



Issue: #27

January 2023

Purity & Light

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. AGNES FAMILIES

Hello Families-

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a Blessed Christmas and will enjoy a Healthy and Happy New Year! Every year I am amazed at how quickly a new year comes to us. I hope to take the time in the next few days to reflect on the good and bad from the past year, and make some new goals for my own personal and spiritual growth.

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 one act of "PEACE" in your New Year's 'resolutions' would be a good start to your own spiritual development and would be a good goal for your family as well.

Adult Faith Formation: Another easy way to help with your spiritual growth this year is to join us for the *Symbolon* program on Sunday morning in the Christian Formation room (across from the parish office). Stop in after you drop off your child in CF class. We begin at 9:15 and conclude just in time to pick up your child after class. Each episode examines a different aspect of the Catholic Faith in an easy-to-understand format. No need to prepare for anything, and no homework!! Just come and learn.

It was good to see so many families at our Christmas Potluck on Dec. 18th and a great variety of brunch dishes to choose from. We also had our first Mass Transit Cards drawing. Congratulations to the Thoenes family. Don't forget to drop your card in the box in the lobby for your chance to be in the next drawing that will take place at the end of February. If you still need a set of Mass Transit Cards please contact me or ask your child's catechist.

See you at Mass!

God's Peace & Blessings to you all,

Shelly Fellin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The same everlasting Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering or give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace then and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings."

"Be who you are and be that well."

— Saint Francis de Sales



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A Prayer for the New Year

God of all time, we place the days of this new year into your hands.

Fill them with the blessings of family, friendship, laughter, and love.

Show us ways to spend our time serving your children in need.

Help us remember to spend time with you in Prayer and in the Scripture.

We thank you for all the good that you do for us.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

January 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** to be guaranteed a spot on these trips:

*** Catholic Work Camp (Marshalltown, Iowa):**

July 15-22; Register [here](#) for this trip. Still some open spot for this trip. Good Shepherd Parish is having a Workcamp information meeting on Saturday, Jan. 7th at 3:45pm for all campers who are already registered for Marshalltown and for anyone interested in finding out more.

*** Youth Works (Indianapolis, IN):** July 23-28;

Register [here](#) for this trip. Still spots available. Sign up soon to guarantee a seat on this trip.

Please contact CF@stagnesparish.org for more information. SIGN UP TODAY!

Christian Formation Committee: We need your help! Parent involvement is the only way we can improve our programs and make them relevant for your child and family. Without you we are unable to make important decisions for our Christian Formation program. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (Aug-May). *Our next meeting is Jan. 11th from 6-7:30pm. See you there!*



St. Agnes Christian Formation
12801 W. Fairmount Ave
Butler, WI 53007
262-781-6998
www.stagnesparish.org

JANUARY SCHEDULE

K-8 Schedule

Jan. 1—Happy New Year!

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

Jan. 8—K-8 session #12 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep.6 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Jan. 15—K-8 session #13; 9-10:15am

Family Time in Kemp Hall for ALL Parents.

Jan. 22—K-8 session #14 ; 9-10:15

Adult Formation: Ep.7 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Jan 29—NO SESSION

High School Schedule

Jan. 1—Happy New Year!

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

Jan. 8—High School (9th/10th) session #8; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep.6 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am

Jan. 15—Family Time #3 9-10:15am Kamp Hall for All High School students and parents

Jan. 22—High School (9th/10th) session #9; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep.7 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

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

Jan 29—NO SESSION

High School Service/Worship Opportunity:
St. Michael's Multicultural Mass

Special Events

Jan. 9—1st Sacrament Parent Meeting; 6pm Hafford Hall

Jan. 14—1st Sacrament Parent Meeting; 9am Hafford Hall

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

January Picks of the Month:

[Were the Magi at Jesus' Birth? - FORMED](#)

[The Saints: Our Heavenly Friends - FORMED](#)

