



Issue: #30

April 2023

Purity & Light

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. AGNES FAMILIES

Hello Families-

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Be who God meant you to be and
you will set the world on fire."

"Proclaim the truth and do not be
silent through fear"

"Nothing great is ever achieved
without much enduring."

"The soul is in God and God is
in the soul. God is closer to us
than water is to a fish."

—Saint Catherin of Siena



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Happy Easter! He is Risen, Alleluia! I hope this newsletter finds you basking in the joys of Easter! During the liturgical season of Easter, we hear from the Acts of Apostles (instead of the Old Testament reading) during Mass. The Acts of the Apostles give us details of the beginning of the Church as the Apostles go out to spread the Good News of the Resurrection. Let us carry on the work of the Apostles and share our Good News with others.

This year we continue for a few more weeks after Easter with our Christian Formation sessions (see schedule on page 2). We end the formation year with our **Family Time Potluck on April 30th** (at 9am). This year we will be joined by Sue Divine-Simon who will lead our families in an Easter Season activity. Please mark you calendar and plan to join us!

Another event coming at the end of this month is our annual **Mission Party**. Every year we collaborate with the Day School in hosting this fun festive event that raises money for missions around the world and for our own students going on Mission Trip. See the article on page 2 to learn more about the opportunities available for our youth to participate in local and traveling workcamps and mission trips.

At the close of every year I like to evaluate how we are doing with our programs and other activities that we host during the year. This year I will also ask for input on this newsletter. Please watch for the evaluations and share our feedback as I am always looking for ways to improve and remain relevant for you and your family. Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts and suggestions.

See you at Mass!

Shelly Fellin

Eternal God, eternal Trinity,
You have made the Blood of Christ so precious through
His sharing in Your Divine nature.
You are a mystery as deep as the sea;
the more I search, the more I find,
and the more I find, the more I search for You.
But I can never be satisfied;
what I receive will ever leave me desiring more.
When You fill my soul, I have an ever greater hunger,
and I grow more famished for Your light.
I desire above all to see You,
the true Light, as you really are.
Amen.

Prayer by St. Catherine of Siena

March Events

Christian Formation News



Mission Trips 2023

St. Agnes is collaborate with St. James and Good Shepherd Youth Ministry programs for our upcoming mission trips for the Summer of 2023. Register **today**:

* **Matthew 25 (Local work camp):**

June 19-23; Register [here](#) for this popular local work camp sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish. This workcamp is open for all current 5th-12th grade students. Cost: \$75 before May 1st; \$100 between May 1st and May 20th. *Last Date to register for Matthew 25 Workcamp: May 20th.*

All are welcome so tell your friends too.

* **Catholic Work Camp (Marshalltown, Iowa):** July 15-21;

There are still spots open for this trip run by Good Shepherd Parish. Register [here](#) for this trip.

* **Youth Works (Indianapolis, IN):** July 23-28; Register [here](#) for this trip. Only 7 spots available. Invite your friends to join in the life-changing Mission Trip.

Please contact CF@stagnesparish.org for more information about all of these opportunities.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 23-29 is Safe Environment Week throughout the Archdiocese. Here are some information and activities you can do with your children to participate in this important initiative.

- ◇ [Happy Families list](#) [Happy Families Activity](#)
- ◇ [Keeping Your Family Strong](#) information sheet.
- ◇ [A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse](#)



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APRIL SCHEDULE

K-8 Schedule

April 2-8—Holy Week & Triduum

April 9—Easter Sunday!

April 16—K-8 session #21; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 17 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

April 23—K-8 session #22; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 18 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

April 30—All Family Potluck with activity; 9-10:15

High School Schedule

April 2-8—Holy Week & Triduum

April 9—Easter Sunday!

April 16—High School (9th/10th) session #14; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 17 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am

Confirmation session #12: 6-7:30pm

April 23—High School (9th/10th) session #15; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 18 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am

Confirmation Rehearsal & Reconciliation:

Event follows 10:30 Mass.

