# 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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## Inside

## 2 New in the office



Welcome to our new office assistant, Amanda Bandkowski.

## 2 Mass Change



Starting in November, one Sunday Mass time will change.

#### **2** Liturgical Music



Director Lauren Masarik invites parish members to join the choir.

## **3** Evangelization



Here's practical advice for how to evangelize to family, friends.

#### **3**Youth Activities



Welcome to Michael Deane, coordinator of youth activities.

## ▲ Stewardship



Meet Holly Jozwiak, parish member and K-4 teacher at St. Agnes School.

## **5** Mission Trip



Students and chaperones traveled this summer on mission trips.

## 6-7 School News



Enrollment: 54 new students started at St. Agnes this fall. Meet a few of them.

## 8 Holly Fair



Saturday, Nov, 12: Check out this preview of vendors and food.

## Faith formation programs grow

Dear Friends,

Revitalizing any parish through Christian Formation (CF) programs begin with the young people. They can be formed to become lifelong parishioners of St. Agnes. Young people and their parents are an integral and vital part of a parish like ours. We want to welcome young people and their families, together with our longtime and senior parishioners to make our community thrive by preparing their children in our Catholic faith and by actively engaging them in various parish ministries and service projects.

To achieve the above-mentioned noble goals, we are planning to make it convenient for all our children to attend the CF classes on Sundays and come to Mass either at 8 a.m. before their class (that begins at 9 a.m.) or after their class at the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Thus, kids and young people can practice and grow in faith on a regular basis.

The good news related to this is that we have a new youth minister, Michael Deane. He will restart our youth activities and formation programs for the middle and high school level students by engaging them in Christcentered service projects.

As we all know, parenting is a tough job in this day and age, especially with no roadmap to navigate through the journey of life. In order to support parents, during CF classes, we will resume adult faith formation programs. This will deepen parents' understanding of the relevance of Christian Sacraments and Scripture in the modern times. This will also enable them to connect with others and grow in faith while making new friends along the way.

To illustrate the impact that parents have on their children's faith formation, I would like to share a true story from a bestselling author, Elisabeth Hasselbeck. Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC thachilj@stagnesparish.org

In her book, Flashlight Night: An Adventure in Trusting God, Elisabeth gives a great teaching tool to shape the faith of children. A young mom painted her son's bedroom wall and asked him to write his simple prayers on that wall and so he did. At night, when the lights were off, he couldn't see his prayers any longer. His mom, therefore, gave him a flashlight to show that even though we can't see God and we might think the prayers are out of sight, God can still see them. What a beautiful lesson for our children!

Parents are the best and first teachers of faith for children. Children learn and understand many things by observation. There is an old saying about how some things are taught and many things are "caught" through observation. If your child sees you making time to attend Mass, read Bible and pray, the child will likely realize and learn these things as fundamental to their Christian life. Your patience, kindness and trustworthiness as parents are the loudest testimonies of God's grace.

I request all our parents and grandparents to encourage their children to make time for the Holy Eucharist and CF and youth formation programs. These are designed to engage the kids and young people to learn about the God who created them and loves them unconditionally. May God our Father bestow His grace abundantly upon all our parents and their children during this new academic year so that they may grow in faith and wisdom.

Fr. Joy Thachil, SAC

#### Parish Office

## Amanda Bandkowski joins office staff

You'll find our new part-time parish office assistant, Amanda Bandlowski, in the mornings. She is in the first room in the office hallway. You'll want to see her to give her your Mass intentions and bulletin announcements; as she settles in, she'll take on more responsibilities.

"Everyone here is very friendly," Bandlowski said. She enjoys getting to know people, not just sitting at work in the office all day. She likes a lot of personal interaction. So, if you stop in the office for some business, be sure to pause to say hello to her.

Her 4-year old twins, Ethan and Emma, attend St. Agnes School. She says they love it here. Bandlowski is a lifetme member of St. Pius X in Wauwatosa— went to school there, got married there and is an active member.

Since she was 16, she has worked in health care centers. Her degree is in occupa-

tional therapy and she has spent years managing adult day care centers. Her job here at St. Agnes may seem like a big change, but she said her multiple skills transfer very well to office work.

