

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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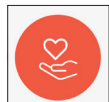
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Special celebration for St. Agnes

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we start a new year, there are many things that we would like to do and that we promise to complete, but none of these things can be done without God's help. For that reason, we need to start everything with prayer. Prayer has to be the first thing we do before we start a project or plan in our daily life.

In the month of January, we celebrate a couple of liturgical feasts: Mary Mother of

God, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. These liturgical feasts help us continue celebrating the Christmas season and help us to keep celebrating Christ's birth.

But also, on January 21, we celebrate our holy patroness, Saint Agnes. Our parish has been consecrated for this special and particular saint.

Saint Agnes was able to give her life for the love of God and the Church while defending her purity. She was born in 291 A.D. and died in 304 A.D. She is the patroness of several things: girls, virgins,

Fr. Sergio Rodriguez
rodriguez@sagnesparish.org



victims of sex abuse, and gardeners. A church was built over her tomb, and her relics are venerated. According to tradition, Agnes was a member of the nobility, and she was raised in an early Christian family. She suffered martyr-

dom at the age of twelve or thirteen during the reign of the Roman emperor Diocletian on January 21, 304.

This year Saint Agnes parish will celebrate the feast day on Jan. 20 and 21 with a concert of sacred music, and special Masses in her honor, so come and celebrate with us this special day for our community of faith.

Let pray to Saint Agnes for our youth; may her intercession help them look for the purity of body and soul. Saint Agnes, pray for us.

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

Fr. Sergio Rodriguez



Statue of St. Agnes in Pantheon in Rome

Calendar of events

Jan. 9 - Feb. 4 Mayhem at the Mural Basketball Tournament

Jan. 13 Chili Cookoff after 5 p.m. Mass

Jan. 20 Sacred Music event

Jan. 21 St. Agnes Feast Day

Feb. 24 St. Dominic/St. Agnes workday (story on p, 8)

Feb. 25-27 Parish Mission

Mar. 2 St. Dominic/St. Agnes workday

Mar. 9-10 St. Dominic Priceless Bake Sale after all their Masses

Mar. 16 St. Dominic/St. Agnes workday

Our parish is here for you!

Are you homebound and in need of support? St. Agnes would like to know how we can serve your needs. Please reach out to us so that you can receive the sacraments that are crucial to your spiritual and physical healing.

Starting January 2024, we will be offering Anointing of the Sick *after* the first Saturday 5 p.m. Mass. If you would like anointing outside of this time, please contact Father Sergio.

We will also begin having Mass on the First Saturday MORNING at 8:15 a.m. For those with a devotion to our Blessed Mother, this will be a welcome addition to our schedule.

Join us on Saturday, Jan. 20, for an evening of Sacred Music to celebrate the Feast of St. Agnes. Mass of Anticipation on Saturday, Jan. 20, will begin at 4 p.m. followed by fellowship from 4:45-5:30 p.m. Concert by the Choirs of the Musica Oramus Catholic Conservatory will begin at 5:30 p.m. Please join us for this event.

We welcome our new music director

Cathy Reich joined the St. Agnes Parish team in November, just in time for Thanksgiving when we gave thanks for her and her talents as a music director.

Reich's background in music is well-rounded and varied. She started piano lessons when she was seven years old, learned violin in high school and organ in college. That was where she also played classical guitar and percussion. Her tastes in music are broad, as she loves classical music, as well as Broadway show tunes and music from movies.

For most of her career, Reich worked at churches mostly in the Chicago suburbs, but also at Holy Family parish in Chicago's South Loop. For many years, she worked for the Navy at Great Lakes, which she described as



Cathy Reich

an exciting and wonderful experience. As the Catholic music director there, she worked with a choir of recruits.

"There would be 1,000 recruits at Sunday Mass," Reich recalled. "It was a beautiful choir."

She left Illinois for Wisconsin when she took a job at St. Pius X Church in Wauwatosa, where she was director of Liturgy and Music. And now she is here at St. Agnes.

Even when she is not at work, music is still an integral part of Reich's life. She enjoys playing old-time music at nursing homes where she volunteers. Other interests include painting watercolors and acrylics, gardening, writing poetry, designing floral arrangements, sewing and cooking. She's also written a children's novel called "Grace's Homecoming," which is not a published book.

