

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

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2022

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Final preparations for priesthood

by Deacon Matthew Ferch

By the time you are reading this, I am in the home stretch before my ordination to the priesthood. I am about to enter the final semester of Seminary. I am eagerly anticipating my ordination in May. In this final semester, we put the finishing touches on our formation, so we can hit the ground running when we get assigned to our new parishes. This semester, we take an in depth look to what life of a priest is like — and tips to live a healthy and holy life as a priest. We want to be the best priests that we can be.

A hallmark to this final semester is the *practice of the sacraments* that we will celebrate most commonly as a priest. First, we spend a lot of time practicing Mass. We not only want to know how to celebrate the Mass well in accord with the Missal, but it is also important that we find our style — how our personality shines forth when we carry out the sacred duty of celebrating the Eucharist.

Second, we *practice confessions*. We learn how to bring God's justice and mercy to those who enter the confessional. We learn how to give caring and loving advice that shows the person that God truly loves them and rejoices



Deacon Matthew Ferch baptizes Lincoln David Langford, son of Tyler and Lauren Langford, on Nov. 28, 2021. Matthew and Tyler have been lifelong friends and classmates while attending St. Agnes School from K-8th grade. On the day Lincoln was baptized, it was exactly 28 years from the day Matthew was baptized in that same font. What a blessing to be able to baptize his good friend's son.

in the fact that they have come to ask for his forgiveness.

Finally, we *practice how to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick*. It is a privileged time to bring God's healing to those who are sick and dying. They are in a vulnerable situation, and it is an honor to show these people that God is there with them, and he has not abandoned them. We are preparing to become sacred ministers of Christ, and it is an honor to serve the people of God to help them get to Heaven.

Gift and benefits of volunteering

Dear Friends,

We just celebrated Christmas, the Nativity of our Lord and Savior. This past celebration was, hopefully, enriching despite the looming shadow of the pandemic.

As we begin this New Year, let us be grateful to God for His protection. Let us also thank the healthcare community for their diligent service to those faced with serious health issues. I am thankful to each one of you for your faithfulness to the Lord in regularly participating in our weekly worship. Your support of the parish/school events like **Wine Tasting, Holly Fair, Frozen Jr., and Christmas Concert** is deeply appreciated.

As we all know, the year 2021 was dedicated to St. Joseph, an exemplary saint for families of our time. He embodies the

Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC
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from the Pastor



Christian virtues that every family can cultivate. In this regard, the Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly recently said: "The truth is that he models for each one of us the importance of prayer, the obedience and courage in our lives. I have found him a powerful help when confronted with tough choices."

While honoring St. Joseph, I liked to focus on the gift of volunteering and the benefit of being a volunteer here at St. Agnes. St. Joseph was a humble carpenter who

Volunteering, continued on page 2

St. Agnes staff

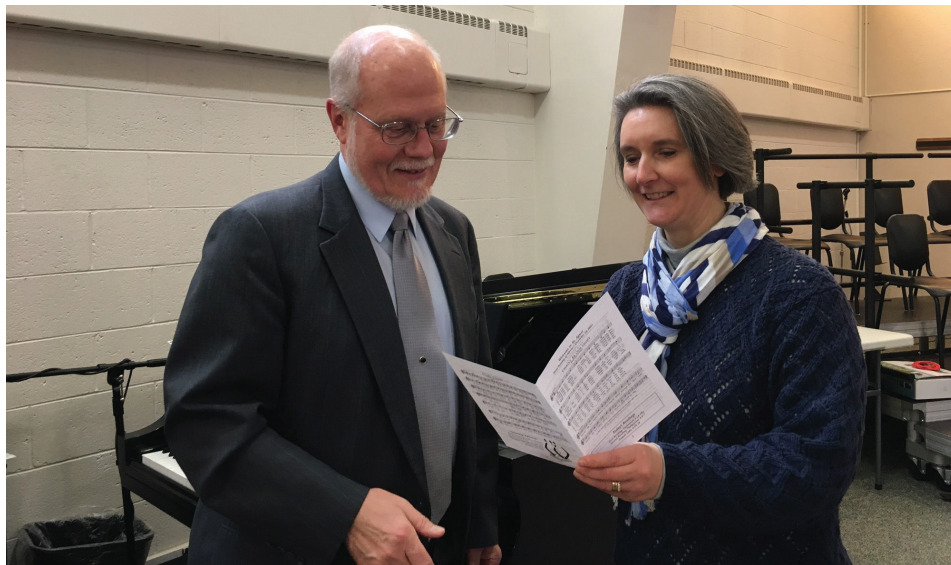
Vacancies lead to additional responsibilities

With so many changes to the staff there may as well be a sign in front of church: HELP WANTED. St. Agnes currently has three vacancies (as of mid-December) which include Business Manager, Director of Liturgical Music and Mission Trip & Youth Activities Coordinator.