At St. Agnes she can interact with people, not just sit at the desk, working on the computer. She thrives on human interaction.

Her organizational and software skills help her with complex tasks, like doing the bulletin each week. She knows the software and has been able to easily adapt to her new responsibilities.

Bandlowski and her family enjoy vacationing. A day at any beach or relaxing by the pool is a good one. They like tropical locations like Punta Cana, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Vallarta, but they also enjoy visiting national parks.



Amanda Bandkowski

#### Liturgical Music

## Let's make music

It's that time of year — back to school (or back to choir)! The St. Agnes Choir will be starting up again this month after our summer break! This group practices once a week on Thursday evenings and sings at the 10:30 a.m. Mass every other week. It is such a fun group of people, and I am really looking forward to getting to know them better this year. Since I arrived here in May, I

haven't had much chance to work with them, but I am looking forward to making

Lauren Masarik masarikl@stagnesparish.org Liturgical Music

some amazing music together and helping to grow our community.

Of course, we are always looking for new members to join us! If you're looking for a super fun, welcoming and supportive group to be a part of, look no further! It is super easy to join. There is no audition, no expectation of musical perfection and no reason to worry. The group is open to all responsible adults aged 14 and up with a desire to serve their parish in a whole new way.

I love church choirs, and I feel as though they are truly a place for everyone to belong. Many of my fondest memories from my college years were singing together with others. It doesn't matter if you think you can't sing (even though everyone can!), there is always a place for you in our choir! Please come and talk to me about this opportunity — I would love to meet you!

# Sunday Mass time change starts Nov. 6

Change is a good thing. As much as our human nature resists it, change brings a new perspective to life and the environment that surrounds us.

Shelly Fellin fellinm@stagnesparish.org
Formation & Liturgy

Growing up, my mother would often move the furniture around in our living room. Making a new arrangement gave us different vantage points for watching television or visiting with neighbors. Likewise, taking a different route to work (if one is available) allows you the opportunity to see new things.

So, changing our Mass time on Sunday morning, however inconvenient it may seem at first, will provide new opportunities for our parish community. Starting Nov. 6, our early Mass will begin at 8 a.m., instead of 8:30 a.m. This slight adjustment opens up many more possibilities for Adult and Family Faith Formation. It will provide another option for our Christian Formation families to attend Mass. They will have three options: 5 p.m, 8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

This change will also give us more time between Masses for Sunday Bible Study or another adult faith-sharing group or class. We could also bring in speakers to give presentations on a variety of topics. It may take a little getting use to but in the long run will bring more blessings than we can even imagine. See you at Mass!

Watch for more information in the weeks ahead regarding upcoming Holy Days, the holiday Mass schedule and other special events. The Evangelization team will host their annual Advent presentation on Sunday evening, Dec. 4. Mark your calendar now!

THE GOOD WORD October 2022 3

## Conversations can be evangelizing opportunities

by Shelly Fellin

As Catholics we are given the mission to "evangelize." But we often shy away from this huge task because we feel ill-equipped and unprepared to do anything close to evangelizing. Evangelization is actually easier than you may think; you probably do it already and don't even know it. **So, how** 

**do we evangelize?** It's as easy as meeting people where they are, in the messiness of their life.

We are all creatures of a loving and faithful God, but through original sin we recognize our fallen nature, our brokenness. It's easy for us to recognize our own struggles with sin. But do our neighbors or relatives recognize their own brokenness? When we help them see that the source of their own brokenness is a

result of original sin, we open the door to healing and hope. Once this happens we can introduce the way that leads to life. When we proclaim Jesus as our Savior, we reveal the path toward redemption. We are not alone. Jesus is with us every day! He

## **Evangel** zation

walks with us in our journey of life.

This brings us to the part that might be challenging, but if we've ever been touched by Jesus, we shouldn't be shy



about it. Go and tell others about the mighty deeds of Jesus found in scripture, found in the lives of the saints and experienced in our own lives. By simply telling others, "God is so good to me.

I've been blessed with \_\_\_\_\_," we are evangelizing!

