



Issue: #29

March 2023

Purity & Light

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. AGNES FAMILIES

Hello Families-

I hope this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying the recent snowfall. Let's pray that spring will be upon us soon and we can look forward to the warmer days ahead.

During these days of Lent I find myself struggling to maintain my Lenten practices. I had hoped to spend extra time this month in Adoration on Fridays but obstacles have gotten in my way. As we begin the third week of Lent I hope to renew my efforts to go deeper in prayer, give to others and fast from the negative influences in my life that keep me stuck in one place.

One way that I give to others is by volunteering. This June I plan to again chaperone for the local workcamp Matthew 25 sponsored by Good Shepherd Parish. This is a good way to introduce your child in 5th-12th grade to volunteering and the good that comes from helping others. See the article on page two to sign-up your student for this fun week in late June. We also have a few spots available for our traveling Mission Trip to Indianapolis for current 6th through 12th grade students. Sign-up by March 30th to secure your spot.

Plan to attend the Evangelization Team's Lenten Presentation: *From Gethsemane to Golgotha* on Sunday, March 26th at 6pm. This year's program will reflect on the events of the last hours of Jesus's life and all he endured in the Passion. This event will help you go deeper in prayer as you enter Holy Week.

See you at Mass!

God's Peace & Blessings to you all,

Shelly Fellin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I am certain in my heart that all that I am, I have received from God.

I pray to God to give me perseverance and to deign that I be a faithful witness to Him to the end of my life for my God.

Each and all shall render account for even our smallest sins before the judgement seat of Christ the Lord.

—Saint Patrick



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Prayer for the Faithful by Saint Patrick

May the Strength of God guide us.
May the Power of God preserve us.
May the Wisdom of God instruct us.
May the Hand of God protect us.
May the Way of God direct us.
May the Shield of God defend us.
May the Angels of God guard us.
- Against the snares of the evil one.

May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us,
Christ be over all!

May Thy Grace, Lord,
Always be ours,
This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen.

March 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 by **March 30th** 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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MARCH SCHEDULE

K-8 Schedule

Mar. 5—K-8 session #18; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 12 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Mar. 12—K-8 session #19; 9-10:15am

Adult Formation: Ep. 13 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Mar. 19—K-8 session #20; 9-10:15

Adult Formation: Ep. 14 Symbolon 9:15-10:15am;

Mar. 26—NO SESSION

High School Schedule

Mar. 5—High School (9th/10th) session #12; 9-10:15am

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

Confirmation session #10: 10:30am-1pm

Mar. 12—All High School (9th-11th) Family Time #4

6:00-7:30pm Kemp Hall

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

Mar. 19—High School (9th/10th) session #13; 9-10:15am

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

Confirmation session #11: 6-7:30pm Youth Room

Mar. 26—NO SESSION

Special Events

Every Friday—Eucharistic Adoration; 5-6pm
Stations of the Cross; 6pm

March 11—First Reconciliation Day for children and youth; 10:15am in church

March 26—From Gethsemane to Golgotha
6:00pm in church

Lenten Devotions for March

Every Friday during Lent:

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

[Week 3 & 4 - FORMED](#)
[Week 5 - FORMED](#)

March Highlights

Saint of the Month: St. Patrick

St. Patrick of Ireland was born in the year 387 in Roman-occupied Britain. When he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans.



Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.

A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir:

"I saw a man coming, as it were from Ireland. His name was Victorinus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. ... As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood ... and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained a priest by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftan of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftan and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people and he began building churches across the country.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461. Taken from: [St. Patrick - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

Additional resource: [In the Footsteps of Saint Patrick - FORMED](#)



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Monthly Minute: Annunciation of our Lord

The feast of the Annunciation, now recognized as a solemnity, was first celebrated in the fourth or fifth century. Its central focus is the Incarnation: God has become one of us. From all eternity God had decided that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity should become human. The God-Man embraces all humanity, indeed all creation, to bring it to God in one great act of love. Because human beings have rejected God, Jesus will accept a life of suffering and an agonizing death: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13).