The position that has been vacant the longest is the **Director of Liturgical Music**, formally Director of Liturgy and Music (DLM). Throughout the Archdiocese this position has been difficult to fill, given the retirement of many of the area's liturgical ministers and the lack of replacements from the younger generation. With guidance from the Archdiocese Office of Worship, our DLM position was revised into two separate roles: Director of Liturgical Music and Coordinator of Liturgy. We are still searching for that right person to fill our Liturgical Musician role but the Coordinator of Liturgy role has been filled by Shelly Fellin.

Fellin's original position as Christian Formation Coordinator, which serves children, youth and adults, is still her main priority but with the added responsibilities of Coordinator of Liturgy. This makes her the only full-time parish staff member at the moment.

"I'm here Saturday evenings to set up for Mass, open up church and turn on lights," Fellin said. "And I'm here Sunday mornings and most days of the week." For the Church, liturgy is the main priority. The parish really needs a Director of Liturgical Music, a 30-hour a week position, which is posted on the Archdiocese Career website. Right now, Fellin is the one scrambling to find musicians for weekend Masses and special events.



Substitute musician David Sanders and Christian Formation director Shelly Fellin look over the Orders of Worship before Mass. Sanders has been filling in as a musician at St. Agnes off and on since August. Until his retirement last March after 43 years as a liturgical musician, Sanders had worked at six different parishes in the archdiocese.

More broadly, Fellin assists Father Joy in the coordination and scheduling of liturgical events, e.g., Reconciliation, Stations of the Cross, Eucharistic Adoration, etc. She also coordinates, trains and schedules all liturgical ministers and prepares the weekend prayers of the faithful and announcements.

"While a Liturgical Musician is our top priority, we also need a **Mission Trip and Youth Activities coordinator**," Fellin said. Earlier this year due to a variety of reasons there were some personnel changes in the Christian Formation Dept.

"We created one new role which was previously filled by two people." The Mission Trip & Youth Activities Coordinator's primary role is being the Mission Trip

Lead person. The St. Agnes mission trip is planned for the summer of 2022, to Benton Harbor, Mich., (July 24-29) for current eighth through 12th graders. The trip won't run without a coordinator. Given the new responsibilities in Liturgy, this is one job that Fellin is unable take on herself. This person would also be responsible for coordinating middle and high school youth activities that promote evangelization and formation.

St. Agnes also needs a **Business Manager**. Paula Pikula is the bookkeeper, but the business manager position is much broader, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the parish, especially in the areas of finance, human resources and facilities management.

Volunteering, from p. 1

volunteered to become the foster father to Jesus, and a loyal husband to Mary, our Mother of God whose feast we celebrated on the First of January.

St. Joseph accepted God's invitation through the angel Gabriel to take care of the Holy Family, and didn't ask for anything in return. Like him we all are called to serve God and our parish family in various capacities. That is why we need volunteers to lead and support our

ministries at the parish.

- Volunteering at St. Agnes gives your life a new meaning and makes you a visible witness of the Lord in our community and inspires others to follow the Lord.

- Serving others at your local church gives you a larger perspective of the community issues/needs, and enables you to forge new lifelong friendships.

- Volunteering helps you to meet the needs of others while bringing relief to those you serve. It will also enhance the quality of your life in general.

- Again it leads you to become more generous with your time and talents, and encourages the sacrificial spirit of those involved at every level.

If you have not volunteered at St. Agnes yet, this is the time to take the next step by contacting the parish office to get registered. And then one day you will hear the Lord saying: "Well done my good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

Wishing you a very prosperous and grace-filled new year!