St. Agnes hosts Eucharistic Miracles exhibit

by Butch Brockman

St. Agnes hosted the touring "Miracles of the Eucharist" exhibit from November 30 – December 3, 2023 as part of our ongoing participation in the National Eucharistic Revival. The exhibit is offered by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and St. Agnes' Eucharistic Revival committee decided to take a turn at hosting the exhibit.

The exhibit is a compilation of two and a half years of research and findings originally prepared by Blessed Carlos Acutis and his family. His research began in 2002 and became his life's mission because of his love for the Eucharist up until the time of his death in 2006 from Leukemia at the age of 15. As noted in one of the introductory panels of the exhibit, "The Miracles of the Eucharist" are miraculous divine interventions that are aimed at confirming faith in the real presence of the body and blood of the Lord in the Eucharist."¹

The exhibit is a series of detailed stories from around the world whereby these divine interventions occurred to prove the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine we receive at mass. The exhibit has appeared on all five continents and the stories go as far back as the early 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries.

The exhibit is a source of faith and

International Exhibition
MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST
ACROSS THE WORLD
Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis
BLESSED CARLOS ACUTIS
(London, 3 May 1991 – Milan, 11 October 2006)

"My life plan is to always be connected to Jesus". With these few words, Carlo Acutis, who died of leukaemia when he was only fifteen years old, outlined the distinctive feature of his brief existence: living with Jesus, for Jesus and in Jesus.
To quote Carlo's own words: "Our destination must be what is infinite, not what is finite. Infinity is our homeland. We have been expected in Heaven since time immemorial". He also said: "All are born with their own originality, but many die as photocopies".

To move towards this destination and to not "die as photocopies", Carlo said that our compass must be the Word of God, against which we must constantly measure ourselves. Extremely special means are required to reach such a lofty destination: the sacraments and prayer. In particular, Carlo placed the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the heart of his own life, which he called "my highway to heaven". After receiving his first communion at the age of seven, Carlo did not miss daily attendance at mass or reciting the rosary. He would always try to practice Eucharistic Devotion, convinced that "by standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy". Carlo would often talk himself why we see mile-long queues of people waiting for hours to go to a rock concert or a film, but we never see the same queues in front of the Eucharistic Christ. He would say that people do not realise what they are missing, otherwise churches would be so full that you would not be able to get into them. In the Blessed Sacrament – he would repeat passionately – Christ is present in the same way he was 2000 years ago in the time of the Apostles: that back then, people had to travel constantly to see him, while we are much luckier today because we can

find him in any church close to our homes. In his words, "Jerusalem is right on our doorstep". From his days as a good catechist onwards, he would try his best to find new ways to help others to strengthen their own faith. For this reason, he left us his exhibitions as a legacy, among which the Miracles of the Eucharist stand out. In 2002, while visiting the Meeting Rimini exhibition, Carlo decided to stage an exhibition on the Miracles of the Eucharist recognised by the Church. This demanding work also involved his family for almost two and a half years. The spiritual effects brought about by this exhibition could not have been predicted before it opened. We can confirm that the exhibition has now been hosted on all five continents. Many parishes also asked that the material be collected in a catalogue, which was accompanied by an eminent preface written by Card. Angelo Comastri, Archbishop of the Papal Basilica of the Vatican and Vicar General to his Holiness for the Vatican City; and by His Excellency Mons. Raffaello Martiniello, then Head of the Catechetical Office of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. From that moment on, if we may say so given the results, the exhibition "has performed miracles". In the United States alone,

thanks to assistance from the *Knights of Columbus, The Cardinal Newman Society and The Real Presence Association and Education*, with the support of Card. Edmund Burke, it has been hosted in thousands of parishes and more than 100 universities. It has also been promoted by several Episcopal Conferences, including those of the Philippines, Argentina and Vietnam, etc. It has even travelled to China and Indonesia. Important basilicas and sanctuaries have hosted Carlo's exhibition, including the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima on the occasion of the centenary of Francisco Marto.

It is possible to take a virtual visit of the sites where these miracles took place and download the panels at www.carloacutis.com and www.miracoleucharistic.org. The exhibition is free and can be requested by sending an email to: info@carloacutis.com

Or by writing to:
Associazione Amici di Carlo Acutis
Via Eremo delle Carceri, 30 - 06081 Assisi
Tel: +39 347 4094968

1. 03a Eucharistia Carl. Angelo Comastri, Prefetto to N. Gio. Carlo Acutis. Un giovane per i giovani.

