

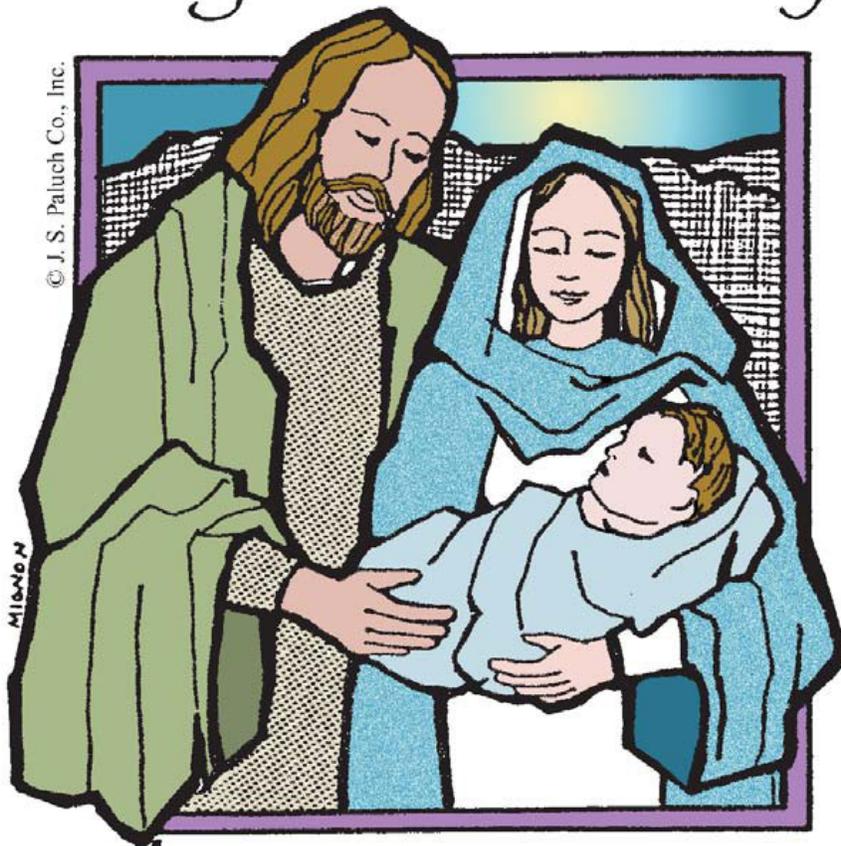


St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

The child
grew to maturity



and was
filled with wisdom

December 27, 2015

PARISH OFFICE 3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519

Tel: (925) 689-0838 Fax: (925) 689-7899

Office Hours: 9:00am - Noon * 1:00pm - 4:30pm, M-F

Website: www.stagnesparish.net * E-Mail: stagnesoffice@comcast.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5PM

Sunday: 7AM, 9AM, 10:45AM & 5PM

Daily Mass in the Chapel at 8AM

Monday - Saturday

(Communion Service on Wed.)

Confessions: Saturday 3:30PM

PASTORAL STAFF

Parochial Administrator

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham
chemans@gmail.com

Business Manager

Marlene McCann
marlene.stagnesparish@gmail.com

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may@stagnesparish.net or
jnmh143@hotmail.com

Liturgical Musician

Lily Melendrez

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Linda D'Souza
lindastagnes@gmail.com

Bulletins

Please submit your articles to:
donnaroberts1956@gmail.com

Pastoral Council President

David Wood
david@koc15344stagnes.org

SCHOOL OFFICE

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord

Tel.: (925) 689-3990

Office Hours: 7:30 - 4:00 M-F

Principal: Jill Lucia

jluca@csdo.org

Secretary: Ana Kelley

akelley@csdo.org

Website:

www.stagnesconcord.com

Reflections on the Holy Family – from a family which tries to be holy, but seldom makes it.

I have always related to the Holy Family (Joseph, Mary, and the child Jesus), especially to Mary. I think women frequently pray to Mary, because as a mother, we feel certain that she shared some of our same anxieties – particularly worries about our children.

In today's gospel reading, Mary and Joseph are frantic about their missing 12-year-old son. They assumed he was with friends and family on their return trek from Jerusalem to Nazareth, only to realize he was missing. What mother hasn't gone into panic mode after just a few minutes when her child has wandered off in the store or at a park. When you find them, you don't know whether to hug them or reprimand them. You can relate to how Mary and Joseph must have felt.

I got a late start at motherhood – through circumstances, not planning. As a child, I always envisioned having a devoted spouse and 21 beautiful children (not very realistic, but imaginative). I imagine that Mary had similar dreams as a young girl and that things turned out a bit differently than she anticipated. My first son was born one week before Christmas, and I remember spending Christmas Day that year crying for poor Mary who had her baby in a stable, instead of a hospital, and who didn't have wet wipes or a diaper service. (Yes, I was a bit hormonal.) But she had Joseph to take care of them, and I imagine she trusted him, like I trusted my husband would watch out for us. And we all had God watching over us, and we all trusted Him.