Rev. Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC

Christian Formation

New Year good time to prioritize your faith

by Shelly Fellin

These few short weeks of Ordinary Times, between Christmas and Lent, gives us many opportunities to learn about our faith. FORMED is a great resource for just that. As we all know January 21 is the memorial of St. Agnes. We also celebrate in January many other memorial feast days of Saints such as St. Anthony, St. Francis de Sales and St. Thomas Aquinas, as well as The Conversion of St. Paul. On February 2nd the Church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. These are all excellent topics to learn more about and FORMED is the best place to begin. I recently watched a documentary on FORMED called Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message about the appearance of Our Lady to Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531 and learned something new about this appearance of Our Lady. FORMED is my go-to source for anything that I want to learn about our Catholic faith. Check out the Wish List on the right for how you can help keep this valuable resource accessible to all parishioners.

Watch for opportunities in the coming weeks to participate in a book club, study group or small group faith sharing. The Tuesday Morning Book Club will resume on February 8. If you are ready to take the next step toward discipleship, join the Catholic

ID group. Watch the bulletin for these announcements and other opportunities to deepen your faith and grow closer to God. Ash Wednesday is on March 2 this year which marks the beginning of Lent. The Labyrinth will return again to Kemp Hall, March 11-17. This has always been a popular prayer experience during Lent. Plan now to make prayer a priority this year.



Christian Formation Sponsor a youth on Mission Trip next summer **\$50** (or any amount) (Total cost is **\$400** per youth.)

Christian Formation New Bibles or Catechisms of the Catholic Church or books for CF Library, **\$25**

Water Bottle Filling Station for Primary Wing **\$50** (or any amount) (Total cost is **\$1,500.**)

School Air Purifiers for Classrooms **\$50** (or any amount) (Total cost is **\$300.**)

Parish FORMED Subscription **\$25** (or any amount) (Total cost is **\$2,000.**)

Evangelization Committee

Elizabeth ministry serves women, families

Elizabeth Ministry is based on the Scripture story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45).

Theresa Nadolski is the chair of this program at St. Agnes.

"My whole career as a nurse (32+ years) has been in women's health," Nadolski said. "So, I'm very passionate about that. Elizabeth Ministry is about supporting women and families during the child-bearing years, so seemed like a natural fit for me. I also feel it is extremely important to help make new and young families feel welcome at church – if we don't bring any young families into parishes, the parishes will eventually no longer exist."

This program helps the parish to identify, pray for and support those who are pregnant; celebrating birth or adoption; grieving miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, infant or child death; or wanting to become pregnant or adopt. For example, the Elizabeth Ministry program supports mothers and their newborns.

"We give a gift of a new handmade blanket to each baby/child who gets baptized in our parish," Nadolski said. "We also send mailings with information about

raising a child in the faith and how to do that at different ages."

Families with little children are welcome at St. Agnes, but we understand it is difficult to keep them occupied during Mass. The Elizabeth Ministry offers toddler bags for families to use during Mass.

"Each bag has a book, coloring book with crayons, and toys for toddlers to play with that are Bible-based to help teach the child about God," Nadolski said.



The Elizabeth Ministry Rose Bud Program is located in the northwest corner of the Gathering Space on a table and shelf.

"This is for people who would like prayers said for them for specific things,



Theresa Nadolski is chair of Elizabeth Ministry at St. Agnes. The Rose Bud resources are in the northwest corner of the Gathering Space.

centered around pregnancy and trying to get pregnant, family life, loss, etc.," Nadolski said.

All of this takes a lot of time to organize and care for. "I can always use volunteers," Nadolski said. "There are many other things that could be done as part of the Elizabeth Ministry." To volunteer, ask questions or offer suggestions, contact Nadolski at theresanadolski65@gmail.com.

2022: your year for generosity

"You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity!"
—2 Corinthians 9:11

As you make resolutions and set goals for the New Year, be sure to include this one: "I will be more generous in 2022." It will bless you – and your community and neighbor!

The Bible makes clear that generosity leads to a more abundant life. Generous people experience one of those paradoxes of the Kingdom of God, where the last are first, the greatest is servant to all, and whoever loses her life for Christ will gain it.

The paradox? Generous people get back far more than they give.

First, a clarification: The paradox is NOT a financial strategy to maximize return on investment. That would be missing the point. Besides, there are more important things to give than money, such as time, service, kindness, forgiveness, compassion, love, and joy. And what we get back may not be quantifiable. How do you measure wellbeing and happiness?

