

# 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](http://www.stagnesparish.org)

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Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC  
[thachilj@stagnesparish.org](mailto:thachilj@stagnesparish.org)

Dear Friends,

We are witnessing yet another war in the 21st century, between Russia and Ukraine in the Eastern Europe. Rather than speculating on the politics of such a war, let us focus on the suffering it brings on everyone involved in this war whether unwillingly dragged into it or intentionally engaged in it. It is time to pray for peace, a time to reflect on Mother Mary, the Queen of Peace!

On the New Year's day, we celebrated the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. And on the same day we also observed the World Day of Peace. During that celebration, very fittingly so, Pope Francis encouraged all Christians and people around the world to "roll up our sleeves to build peace praying that Mary, Queen of Peace, may obtain harmony in our hearts and the entire world."

Recalling World Day of Peace, the Pope pointed out that peace comes from God and is the fruit of a shared commitment. For this, we need to implore the gift of peace from on high. The Pope said: "We need to have peace in our hearts from the Prince of peace. We must also be committed to peace, by taking concrete actions. This means being attentive to the poor, working for justice, and having the courage to forgive others in order to put out the fire of hatred. We also need a positive outlook, both in the Church and in society, that is fostered by seeing the "good that unites us." (Pope at Angelus, Vatican News, Rome, 1/1/2022)



According to Vatican News, the World Day of Peace was started by Saint Pope Paul VI back in 1968. More than half a century later, we have not yet achieved that peace in the world. Humanity has suffered through many more wars ever since, with countless lives lost and millions wounded. There are many songs that highlight the importance of peace among us and one of them reads: "Peace begins with you and me."

In the history of the Church there have been many women saints, who brought the saving light of Christ to their own times. For a Europe wounded by injustice and war crimes, let us pray to St. Bridget, St. Hildegard and St. Catherine of Siena, the patron saints of Europe, to bring peace to the troubled regions of Europe and elsewhere. In these trying times, let us also entrust ourselves to Mary, Queen of Peace, that all violence in Ukraine and elsewhere in the world may come to an end, so that every man and woman may live in peace in the days ahead. Peace to people of good will on earth!

Yours in the Lord,

Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC

## Welcome

# Lauren Masarik puts music, faith central in life

When I graduated from UW-Stevens Point back in December of 2021, like many college graduates I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. As I spent the next few months waitressing at a breakfast restaurant trying to figure that out, all I knew was that I wanted to move back to the Milwaukee area to be closer to my family — and our dog. This desire eventually led to me discovering St. Agnes Parish!

I struggled a lot in college with school, my health and just figuring out who I was supposed to be, but having the privilege of participating in and eventually leading music at my college parish changed everything for me. I experienced firsthand the joy that music can bring to others, and found joy in music again



Lauren Masarik

myself. It gave me purpose, belonging, and friends for a lifetime.

Ultimately, I decided that continuing on in that journey was the right thing for me and applied to this role. It turned out to be such a blessing for me! Making music with you all is such an honor, and I love that music and faith get to be at the center of my job.

When I'm not at church, I enjoy finding good spots to set up my hammock, acquiring new plants (you can never have too many), and listening to music. I believe in finding joy in the simple moments of life—in hot chocolate and snow and all dogs, big or small. I have had many joyful moments here at St. Agnes so far, and I am looking forward to many more!

## Liturgical Music

## Children's choir to start

by Lauren Masarik

I haven't been at St. Agnes for long, but I have already experienced so many wonderful things! From working with cantors and meeting the choir, to eighth grade graduation and First Communion, there is so much good happening at St. Agnes. Thank you all for making me feel at home here!

There are so many things to love about St. Agnes, but the highlight of my time here so far has been leading the children of St. Agnes in song during All-School Mass on Thursdays. For those who haven't had the opportunity to attend a school Mass yet, it is truly something special.

To witness the joy these children have while singing has been such a gift. Both the children and the teachers have gone out of their way to welcome

me to this parish, and I am looking forward to next school year where I can get to know them even better!

One of the things I would like to do here at St. Agnes is start a children's choir that can help me in making school events special. I got my start in music ministry when I was a kindergartener, singing simple songs at one Mass a month with other kids my age. I would like to give the kids here the same opportunity, and will be planning over the summer to make this a reality. My hope is that eventually all children that attend St. Agnes — whether in school or at weekend Masses with their families — will have the chance to learn to sing!

