



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Father Johnson Abraham celebrated the 28th anniversary
of his ordination with parishioners at the daily Mass
in the chapel on January 7.
Happy Anniversary, Father!

January 17, 2016

PARISH OFFICE 3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519

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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

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Bulletins

Please submit your articles to:
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Pastoral Council President

David Wood
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SCHOOL OFFICE

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Principal: Jill Lucia

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Secretary: Ana Kelley

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Dear Friends,

In today's gospel, we hear of the marriage feast at Cana. Mary, the mother of Jesus was invited, as well as Jesus and his disciples. As the wedding feast went on, the wine ran out. Mary went out of her way to intercede with Jesus, and Jesus performed what John tells us was his very first miracle.

If this was Jesus' very first miracle, how then did Mary know that Jesus could do it? Good mothers know their children. They know the hidden talents and potentialities of their children. There are many young men and women who have gone on to accomplish great things in life because their mothers believed in them and encouraged them.

A more fascinating question arising from the story is this: Did Mary know all those thirty years she lived with Jesus that she was living with a wonder-worker and yet never did she ask him to multiply her bread, turn the water on her dining table into wine, or double her money to make ends meet? How come she never asked Jesus to use his miraculous power to help her out, but she was quick to ask him to use it to help others? Think of it. For Jesus and Mary the needs of others come first.

Take the case of Jesus. He knew he had this power to perform miracles. But He did not turn some stones into bread and eat, after his forty days of fast. Yet He multiplied bread for his followers. Mary and Jesus, through their actions, are telling us that God's gifts to individuals are not meant primarily for their benefit but for the service of others. That is what St Paul also tells us in the second reading when he enumerates the many different gifts of the Holy Spirit to different persons and adds that **"to each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."** (1 Corinthians 12:6).

Today, then, is a good day to ask ourselves: "What gifts has God given me? Am I using these gifts mainly for my own personal comfort or for the service of others in the community?" Concern for others is the beginning of miracles.

Fr. Johnson

**Sunday Collection for January 10:
General Collection: \$10,135
Building Fund: \$3,032
We thank you for your Stewardship.**

Faith and Spirituality

DAILY MASS IN THE CHAPEL

Monday - Saturday at 8:00 AM. (Communion Service on Wed.)
 Mass at 8:15 on Fridays.

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.

Save the Date!

PARISH RETREAT

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Speaker: Fr. Mark Baron, MIC from the Congregation of the Marians, Stockbridge, MA

Topic: Holy Year of Mercy

Father Baron will speak at all weekend Masses February 6 & 7.

For more information, contact Pat Jung at 639-7271,
 Diana Pascual at 671-3491 or
 Marie Rojo at 689-8414

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

To all the thoughtful people in the St. Agnes Family, thank you for responding to the request for funds to purchase five airline tickets to bring Ann Kihagi's family to America, ending a three-year separation. Because of your generosity, we were able to buy tickets for travel two days prior to the expiration of their travel documents. You have truly shown the spirit of the Year of Mercy by welcoming a stranger and opening the doors of St. Agnes to Ann and her family.

Changes to Collections...

Starting in 2016, the Finance Committee has decided to change the frequency of the Religious Education and Diocesan Assessment collections. In the past, these collections have been monthly Special Collections. Starting this year, these collections will be converted to quarterly Second Collections. The Religious Education collections have been scheduled for the first weekend in January, April, July and November. The Diocesan Assessment collections have been scheduled for the last weekend in February, June, September and November. Thank you for continued support to these important collections.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The annual communal celebration of the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held at the Cathedral on February 6, 2016, at 11:00 a.m. Each year, near the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the sick and the infirmed from throughout the Diocese are invited to receive this sacrament. Anyone in need of Anointing of the Sick and their caregivers are welcome to this celebration.

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING

□	□	□	□
□ Spencer Allen	□ Marcia Carter	□ John Fitzpatrick	□ Rosalia Messina
□ Ben Andersen	□ George Conlow	□ Amia Garcia	□ Evangeline Narag
□ Kay Andersen	□ Rose Viagi Cuinonez	□ Guy Grace	□ Carol Peters
□ Ron Artale	□ Dave Dewan	□ Ann Jones	□ Rich Peters
□ Mary Lou Austria	□ Pauline Elcenko	□ Suzanne Klassen	□ Joanna Poplawska
□ John Bedecarre	□ Marietta Finnegan	□ Marv McKean	□ Mary Pulliam
□	□	□	□
□	□	□	□

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

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 16, 2016

5:00 p.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Louis Ferrari—Repose
Rosalia Messina—Special Intention

Sunday, January 17, 2016

7:00 a.m. Chachi Abraham—Repose
Mrs. & Mrs. Pacchetti—Repose
9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
10:45 a.m. Yvette Farrington—Repose
5:00 p.m. Jose & Priscilla Manilac—Repose
Elizabeth Roberts—Repose
Antonio Yamamoto—Repose

Monday, January 18, 2016

8:00 a.m. Carmen Santos—Repose

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Elizabeth Roberts—Repose

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, January 21, 2016

8:00 a.m.