Eucharistic Revival going on across the country and around the world. St. Agnes is actively participating in this program calling us to focus on the Eucharist as the center of our faith and to use that as the reason why we should all come back to mass. From there we can all begin to experience what Archbishop ListECKI calls the "Four R's:" Jesus, through the Eucharist, is real presence, real sacrifice, real food and real relationship.²

While each of the "Four R's" can be researched as to their meaning and how we can apply them to our daily and spiritual lives, the "R" real relationship is summed up best by Pope Benedict XVI in his "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("The Sacrament of Charity"). As noted in a Special Section of the Catholic Herald the Pope stated, "Communality always and inseparably has both a vertical and a horizontal sense; it is communion with God and communion with our brothers and sisters of not only our Church, but for the world."³

inspiration to many as evidenced by those who visited St. Agnes during the time we hosted the Exhibit. The exhibit was visited by several members of our own parish and by many others from all over the diocese. If you did not get a chance to see the exhibit while it was here, you can visit the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's website to find out where the exhibit will be available next.

As noted this is all part of the ongoing

¹ "Miracles of the Eucharist" touring exhibit devised and planned by Blessed Carlos Acutis

² Archbishop Jerome ListECKI – Catholic Herald "The Eucharist" Special Section

³ Catholic Herald "The Eucharist" Special Section

Christian Formation

Opportunities to grow in faith start in January

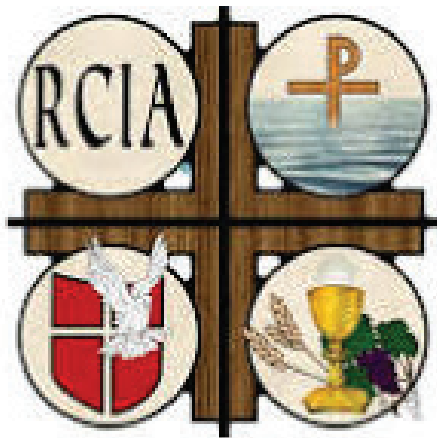
With a new year comes new ideas and a new plan for your life (i.e. New Year's Resolutions, etc). The Christian Formation Committee is looking for your feedback on new programs and offerings that will benefit our parish community. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey and let us know how we can serve you.



RCIA: A Journey of Faith

The process by which adults come into the Church is called "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" or better known as "RCIA".

The Rite of Christian Initiation is based on the principle that the process of conversion proceeds gradually, in stages. Progress from one stage to the next is marked by a liturgical celebration in the midst of the parish community. If you or someone you know is inter-



ested in learning more about the Catholic faith or are just seeking answers to questions of faith we are here for you. Please contact the Christian Formation office to begin the journey.

Adult Confirmation 2024

The Sacrament of Confirmation deepens our baptismal life that calls us to be missionary witnesses of Jesus Christ in our families, neighborhoods, society and the world. (USCCB website) If you haven't received the Sacrament of Confirmation while in high school consider stepping out in faith and receive that final

Sacrament of Initiation. Six sessions of Adult Formation for Confirmation prep are required to receive the Sacrament. Contact me if you are looking for more information.

Shelly Fellin
fellinm@stagnesparish.org

Formation & Liturgy



Lenten prayer and the Labyrinth: Walking with God

This year we begin Lent on Feb. 14 with Ash Wednesday. Use the time we have this winter during Lent to seek a deeper relationship with Jesus. St. Agnes will be having a few opportunities for you to do just that. Join us on Feb. 25-27 for a Lenten Mission. National Eucharistic Preacher Father Luke Ferris, from the Diocese of Green Bay will be our presenter on Sunday and Monday. Then on Tuesday Father Sergio will lead us in Stations of the Cross and Benediction. Fellowship will follow each night. We will again offer time for prayerful walking with God in the LABYRINTH from Feb. 29-March 4. As usual this replica of the Chartres, France labyrinth will be located in Kemp Hall with printed guidelines and suggestions available for those new to the labyrinth. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Mark's Gospel portrays Jesus on a journey

by Jackie Schulz

The First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 3, we entered Year B of the Church's three-year cycle of readings. The Gospel readings that we hear this year will be primarily from Mark. What are some unique features of Mark's Gospel?