**One of the things I would like to do here at St. Agnes is start a children's choir that can help me in making school events special.**

Lauren Masarik

## Evangelization Committee

## Catholic I.D. in September

by Linda Barrington

Catholic I.D. is a 10-week small group experience, focused on building your relationship with Jesus in His Church, by growing in the heart and habits of discipleship. "ID" stands for "intentional discipleship."

This fall you can sign up for a small group who will meet for 10 weeks with a trained leader and co-leader who will help guide the group in the heart and habits of a disciple.

Catholic I.D. is a welcoming place for you to encounter Christ and his Church and be called to conversion. Small groups offer communal encouragement in a safe and accepting setting.

With a discipleship guidebook to help record your progress, you'll address one chapter each week in a prayerful walk toward discipleship. An opening prayer will set the stage for the group's focus, which changes each meeting. Scripture readings and opportunities to share infuse the experience as are relevant connections to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Catholic I.D. is your chance to answer Jesus' call in a direct and personal way! Come and learn the six habits of discipleship!

**Come join us! Jesus is calling you to discipleship. You, too, can make a difference.**

## Puppet shows at Festival

The puppet shows will return next month, sponsored and directed by the Evangelization Committee. St. Agnes school children will perform several different shows at the Puppet Theater stage on Friday and Saturday. More information about puppeteers, plays and times will be posted in the bulletin in August.



## Liturgy

# Ordinary Time includes important feast days

by Shelly Fellin

Summer is the time when we step back from our usually busy schedules and take time for ourselves and our family. It is during this time that we enter into the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. The Church also, in her wisdom, gives us this time to reflect on the mysteries of our faith and the life of Christ. Even though we do not celebrate any major tenets of our faith during this time we are given an opportunity to grow and mature in

our understanding of the faith. "The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time...take us through the life of Christ. This is the time of conversion.

This is living the life of Christ." (from USCCB website)

During the weeks of Ordinary Time we celebrate some important feast days that help us in this time of spiritual growth. In June we celebrate the Most Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi and The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and in August we have the Transfiguration of the Lord and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These solemnities bring to light important mysteries of our faith. And between all of these celebrations we have a myriad of saints that we honor in these summer months.

"Ordinary Time is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ." (taken from USCCB website) Let us not waste this opportunity during this "ordinary" season but live it out in our daily lives, following the example of Jesus with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Shelly Fellin  
fellinm@stagnesparish.org

**Formation & Liturgy**



## Christian Formation

## Vacation Bible School – lots of farmin' fun

by Shelly Fellin

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an excellent opportunity for your child/children in grades K4-5th to reconnect with the faith while away from the Day School or Christian Formation classes. We are once again collaborating with St. Joseph Parish in presenting "HayDay! Growing in Friendship with Jesus". At HayDay VBS, kids will be up to their elbows in farmin' fun as they explore one simple Bible truth: Jesus will always love us! VBS will be held at St. Joseph



Parish from 9 a.m.-noon on Aug. 15-19, 2022. The last day to register is Monday, August 8, at St. Joseph Parish. Cost is \$35/child (\$140 max/family). Registration forms are available on the St. Agnes website and in the back of church.

**This is also a great opportunity for youth (6th-12th grade) to earn service hours.**

We need both youth small group leaders and adults to help with this fun summer event. If interested in helping, please complete the Volunteer Registration Form.

## Registration open: 2022-23 Christian Formation

by Shelly Fellin

If your child or children attend a public school or non-Catholic high school and you would like them to receive religious education, please sign them up with the form on the St. Agnes website under Formation.

Our Christian Formation year will begin with our **Kick-off Family Potluck on Sunday, Sept. 11**, with classes starting on Sunday, Sept. 18. Watch the bulletins and website for more information as it becomes available.



## Don't let your offerings take a holiday

Ahhh, summer! A time to relax and grab much-needed R & R. Vacations and weekend getaways may keep you away from church, but our congregation is still bustling with activity. The bills never take a summer holiday.

