



Church of St. Agnes

548 Lafond Avenue | St. Paul, MN 55103

December 30, 2007

Feast of the Holy family

Rev. John L. UbelPastor
Rev. Christopher Beaudet Weekend Assistant
Rev. James McConville..... Weekday Assistant
Deacons Rev. Mr. Harold Hughesdon, Rev. Mr. Bernard Pedersen
Rev. Mr. Nathan Allen

Phones

Rectory651-293-1710
High School 651-228-1161
Grade School 651-227-1886
Convent 651-227-5590
Sisters of Charity..... 651-225-8820
Development Office, Gerrie Lachowitz..... 651-228-1988

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5:15 p.m. (anticipated) Benediction at 5:00 p.m.
6:30, 8:30, 10:00 (Latin High Mass), 12:00 Noon

Holy Days of Obligation

Watch Bulletin for schedule

Weekday Masses

8:00 a.m. Monday through Saturday (Saturday—Sung Latin Mass)
5:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday
During the school year, additional Mass at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30—5:00 p.m. and 7:30—9:00 p.m.
Tuesdays: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays following Novena
Eves of Holy Days and Thursdays before First Fridays: 4:00—
5:00 p.m. and 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Adoration

Fridays in the Chapel following the 8:00 a.m. Mass
until Benediction at 5:00 p.m.

Baptisms

Sundays immediately following the Noon Mass. Active parishioners
seeking baptism for their child are asked to make arrangements
prior to the desired date of baptism.

Marriages

Active registered parishioners are to make arrangements for
marriage preparation at least six months prior to the anticipated
wedding date.

Registration in Parish

Required for Baptism and Matrimony. Please call the rectory for an
appointment.

Devotions

Tuesday: Rosary at 7:15 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Sunday: 3:00 p.m. Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed
Sacrament.
Friday Adoration: Each Friday beginning after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
until 5:00 p.m.

Web site.....www.stagnes.net

*When Herod had died, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared
in a dream to Joseph in Egypt
and said, "Rise, take the child
and his mother and go to the
land of Israel, for those who
sought the child's life are dead."
He rose, took the child and his
mother, and went to the land of
Israel.*

- Mt 2:19-21

The Traditional Manger Scene: Honoring the Holy Family

There is a Scrooge in every bunch! In this case, the latest is the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Roman Williams, who used the word "legend" when describing many aspects of the traditional Christmas account. In an article published by the *Times* of London, the Archbishop noted that there was no evidence that there were any oxen or asses in the stable. The chances of any snow falling around the stable in Bethlehem were "very unlikely". And as for the star rising and then standing still: the Archbishop pointed out that stars just don't behave like that. (Psst: Isn't that the point? It is called a miracle.)

Oh, my, where do we begin? True, our Christmas faith does not hinge on the presence of animals in the stable, but the ridiculousness of positing that there is "no evidence" of oxen in the vicinity is beyond belief. Are there actually people in the world clamoring for such "evidence" to justify our manger scenes? Does the good Archbishop happen to have "evidence" to the contrary, some ancient manuscript that exposes the bovine interlopers as the "frauds" they most surely were? Has it come to this? But wait...it gets better.

Dr. Williams said he was committed to belief in the Virgin Birth "as part of what I have inherited". But belief in the Virgin Birth should not be a "hurdle" over which new Christians had to jump before they were accepted. Now I think it is safe to say that we have moved into a new realm. Belief in the Virgin Birth should not be an obstacle to acceptance in the Anglican communion, but heaven forbid if you lug the ox from the attic each December! The word *manger* comes from the Latin verb *manducare*, "to chew, devour, to eat." Thus the crib into which the Savior of the world was laid was actually a trough or open box in a stable designed to hold feed or fodder for livestock. Would not any reasonable person conclude therefore that animals might actually reside nearby?

On this Holy Family Sunday, we celebrate the model for all families, that of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We pray that our families may live in harmony and peace, and know that this requires much sacrifice, patience and prayer. Our faith teaches us that the family is the central unit of society, the "domestic church," and the building block of a more stable world. Secular statistics have proven that the single greatest indicator of poverty is an unstable family life. I recently came across this statistic: In 2004, 28.4 percent of households headed by single women were poor, while 13.5 percent of households headed by single men and 5.5 percent of married-couple households lived in poverty. Notice the major discrepancy in the poverty rate between single parent and two parent households.