Most scholars believe that the Gospel according to Mark was the first to be written. Sometime during the years 65-70 A.D., Mark was moved by the Holy Spirit to tell the Good News of Jesus in the form of a Gospel. Mark gets our attention and tells us who Jesus is in the first verse of his account. "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

In many ways Mark's Gospel is a journey story. Jesus is always on the move around Galilee and then to Jerusalem. On his journey Jesus calls disciples, heals, preaches and shares meals. In Mark's Gospel we'll hear a focus on discipleship

and what it means to be a disciple. Jesus' call, "Follow me" is meant for us, too.

Mark sums up the message of Jesus in this way. After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:15)

Here is an example of a day in the life of Jesus as told by Mark: They came to a town and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. On leaving the synagogue he healed people. When it was evening, after



St. Mark

sunset, they brought to him all who were ill. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and the other disciples searched for him and on finding him said,

"Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

As Megan McKenna puts it, "Our task as followers of Jesus, as the children of God with Jesus, is to give comfort and to teach the newness and hope that live in the word of God. This was Jesus' mission and it is also ours."

Stewardship

Jean Sekula: committed to servant leadership

by Linda Barrington

After coming to St. Agnes for three years, Jean Sekula became an official member this year. She and her husband, Pete, had moved to the area from St. Dominic's.

"I used to be very involved there and met a lot of people," she said. Three years ago they moved closer to St. Agnes and joined this parish.

"It is smaller than St. Dominic's, but I really like the community at St. Agnes," she said.

One of her first experiences of St. Agnes community was the Out and About summer program. That got her started again with volunteering.

Greg Retzer encouraged her to join Parish Council this fall and she gave it some thought. She decided to join and has been to two meetings so far and likes it.

She would like to see St. Agnes focusing on fun activities that people can enjoy. "If people get involved and build community

socially, they will become active parish members," she said.

When Jean was a member of St. Dominic's, she participated in their Lenten Outreach program, helping other parishes. This year St. Dominic will be working with St. Agnes. [See story on p. 8.]

"Now I'll be helping at St. Agnes," she said.

When she was in her early twenties, she lived in Butler where she attended St. Agnes and played open gym volleyball one night a week.

"Even in those days, I enjoyed going to church," she said. "I've continued to feel strongly about my faith."

Her parents were strong Catholics; in fact, her dad was in the seminary for a while. Jean and

her husband raised their two daughters in the faith.

"I'm getting to know people at St. Agnes — people who are very invested in their spirituality," she said. "We should

Parishioner PROFILE



Jean Sekula

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

encourage others to join us in activities at St. Agnes."

Jean is committed to an active lifestyle. She plays pickleball 5-6 times a week, and she has been playing and coaching volleyball since high school and continues to play both locally and nationally, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Utah and Illinois.

An avid traveler, she spent all of last April in Italy on her own throughout the country. She taught herself Italian, using the Duo Lingo online app to prepare for the trip.

One of her favorite quotes rephrased for St. Agnes is, "Ask not what others can do for you, but what you can do for them."

Stewardship

Make 2024 your year for abundant giving

Many Christians think of "stewardship" only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it's usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2024 your year for holistic stewardship - and abundant living – by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are tips.

HEALTH: Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

RELATIONSHIPS: We not only share love and joy with family and friends, but also turn to and rely on them in times



of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get-togethers and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

TIME: Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities

that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

FAITH: No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2024, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

MONEY: Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

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Safe Environment

Keeping children and teens safe online

Computers and mobile devices can be helpful tools for children and teens to learn and grow in faith and fellowship. Unfortunately, the digital world is also full of unsafe and explicit content. You wouldn't hand a teen the car keys without first teaching them how to drive. The same should be true for using technology — teach them how to keep themselves and others safe while using it.