Next, we show others their cross by sharing how Jesus has helped us in our struggles. We all have our cross and Jesus tells us, "Lift up your cross and follow me." When we lead by example, we are evangelizing! Knowing that Christ helps

us carry our cross is one example of our encounter with the Risen Christ. Sharing this experience with others will help them recognize their own encounter with the Risen Christ and will fortify your faith as well.

The last step is the most important. By walking with others on their faith journey we can help them to go

deeper through prayer and other Catholic practices such as frequent confession and attending Mass regularly. Evangelization is just that — sharing your faith, encouraging others to grow in their faith and being the disciple that God calls us to be.

#### **Christian Formation**

## Michael Deane hired as Youth Activities Coordinator

"I am excited to begin this journey with our young people and lead them closer to an active relationship with Christ," Michael Deane said. As St. Agnes' Youth Activities Coordinator, he will have plenty of opportunities to do that.

Originally from Pennsylvania, Deane and his family moved to Wisconsin more than eight years ago. He has spent many years in education and youth ministry, having taught in Catholic grade and high schools, and coordinated a high school youth group and local service opportunities for middle and high school students.

"I want to find out what St. Agnes youth are interested in," he said. "I want to spend time with them and engage them in service opportunities."

Deane's position here is part time as he works full time at Holy Apostles in New Berlin as Director of Music. Here at St. Agnes he hopes to focus first on activities with students in the middle



Michael Deane

#### **DEANE'S FAVORITES**

**MUSIC** '80's rock (& Christian contemporary)

**MOVIE** Tommy Boy

**RELAXING** hiking

**SAINTS** St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Francis

school grades. He's already looking to enlarge the list of service opportunities.

He particularly enjoys leading mission trips, which he has done in St. Louis, New Orleans, Kentucky, Arizona and Savannah.

"I have always seen these as life-changing experiences for all of the young people that have attended, where they were able to live their faith in action," he said. He looks forward to taking St. Agnes students on mission trips next summer.

"I have a beautiful wife, Laura, and three awesome kids — Abby, Christian and Aidan. As teens, they certainly keep us moving," he said.

"Michael comes highly recommended,"

Shelly Fellin said. "I look forward to see how he will engage our youth in a deeper, more meaningful way."

Because Deane will be here only part time, the best way to reach him is by email: deanem@stagnesparish.org

#### Stewardship profile

## Holly Jozwiak: K-4 teacher, servant-leader, friend

Long before Ms. Holly Jozwiak called her four-year-old students from the St. Agnes playground and marched them back to their classroom, she knew teaching was her passion and profession.

"My mother was truly selfless and put her family first," she said. "She's my hero."

Jozwiak does that, too, and puts St. Agnes Parish right up at the top of her list as well.

"I love the family atmosphere at St. Agnes — the friendly faces, the way you get to know the people, the camaraderie. We all check in with each other," she said.

Jozwiak is active on the Home and School Commmittee, helping with the Spaghetti Dinner, Mission Party, gym supervision and the

Mayhem at Mural tournament. She also serves on the parish festival committee.

"I am most proud of my family," Joswiak said. "My boys, Ryan (12th grade) and Brady (9th grade) both went to school here and so does Dylan (6th grade)." The

older two now attend Menomonee Falls High School.

"I am proud of my family — who the boys are and how involved my huasband and I are at church." She said she learned this from her parents. Her mom was a Girl Scout leader, her dad coached softball and

they both took the family on camping trips.

With such a busy life, does Jozwiak have any time for herself?

"I like to hang out with my friends. And I love to read! Some of my favorite books include The Outlander series, the Harry Potter series and "Babysitters Club" (when I was in middle school).

Even more than reading, Jozwiak loves to watch movies. Her

favorites are "Dirty Dancing," all the Harry Potter movies, "The Notebook" and romantic comedies and regular comedies.

When she was a youngster, she learned to play the flute, which she continued to study all the way through college.



#### **JOZWIAK'S FAVORITES**

PRAYER Hail Mary
FOOD Pizza
SCHOOL SUBJECT Social Studies
TV SHOW Friends
MUSIC Pop
HOBBY Watching TV
SPORTS TEAM Brewers

#### **LEAST FAVORITES**

MUSIC Reggae FOOD Pea Soup SCHOOL SUBJECT Math TV SHOW Wrestling

## Tithing report — 2nd quarter 2022

Holly Jozwiak

Since God graciously gives us everything we have, STEWARDSHIP is a life filled with sharing those same gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure with all God's people. This is the saying on our Stewardship logo. As a tithing parish we are committed to sharing 2.5% of our treasure with those who need our financial support. Our Human Concerns Committee is tasked with this mission. For the second quarter (April-June) of 2022 we donated approximately \$4,150. The following is the list of organizations that St. Agnes has supported with these donations:

Alaska Radio Mission (KNOM): Oldest Catholic Radio Station in the U.S.

Capuchin Community Services (St. Ben's Community Meal & House of Peace): Mission to help service the poor,

the hungry and the homeless

Carmelite Ministry of St. Teresa: Safe Haven Program - Women ages 21+ with intellectual and developing disabilities can stay with them for a day, two or week long.

Cathedral Center: Non-sectraian agency for women and families ERAs Senior Network Inc./Interfaith:

Serving seniors in need

**Heifer International:** To help feed the hungry

**H.O.P.E. Network:** To help support ongoing projects for families in need



**Hope Street Ministries:** Drug and Alcohol Detox Center

International Fellowship of Christians and Jews: Help feed elderly Jews strug-

gling to survive

Katy's Kloset: Non-profit medical equipment lending library that loans out and accepts donations of goods, used and durable medical equipment for children and adults

**Repairers of the Breach:** Helping the homeless

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

**Wounded Warrior Project:** To help out wounded warriors

THE GOOD WORD October 2022 5

#### **Summer Mission Trip**

## Volunteer experience enriches participants' lives

Here's a puzzle for you: What do three adults and six teens from St. Agnes, and four teens from St. James/Good Shepherd parishes have in common?

**Answer:** They all traveled to Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, twin cities in Michigan, at the end of July to do community service for a week.

There was plenty to do. Josh Bembenek, one of the St. Agnes adults, said they worked at a community gardens, a retail store and at a warehouse where they packed food to be delivered to the homebound.

"At a thrift shop, we sorted donations and decided what could be put on the sales floor," St. Agnes chaperone Kate Kaiser said.

"We moved things around on the sales floor for better organization," Bembenek said. Kaiser said that anyone who came to the thrift shop could also get food if they needed it.

"It reminded me of the corporal works of mercy," Kaiser said. "Clothe the naked, feed the hungry, etc." Kaiser said she was moved by the experience.

"We also saw the face of Christ in all the people who led the work experience," she said. "For example, there was the volunteer who was a well-educated teacher and master gardener, and she shared her food with others and talked about her faith with the clients."

For St. Agnes parent and chaperone, Jamie Becker, this was her seventh or eighth mission trip. All three of her children have gone on these trips, starting after sixth grade. Becker sees this experience as an important one for them.

"It's not so much about the community we're serving, but the service the kids are able to give," Becker said. "I love watching their transformation in faith strengthen throughout the week, which in turn renews my faith, seeing God work through the kids with others."

The program is sponsored by Youth-Works, which "provides Christ-centered mission trips for thousands of teenagers and adult leaders in communities across the U.S. and beyond," according to the website. St. Agnes has been participating for close to 20 years, said Shelly Fellin, Coordinator of Christian Formation and Liturgy at St. Agnes.



Chaperones and students in this group volunteered in Michigan this summer. Another group worked in Boston.

Bembenek was impressed with the ceremony one evening when the leader read the Bible passage about Jesus washing the feet of the apostles, followed by the kids washing the feet of the adult volunteers. "Then we washed the feet of the kids who were volunteers. It was very emotional," he said. "I realized the impact that serving others can make on a person. Even praying with others made you feel vulnerable."

Some of the St. Agnes high school students had been on a trip like this before. Kaiser said she could tell "they got closer to God and realized that they could make a difference in others' lives."

Becker was the most experienced of the St. Agnes group. "I learned a lot from Gerry Wolf on earlier trips about how to relate to the kids. It can be a challenge for them to leave the comfort of their homes, but the benefits far outweigh the uncertainties," she said. "The experience makes you appreciate what you have. It renews my faith, watching God work through the kids.