It's enormously helpful to the congregation's balance sheet if your gifts, tithes and offerings continue to come in regularly, even if you are away. Here are some ideas for staying current:

**Pay in advance:** Plan ahead by offering more in the weeks in advance of your time away from church.

**Make it up:** When you return, give a little more in the weeks that follow.

**Use your envelopes:** Here's a tip that's good not only for summer, but year-round: If you use giving envelopes and checks, simply prepare them weeks in advance and bring them to church when convenient.

**Use banking bill pay:** Most online banking services will write and send checks for you. Just plug in the church address, the amount of the gift and how often you want it sent. Viola! You're done!

**Enroll in electronic giving:** Use the congregation's online giving portal to regularize your gift, tithe or offering.

**Give monthly or quarterly:** Sometimes it's hard to anticipate how many Sundays you'll be away from church. Planning your gift, tithe or offering for monthly or quarterly can keep you current.

Of course, these methods are beneficial not only for the summer months, but also for the whole year through. Those who embrace giving as a spiritual discipline often find that their lives of faith are enriched, and their sense of joy and fulfillment is deepened. Choosing a regular-giving strategy can help you to discover the joys of generosity.

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### Stewardship profile

## Mariann Sykes: a lifetime at St. Agnes

by Linda Barrington

Maryann Sykes has been a faithful member of St. Agnes Parish for all but two years of her life — when she was first married and lived in Colorado and Kansas.

Born a Pulvermacher, Mariann has family all over the greater Butler area. She grew up at St. Agnes with aunts, uncles and cousins around every corner. No wonder she has been involved in just about every event or committee in the parish.

When her boys were in school, she volunteered on the playground. Later she joined the choir, then added lecturing and being a Eucharistic minister. She says she got the volunteering "bug" from her parents.

"Mom and Dad volunteered a lot," she said. "I think that's where I got this from." Her dad, Harry Pulvermacher, and her uncle, Ernie Pulvermacher, were masons and helped build St. Agnes School and Church.

Mariann and her family were involved in lots of St. Agnes activities. She remembers everyone working at the Parish Festival.

"Dad grilled the meats for the Church picnic," she remembered.

Professionally, Mariann is now retired from her work as a medical massage therapist for cancer patients.

She helps patients to relax to better tolerate their treatments. The best compli-



Mariann Sykes

ment from a patient: "You're the reason I made it through treatments."

Mariann also volunteers at the St. Agnes Food Pantry. She registers people when they arrive and is learning how to help people select and pick up food. At the parish festival, she works in the beer tent and helps with clean-up afterwards. At the fall Holly Fair event, she also helps with their clean up.

"When I'm at church and I see an empty Eucharist ministry position, I will gladly fill in and I also cover other lectors' shifts when needed and available," she said.

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

## 'Inside' look at the Food Pantry

by Jan Endries

The St. Agnes Food Pantry is supported by many donations from parishioners. We have a barrel/drum at two stores: Metro Market at 128th Street and Capitol Drive, and Piggly Wiggly at 124th Street and North Avenue. Since the pandemic the drums are usually full each week and many times overflowing with donations.

Annually we service 120 families. They come once a month. Usually, the first Monday of the month we have 15-20 families come. Some come every month; others when they are in need. We service many

people from Butler and the senior center. Since we get a large quantity of donations from the two stores, we are able to help other pantries in need with dry goods and canned food. We have also started sharing with a pantry that gets food through local businesses. We give them the dry goods and they reciprocate with donuts, cookies, meat and frozen individual meals. We can always use sugar, flour, oil and cleaning products.

We had a small chest freezer which died, so we purchased a new upright freezer to store the new foods we are getting.



## 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.

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## Tithing report — 1st quarter 2022



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 first quarter (Jan-Mar) of 2022 we donated approximately \$3,700. The following is the list of organizations that St. Agnes has supported with these donations:

**Children Wish Foundation Int'l:** To help make a seriously ill child wish come true

**Columbia St. Mary's Foundation (St. Ben's Clinic):** Help find food and shelter  
**ERAs Senior Network Inc./Interfaith:** Serving seniors in need

