



Issue: #28

February 2023

Purity & Light

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. AGNES FAMILIES

Hello Families-

I hope all is well with you and your family. It's amazing how time moves on, especially when we are busy with many things. I had hoped to get this month's newsletter out sooner but unexpected delays kept popping up. God must be telling me "It's okay...you'll get it out when it's ready." (So, now it's ready!)

One of those delays was Jury Duty for Milwaukee County at the end of January. It was my first time being on a jury and the experience had its highs and lows. One thing I noticed was how little we jurors had in common. We spent hours in silence because we were not able to talk about the one thing that we had in common, the trial we were hearing. It was satisfying though at the end to bring justice to those involved.

Theme of the year: P.E.A.C.E—Pray Everywhere And Cherish Everyone. Remember to continue to practice PEACE in your family life. Incorporating "PEACE" in your Lenten practices as a family is a good way to prepare for Easter.

Lent begins on Feb. 22nd with Ash Wednesday. This Lent follow along with our parish-wide Lenten daily reflection following the book "Holy Moments". Yep, that was the book you received at Christmas. If you already read it, great. Follow along with the reflections to go deeper. If you're like me and have not had a chance to read it yet, here's your chance. We'll have weekly reflections in the bulletin and daily reflections on the parish website.

Finally, watch for upcoming events in March that you will not want to miss. Our Family Time on Sunday, March 12 will be from 6-7:30pm. Our speaker, Al McCauley will help us to examine our temptations in life. On Sunday, March 26, plan to attend the Evangelization Team's Lenten presentation, "from Gethsemane to Golgotha".

See you at Mass!

God's Peace & Blessings to you all,

Shelly Fellin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

- ◇ Nobody can fight properly and boldly for the faith if he clings to a fear of being stripped of earthly possessions.
- ◇ The best penance is to have patience with the sorrows God permits. A very good penance is to dedicate oneself to fulfill the duties of everyday with exactitude and to study and work with all our strength.

St. Peter Damian



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Grant Us Simplicity

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a generosity of service
that gives without counting cost. A life overflowing with Grace
poured out from the One who gave everything,
that we might show the power of love
to a broken world, and share the truth
from a living Word.
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith,
and a yearning to share it.

Saint Peter Damian, you reformed your own monastery, and then carried it forward to the Church. You always practiced first and then preached. You even endured the detraction and calumny of your peers. Help us to reform others by our example, learning, perseverance, sacrifices, and prayers.

Saint Peter Damian, pray and intercede for us. Amen

February Events

Christian Formation News



Mission Trips 2023

Once again St. Agnes will 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. Due Date to participate in the fundraiser: April 1st. Due Date to participate in Matthew 25 Workcamp: May 20th. All are welcome so tell your friends too.

* **Youth Works (Indianapolis, IN):** July 23-28; Register [here](#) for this trip. Only 7 spots available. Sign up soon to guarantee a seat on this trip.

* **Catholic Work Camp (Marshalltown, Iowa):** July 15-22; This Work Camp is *now full*. If you would like to be placed on a waitlist please contact [Corinna Ramsey](#), Director of Child and Youth Formation at Good Shepherd Parish.

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



St. Agnes Christian Formation
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FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

K-8 Schedule

Feb. 3—Eucharistic Adoration; 3-6pm Church

Feb. 5—K-8 session #15; 9-10:15am

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

Feb. 12—K-8 session #16 ; 9-10:15am

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

Feb. 19—K-8 session #17 ; 9-10:15

Adult Formation: Ep.11 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Feb. 26 —NO SESSION

High School Schedule

Feb. 3—Eucharistic Adoration; 3-6pm Church

Feb. 5—High School (9th/10th) session #10; 9-10:15am

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

Feb. 12—High School Students: Souper Bowl of Caring after All Masses!! (No Class Session)

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

Feb. 19—High School (9th/10th) session #11; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep.11 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Confirmation session #9: 6-7:30pm Youth Room