Friday, January 22, 2016

8:15 a.m. Lena Hernandez—Repose
Veronica Hernandez—Repose

Saturday, January 23, 2016

8:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. Richard Fiscus—Repose
Mary Navin—Repose
Rosalia Messina—Special Intention

Sunday, January 24, 2016

7:00 a.m. Edward McCarthy—Special Intention
9:00 a.m. Minnie H. Zelnik—Repose
For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
10:45 a.m. Marcial Penaranda—Repose
Gloria Rueca Mayor—Repose
Joe Vibal—Repose
5:00 p.m. Marilou & Marco Villanueva -
Special Intention

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, January 17, 2016

Tickets on Sale after Mass for Mexico Dinner
Fair Trade Sales after all Weekend Masses
6:00 p.m. Life Teen—Cauchi Hall

Monday, January 18, 2016

Church Office Closed for MLK Holiday

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:00 a.m. Tax Aide Training—all day in A.R.
7:00 p.m. Fil-Am Meeting—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus—Church

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Schola Practice

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice—Church
7:00 p.m. Bible Study—A.R.
7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—G.P.

Thursday, January 21, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Scripture Sharing—A.R.
1:30 p.m. Feast of St. Agnes Mass—Church
3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts—A.R.
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir—Music Room
6:00 p.m. ICF Meeting—Cauchi Hall
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir—Church

Friday, January 22, 2016

8:15 a.m. Friday Mass—Church
6:00 p.m. Faith Growth Meeting—G.P.
7:00 p.m. Fil Am Meeting—A.R.

Saturday, January 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
6:00 p.m. Mexico Youth Mission Dinner

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday: Julian Calendar Theophany (Epiphany)
Wednesday: St. Fabian; St. Sebastian
Thursday: St. Agnes
Friday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children
Saturday: St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope;
Blessed Virgin Mary

Parish News and Activities



STARS February Meeting—The next meeting of the St. Agnes Retired Seniors will be on Tuesday, February 2, at 11:00 a.m. in the Church Hall. This luncheon meeting will be a catered event to celebrate Mardi Gras.

Lunch will be catered by Parma Delicatessen and the menu will include Meat Lasagna, Veggie Lasagna, Green Salad, Bread & Butter and Dessert. Cost is \$11 per person.

Wear your Mardi Gras masks and beads and invite a friend for a great lunch. All seniors and guests are invited to attend.

RSVP by January 26, 2016, to Gerry Rugani at 686-3142. Make check payable to Robert Rugani and mail it to him at 1701 Pepperwood Ct., Concord, CA 94521.

**Join the St. Agnes STARS at the
GRATON CASINO & RESORT
Tuesday, April 19, 2016
\$28 per person**

American Stage Tours Presents for STARS:

9:00 a.m. Depart St. Agnes Church for Rohnert Park

10:30 a.m. Arrive at Graton Casino and Resort.

Graton Casino is the region's newest full-amenity gaming resort, featuring 3,000 slot machines, 144 table games, live poker room, and 13 award-winning dining options, upscale and casual dining. Casino bonus package includes:

\$10 slot play and \$5 food credit or

\$15 match play and \$5 food credit

2:30 p.m. Depart Graton Casino for trip home

4:00 p.m. Approximate arrival at St. Agnes

All passengers must be over 21 years of age, and must have a valid, government-issued photo ID.

For reservations, please contact Bob Rigor at (925) 202-6239.

Fair Trade Sales 2016!

Another year of Fair Trade Sales coming up for you in 2016! January 16 and 17 are the dates! Our table is stocked with Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolates just for your delight!

Thank You, St. Agnes, for your support of the small farmers in 2015. Your purchases enabled us to make donations to Mary Mother of God Church in Russia, to support a student in Fr. Bosco's Boys School in India, and to St. Agnes Lifeteen program.