You can use the following tips to better protect young people from harm online:

- 1 Model appropriate online behavior for young people.** Children look to their parents to teach and show them the ways to appropriately use technology. The biggest influence on what children see as acceptable or unacceptable is you.
- 2 Teach your children not to share private information or images online.** Strangers posing as online friends can try to gain the trust of minors. Personal information such as name, address, and phone number should never be shared with an unknown person. Tell your children to immediately tell a trusted adult if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable.
- 3 Limit usage of computers and mobile devices to public spaces in the home.** Not only will this help to prevent young people from accessing unsafe websites, it will also help them to develop safe browsing habits later in life.
- 4 Install software that can block or monitor explicit website use.** Open access to harmful websites, like those that include pornography, is a constant threat to



young people. Website filters can prevent access to harmful and explicit sites and some can even alert you when such a site is accessed.

- 5 Review and discuss the websites your child has visited and apps they have used.** Oversight of your child or teen's browsing history and app usage can help to keep them safe online. If you notice your child has browsed an unsafe website or app, discuss why that behavior is harmful. Learn about current apps that could be harmful to children and teens, especially those that involve image sharing, private communication, or the illusion of privacy.
- 6 Report online exploitation of minors to public authorities.** If you become aware of explicit content involving minors, such as solicitation, explicit images or videos, you should submit a report to law enforcement or through resources like CyberTipline from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

© United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Tithing report — 3rd quarter 2023

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 2023, we donated approximately \$3,050. Following is the list of organizations that St. Agnes has supported with these donations:

Alaska Radio Mission (KNOM): Oldest Catholic Radio Station in US

Capuchin Community: Mission to help service to the poor, the hungry and the homeless

Cathedral Center: Non-sectarian agency for women & families

ERAs Senior Network Inc./Interfaith: Serving local seniors in need

Hope Street Ministries: Drug and alcohol Detox Center

International Fellowship of Christians & Jews: Help feed elderly Jews struggling to survive



Sam Beres Memorial Fund: To support research for childhood cancer

St. Agnes Grief Ministry: To help and support our grief ministry with the Mass of Remembrance for Dec 2023

Women's Care Center: Empowered to choose life - not abortion

Wounded Warrior Project: To help out wounded warriors

School News

St. Agnes School recommended for full accreditation

by Principal Rachel Kolbeck

I am thrilled to share some exciting news about the recent Accreditation visit that St. Agnes School underwent this past October! For anyone who is unfamiliar with the process, each Catholic school is accredited through both the Archdiocese of Milwaukee as well as the Wisconsin Religious and Independent Schools Association (WRISA). Every seven years, schools go through the process of being accredited again. Accreditation is based on a school meeting each of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Schools as defined by the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). Accreditation is a comprehensive and rigorous process, and **I am thrilled to report that the visit went incredibly well!** The hard work, dedication, and collaboration of our entire school community was clearly visible to the visiting team of evaluators.

Beginning last year and extending into the months leading up to the visit, our teachers united their efforts to gather evidence showcasing how we meet each standard. This was no small feat, and I could not be more grateful or appreciative of our teachers and staff members for their hard work and commitment to excellence. Together, we compiled this evidence into a dedicated website designed specifically for the accreditation visit, providing a comprehensive view of the richness and depth of our educational programs, Catholic identity and stewardship.

The visiting team was thoroughly impressed with all that St. Agnes School has to offer. One of the significant highlights was the commendation for how our mission statement is not just words on paper but a living, breathing reality in our school. The team recognized that our students could clearly articulate and explain the mission statement during interviews, stating, “The visiting team commends St. Agnes for living the mission on a daily basis. Its integration can be felt throughout the building.”

Equally commendable was our dedication to integrating Catholic values into every aspect of our school day. The visiting team praised our curriculum choices and the seamless incorporation of Catholic identity across subjects, remarking, “The visiting team commends St. Agnes for their integration of Catholic values, themes, and culture in diverse ways across the school building and campus.”

Our commitment to fostering an environment of faith for all of our students was recognized and appreciated. The team particularly enjoyed the diversity and amount of faith opportunities that are present to our students, stating, “The visiting team commends St. Agnes school for creating a student-driven culture around prayer, the Eucharist, and the Gospel leadership/disciples.” The team also acknowledged the exceptional efforts of our staff, emphasizing, “The visiting team commends St. Agnes staff (no matter the role) for modeling their active ministry.”

One of the aspects that brought us immense pride was the acknowledgment of our diverse student body. St. Agnes School is a place where Catholic and non-Catholic students come together, and the visiting team celebrated our ability to create and maintain a strong Catholic identity.