[Saint Francis de Sales: Pastor of Souls - Saints of the Catholic Reformation - FORMED](#)

January Highlights

Saint of the Month: St. Francis de Sales

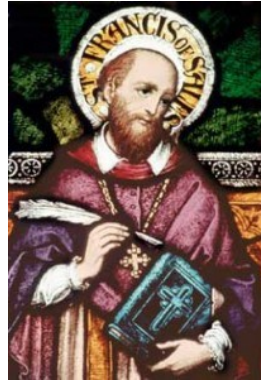
St. Francis de Sales was born to a noble family at Chateau de Sales near Geneva, Switzerland on August 21, 1567.

Francis was both intelligent and gentle. From a very early age, he desired to serve God. He knew for years he had a vocation to the priesthood, even though his father wanted him to enter a career in law and politics. In 1580, Francis attended the University of Paris, and received his doctorate in law at the University of Padua. All the time, he never lost his passion for God. He studied theology and practiced mental prayers, but kept quiet about his devotion. After much discussion and disagreement from his father, Francis was ordained to the priesthood and elected provost of the Diocese of Geneva, in 1593, by the Bishop of Geneva.

During the time of the Protestant reformation, he led an expedition to bring Calvinists back to the Catholic Church. For three years, he endured much opposition as he trudged through the countryside. Francis' unusual patience kept him working and he found a way to reach those who would not listen to him. He wrote out little pamphlets to explain true Catholic doctrine and slipped them under the doors. This is one of the first records we have of religious tracts being used to communicate the true Catholic faith to people who had fallen away from the Church.

In 1602, Francis was consecrated Bishop of Geneva and in 1604, he began his work as spiritual director. Despite the constant load of preaching, visiting and instruction he believed the first duty of a bishop was spiritual direction. For him active work did not weaken his spiritual inner peace but strengthened it.

He gave spiritual direction to most people through letters, which attested to his remarkable patience. During this time, it was wrongly thought that achieving real holiness of life was a task reserved for only for the clergy and those in religious life, and not for lay men and women. Francis insisted that every Christian was called to holiness and sanctity, lived within their own state in life.



Francis gave spiritual direction to lay people who were living real lives in the real world. He had proven with his own life that people could grow in holiness while involved in a very active occupation. He also recognized that Christian marriage and family life is itself a call to holiness. His most famous book, [INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVOUT LIFE](#), was written for ordinary lay people in 1608. Written originally as letters, it became an instant success all over Europe.

For Francis, the key to love of God was prayer. For busy people living in the world, he advised, "Begin all your prayers in the presence of God. Retire at various times into the solitude of your own heart, even while outwardly engaged in discussions or transactions with others and talk to God." The test of prayer was a person's actions. He believed the worst sin was to judge someone or to gossip about them. Even if we say we do it out of love we're still doing it to look better ourselves. We should be as gentle and forgiving with ourselves as we should be with others.

He died on December 28, 1622 and was beatified on January 8, 1661 and canonized on April 19, 1665 by Pope Alexander VII. In 1923, Pope Pius XI named St. Francis de Sales the patron saint of Catholic writers and the Catholic press because of the tracts and books he wrote. His feast day is celebrated on January 24. He is a Doctor of the Church. . Taken from: [St. Francis de Sales - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

Monthly Minute: The Baptism of the Lord

The official end of the Christmas season is marked by the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This year we celebrate this feast on



Monday, Jan. 9, the day after the Feast of the Epiphany. John the Baptist was preparing the way for Jesus and His Ministry. As scripture tell us John the Baptist saw greatness in Jesus and humbled himself in His presence. But still, Jesus asks John to baptize him. So, what is Jesus showing us with His Baptism? Jesus' baptism did three things for us: it instituted the Sacrament by consecrating the waters in which he was immersed, it prefigured his death and resurrection and it revealed the Trinity and our own call to holiness. Just as John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus and His ministry, Jesus' Baptism prepares us for our mission as adopted Children of God. As we move from the Season of Christmas into Ordinary Time, the Baptism of Jesus is a bridge between these two liturgical seasons. What significance does Jesus' Baptism play for your own faith journey, especially as we journey back to Ordinary Time when we experience the teachings of Jesus?