Our supplier, Equal Exchange, sends their Christmas message of Thanks to St. Agnes "for your continued support of small farmers. We couldn't do it without you! From your friends at Equal Exchange."

"Coffee, Tea and Chocolates - they're laced with good taste!" Thanks, St. Agnes, once again.

SURPRISES

Life is full of surprises, some pleasant, some not. The scriptures are filled with stories of God's surprises cropping up when they are least expected: younger children obtaining the inheritance; the lowliest being seated highest up; an itinerant preacher, killed like a criminal, exalted to eternal, heavenly glory.

Anybody who has planned a wedding or similar event knows that they are filled with opportunities for surprises. For the bridegroom in today's Gospel story, who has no direct contact with Jesus, the pleasant surprise came because somebody else paid attention and had faith in Jesus.

We may think that the point of today's familiar story of the wedding at Cana is that when we have faith in Jesus, our lives will be pleasantly changed. A Christian, however, needs to have a broader perspective and realize that to have faith in Christ means that somebody's life—not necessarily our own—will be surprised for the better.

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS JANUARY

- 17-18 Fair Trade Sales after all Masses
- 21 Feast of St. Agnes, School Mass 1:30 pm
- 23 Mexico Dinner—6:00 pm
- 24 Hospitality after all Sunday Masses
- Friends & Family Donut Mass—9:00 am
- 31 Catholic School Week—Celebration with School at 9:00 am Mass

FRIENDS AND FAMILY DONUT MASS NEXT WEEKEND: Do you like donuts? Do you like spending time with friends and family. Then don't miss this month's Friends and Family Donut Mass!! Join St. Agnes School and Parish families for a family-driven Mass, followed by donut hospitality and games outside. Invite your kids, grandparents, godparents, and neighbors to see what a loving and vibrant community can be found at St. Agnes. The School will be hosting a monthly Friends and Family Donut Mass. We will also be asking for cash donations so that we can offer donuts as part of hospitality for all 9:00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Community Activities

LA MORITA MEXICO YOUTH MISSION

Our Annual Mexican Dinner will be next **Saturday, January 23,**

at 6:00 pm at St. Agnes Church Hall. You can buy tickets today after all Masses, or order them at jdwalton@astound.net or **925-212-7679**. The cost will be \$20 a person and \$65 for a family.



We have a new name and are under the sponsorship of our new non-profit corporation, the La Morita Mexico Youth Mission, but the wonderful food and our mission of working with the Oblate Missionaries of Immaculate Mary in Tijuana to build homes remain unchanged!

Come have fun and support local youth and their adult sponsors as we raise funds to build homes for needy families.

FREE FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR THE YEAR 2015

AARP's Tax-Aide program offers **free** Federal and State Income tax preparation to middle- and low-income taxpayers, with special attention to seniors.

All AARP's Tax-Aide counselors are IRS and State trained, tested, and certified.

For appointments at the Concord United Methodist Church, 1645 West Street, Concord, call **925-405-5234** (leave your name & number, and an appointment scheduler will return your call).

Appointments are available **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** starting February 3, 2016, between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Bring all your 2015 tax information, Photo ID, Social Security Cards and Health Care information for everyone on your return, and a copy of your 2014 Federal and State returns.

For other Tax-Aide locations, call 925-726-3199.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Although our tradition carries a long memory of marriage as a sacrament, it may surprise you to learn that for nearly eleven centuries, there was no single wedding ceremony approved for use in the Church. While we have evidence of priests blessing marriages as early as the second century, in the early period church leaders relied on civil authorities to manage marriage for everyone in society. In most cases, society yielded its authority to sanction marriage to the male heads of households.

From ancient times, marriage had been a family affair, managed by the father of the family, who acted as priest and guardian of family tradition. Each head wanted to keep the family gods alive, and so he would arrange for brides for his sons, paying a "bride price" as compensation for the loss of a skilled household worker. As creepy as that sounds, it was a step up from the kidnapping practice of earlier years. Even after the kidnapping raids stopped, the customs remained. Every wedding contained the ritualized kidnapping of the bride, the husband abducting his bride from the festivities, carrying her over the threshold to prevent her father's gods from following her into her new religion. There, he fed her a piece of "sacred cake," initiating her into a new way of life. It's fascinating to see how customs endure, long after we have completely rejected the values and attitudes they originally expressed!

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



St. Agnes children participated in the Baby Jesus Mass on Christmas Eve. Jesus was God's gift to the world, and these children are His gift to our families and this community.