I would be very interested in seeing some statistics concerning the strength of family life in those families that have placed family prayer as a high priority in their homes, but I suspect those figures would be difficult to ascertain. Intuitively, we know it to be true that the family that prays together is a much stronger family because of it. I promise my prayers and support to all our families here at Saint Agnes. In the midst of your varied circumstances and challenges, know that God desires to help your family remain holy.

- The Nativity crib at Saint Agnes dates back about sixty years. It was a gift from the Altar and Rosary Society. It was more recently refurbished in 2000 by Conrad Schmidt Co. of Milwaukee, and I must say it is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. Notice the clothing of the Magi, the beauty of Mary's dress, the one little black sheep, even the detail on the camel (most assuredly another interloper on the scene), and even the angel in the corner who accepts your coins, bobbling its head with each offering! I simply love seeing crowds lingering at the crib in prayer after Mass.
- A new web site was launched by the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy and allows researchers to access Bible verses with exegesis from doctors of the Church or cross reference liturgical texts with commentaries from Church Fathers. The site offers six categories in nine languages. Named *Biblia Clerus*, it has already found one very grateful new "fan" in your Patristic loving pastor! I encourage you to check it out at www.clerus.org/bibliaclerus/

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John L. Ubel
Pastor

All-Night Vigil

The World Apostolate of Fatima and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is sponsoring an All-Night Vigil of reparation and Prayer at The Little Sisters of the Poor, 330 Exchange Street South, St. Paul. The vigil will begin on Friday, January 4, 2008



at 8 p.m. with the Rosary, the Mass at 9 p.m. and will conclude with Mass at 4 a.m. on Saturday, January 5. Everyone is invited to attend all or part of this devotion.

Schedule for The Holy Day, Mary Mother of God



Monday, December 31

4:25 p.m.—Vespers

5:15 p.m.—Anticipated Mass for Mary Mother of God

Tuesday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

8:30 a.m.—Mass

10:00 a.m.—Latin High Mass

12:00 p.m.—Mass

Open House In St. Agnes School

Our High School Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9th at 7:00pm. Please encourage your friends and neighbors who have children entering high school next year to come see what Saint Agnes has to offer. Prospective high school students and their families are most welcome.

Altar & Rosary Society Bake Sale

The Altar and Rosary Society will be hosting their annual Bake Sale on Sunday, January 6, 2008 after all the Masses. Please come and pick up a few delicacies and delights for your family!



The Feast of the Holy Family

When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. - Mt 2:19-21



Natural Family Planning Classes

The couple to Couple League will be offering a series of classes, for engaged and married couples, on the *Sympto-Thermal Method* of natural Family Planning here at St. Agnes Parish. Classes begin on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:30 p.m.. Registration is required and you may do so at 612-721-3791 or infoattwincities.ccli.org.

Women's Silent Retreat

There will be a Women's Silent Retreat following the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and led by the priests of Miles Christi will take place January 25—27 in Prior Lake. For more information please contact Karen Hastreiter at 651-451-1132 or check out the website at minnesota@spiritualexercises.net.

First Communion at St. Agnes

Because this year we have the very special blessing of having two young men from our parish being ordained to the Holy Priesthood on Saturday, April 26, 2008, we have moved our First Communion Mass to Saturday, May 3rd. If you are a family that is preparing a child at home for this sacrament, please call the church office for an information and registration package. The child must already be seven (7) years of age for this sacrament.



Welcome Visitors

The Church of St. Agnes welcomes many visitors throughout the year, especially as people come to visit with their families over the holiday season. If you are a visitor here, we are glad you came! If you have visited before and would like to make St. Agnes your home parish, please call the parish office at 651-293-1710 to make arrangements to meet Fr. Ubel and register in the parish! We welcome you!