[Why Jesus Was Baptized | Catholic Answers](#)

[Jesus' Baptism by John - Bible Story Summary \(learnreligions.com\)](#)



Francis laid the groundwork for the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on what is now called the universal call to holiness. It reaffirms the teaching of Jesus and the early Church that every Baptized

Christian is called to sanctity, no matter what their career or state in life.

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Family Resource Page

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

This month of January let us share the Gift of Jesus that we received at Christmas. Here are some ways that you can practice PEACE this month:

- Visit Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at Eucharistic Adoration in Church on January 6, from 3-6pm
 - Say the rosary as a family for the legal protection of unborn children on Jan. 23
 - Donate food items to the St. Agnes Food Pantry
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Undone: A Healing the Whole Person Retreat for Women

March 30 - April 1, 2023

March 30 & 31 in the Evening, April 1 During the Daytime

St. Alphonsus Parish & School, Greendale, WI

Do you desire to dive deeper into the freedom you were created for? Do you feel restricted and bound by the knots of sin and shame that conceal the profound beauty of your feminine heart? **Learn more about this event [here](#).**

Catechism Corner

This issue we focus on the 7th Commandment: You shall not steal. Ex. 20:15

This commandment focuses on our relationship with created goods and how they connect us to others for the sake of the common good. We are to respect “the universal destination of goods” and the right to private property, as well as give respect to others and their goods.

God entrusted all that He created to man and his stewardship. The universal destination of goods therefore refers to the original creation of all things by God and the proper place and purpose of these goods for the common good of all. The goods and private property that is obtained through our work or received as a gift is a fundamental right for all humans. This right is given to us by God for the common good and the dignity of persons to ensure security for our lives and protection of our basic human needs and the needs of the people in our care. (CCC 2401-2403)

We are to respect other people’s goods (property) and not take away from them what they rightfully worked for or received. As stated above this right also includes being good stewards of your property *for the good of*

all. We are not to hoard our goods if we see a need in our family or community. God gives us goods so that we may give what we don’t need to those who are in need. (CCC 2404-2405)

This commandment forbids theft, that is, taking another’s property against the reasonable will of the owner, except in the case of urgent necessity and essential needs of food, shelter and clothing are needed for safety and security. The principle of “universal destination of goods” would proceed any refusal of consent by the owner of such goods. In this case we are to practice *solidarity* with our neighbor as we live out the golden rule. We also practice the virtues of *temperance* and *justice* when we show respect for others and their goods (see CCC 2407-2408)

This commandment also includes issues that relate to economic activity and social justice issues. As persons created in the image of God we are called to participate in the work of creation. “*Work* honors the Creator’s gifts and the talents received from him. It can also be redemptive.” By enduring the hardships of work one can collaborate in the redemptive work of Christ. Also, employment must be available to all. A just wage is the legitimate fruit of work and to refuse or withhold it can be a grave injustice. (CCC 2427, 2433-2434)

God blesses those who come to the aid of the poor and rebukes those who turn away from them. This love for the poor, inspired by the Beatitudes, is one of the motives for the duty of working. We work so that we are able “to give to those in need”. St. John Chrysostom writes: “Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life.” (CCC 2443-2446)

The seventh commandment to “not steal” has far reaching ramifications. Not only are we required to respecting the dignity of others by not taking their goods, but we are also called to share what we have with others and be mindful of the work we do to obtain our goods for the security of our family.

[The Seventh Commandment - YouTube](#)

[\(33\) C4: Ignite Your Catholic Faith - Is It Wrong to be Rich? - YouTube](#)

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