Generosity's real "payback" is what and who we become when we cultivate a habit of giving. Giving transforms us into generous-hearted people, and generous-hearted people tend to experience a real abundance of joy, peace, love, and security.

The old saying is most certainly true: The open palm holds more than the closed fist.

For 2022, set a goal to be more generous. Start by increasing your charitable giving above last year's offering, but also aim to give away your time, to serve your neighbor, to be lavish in compassion, extravagant in love.

Pray that God will guide you and help you experience the paradox: **Givers get back more than they give away.**

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Stewardship profile

Jerry Freeck has a big smile for all

Jerry Freeck has been a faithful member of St. Agnes Parish for 40 years.

"I don't miss Mass," he said, "except maybe twice when I was in the hospital last year." He said stewardship is also important to him.

"I give a little bit less now that I'm alone," he said. "But this whole year I increased my donation because it was needed."

One of the things he likes about St. Agnes is the sense of community. "I don't like doing things alone," he said. St. Agnes makes him feel at home.

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.

~St. Agnes Parish

TIME

TALENT

TREASURE

Jerry was 85 last month and lovingly remembered his wife.

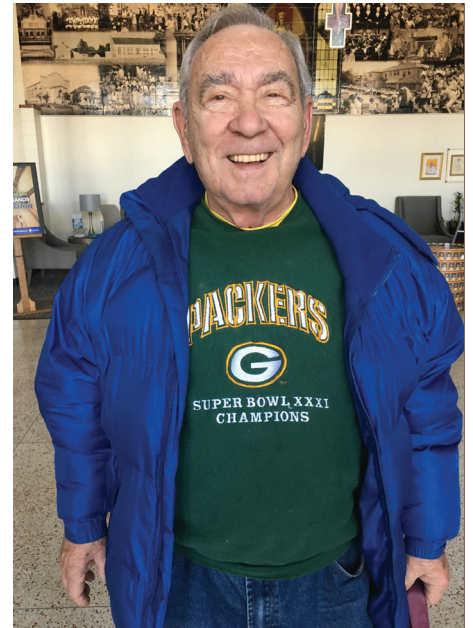
"I wish my wife were still around. We were high school sweethearts, married for 54 years until she passed away 10 years ago. A day doesn't go by that I don't think of her," he said.

He and his wife had six children — three boys and three girls — and 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. "I'm happy my family lives close," he said.

Jerry spent half his life cycling. For 12 years or so, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist Jim Stengl rode with him. They thought nothing of driving up to Door County for 100-mile rides in a single day. In fact, Jerry had his first heart attack on one of those rides. So the next year, he scaled back to a 50-mile ride — and that's when he had his second heart attack. He still takes his cycling seriously, but now he's riding a trike recumbent bike.

He's a faithful member of MFOG: "Menomonee Falls Old Geezers," a group of 10 older gentlemen who bike together in good weather.

Jerry also enjoys woodcarving and going to plays. He has had season tickets to both the Sunset Playhouse and Patio Players for years.



Jerry Freeck has attended Mass at St. Agnes for the past 40 years.



An expert craftsman, Jerry Freeck designed and carved this Cyclist's Cross, as well as dozens of other items..

Worship

Liturgical year of six seasons, divided into cycles

Happy New Year! As we begin a new calendar year, the Church is already one month into her New Year. The Church celebrated its New Year on the First Sunday of Advent.

In the Liturgical Year, the Church celebrates the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation until the day of Pentecost and the expectation of Christ's second coming. The presence of the Risen Lord and his saving work permeates the entire Liturgical Year: Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, the Easter Season, and Ordinary Time. Each liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent during the preceding calendar year (i.e., the First Sunday of Advent in 2021 began the 2022 liturgical year).

The Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ — his suffering, death and resurrection — is continuously proclaimed and renewed through celebrating the events of his life and in the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints. The liturgical year is made up of six seasons:

- Advent - four weeks of preparation before the celebration of Jesus' birth
- Christmas - recalling the Nativity of Jesus Christ and his manifestation to the peoples of the world
- Lent - a six-week period of penance before Easter
- Sacred Paschal Triduum - the holiest "Three Days" of the Church's year, where the Christian people recall the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus
- Easter - 50 days of joyful celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and his sending forth of the Holy Spirit
- Ordinary Time - divided into two sections (one span of 4-8

Shelly Fellin

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Formation & Liturgy



weeks after Christmas Time and another lasting about six months after Easter Time), wherein the faithful consider the fullness of Jesus' teachings and works among his people.