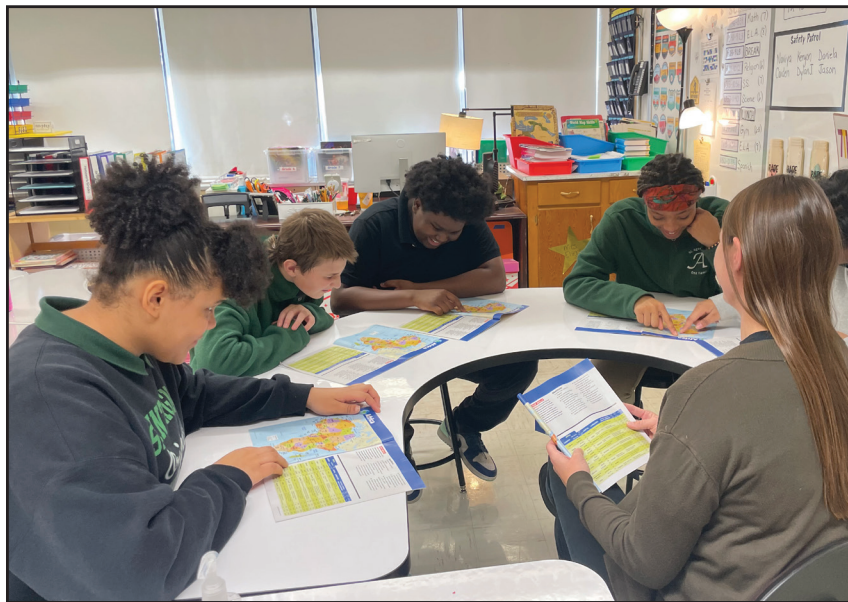
The team wrote, “The visiting team commends the leadership team for thoughtfully incorporating non-Catholic students into the fold of Catholic traditions and sacraments.” We view the ability to evangelize to all of our non-Catholic students and families as such a blessing. We are able to

do this on a daily basis in so many different ways. It brings us great pride to know that our efforts to evangelize are being recognized as fruitful.

Furthermore, the team recognized the valuable work we do through our tradition of Faith Families, noting, “It was evident through students and staff interviews that the students and staff find value with this practice, and that it helps with relationship building among students of different grade levels.”

While we await formal confirmation at the end of the school year, **I am pleased to share that the Archdiocese informed us that the visiting team recommended St. Agnes School for full accreditation.** This is a testament to the caliber of educators and the strength of our school community. We are truly blessed to have such dedicated teachers and staff members who contribute to the formation of our students.

Let us continue to celebrate this accomplishment and move forward with the inspiration gained from the accreditation visit. Together, we will continue to progress and uphold the values that make St. Agnes School a place of excellence and a nurturing environment for all.



Principal Rachel Kolbeck works with eighth graders as they read the Scholastic Weekly.

‘Around the world in art’ is theme for art classes

Art teacher Jen Wolf’s organizing theme for her students this year is “Around the World in Art.” They study symmetry, for example, in the art from Mexico. Drawings were based on information from “Legend of the Poinsettia” by Tomie dePaola.

In studying the indigenous art of Australia, students learned that everything was communicated through art because the people had no written language.


Germany’s art provided good examples of two-dimensional work (shapes) that contrasted with three-dimensional work. Students made gingerbread houses: Flat drawings (grades 1-4) were two-dimensional — see the poinsettias at the right — and 3-D work (grades 5-8) was three-dimensional.

The K3-K5 students are working as “Illustrator Investigators,” exploring how art helps tell the story and improve literacy skills.

“We recreate art from illustrator/authors like Eric Carle and his very hungry caterpillar and Tomie dePaola’s religious story-telling,” Wolf said.

The first through eighth graders are learning about cultures through art as they “travel” around the world.

“They are putting the principles of art to use, as well,” Wolf said. “For Australia, we talked about art as communication because most aboriginal groups do not have a written language.



ABOUT MRS. WOLF

Why I like teaching art:
“I enjoy controlled chaos — that’s why art works for me.”