Throughout the years Mary and Joseph would have been the primary examples for Jesus to follow and give Him his moral bearing during His formative years. I was very blessed in that I was able to stay home with my children when they were young, to show them how to behave, and to share my values and faith. We were able to send them to Catholic schools to further strengthen the foundation of their morals and religion. As parents, we have always chosen to be active in our children's activities, helping with team sports and being leaders in Scouting. As adolescents and teenagers, my boys spent many weekends camping with my husband, enjoying nature, and learning how to take care of the environment. I imagine Joseph spent a lot of time with Jesus, too, teaching him how to be a carpenter, probably taking him fishing, and sharing stories of His heritage.

Our children are now young adults, and the anxieties are still there. When our children have illnesses, we worry about them. We worry about paying for college. We worry that they won't find good jobs. We worry about the climate, violence, and the unstable political situations in the world. Things we once ignored or took for granted – we started worrying about once we had children.

And I worry about their faith. They are on their own spiritual journey now. It's time to let go of them, trust in the seeds we have sown, and let the Spirit continue to lead them on their faith journey. I can't even begin to imagine what Mary went through at the time Jesus started His ministry. He was going against the leaders of his church (synagogue). Why couldn't he be a good Jewish boy and start His own family, make her a grandmother? But she trusted God – and so must we.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year – Donna Roberts

Faith and Spirituality

DAILY MASS IN THE CHAPEL

Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM. (Communion Service on Wed.)

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION - Chapel 24/7
Contact Sumner or Veronica Peery at 827-0916 for scheduling.

FOR ADULT LEARNING:

SCRIPTURE SHARING - Thursday 9:30 a.m. in the Ministry Ctr.

BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center.

FOR MINISTRY:

PRAYER TREE - a ministry of people who pray specifically for those who are ill. Please notify the parish office if you or a member of your family are in, or going into, the hospital.

HELPING HANDS: Please call **Joanne Doorack** at **798-1735**.

MARTINEZ SHELTER MEALS: Please call **Yvonne Mennel:** **925-200-6716** or **ymennel@yahoo.com**.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

Please contact the **St. Vincent de Paul Hotline** at **(925) 689-0838, Ext. 250**.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK: Please call **Naomi** **(925) 798-5592**.

CARING HANDS-JOHN MUIR HEALTH:

Contact **Linda Goobin** at **925-952-2999**.

SCRIPTURE SHARING—Thursdays 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Ministry Center—New Study starting January 7, Series 2, The Pentateuch—Genesis to Numbers. For information, please call Ruth Redding at 925-370-2349 or Burt Hayes at 925-680-1075.

BIBLE STUDY—Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Ministry Center—New Scripture Study “A Biblical Walk with Mary” begins January 13. To sign up or for information, e-mail Deacon Bill at deaconbill3@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Our Parish Finance Council has budgeted \$30,000 for this year’s Christmas collection. We ask that each household be generous in giving to this year’s collection to help with our parish finances.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity.

OTHER COLLECTIONS

We will be changing our collection for Religious Education and Diocesan Assessment. These collections will now be quarterly instead of monthly.

SPECIAL LITURGY REQUEST FORM

If you are requesting a special liturgy be scheduled, please make sure that you use the most recent form revised on September 2013 and discard all old forms dated earlier than September 2013. If you do not have the new form, please make sure to stop by the Ministry Center and ask for one. The new form has added information on the back of the form which must be filled out. Old forms will no longer be processed. Thank you for your assistance.
—The Liturgy Committee

PRAYER REQUESTS

As the number of prayer requests have grown and people seldom let us know when to remove them, in the new year we will delete names from the list below that have been on longer than 3 months. Please let us know if you wish to restore them. Thank you!

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING

<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Spencer Allen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>George Conlow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Francisco Garcia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rosalia Messina</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gina G. Rubin</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ben Andersen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nancy K. Cox</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Theresa Gartner</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Judy Mulders</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stella Ruybalid</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kay Andersen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rose Viagi Cuinonez</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jack Gearing</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Evangeline Narag</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bridgid Ryan</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Nicholas Anthony</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Fred DaSilva</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Guy Grace</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rodolfo Padilla</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Maria San Miguel</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ron Artale</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dave Dewan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Josephine Grove</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Gelacio Pangilinan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Elizabeth Santos</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mary Lou Austria</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Christopher Doorack</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Jax Grundmann</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carol Peters</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Louie Sison</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Camille Bainbridge</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pauline Elcenko</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Judy Guardino</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rich Peters</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Josephine Stolz</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Shelia Barisof</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sal Escano</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Suzanne Klassen</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rose Potavin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Connie Torrisi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>John Bedecarre</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Juanita Estrella</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ethel Kimball</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mary Pulliam</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Juner Valencia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Maggie Bedecarre</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Marietta Finnegan</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Joseph Mallon</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Joe Riccobuono</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mary Williams</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Maureen Brophy</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>John Fitzpatrick</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Evelyn Martin</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Consie Roberts</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Ronald Yancey</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Marcia Carter</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Amia Garcia</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Marv McKean</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Amador Rodriguez</i>	

Please call the Church office when your name no longer needs to be on this prayer list.