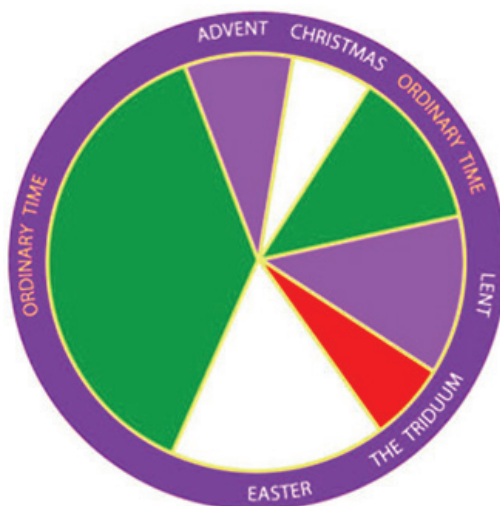
The mystery of Christ, unfolded through the cycle of the year, calls us to live his mystery in our own lives. This call is best illustrated in the lives of Mary and the saints, celebrated by the Church throughout the year. There is no tension between the mystery of Christ and the celebration of the saints, but rather a marvelous harmony.

The Sunday cycle (of readings) is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. 2020 was Year A. 2021 is Year B, 2022 is Year C.

In Year A, we read mostly from the Gospel of Matthew. In Year B, we read the Gospel of Mark and chapter 6 of the Gospel of John. In Year C, we read the Gospel of Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season in all three years. The first reading, usually from the Old Testament, reflects important themes from the Gospel reading. The second reading is usually from one of the epistles, a letter written to an early church community. These letters are read semi-continuously. Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before, though some passages are never read.

This year (Nov. 28, 2021-Nov. 26, 2022) we are in Year C for the Sunday readings, so the Gospel readings will be from the Gospel of Luke. Luke's Gospel is sometimes known

as the "Gospel of Compassion" because it repeatedly tells of Jesus' kindness towards the sick, the poor, the people who feel left out. The Gospel of Luke is the only one to include the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. (Information from the USCCB website <https://www.usccb.org>)



Tithing report — 3rd quarter 2021

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 third quarter (July-Sept.) of 2021, we donated approximately \$3,175. Following is the list of organizations that

St. Agnes has supported with these donations:

Aid to the Church in Need: Helping children in need

All Saints Catholic Church/Central Cities

Bread for the World: Advocating for a world without hunger

Covenant House: Rescuing homeless children

Cross Catholic Outreach: Delivering food, shelter and hope to the poorest of the poor



ERAs Senior Network Inc./Interfaith:

Serving local seniors in need

Food for the Poor: Helping save innocent children and transform their lives

Life Navigators aka ARC: Providing kids and adults with disabilities with essential living items and emergency needs to stay safe, happy and healthy

Priests for Life: Helping priests spread the message of life and love to all

Sam Beres' Memorial Fund



St. Agnes School staff celebrate their Exemplary Recognition for Mission and Identity from the Milwaukee Archdiocese. Bishop James Schuerman (back center) presented the award at the 2021 Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Educators' Convention at the Wisconsin Center.

School News

St. Agnes earns highest honors from DPI, Archdiocese

by Principal Rachel Kolbeck

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a wonderful start! During the first few months of the school year, St. Agnes School has received not only one, but two outstanding achievement awards!

The first of these achievements comes to us from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) through our state report card. Our wonderful school has moved up to the highest category a school can receive on the **DPI State Report Card! St. Agnes received "Significantly Exceeds Expectations!"**

This is a high honor for a school to receive. Our overall report card score is 89.4% with a 97.3% growth score, and our Choice students scored 91.3%, with a 98.2% growth score. This is extraordinary and we could not be more excited for the direction our school is headed.

There are four priority areas that are considered on the state report card: achievement, growth, target group outcomes, and on-track to graduate. St. Agnes School has made such incredible progress on the state reports cards over the past few years.