My goal: I hope that my students will appreciate art through a variety of media as we look at what art means to cultures around the world and how it connects us,

Jen Wolf, K-8 art teacher

And Mexican art is a great example of symmetry, both radial and classic.” Overall, Wolf’s goal is for students to appreciate art through a variety of media as they look at what art means to cultures around the world and how it connects people.



K3 and K4 students learned that art is wherever they find it. Their poinsettias are from the book, “Legend of the Poinsettias” by Tomie de Paola.



K5 through 8th grade students learned that aboriginal art communicates through pictures and symbols.



The story of “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” by Eric Carle served as inspiration for students’ artwork, posted in the school hallway.

St. Agnes Parish receives working grant from St. Dominic parishioners

With mounting concerns about insufficient funding for repairs and refurbishment needed in the St. Agnes church/school/office complex, parishioners and staff applied to nearby St. Dominic Parish for consideration as a recipient of their annual Lenten Outreach Program. Against all odds, St. Agnes was selected for work this year.

“We do this to build relationships,” said Mary Lestina, pastoral associate at St. Dominic. “So we need to meet people face to face. What we do isn’t outreach; it’s service.”

“We are so grateful to have the opportunity to partner with St. Dominic’s,” Principal Rachel Kolbeck said. “What a blessing this is for our community.” St. Agnes business manager, Paula Pikula, emphasized the importance of building a relationship with the volunteers from St. Dominic. That means St. Agnes parish members will be integral to the work and repairs. More than 100 volunteers will be needed.

There are challenges in taking on a project like this. Lestina said they have to consider what they can tackle/what they can accomplish in just three Saturdays during Lent — and within the skill sets of the volunteers from both parishes. That means prioritizing jobs from the list submitted by St. Agnes. Finance chairperson, Marilyn Schultz, wrote the grant that we submitted to St. Dominic. The list was 31 pages long. There will not be enough time or funding or people to complete all the projects.



Mary Lestina



Paula Pikula

What needs to be done

Pikula said a lot of people helped to compile the St. Agnes needs and ranking them in priority order. Some jobs will make the building more welcoming. There are some things we just won’t be able to do at this time. The people from St. Dominic have walked through the school, church and offices to determine the number of people needed, the kinds of

equipment and all the supplies. They will meet again in January to come up with a strategic and concrete plan for the three weekends.

What the day will look like

Each of the three Saturdays will start with prayer and a blessing for safety; then a breakfast at 8:15 and welcome at 9 a.m., when team leaders will explain the work for the day and give general directions. When everyone breaks at noon for lunch, team leaders will update progress. Work will resume and finish about 3 p.m.

How everyone can help

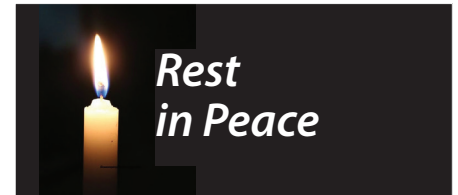
As we get closer to the target weekends, we will be recruiting both skilled and general labor. Breakfast and lunch will need to be prepared on all three weekends. On March 9-10, St. Dominic will hold a “Priceless Bake Sale” through their children’s ministry. St. Agnes parishioners are encouraged to attend, not only to purchase bakery, but to meet St. Dominic parishioners. The sale nets between \$2,000-\$5,000 for our project.

Even though much work is planned and will be accomplished, Pikula said, there will still be more that needs to be done.

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@stagneparish.org.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Barbara Bussewitz | Robert Meyers |
| Candy Endres | Ervin Mirr |
| Jim Endres | Mary Ellen Nelson |
| Karla Duerr | Michelle Reisermer |
| Cindy Flowers | Ethel Schalk |
| Elaine Gultch | Chuck Schultz |
| Baby James | Dean Skwierawski |
| Dorothy Jedlika | Slava Tsljar |
| Lillian Klotz | Rick Wilson |
| Fred Kurszewski | Dan Zeck |



- † Patricia D’Amato
- † Josephine Krez
- † Mary Kusch
- † Robert Lebiecki
- † Christopher Peterson
- † Nora Russo
- † Carl Verette



Our next newsletter deadline is March 1. Please submit articles you’d like to see in the next newsletter by this date. Send them to Amanda Bandkowski (bandkowskia@stagneparish.org) in the Parish Office.



ASH WEDNESDAY
SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Mass at 8:15 a.m.
and 7 p.m.