**Franciscan Missions:** To help the poor and restore houses of worship

**Franciscan Peacemakers:** To help with street ministry - reaching out to those victimized by human trafficking

**Glenmary Sisters:** We provide a helping hand to serve those in need.

**Guest House:** To provide shelter, hous-

ing, education and services to Milwaukee homeless

**Milwaukee Rescue Mission:** Help prepare Thanksgiving Meal for the homeless

**Milwaukee Women's Center:** To help end domestic violence and other issues

**Sarah's Place Women's Resource Center, Inc.:** Empower women & children w/ tools & resources to promote self-worth

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

**St. Joseph's Medical & Dental Clinic:** Free or low fee medical care in Waukesha County for those below 200% poverty level

## School News from Class of 2022

# Graduates reflect on their best memories of St. Agnes

Top row, left to right:

Lewis, Lorenzo,  
Brenden, Christine,  
William, Jessy

Middle row, left to right:

Brady, Julie, Austyn,  
LaNya, Maya, Arnesia

Front row, left to right:

Derhue, Gianna,  
Dannyka, Kaiyah



“One of my best memories is when I was principal for a day. It was with Ms. Bobb. I put my raffle ticket in the “principal for a day” and I got it. It was scary because of all the crazy questions, but then I went into the office and was excited. I was with Ms. Bobb all day, and it was so fun. I helped her with the tornado drill too. I got to declare a jean day. I was only in class for like one minute, but I still learned so much. It was just so fun that day.”

-Kaiyah

“My best and favorite memory here at St. Agnes would be the mission party. The mission party was so much fun. I got to play tons of games with my friends. I did the cake walk a bunch of times and won the best cake: cookies and cream with a kit-kat crust. I got to spend my last months with all my friends playing games and shoveling around in the sand to find tickets. My family was also there to meet some of my closest friends. It was just the best. I also got my pretend baby which I really wanted. The baby was lots of fun to take care of (and kind of a pain at the same time.) The mission party was definitely one of my best nights at St. Agnes.”

-William

“My best memories of this school is when we would play kickball as a class. We are so competitive.”

-Lewis

“My best memory is of the spaghetti dinner. We had a blast and I was a leader in the very amazing haunted house. Maya and I had matching costumes and I had a very, very fun time.”

-Dannyka

“My best memory at St. Agnes is the dodge ball tournament. I really liked it, and I’m sad that it’s our last year at St. Agnes so we can’t do it anymore. Some people wouldn’t really care about it and some were really competitive. I would say that I was a little more on the competitive side. The game was just something really fun to me. Being with new people each year is also a good thing. You get to see how everyone plays differently. I also had a lot of other favorite memories at St. Agnes but this one might be at the top.”

-Austyn

**T**he best memory I had at St Agnes are the field days the student council holds. The events they plan out are always my favorite part of the year. Field day starts with a picnic with the entire school on the soccer field. So many families come and have lunch together. Usually I eat with my friends and their families. Once everyone is done eating, they get with their assigned teams. When all the teams are together, we are put into 1 of the 5 activities. They are always rotating about every 15 or 30 minutes, so everyone can have a chance to do all the activities at least once. One of my favorite events was kickball. Back in 5th grade, I caught one of the 8th grader's balls. After I caught it my hand hurt really bad, but I was still very proud of myself for catching a ball so far away. Then the day will end with the school providing popsicles for everyone. *-Jessy*

**M**y best memory here at St. Agnes is all of the field trips my class has been on. This year we went to a Catholic Youth Rally and we talked about God and Jesus and we played lots of games there too. It was very fun and the youth rally helped me learn more about God and how much he loves us. *-Brenden*

**I** think my best memory was the dodgeball tournament during Catholic Schools Week. It was pretty fun that we could actually do the dodgeball tournament and it was always fun each year we had it. I had fun with my friends and Dannyka got Maya, Derhue, and me shirts with fun little phrases on them. I also had fun trying to get my dad out in dodgeball and also getting out the other adults. This was probably the best day I had at St. Agnes and one I won't forget. *-Brady*

**M**y favorite memory was the Spookghetti dance. I had a great time and especially with friends. The food and desserts were delicious. The music was also great. I had dressed up as Spongebob and it was a little hard to dance in my costume. But I managed to still have a great time. *-Christine*

**M**y favorite memory probably had to be the Mission Party. I say the Mission Party because it was really fun. Just being with my friends made it special. We all played games and did the cakewalk. We had raffles. My class didn't win any of the raffles sadly but it's ok. I finally won a cake for the first time. I haven't won a cake since the 4th grade. We got to dance and sing with the little kids. We got to eat food. It was just a positive environment overall. We got to work the games, stamp people's cards, give them tickets and just have fun. Some people even got their pretend babies at the mission party. I had a really good 4 years of being at this school and hope to visit again. Don't forget me, St. Agnes.