In 2017-2018 we were in the category "Meets Expectations," moving to "Exceeds Expectations" in 2018-2019, to finally "Significantly Exceeds Expectations" in

2020-2021. We are thrilled to announce and celebrate this accomplishment! This is no small feat. This achievement could only be accomplished through the dedication, hard work and teamwork philosophy of our faculty and staff, parents and students. This is a true testament to our One Family philosophy and mission statement.

The second award, which we are equally as proud to receive, is the **"Exemplary Recognition for Mission and Catholic Identity"** award from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. This award is the result of many years of hard work and dedication on behalf of the faculty and staff members of St. Agnes. Only six schools in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee received this award in 2021! St. Agnes is proud and honored to be part of this special group of schools.

As a Catholic school, we pride ourselves on incorporating Catholic teachings, values and morals into every aspect of our day. From the moment we begin our day to the moment we dismiss our students back to their homes, we are constantly communicating to them the word of Jesus.

We begin each day with morning announcements led by our student leaders. Our students lead our school community in prayer, share the word of Jesus from the bible, learn about a "Saint of the Month" and help our school to focus our day in a

Upcoming Events

- Catholic Schools Week is just around the corner — Jan. 30-Feb. 5! We are blessed to be a Catholic School where we can share our faith together. We will celebrate in our school in many different ways!
- We begin another year of Choice applications beginning in February. Please contact the school office if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Choice program.

way that best serves Jesus. Our Saint of the Month is researched by rotating classes and that information is shared during morning announcements over zoom with our entire school.

Our morning announcements are a way for us to gather as a community in prayer. We end each day in a similar manner with afternoon announcements. Our afternoons end in prayer and a challenge to our students to go home and "Find God in All Things." This is our school theme for the 2021-2022 school year.

Our goal is to give our students a deeper understanding and appreciation for the constant presence of Jesus around them. Since this is the year of St. Ignatius, we chose a theme that is deeply important in Ignatian Spirituality.

Saints: Companions on our Journey of Faith

by Jackie Schulz

Consider our parish mission statement, “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...” In our mission statement we say that we are called to be compassionate; that’s what God is like. We say that we are people who pray. We affirm that we are ready to serve others. What do we call people who pray and serve and show compassionate love to others? We call them saints! Yes, we are on our way to becoming saints. embody even more fully what they are to become.”

Saints have been a part of the Church from the start. St. Paul in his letters to the various faith communities, referred to saints. At the beginning of his Letter to the Romans we read, “To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” To another community Paul wrote, “To the Church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia...” As Barbara Reid, OP, observes, “Paul recognized their present state of holiness and urged them to

embody even more fully what they are to become.”

Pope Francis has tried to emphasize this point: all Christians are called to holiness. We are all, he says, “called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.”

What will help us to become the saints that we are called to be? Those saints who have gone before us can be role models for us...their life stories can touch our minds and hearts. If they, a diverse group of men and women, human like us, could live as faithful disciples of Jesus, then we need to become reacquainted with these good people.

The Congregation for Saints’ Causes, dedicated to identifying and promoting models of holiness, met with Pope Francis in December of 2019. Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the congregation, told the pope that in the past 50 years, 2,203 people have been beatified and 1,479 have been canonized. Wow, that is a lot of holy people!

“The very many beatifications and canonizations that have been celebrated in

the past few decades demonstrate how the saints are not unreachable human beings but are close to us and can support us in our life’s journeys,” the pope said.

If we are still considering a resolution for the coming year, how about choosing to learn about some of our newest saints and those who are called Blessed: St. Alberto Hurtado, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Blessed Franz Jagerstatter, Blessed Fred-eric Ozanam, Blessed Stanley Rother, St. Josephine Bakhita, St. Oscar Romero, St. Marianne Cope...well that’s just a few of the saints ready to be examples for us and ready to pray for us.