Feb. 26—NO SESSION

High School Service/Worship Opportunity:

Latin Mass @ St. Stanislaus 10AM OR

St. Mary's Visitation Parish 2PM

Special Events

Feb. 12 & 26 First Reconciliation Parent Session;
Youth Room 9-10:15am

Feb. 25-26—Confirmation Retreat at Mt. Tabor Center
Menasha WI. 8AM-Noon

Lent begins February 22nd

Ash Wednesday Mass 8:15 am & 7:00 pm

Every Friday during Lent:

Eucharistic Adoration 5pm-6pm followed immediately
by Stations of the Cross 6pm-6:30pm



February Highlights

Saint of the Month: St. Peter Damian

Peter Damian was born in Ravenna, located in central Italy. He escaped poverty and the neglect of his own brother when his other brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, took him under his wing. His brother sent him to good schools and Peter became a professor.



Already in those days, Peter was very strict with himself. He wore a hair shirt under his clothes, fasted rigorously and spent many hours in prayer. Not only did he give away much in alms, but he was seldom without some poor persons at his table, and took pleasure in serving them with his own hands. Soon, he decided to leave his teaching and give himself completely to prayer with the Benedictines of the reform of Saint Romuald. Because he committed much time to prayer and slept so little that he soon suffered from severe insomnia. He found he had to use some prudence in taking care of himself. When he was not praying, he studied the Bible.

The abbot commanded that when he died Peter should succeed him. Abbot Peter founded five other hermitages. He encouraged his brothers in a life of prayer and solitude and wanted nothing more for himself. The Holy See periodically called on him, however, to be a peacemaker or troubleshooter, between two abbeys in dispute or a cleric or government official in some disagreement with Rome.

Finally, Pope Stephen IX made Peter the cardinal-bishop of Ostia. He worked hard to wipe out simony—the buying of church offices—and encouraged his priests to observe celibacy and urged even the diocesan clergy to live together and maintain scheduled prayer and religious observance. He wished to restore primitive discipline among religious and priests, warning against needless travel, violations of poverty, and too comfortable living.

He wrote many letters. Some 170 are still existing. We also have 53 of his sermons and seven biographies, that he wrote. He preferred examples and stories rather than theory in his writings. Eventually Pope Alexander II granted Peter's request to retire as cardinal-bishop and he happily returned to being just a monk. But he was still called to serve as a papal legate. When returning from such an assignment he was overcome by a fever. He died on February 22, 1072. In 1828, he was declared a Doctor of the Church. [Saint Peter Damian | Franciscan Media](#)

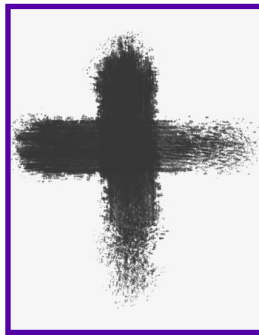
[Holiness is Always in Season by Pope Benedict XVI - FORMED](#)

Monthly Minute: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day or the start of the season of Lent. It always falls 40 days before Easter (Sundays are not included in the count). Lent is a time when Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, giving up of sinful habits, and spiritual discipline. Besides Catholics, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican denominations also observe Ash Wednesday and Lent.

The Bible does not mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of Lent, however, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in several passages from the Old Testament and in Matt. 11:21 in the New Testament. The tradition of tracing a cross on the forehead is meant to identify the faithful with Jesus Christ.

Ashes are a symbol of death in the Bible. God formed humans out of dust:



Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person. (Genesis 2:7)

"By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made.

For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return." (Genesis 3:19, NLT)

So, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday symbolize death.

Many times in Scripture, the practice of repentance is also associated with ashes. In Daniel 9:3, the prophet Daniel clothed himself in sackcloth and sprinkled himself in ashes as he pleaded with God in prayer and fasting. In Job 42:6, Job said to the Lord, "I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance."