Father -Daughter Dance

St. Agnes High School Cordially invites you and your father, or your special father-figure, to an evening where you will be treated as the princess that you are in your father's eyes. The Father-Daughter Dance, Saturday, January 19, 2008 in the Bandas Ballroom from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., featuring a Dance Master and Live Music Refreshments, Chocolate Fountain, and Desserts, Formal attire; black tie optional. Tickets available at the school office For \$20.00 per family

Saint Agnes Booster Blast –Sat. Feb 2, 2008.

The exciting evening, *A Touch of Class*, will include a silent auction, live auction, dinner and entertainment. All parents, parishioners and friends of Saint Agnes are invited. Last year's event raised over \$55,000 for our school and in order to make this year an even greater success, your help is needed. Listed below are several ways that you can help:

1. Advertise your business in the bid book or sponsor some of the event expenses
2. Donate wine, liquor, theme baskets or new items for the auction. Donations must be brought to the admissions office no later than Jan. 25th. Year-end sales offer great bargains! We are also in need of large empty baskets!
3. Help with set up, clean up, or work at the event.
4. Plan on attending! Tickets will be on sale in Schuler Hall next week. Cost is \$40 each or a reserved table with first class service for 10 for \$500.

Let's all do our part to support Saint Agnes School! Contact Mary or Jean 651-228-1636 for more information.





Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 30, 2007

Coffee & Donuts Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #397

3:00 p.m. ~ Vespers and Benediction

Monday, December 31

6:45 p.m. ~ Legion of Mary Meets in the Bride's Room ~ All are encouraged to join.

For more information please call Mary Ball at 612-209-5869.

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

Masses at 8:30, 10:00 Latin High Mass, and 12:00 noon

Wednesday, January 2

NO CCD Classes

Thursday, January 3

No Adult Faith Class this week

Friday, January 4

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m.



Retreat for Couples Married 0-7 Years

All couples married 0 to 7 years are invited to attend the annual Newly Married Retreat on February 2nd, 2008 from 9 a.m. till 2:30 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo in Northeast Minneapolis. Cost is \$35 and includes a light breakfast and catered lunch. For more information please go to www.ArchSPM.org/family, call 651-291-4553 or MFL@ArchSPM.org

Remember in Your Prayers Those Who Have Gone Before us and Who Sleep the Sleep of Peace.

Tad Chmielarz, Brooklyn Park, MN



We welcome these new members To our parish community

Michael And Julie Szwejbka and their daughter, Katia

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 31

8:00 a.m. Paul Metzger †

5:15 p.m. Mother Julie Saegaer †

Tuesday, January 1

8:30 a.m. James Chase

10:00 a.m. Norbert Sirba †

12:00 p.m. Diane Anderl

Wednesday, January 2

8:00 a.m. Lucy & Dennis Tredway

5:15 p.m. Katharine Turner

Thursday, January 3

8:00 a.m. Kahnke Family

Friday, January 4

8:00 a.m. Raymond Fier †

5:15 p.m. John Sullivan

Saturday, January 4

*8:00 a.m. Poor Souls in Purgatory

5:15 p.m. Ann & George Burns †

Sunday, January 6

6:30 a.m. Dick and Jeanne Stockey

8:30 a.m. For the Parish

*10:00 a.m. Mary Catherine Schwartzbauer †

12:00 p.m. Joseph and Lucy Borocki

Altar Servers Information Connection

Saturday, January 5, 5:00 p.m. Benediction and 5:15 p.m. Mass: 1st: Tom Mulvey, 2nd: Jonathan Kuehn, Cross: Chris Ethier, Thurifer: Jon Ethier, Acolytes: Nick Kuehn—John Rose

Sunday, January 6:

8:30 a.m. Mass: 1st: Michael Kelly, 2nd: Thomas Kelly, Paten: Joe Bradac

10:00 a.m. Mass: Team 1 will serve.

12:00 Noon Mass: 1st: Nate Bauer, 2nd: Tony Bauer, Paten: Jacob Bauer

Sunday Offerings

Collections for December 16, 2007

Sunday	\$14,085.60
School Fund.....	\$1,257.00
Heat, Light and Water	\$343.00
Automatic Contributions	\$715.00
Total	\$16,411.60
Religious Retirement Fund.....	\$3,700.29