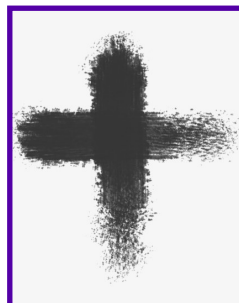
Mary has an important role to play in God's plan. From all eternity, God destined her to be the mother of Jesus and closely related to him in the creation and redemption of the world. Because Mary is God's instrument in the Incarnation, she has a role to play with Jesus in creation and redemption. It is a God-given role. It is God's grace from beginning to end. Mary becomes the eminent figure she is only by God's grace. She is the empty space where God could act. Everything she is she owes to the Trinity.



Mary is the virgin-mother who fulfills Isaiah 7:14 in a way that Isaiah could not have imagined. She is united with her son in carrying out the will of God (Luke 1:38).

Taken from: [Annunciation of the Lord | Franciscan Media](#)

Additional resource: [The Bible and the Virgin Mary: Episode 2: Handmaid of the Lord - The Bible and the Virgin Mary - FORMED](#)



Pray, Reconcile & Rejoice
12 Hours of Reconciliation
Wednesday, March 29th

Come and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at area parishes.

Find a location that works with our schedule.

www.archmil.org/Pray-Reconcile-Rejoice.

Family Resource Page

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

This month of March let us consider how we can grow closer to God this Lent. Here are some ways that you can practice PEACE this month:

- Donate food for the need to our St. Agnes Food Pantry or another area food bank.
- Go to Eucharistic Adoration and/or Stations of the Cross as a family and pray together one or more Fridays this month.
- Fast from complaining or another habit you struggle with.

International Women's Day (March 8)

Check out these blogs and websites for Catholic women to find community and support:

[Blessed is she](#)

[Blessed is She podcast](#)

[Firstfruits](#)

[Abiding together podcast](#)

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

March Picks of the Month:

[The Passion of Saint Perpetua with Mike Aquilina -](#)

[FORMED](#)

[The Book of Saints and Heroes by Andrew & Lenora](#)

[Lang - FORMED](#)

[Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to](#)

[Christ - FORMED](#)

Catechism Corner continued:

and spiritual dignity of all human persons. CCC2525-2526

This commandment is given to us so that we grow in the purity of heart that enables us to see others as God sees them. (CCC 2531) As the beatitudes state: "Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."

- [The Ninth Commandment: Practice Purity of Heart - Christian Morality: The Faith Lived - FORMED](#)
- [The Ninth Commandment - YouTube](#)
- [\(11\) CCC 2514 - 9th Commandment - Coveting Neighbor's Wife - Catechism Tour #94 - YouTube](#)

Catechism Corner

This issue we focus on the 9th Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife. Ex. 20:17

Everyone who looks at a woman (or man) lustfully has already committed adultery ... in his (or her) heart. Matt 5:28

The ninth and tenth commandment are related in that they both speak of covetousness; ninth focuses on the desires of the flesh while the tenth focuses on the material goods of others. St. John speaks of covetousness (or concupiscence) in 1John 2:16 when he puts these desires into three categories: wants of the flesh, desires of the eyes and pride. We have all heard of the word "concupiscence" but may not know what it really means. Concupiscence refers to any intense form of human desire. It stems from the disobedience of the first sin and predisposes us toward sin. Because we are both spirit and body there is a natural tension or struggle between the "spirit" and the "flesh". This struggle is both a result of sin and a confirmation of sin. (see CCC2514-2516)

Whereas the sixth commandment—thou shall not commit adultery—directs our *actions*, the ninth commandment directs our *desires*. The source of all our desires is the heart. The struggles against these desires of the flesh requires "purifying the heart and practicing temperance". Being "pure in heart" demands that we adjust our intellect and will toward the holiness of God in three areas: charity; chastity; love of truth and orthodoxy of faith. There is a connection between the purity of heart, of body and of faith in that what we believe to be true in our faith and we practice what we believe then our hearts will grow in purity and we will better understand what we believe. (see CCC2517-2518)

Even though in Baptism we are given the grace of purification of all sins we continue to struggle against concupiscence of the flesh and disordered desires. Only with God's grace will we prevail against it. Purification of the heart demands prayer, the practice of chastity, purity of intentions and of vision. Modesty protects the intimate center of a person and is a key component of temperance. (CCC2520-2524)

Our own *moral permissiveness* is guided by our misconception of human freedom. To develop a better understanding of true freedom we must educate ourselves in the moral law which include respect for the truth, the qualities of the heart and the moral

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