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 26, 2015

5:00 p.m. Doris Rygh—Repose
Richard Fiscus—Repose
Rosalie Messina—Special Intention

Sunday, December 27, 2015

7:00 a.m. Joshua Belmonte—Repose
Margaret Bausch—Repose
Louis Ferrari—Repose
9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
10:45 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose
Robert Becmer—Repose
Torivio Roma—Special Intention
5:00 p.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
Olga Ferrando—Repose
Carolyn Eller—Special Intention

Monday, December 28, 2015

8:00 a.m. Brother Stephen Cox—Repose

Tuesday, December 29, 2015

8:00 a.m. Al Atchison—Repose
Luz Simisim—Special Intention

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, December 31, 2015

8:00 a.m. Laura Deramirez—Repose

Friday, January 1, 2016

9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Saturday, January 2, 2016

8:00 a.m. Ed Joaquin—Repose
5:00 p.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Sal & Irene LoGrasso—Repose
Fernando Cuenco—Repose

Sunday, January 3, 2016

7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
9:00 a.m. Rosalia Messina—Special Intention
10:45 a.m. Cy Coenen—Repose
Ed Joaquin—Repose
Leora Jeffords—Repose
5:00 p.m. Lynn Howard—Repose
Mr. & Mrs. Andrea Moresco—Repose
Mr. & Mrs. Armando Ferraro—Repose

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, December 27, 2015

**Tickets on Sale after Mass for Crab Dinner
Hospitality after all Masses**

8:00 a.m. Couples for Christ—Cauchi Hall

Monday, December 28, 2015

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

Tuesday, December 29, 2015—

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church

Wednesday, December 30, 2015

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice—Church

Thursday, December 31, 2015

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

Friday, January 1, 2016

**Holy Day of Obligation
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Church Office Closed**

9:00 a.m. Friday Mass—Church

Saturday, January 2, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church

THE NAME FOR GOD

Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children.—William Makepeace Thackeray

FAMILY LIFE

Family life is sacred, but it is not without trial. Perhaps this is the most important message we can glean from today's readings. If Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can trip up sometimes—can disconnect—then we shouldn't find it surprising when such things happen to us as well. And parents everywhere (children, too) can probably relate to—and take some solace in—the Gospel's account of Mary and Joseph after Jesus explained why he stayed behind in the temple. They heard his words, Luke tells us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" (Luke 2:50). Amen! Nevertheless, Jesus does go back home with them, and continues to thrive under their care.

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Parish News and Activities



STARS January Meeting—The next meeting of the St. Agnes Retired Seniors will be on Tuesday, January 5, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. This luncheon meeting will be a potluck. Attendees are asked to bring a main dish, a side dish, a salad or a desert. All seniors and guests are invited to attend. For further information, contact Bob or Sandi Rigor at 925-682-0387 or the Parish Office.

CRAB & TRI-TIP DINNER

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus
Saturday, January 9, 2016

No-host Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.

Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.

Price: \$50 each

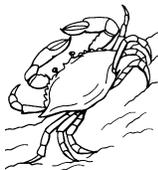
Children (4-12) \$5—no crab; Under 3 - No charge

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses as well as at the Ministry Center.

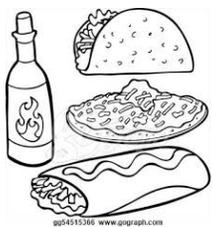
No tickets will be sold at the door or after January 3.

For information, Call Sumner Peery at 510-376-0326, e-mail:

sumnerpeery@yahoo.com or



LA MORITA MEXICO YOUTH MISSION



Save the Date: Enjoy the traditional Mexico Dinner on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 6 pm in the church hall.

What's new? We have a new name, the La Morita Mexico Youth Mission, and we will be sponsored by our new non-profit corporation instead of the Oakland Diocese and St. Agnes.

What's still the same? Great food, lots of fun, local youth and their adult sponsors still raising funds to build homes in Tijuana during Easter week!

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since!

Many New Year's customs have pagan roots, like the British "First Footer" tradition. The idea is that the first person setting foot into your house in the new year determines the luck for the year ahead. The ideal first footer was not a bit like old Pope Sylvester, but rather a tall, dark-haired man carrying the right gift. A handsome first footer meant the year ahead would be pleasant, and if he carried bread or a shovel of coal there would be food and warmth in the future. Who will be your household's first footer?