April 30—All Family Potluck with Activity; 9-10:15am

Special Events

April 15—Middle School Retreat; Noon-6pm

April 27—Confirmation Mass with
Bishop Schuerman; 7pm

April 28—Mission Party; Kemp Hall 6pm-8pm

April 29—First Communion Retreat 9:00am-Noon
(includes Rehearsal)

FORMED

Sign up for FORMED in 3 easy steps:

1. Visit <http://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish zip or name
3. Enter your name and email

April Picks of the Month:

[Transcendence: Is Unconditional Love Real? - FORMED](#)

[St. Bernadette of Lourdes - FORMED](#)

[Fan or Follower? Your Relationship with Jesus by Jeff](#)

[Cavins - FORMED](#)

April Highlights

Saint of the Month: St. Catherine of Siena

Saint Catherine of Siena was born on March 25, 1347. She was an ascetic, mystic, activist, author, and holy woman of the Catholic Church. Her assertive and confrontational letters to bishops and popes, as well as her commitment to direct service to the sick and the poor, made Catherine a powerful role model for a more worldly and active spirituality.

Catherine of Siena was born into a large family during the outbreak of the plague in Siena, Italy. She was born a twin, although her sister did not survive infancy. Her father was a wealthy dye-maker. From age six or seven, Catherine had religious visions. She practiced self-deprivation, especially abstaining from food. She took a vow of virginity but told no one, not even her parents.

Her mother urged her to improve her appearance as her family began to arrange her marriage to the widower of her sister, who had died in childbirth. Catherine cut off her hair and her parents punished her for it until she revealed her vow. They then permitted her to become a Dominican tertiary.

In 1363, she joined the Sisters of Penance of St. Dominic, an order made up mostly of widows. It was not an enclosed order, so she lived at home. For her first three years in the order, she stayed isolated in her room, seeing only her confessor. During the three years of contemplation and prayer, she developed a rich theological system, including her theology of the Precious Blood of Jesus.

At the end of the three years she believed she had a divine command to go out into the world and serve as a means of saving souls and working on her salvation. But something changed her when she was 21. She described an experience she referred to as her "mystical marriage to Christ." She continued to practice fasting and self-mortification, including self-scourging, and took communion frequently.

From 1375 onwards, St. Catherine began dictating letters to scribes. She petitioned for peace and was instrumental in persuading the Pope in Avignon to return to Rome. She became involved in the fractured politics of her time, but was instrumental in restoring the Papacy to Rome and in brokering peace deals during a time of factional conflict and war between the Italian city states.

She also established a monastery for women in 1377 outside of Siena. She is credited with composing over 400 letters, her Dialogue, which is her definitive work, and her prayers. These works are so influential that St. Catherine would later be declared a Doctor of the Church. She is one of the most influential and popular saints in the Church.

In January of 1380, she became ill which accelerated her inability to

eat and drink. Within weeks, she was unable to use her legs. She died on April 29 at the age of 33 following a stroke just a week prior.

She is the patroness against fire, illness, the United States, Italy, miscarriages, people ridiculed for their faith, sexual temptation, and nurses.

Information from: [St. Catherine of Siena - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#) and [Catherine of Siena: Saint, Mystic, Theologian \(thoughtco.com\)](#)

Monthly Minute: Divine Mercy

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that all the graces of His mercy can only be received by our trust. The more we open the door of our hearts and lives to Him with trust, the more we can receive.

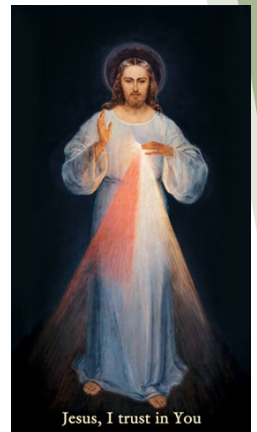
This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

The message and devotional practices proposed in the *Diary of Saint Faustina* are completely in accordance with the teachings of Church and are firmly rooted in the Gospel message of our Merciful Savior. Properly understood and implemented, they will help us grow as genuine followers of Christ.

Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you.

For a full understanding of Divine Mercy, we recommend [Divine Mercy Message and Devotion](#), by Fr. Seraphim Michalenko, MIC.

Hear a [30-minute crash course](#) by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC
Information taken from [The Divine Mercy Message | The Divine Mercy](#)



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Family Resource Page

P.E.A.C.E: Pray Everywhere and Cherish Everyone

This month of April let us share the Resurrected Lord with our family and friends. Here are some ways that you can practice PEACE this month:

- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet every day but especially on April 16—Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Join us for the Mission Party and learn how to offer your gifts for others.
- Pray for the students receiving Easter Sacraments: Confirmation and First Communion.

Vacation Bible School

There are several opportunities for your child to participate in Vacation Bible School this summer.



Dates are as followed:

Good Shepherd Parish-Men. Falls: June 12-16

STELLAR: Shine Jesus' Light

Register and pay by May 15: \$35/child (\$70 family max) Register between May 16 - May 31: \$40/child (\$80 family max)

All friends are welcome to register too!

[Click Here to Register for Good Shepherd VBS 2023](#)

St. Joseph Parish-Wauwatosa: June 12-16.

READY, SET, MOVE! Follow Jesus Here, There, and Everywhere

Registration open until June 5th; \$50/child & \$25/youth guide. Child participant register [here](#). Youth guide participant register [here](#).

Financial Aid Is Available

Click [here](#) for more information.

St. James Parish-Men. Falls: July 31-Aug. 4

STELLAR: Shine Jesus' Light

Register now, pay after July 1st.

Open to kids entering 3K – 5th grade in the fall.

Cost is \$35 per child

[Click Here to Register for St. James VBS](#)

Youth volunteers (7th grade and up) can register [here](#).

Catechism Corner

This issue we focus on the 10th Commandment:

You shall not covet anything that is your neighbor's. Ex. 20:17

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6:21

The ninth and tenth commandments are related in that they both speak of covetousness; the ninth focuses on the desires of the flesh while the tenth focuses on the material goods of others and the intentions of the heart. (CCC 2534)

The tenth commandment forbids greed and avarice. These two vices reflect our desires for earthly goods and the power that is associated with attaining riches. Only by ridding envy from our heart can we overcome these desires. (CCC2536 & 2538) "Envy is a capital sin. It refers to the sadness at the sight of another's goods and the immoderate desire to acquire them for oneself, even unjustly." Envy reflects our lack of charity and often is rooted in pride. To overcome our struggle with envy we are called to exercise good will toward others and train ourselves in humility. (CCC2539 & 2540)

In the Gospels Jesus encouraged his disciples to prefer *Him* over everything and everyone. Jesus gave the example of the poor widow of Jerusalem that, out of her poverty, gave all that she had. Lk. 21:4 For our entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven we must have a detachment from riches. (CCC2544)

The Beatitudes also speak of a "Poverty of the Spirit" and the joy that comes from our humility. They also reveal to us the way to find happiness, grace and peace. Those who find consolation in the abundance of earthly goods are far from the Kingdom of heaven.

Trusting in God's providence "frees us from anxiety about tomorrow." "Desire for true happiness frees man from his immoderate attachment to the goods of this world so that he can find his fulfillment in the vision and beatitude of God." (CCC2546-2548)

[The Tenth Commandment: Embrace Poverty of Spirit - Christian Morality: The Faith Lived - FORMED](#)

[\(9\) The Tenth Commandment - YouTube](#)

The Ten Commandments as a whole give us the guidance we need to live in charity with God and one another. They are a manual for a healthy physical, emotional, and spiritual life rooted in the knowledge that we are God's children, created to bring goodness to the earth.

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