Bembenek agreed about the value of

the trip. "Knowing there are people who are going through harder times puts things in perspective."

Kaiser thought the trip was so worthwhile, she challenges other members of the St. Agnes community to volunteer to go on next year's trip.

Fellin said it's never too early to start thinking about this. Talk to her now about your interest for next year—both adults and students. It's one week in July. Sign up and start saving now. The cost is about \$450 per person. Yes, it's a commitment, but those who have gone attest to the rewards, the new friendships with others who are also volunteering and the benefits of knowing you have made a difference in others' lives.

We invite adults and students to consider joining next year's Mission Trips:

- Catholic Work Camp: Marshalltown, Iowa — July 15-22
- Youthworks Mission Trip: Indianapolis Indiana July 23-28

  Both trips are for both middle cabe of

Both trips are for both middle school and high school students.

School News

## 54 new students enroll at St. Agnes School this fall

Principal Rachel Kolbeck and Assistant Principal Amy Retzer are happy people. Last year St. Agnes School started with 91 students and ended with 123. They began this year with 145, an increase of 54 children, compared with

the start of last year.

"Word gets around," Kolbeck said.
"Families are happy here. They are happy that their students are in a safe, peaceful environment that is conducive to learning."

Retzer reinforced that viewpoint, saying, "They know their children are receiving a strong foundation in academics and faith formation."

Here's what some of the new students had to say.



SAMANTHA 1st Grade Ms. Toniolo

ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR

We get to play and read stories. At lunch I talk with friends. In class we're learning numbers.

**WHY DO YOU LIKE ST. AGNES?** The kids are friendly and I have a good time.

YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCHOOL Working with partners

WHY DO YOU LIKE ST. AGNES? I like numbers in math.



1st Grade Ms. Toniolo ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR I made new friends.

**TESSA** 

WHY DO YOU LIKE ST. AGNES?
I like doing math.

YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT SCHOOL Gym class is fun. I like playing games. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? I want to be a doctor so I can help people.



SABALI 2nd Grade Ms. Schulz

ABOUT SCHOOL THIS

YEAR
I love it here. I like the teachers. The school is a nice size and the hallways are not crowded.



Science. I did a lot over the summer and I am learning the chemical elements, like hydrogen and oxygen.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? I want to be a scientist. My aunt is a pharmacist. I study at home and have my own computer. I want to make the world a better place.



JACKSON 6th Grade Mrs. Klotz ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR St. Agnes is

St. Agnes is a pretty nice school. I'm glad I switched from my old school.

WHY DO YOU

**LIKE ST. AGNES?** A lot of kids are really nice, and the teachers are nice. I made new friends. And the kids travel in a group to the next class so we're never late to class.

**YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECTS** Religion and science. Miss Bett is a pretty cool teacher. I've always liked to do science experiments.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? I would like to be a photographer and work for National Geographic. I like seeing what other parts of the world are like. When we were in Florida, I took a bunch of pictures.



7th Grade Mrs. Elvers ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR

MAKAYLA

I like St. Agnes School. It's fun to make new friends. Class work is more challenging, and

I've learned the more work you do, the harder it gets.

WHY DO YOU LIKE ST. AGNES? A lot of kids are really nice, and the teachers are nice.
YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECTS English language arts and math

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? A teacher.



EZRA-JOY 8th Grade Ms. Bett ABOUT SCHOOL THIS YEAR My parents said this was a good school for me and my two sisters.

WHY DO YOU LIKE ST. AGNES? The teachers help me understand my school work. People treat me nicely. I have more stuff to do here — like auditioning for drama club and joining the safety patrol.

YOUR FAVORITE SUBJECTS Math. It comes to me through heredity. And I like writing. I like to journal.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP? I want to be a nurse and have my own hospital. (My dad used to have his own company.) I like being around kids a lot. I could help save lives.

THE GOOD WORD October 2022 7

## 2nd graders' drawings focus on family love

In 2016 Pope Francis wrote a document about families and family life. "The good of the family," Pope Francis said, "consists in sharing relationships of faithful love, trust, cooperation, reciprocity," which brings about their happiness.

