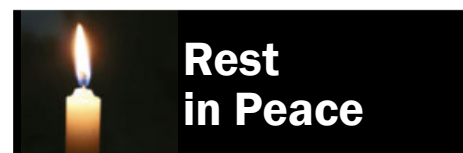
www.stagnesparish.org

REMEMBER in your prayers

As a parish we pray for those who need our support. If you know someone who needs our prayers and would like to add their name to this list, please contact the Parish Office at 262-781-9521 or email to info@stagnesparish.org.

John Abel
Bill Baumer
Jay Blair
Barbara Bussewitz
Candy Endres
Jim Endres
Rick Ensslin
Sandy Everts
Cindy Glover
Brian Hedrick
Dick Hoeffler
Barb Hucke
Dorothy Jedlika
Susan Jovanovitch
Lillian Klotz
Jason Kroepelin

Fred Kurszewski
Daniel Mayo
Baby Nelli
Warren Pischke
Kenneth Podewils
Michelle Reisimer
Maria Rummel
Chuck Schultz
Jane Shackelford
Dean Skwierawski
Steve Steeber
Mariann Sykes
Slava Tsljar
Gordon Wanasek
Rick Wilson
Dan Zeck



We pray for our deceased family members and friends:

† Arlene Herman
† Valerie Priem
† James Racette
† Elizabeth Rohr
† Carrie Salomone



Our next newsletter deadline is Dec. 1. Submit any articles for the next newsletter by this date. Send them to info@stagnesparish.org.



Christian Formation Sponsor a youth on Mission Trip next summer - Any amount

Christian Formation: FORMED Subscription - Any amount
(Total cost: \$2,300 annually)

School: Interactive Smartboard (\$3,800)

School: 25 ukeles (\$40 each)



To donate for these needs, use the QR code or drop a check in the collection basket with 'wish list' in the memo or call the parish office.