Thus, ashes on Ash Wednesday at the start of the Lenten season represent our repentance from sin and Jesus Christ's sacrificial death to set us free from sin and death.

Since the Bible does not mention the observance of Ash Wednesday, believers are free to decide whether or not to participate. Self-examination, moderation, giving up of sinful habits, and repentance from sin are all good practices for believers. So, Christians ought to do these things daily and not only during Lent.

Taken from: [What Is Ash Wednesday? \(learnreligions.com\)](http://www.learnreligions.com)

[My Beloved Son: Meditations for Lent by Bishop Robert Barron - FORMED](#)

[Freedom through Forgiveness: The Sacrament of Confession by Ken Yasinski - FORMED](#)



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Family Resource Page

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

This month of February let us be patient with ourselves and others as we prepare for Lent. Here are some ways that you can practice PEACE this month:

- Do a good deed to a family member on Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
- Attend Mass on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22).
- Give Alms to a favorite charity this Lent

The Catholic Ecology Center: Connecting to Christ and His Creation

The Catholic Ecology Center seeks to deepen faith and foster a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with the natural world. The Catholic Ecology Center is a ministry of Laudato Si' Project.

Check out these events coming soon to the CEC.

Feb 25—Lenten Adult Retreat with Fr. Malucha

Begin your Lenten journey with a day long retreat of prayer and reflection surrounded by the beauty of God's creation at the CEC. Sat, February 25, 2023, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM CST

Mar 04—Astronomy Night: Wonders of the Night Sky

Come witness the wonder of the night sky and learn to identify some of its incredible features! Sat, March 4, 2023, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM CST

For more information about these and other events [click here](#).

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

February Picks of the Month:

[The Rosary: A Special Way to Pray - FORMED](#)

[The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima - FORMED](#)

[Lourdes: Story of Faith, Science, & Miracles - FORMED](#)

[Set All Afire: Why the Church Still Matters - FORMED](#)

Catechism Corner

This issue we focus on the 8th Commandment: You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Ex. 20:16

This commandment directs us in how we are to represent ourselves, in words and actions toward others. As God's holy people we are called to a moral standard; to be truthful in what we say and what we do. God is truth and wills the truth for all of His people. An offense against this commandment makes us unfaithful to God and His covenant with us. To live in the truth is to be a disciple of Jesus.

Since God is "true", the members of his people are called to live in the truth." It is in our very nature to be drawn toward the truth and we are bound by a moral obligation to seek the truth, especially religious truth. CCC2464-2465

Truthfulness is the virtue that shows oneself as being true to self in word and deed and avoiding duplicity or hypocrisy. Living and practicing the virtue of truth give your neighbor his just due. St. Thomas Aquinas states: "Men could not live with one another if there were not mutual confidence that they were being truthful to one another." As Christians, then, we must bear witness to the truth and not be ashamed of testifying to our Lord. CCC 2467-2473

Offenses against Truth include false witness and perjury, rash judgement, detraction, calumny, flattery, boasting and lying. As we all know, in a court of law the truth is very important. Not being truthful, whether by lying under oath or in a public statement, can have serious consequences to all parties involved. Rash judgement, detraction and calumny are words we don't often use. They refer to the attitudes and/or words that cause unjust injury to a person's reputation. CCC 2476-2481 Lying is destructive of society; it undermines trust among men and tears about the fabric of social relationships." CCC 2486

Above all we are to respect the truth. The good and safety of other, respect for privacy and the common good are adequate reasons for keeping quiet and avoid scandal. CCC2489 "The golden rule helps one discern, in concrete situations, whether or not it would be appropriate to reveal the truth to someone who asks for it." CCC 2510

Finally, this commandment does not just hold us accountable but also professionals and businesses that hold a level of expectation to be honest and trustworthy. Let us all practice the virtue of truthfulness.

[The Eighth Commandment: Tell the Truth - Christian Morality: The Faith Lived - FORMED](#)

[\(5\) The Eighth Commandment - YouTube](#)

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