The second grade began the school year reading in our Family Life Book. What did we read and talk about? We read that God made families...all kinds of families. Every family is different. God loves every family. God wants members of a family

to love and help each other. We discussed ways that people in our families show love. Then they each drew a colorful picture of their family!

—Ms. Jackie Schulz, second grade teacher

























## Holly Fair features crafts, food

The annual Holly Fair at St. Agnes Parish is a 30+ year craft fair for artisans everywhere to participate and sell their products. The variety of items ranges from food items to quilts, wood crafts, and jewelry. You can find almost anything you want at the Holly Fair.

The entry fee for the fair is \$1 or a non-perishable food item. All the admission money and donated food goes to the Food Pantry. Each person receives a raffle

ticket and is asked to put their name and phone number on the back. At the raffle table in Kemp Hall, fairgoers can view all the vendor donation items. Each item has a small bucket for people to put in their ticket. At the end of the Fair, one winning ticket is drawn from each bucket.

Many vendors return each year, viewing Butler as a good location. Several said the Holly Fair is one of their favorite venues.



Parish member and vendor Cathy Zoulek

Here is a sampling of vendors.

- Blankets, infinity scarves, dream baskets, wood art, Christmas decor *by Kathryn Labs*
- Painted wildlife, lighthouses, ornaments *by Rosemary Burdon*
- Quilts, baby blankets, table runners, towels *by Judi Brzank*
- Decorated lighted bottles by Carol Holliman
- Birdhouses, wood art by Jim Zielinski
- Photography by Cathy Zoulek
- Christmas decor by Bobbie Frederick
- Hot food & beverages by Scout Troop 72
- Christmas cookies, cakes, pies baked *by St. Agnes parish members* (FYI: Last year they were all sold out within the first hour and a half.)

## **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.

Barbara Bussewitz Candy Endres Jim Endres Cindy Flowers Doreen Gilbertson Elaine Gultch Baby James Lillian Klotz Fred Kurszewski Bob Lebiecki Pat Manganello Ervin Mirr Theresa Potnek Mary Joe Powalisz Michelle Reisimer Marie Retzer Ethel Schalk Chuck Schultz Dean Skwierawski Slava Tsljar Dan Zeck



We pray for our deceased family and friends:

- † Judy Kavanaugh Darling Daughter-inlaw of Audrey Kavanaugh
- † Harold Ferch Father of Tom
- † Lorraine Fellin Mother-in-law of Shelly
- † Dave Hucke Father of Jenny Gilbertson
- † Robert Jeray
- † Paul Kelly
- † Kathryn (KC) Kleinhenz Daughter of Joan Kleinhenz
- † Raymond Kolbeck Father of Roxanne Emrich and great-grandfather of Angine, Scott, and Andrew
- † Keith Pulvermacher son of Maureen Pulvermacher
- † Lois Romagna
- † Gerald Schwartz Husband of Kay Schwartz and father of Joanne and Jon Schwartz
- † John Walther Father of Tanya Bissen

## ST. AGNES HOLLY FAIR

**NOV.12** 

"IT'S BACK!!"
COME & SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Make Nov. 12 your FIRST STOP for Holiday Shopping & invite your friends!

Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

ADMISSION DONATION \$1 or one non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry

#### **Many New Crafters / Vendors!**

Hot Food & Beverages Bake Sale & Used Book Sale RAFFLES!!

#### **HOLIDAY COOKIES WANTED!!!**

DROP OFF FRIDAY, NOV. 11 – HAFFORD HALL

#### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SET UP

FRIDAY, NOV. 11, 5:30 p.m.

LOOK FOR THE "HOLLY FAIR" SIGN UP GENIUS SOON!!



Christian Formation: Sponsor for Mission Trip (\$400 per youth)

Christian Formation: Catechisms or

Bibles or books for CF Library

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

School: 150 Desks (\$150 per desk) School: 30 Chromebooks (\$150 each)



Our next newsletter deadline is Dec. 2 Please submit any articles you'd like to see in the next newsletter by this date. You may send them to Amanda Bandkowski (bandkowskia@stagnesparish.org) in the Parish Office.