*-Arnesia*

**M**y best memory at St. Agnes was last year when our class would play kickball every chance we got. When we went outside we were choosing teams and getting excited. Sometimes when we played someone got hurt but we always make sure they're okay before we continued. *-Gianna*

**M**y best memory is the lab experiments. I love science, and seeing how things work. Lab experiments are just cool. It is sad that we didn't get to see an explosion. Now that would've been cool. *-LaNya*

**F**rom the joyous laughter to getting in trouble, one particular memory I recall was from third through fifth grade. 4-square was a competitive and fun game to us. Every day I firmly remember how we would always call the letters for the next recess, or the next day. As soon as we stepped out of those doors, we would always run to the square we wanted to play in. I remember the categories we used to call like naming colors, cars, schools, or teachers, and sometimes we played popcorn. One time the game got so competitive, to the point where our old third grade teacher Mrs. Weis had to print out the rules! Some kids listened, while others wanted to stay in the game as long as they could. All in all 4-square was one of the best games a student could play, and a memory I will always hold. *-Derhue*

**M**y best memory at St. Agnes was on our class trip. Although it was not at school, it was still doing something with my class. It was the best class outing I've ever had, from playing games together to playing dodgeball. It overall was just a great day to be together as a class. *-Julianna*

**M**y favorite memory would probably be the school picnic and field day towards the end of the school year. Having lots of fun winning field games, eating with your friends, and just enjoying it almost being the end of the year! *-Maya*

**T**he best memory I've had was when we were in 7th grade. It was Kaiyah's birthday party and Jessy lost her sandal. We found a turtle. We were at the lake splashing each other. I'm gonna miss these guys. *-Lorenzo*





**SON**  
Fun Fellowship  
St. Agnes Parish Festival

**ST. AGNES PARISH FESTIVAL**

**AUGUST 26-28, 2022**

**Friday 4-11pm**  
**Saturday 11am-11pm**  
**Sunday 12-6pm**  
12801 W. FAIRMOUNT AVE.  
BUTLER, WI

**Kids Games, Teen Tent, Free BINGO!**

**GIANT Rummage, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, Cash & Basket Raffles!**

**NIGHTLY MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**

**FOOD TRUCKS AND OTHER VENDORS**

**WINE BISTRO & CRAFT BEER GARDEN**

**ANNUAL SAM'S WALK/RUN SATURDAY 9AM**

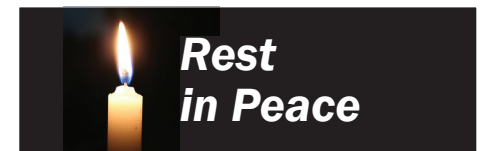
**VISIT: STAGNESPARISH.ORG**

**Fri: Cherry Pie 7pm**  
**Sat: Smart Mouth 7pm**  
**Sun: Maple Road Blues Band 1pm**

## 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](mailto:info@stagnesparish.org).

Barbara Bussewitz	Theresa Potnek
Candy Endres	Mary Joe Powalisz
Jim Endres	Michelle Reisimer
Doreen Gilbertson	Marie Retzer
Elaine Gultch	Ethel Schalk
Baby James	Chuck Schultz
Bob Lebiecki	Ann Schwartz
Pat Manganello	Slava Tsljar
Ervin Mirr	Dan Zeck



We pray for our deceased family and friends:

- † Virgil Stank
- † Bessie Romagna
- † Theresa Saadeh - daughter of Audrey Kavanaugh
- † Gary Singer - brother of Cindy Singer
- † Damien Bissen - father of Greg Bissen

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 Sept. 2. 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](mailto:pikulap@stagnesparish.org)) in the Parish Office.



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

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

**Christian Formation:** FORMED Subscription (Total cost is \$2,000.)

**School:** Desks (cost \$150 per desk) 150 needed

**School:** Chromebooks (cost \$150 each) 30 needed

**School:** Picnic Table (cost \$1,600 each) 3 needed