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day—9:00 am Mass
- 5 STARS Luncheon—11:00 am
- 9 Crab Dinner, Knights of Columbus—6:00 pm
- 21 Feast of St. Agnes, School Mass 1:30 pm
- 23 Mexico Dinner—6:00 pm
- 31 Catholic School Week—Celebration with School at 9:00 am Mass

Community Activities

Act of Mercy for the Year of Mercy

The Diocese of Oakland, in partnership with Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Alameda District Attorney's Office, will partner to open a Safe House for minors (11-17) who have been sexually trafficked. The Bay Area is a nationwide hub for Human Trafficking, and these children are the most victimized and vulnerable. Together, we can bring healing, hope and dignity to their lives. In conjunction with the opening of the Safe House, Catholic Charities of the East Bay and the Office of Life and Justice will coordinate a campaign to build awareness and mobilize action in all 84 parishes. If you would like to assist with this work please contact Steve Mullin at smullun@cceb.org or Cristina Hernández at chernandez@oakdiocese.org.

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact:

Eric L. Steckel – Communications Manager
(510) 768-3147, esteckel@cceb.org

or

Steve Mullin – Parish Outreach Manager
(510) 768-3165, smullin@cceb.org

JUST FOR FUN! Get in the Game: Football & Catholic Mass. Ever thought how the Catholic Mass is like a football game?*(borrowed from biblestudyforcatholics.com)*

Draft Choice—Where to sit in relation to the AC or fan.

Rushing—Picking the shortest Mass.

Endzone—Where we park our rears.

Cornerback—Where too many Catholics sit...in the corner, in the back.

Safety—The stance some priests take when preaching.

Extra Point—The homily that just won't end.

Draw Play—What many kids do during Mass.

Facemask—The look some wear on their faces. (C'mon, we're all sinners, people.)

Timeout—When parents take children out of church.

Passing—Handing the collection basket to the person next to you.

Illegal Use of Hands—Taking money from basket.

Quarterback—Taking change from collection basket.

Holding—What happens during the Our Father.

Touchback—What we do during the sign of peace.

Forward Motion—How we go to communion.

Two Minute Warning—"Bow your heads and ask for God's Blessing."

Blocking—When people stand at the exit, talking to the pastor at the door.

Running Back—What we do after Mass to catch the 1:00 kickoff!

HEALING THE HEART GRIEF WORKSHOP

If you or someone you know is grieving the death of a loved one, you are invited to attend our **Healing the Heart** workshop. **We offer a safe place to express grief and begin healing after the loss of a loved one.** Our grief ministers have also lost someone who is dear to them and know the value of having someone listen with their heart. They recognize that each person's grief is unique.

The death of a loved one is unlike any other loss. Whether the death was sudden and tragic, or one with warning and preparation, the reality of death leaves most of us shocked, confused and sad. These feelings may linger for years.

The grief workshop is a six week program characterized by trust in prayer, open sharing and spirituality. It is a Christ-centered program, but you do not have to be a member of St. Bonaventure's parish or a Catholic to attend. It is open to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The loss may have been a recent one or a long time ago.

The next grief workshop begins Tuesday evening January 26, 2016 at 7:30-9:00pm at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church. Please call Helene Billeci at (925) 686-4870 for more information and to register. There is no cost to attend the workshop, but registration is required by January 14, 2016.

Church: St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

Address: 5562 Clayton Rd. Concord, CA 94521

Phone: (925) 672-5800

E-mail: healingtheheart@stbonaventure.net



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MANY CATHOLIC MEN HAVE ASKED THEMSELVES: SHOULD I CONSIDER THE PRIESTHOOD?



ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY **DISCERNMENT RETREAT WEEKEND** FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JANUARY 15 - 17, 2016

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE DISCERNMENT RETREAT?

- Attend Conferences
- Learn about Seminarian Formation & Priestly Life
- Interact with Priests & Seminarians
- Attend Daily Mass
- Participate in the Liturgy of the Hours
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Time for private prayer
- Tours of the grounds of the Seminary
- Use of the recreational facilities
- All meals and lodging are provided

WHEN

From Friday, January 15 at 12:00 noon
until Sunday, January 17 at 1:00 PM

WHERE

St. Patrick's Seminary & University
320 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

REGISTRATION

Must be a single male, 21 years or older and
sponsored by a priest or recommended by
Father Neal Clemens

Diocese of Oakland Vocation Director
vocations@oakdiocese.org (510) 267-8356

FOR MORE INFORMATION

discernment.retreat@stpsu.org
www.stpsu.org (650) 325-5621



@stpatriksssem

ATTENDANCE DOES NOT IMPLY FURTHER COMMITMENT OR OBLIGATION - THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND