



Issue: #33

September 2023

Purity & Light

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR ST. AGNES FAMILIES

Hello Families-

Where did the summer go? I ask this question every year. We are one week into the new school year (for some of you it might be more). I hope the transition to "Back to School" has been a smooth one. This time of year always comes to me in a mad rush to get everything ready for the new formation year. I hope this coming year will be a good one for your family not only at school but for Christian Formation as well.

Our theme this year is: **God is Here**. This reminds us that God is present in every tabernacle in the world. It's hard for us to wrap our head around that notion but it's true! Jesus is truly present: body, blood, soul and divinity in every communion host in the tabernacle! The Eucharistic Revival is an intentional movement toward a deeper devotion and better understanding of the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The United States Bishops have initiated this revival because they see a need for better understand of this reality.

In the next several months you will have an opportunity to grow closer to our Lord Jesus in a variety of ways. There will be small group bible studies, adult faith formation programs offered "Between the Masses" and other prayer opportunities that will lead you to an encounter with Jesus. Eucharistic Adoration is one of those prayers that brings peace and silence to your busy and hectic life. I encourage you to schedule time in Eucharistic Adoration. This special prayer time will bring you many spiritual blessings and graces. If the St. Agnes Eucharistic Adoration time doesn't work for you there are other parishes who offer this prayer opportunity.

In my research for the newsletter this summer I stumble upon a Catholic website that peaked my interest. [Catholic-Link](https://www.catholic-link.com/) has a lot of topics for every day Catholics, from movie reviews to advice for parents (family), apologetics and faith & science. Here is an [article](#) that you might find interesting about family, faith and the power of sharing a meal together. Check it out for yourself.

In the next few pages you will find important information for the upcoming year. We have our schedule again on page two along with other reminders. The family resources section is now on page three. The monthly highlights are on page four. I am always looking for feedback on ways to improve the newsletter. Please share your ideas via email cf@stagnespriest.org. I'm looking forward to a blessed and fruitful year of Christian Formation.

See you at Mass!

Shelly Fellin

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

- ◇ "Be at peace with your own soul, then heaven and earth will be at peace with you."
- ◇ "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."
- ◇ "We must love Christ and always seek Christ's embraces. Then everything difficult will seem easy."
- ◇ "It is worse still to be ignorant of your ignorance."
- ◇ "When we pray we speak to God; but when we read, God speaks to us."

— St. Jerome



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Prayer of St. Jerome for Christ's Mercy

O Lord, show Your mercy to me
and gladden my heart.
I am like the man on the way to Jericho
who was overtaken by robbers,
wounded and left for dead.
O Good Samaritan,
come to my aid.
I am like the sheep that went astray.
O Good Shepherd,
seek me out and bring me home
in accord with Your will.
Let me dwell in Your house
all the days of my life
and praise You for ever and ever
with those who are there.
Amen.

September Events

Christian Formation News



Christian Formation Committee

I invite you to join us to share your ideas and participate in improving the religious education program at St. Agnes. I am looking for 3-4 adults

who are willing to invest time in your parish by joining the Christian Formation Committee. We meet once a month, usually the 2nd Wednesday, but would be open to another time more convenient for the group. No experience is required. Parent involvement is the only way we can make our programs relevant. Prayerfully consider joining us. Contact Shelly Fellin at fellinm@stagnesparish.org for more information.



Open Gym will return this Fall

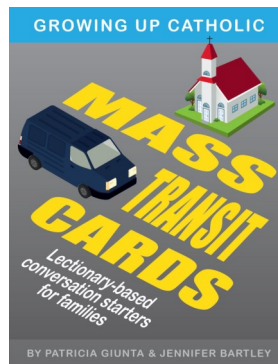
We are happy to announce that Open Gym will return to a regular schedule in October. Open Gym is for all students in grades 5-12. This is a great opportunity to hang out with your friends and play a round of

hoops, or a favorite video game or just watch a movie. The first Open Gym this fall will be on Saturday, October 21st from 7-9pm. Mark your calendar!