Here are some good resources:

- <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/>
- *My Life with the Saints* by James Martin, SJ
- *African Saints, African Stories: 40 Holy Men and Women* by Camille Lewis Brown
- books by Robert Ellsberg:
 - *A Living Gospel*
 - *Blessed Among All Women*
 - *Blessed Among Us*
 - *The Franciscan Saints*
 - *The Saints’ Guide to Happiness*



St. Alberto Hurtado



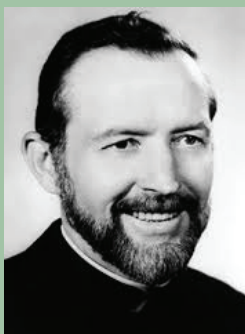
St. Gianna Beretta Molla



Blessed Franz Jagerstatter



Blessed Frederic Ozanam



Blessed Stanley Rother



St. Josephine Bakhita



St. Oscar Romero



St. Marianne Cope



Grief Ministry

The Funeral Mass: Praying for our beloved dead

Since the beginning of the Christian faith, the Mass has been prayed at the time of death of a loved one. The Mass is the greatest connection we have with Christ himself who suffered death and was buried. In the Mass, the Church on earth is united with the heavenly Church, that is, with all the saints and angels and all who have gone before us, who are interceding to Christ on behalf of the deceased. The Church on earth and the heavenly realm are praying for the loved one — that all sins may be forgiven, the soul may be purified, and the loved one may be received into eternal life with God.

The funeral Mass is the greatest gift we can give a Catholic at the time of death. The Order of Christian Funerals (OCF) gives us reassurance of this great gift. The OCF states that the purpose of the funeral Mass is “to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God...” (OCF 5) In the funeral Mass, the Church commends the dead to God’s merciful love and prays for the forgiveness of their sins. (OCF 6) Though separated by death, the deceased is still “one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and intercession.” (OCF 6)

The funeral Mass is par excellence of all the ways of turning to God in our sorrow and mourning. We are consoled by the Word of God in the Scriptures and are sustained in the Eucharist as we grieve. Faith is strengthened through the mystery of the Sacrifice of the Mass where Christ

continually offers to his Father the sacrifice of his life. There is no part of human suffering and sorrow that Christ does not know. Through the prayer of the priest and people gathered at the funeral Mass, a pro-

found union with Christ’s suffering and death occurs as well as being able to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ’s resurrection. Through Christ’s death and resurrection, he has broken the chains of sin and death.

The funeral Mass with the body in the casket is the Church’s preferred way. It is a very visual reminder of the impact of death and of the promise of the resurrection of the body at the end of time. In the context of a funeral Mass, there is the strong message that death is not the end; it is the gateway to eternal life with God.

At the time of the death of a loved one, there are so many details to take care of. Everything can be quite overwhelming. If possible, planning ahead of time for one’s funeral Mass can be quite helpful to the family members left behind. Our parish office can help you with any questions and with pre-planning for a Catholic funeral Mass.

Also, it is a strong Catholic tradition in the weeks and months after the death of loved ones to have Masses offered for them that they may have eternal life with God in heaven. Mass intentions can be arranged with our parish office at 262-781-9521.

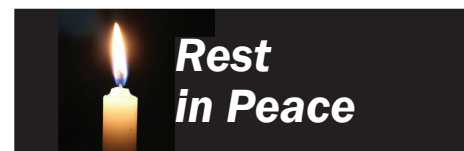
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St. Agnes Grief Ministry:
Please contact the parish office when life events happen, including when someone is moved into nursing care or assisted living, etc.
We are ready to help.

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 info@stagnesparish.org.

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| Barbara Bussewitz | Mary Joe Powalisz |
| Jim Endres | Michelle Reisimer |
| Dan Etzel | Marie Retzer |
| Ruth Geiss | Ethel Schalk |
| Doreen Gilbertson | Chuck Schultz |
| Elaine Gultch | Ann Schwartz |
| Pat Manganello | Audrey Stippich |
| Ervin Mirr | Slava Tsljar |
| Theresa Potnek | Dan Zeck |



We pray for our deceased family and friends:

† Janet Proffit — husband of Clarence
 † Florence Krueger
 † Jean Ebel — sister of Julie Khaja and aunt of Jean Reed
 † Susan Gies — husband of Paul
 † Marilyn Hollmann
 † Mary (Betty) Gondek
 † Sharon Kania
 † Edward Wros — uncle of Marilyn Schultz

If you or someone you know who is homebound would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick or Communion, please contact the Office.



Our next newsletter deadline is March 4. Please submit any articles you’d like to see in the next newsletter by this date. You may send them to Paula Pikula (pikulap@stagnesparish.org) in the Parish Office.