Chaperones are always needed and are required to complete the Safe Environment Education session. So that you are ready to chaperone when needed please use this link to register for one of the sessions at an area parish. [Safe Environment Events \(archdiocese.org\)](http://SafeEnvironmentEvents.archdiocese.org)



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



SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

Child Ministry (3K-5th) /Middle School (6-8th)

Sept. 10 Kick-off Family Potluck Kemp Hall 9-10:15

Sept. 17 Session #1

Sept. 25 Session #2

High School (9th & 10th)

Sept. 10 Kick-off Family Potluck Kemp Hall 9-10:15

Sept. 17 Session #1

Sept. 24 Session #2

Confirmation (11th-12th)

Sept. 10 Kick-off Family Potluck Kemp Hall 9-10:15

No other Session in September

Candidate/Sponsor/Parent Meeting—Oct 1 (Mandatory)

All sessions held in classroom unless otherwise noted.

Mass Transit Cards now available!

Once again we have the Mass Transit Cards for your family to use as you prepare for Mass. These Cards are available in the Ministers of Hospitality room or ask your child's catechist for a set. Don't forget to complete the back of the card for an opportunity to win a special gift. Drawings take place three times a year.

Eucharistic Revival

Eucharistic Adoration

The doctrine of transubstantiation, the teaching that bread and wine are converted into the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, is difficult. When Christ first told his followers of it, many rejected him. But Jesus did not clarify his statement or correct their misunderstanding. He simply repeated his command to the disciples at the Last Supper. Some Christians today still have trouble accepting this teaching.

Throughout history, though, many people have reported miracles that brought them back to the truth. The Church has recognized over one hundred eucharistic miracles, many of which occurred during times of weakened faith in transubstantiation.

The Miracle of Mass

The Real Presence Association is currently translating reports of 120 Vatican-approved miracles from Italian into English. The stories of these miracles will be available at www.therealpresence.org.

Faith, of course, should not be based on miracles alone. Several of the recorded miracles are very old, and it may be possible to dismiss them. There is no doubt, though, that reports of these miracles have strengthened the faith of many in the instructions given by Christ and provided avenues for contemplation of the miracle that takes place at each Mass. The translation of these reports will permit more people to learn of eucharistic miracles and, like others before them, have their faith in Jesus' teachings strengthened.

Over the next several months we will be highlighting some of these Eucharistic Miracles so that we too may have our faith in Jesus strengthened.

Excerpt from: [Eucharistic Miracles: Evidence of the Real Presence | Catholic Answers](#)

September 29— Feast of St. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels



Family Resource Page

New Horizons - A Day of Healing: Beyond Divorce

Saturday, October 14, 2023 | 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

Schoenstatt Retreat Center

Whether you are still in the process of divorcing, or you have been divorced for years, this day of healing is offered to all. Explore divorce in a deeper, gentler way, including presentations that guide you in a relationship with yourself, with God, and with others. Although the Day of Healing is a ministry of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, members of all faiths are welcome.

Cost: \$50.00 (includes lunch and dinner). Financial assistance is available.

For questions, please contact Edell Schaefer via e-mail at ballintra@wi.rr.com.

Click [here](#) for more information and/or to register for the Day of Healing.

Deadline to register is September 27

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

Picks of the Month

[Mother Teresa: Seeing the Face of Jesus - FORMED](#)

[Drawing Strength from Our Lady of Sorrows by Kimberly](#)

[Hahn - FORMED](#)

[Hildegard's Gift by Megan Hoyt - FORMED](#)

[Padre Pio: Between Heaven and Earth - FORMED](#)

[Winning the Culture War by Dr. Peter Kreeft - FORMED](#)

[Powers and Dominions: Angels, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare - FORMED](#)

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September Highlights

Saint of the Month: St. Jerome

Saint Jerome, originally named Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus was born around 342 AD, in Stridon, Dalmatia, in modern day Croatia or Slovenia.

Little is known of his childhood other than his parents were probably well-to-do and Christian. Despite their efforts to raise Jerome properly, the young man behaved as he chose. Around the age of 12 or so, Jerome traveled to Rome to study grammar, philosophy, rhetoric, Latin and Greek. It is likely that due to his training in rhetoric, he may have considered a career in law. By his own admission, he quickly forgot his morals. While he was not studying, Jerome pursued pleasure.

In or around the year 366, Jerome decided to become a Christian, due to the influence of his Christian friend Bonosus, and was baptized. Now interested in theological matters, Jerome set aside secular interests to pursue matters of the faith. He traveled with Bonosus to Trier where he attended schools for priestly training.

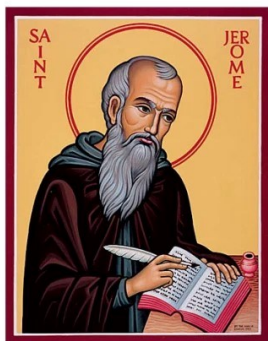
In 370, he entered a monastery that was run by Bishop St. Valeria, who attracted to the monastery some of the greatest minds in Christendom. While there, Jerome met Rufinus and the two became friends. Rufinus was a monk who became renown for his translations of Greek works into Latin. Jerome himself was developing his skills as a translator.

In 374, while in the city of Antioch, Jerome began writing his first work, "Concerning the Seven Beatings" while living as a hermit in the desert southwest of Antioch. After he emerged from his hermitage, Jerome was quickly entangled in conflicts within the Church at Antioch, something he didn't want. Jerome preferred being a monk or a hermit but Church officials in Antioch wanted him to be ordained. Jerome relented and he was subsequently ordained.

Making the most of his freedom as a priest, Jerome traveled to Constantinople where he studied under St. Gregory of Nazianzus until 382. He then traveled to Rome for a council of the Church. Following the council, Pope Damasus kept Jerome in Rome and made him his secretary. Jerome was a hard worker and he wrote extensively defending the virginity of Mary. Jerome was famous for his translation of the Bible. He spent his entire life translating the scriptures from Hebrew and Old Latin.

Jerome died on September 30, 420. He was laid to rest under the Church of the Nativity and his remains were later transferred to Rome.

Saint Jerome is the patron saint of archaeologists, Biblical scholars, librarians, students and translators. His feast day is September 30.



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[St. Jerome - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#)

[The Example of St. Jerome - FORMED](#)

Monthly Minute: Holy Name of Blessed Virgin Mary

On September 12, 1683, the Battle of Vienna was fought. The Christian forces of the Holy Roman Empire and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, were victorious against the significantly larger Ottoman Empire's forces. The victory was attributed to her intercession, and in gratitude, Pope Innocent XI instituted the feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary into the universal calendar of the Church the following year, 1684.

Of course, reverence for the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary did not begin in 1684. Prior to that, this feast was celebrated in various localities throughout the Church at various times. Reverence for the name of Mary, however, goes back much further. The Council of Ephesus in 431 taught that the Blessed Virgin Mary was properly called the "Mother of God," or "God-Bearer" (Theotokos). By the sixth century, the angelic greeting in Luke 1:28 was commonly used as a prayer, "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" By the fourteenth century, the second part of the Hail Mary prayer was often used in conjunction, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent formally recommended this entire prayer, as we have it today, to the faithful.

It's also providential to note that the date of September 12 falls shortly after we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8.



When the Romans ruled Palestine, it was customary that newborn daughters were given their names at birth, or shortly afterwards. Thus, the Church celebrates Mary's naming day four days after the celebration of her birth. Mary and Jesus are the only two Who have liturgical celebrations honoring their names.

A name uniquely identifies and dignifies the person. For this reason, in praying to our Lord it is common practice to call on His name, "Jesus!" So also with Mary. Calling on her by name is a way of seeking her prayers in a personal and intimate way. Hence, the names of Jesus and Mary should be seen and understood as being powerful, compelling us to call upon them personally, with trust in Who they are.

As we honor the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, reflect upon the depth of trust you have in her motherly intercession. Turn to her today, entrust yourself to her intercession, and have confidence that her prayers will win for you an abundance of grace and mercy from her Son.

[The Holy Name of Mary - My Catholic Life!](#)

[The Woman - FORMED](#)