



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

PENTACOST SUNDAY



May 15, 2016

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, Monday-Thursday

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

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Pastoral Council President

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SCHOOL OFFICE

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“As the Father has sent me, so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

(John 20: 21-22)

This passage recalls the words of the Book of Genesis: *the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a human being. (Gen 2:7)*

Just as Adam’s life came from God, so now the disciples’ new spiritual life comes from Jesus. The connection to Genesis would have certainly not been lost on those familiar with the first book of the Hebrew bible. There is also a direct link to spiritual renewal of Israel after the Babylonian exile. Ezekiel became a prophet in Babylon, and his influence led some authors to call him the “Father of Judaism.”

What does this have to do with us? Transition. New life. How about becoming a newly inspired Christian? For Jews, the move to embrace Jesus would have needed these images of God moving in new ways. “See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life.” (Ez. 37:5)

What will it take this Pentecost to breathe “new life” into our faith? A new activity? A new way of praying? A kinder, gentler way of being? This is something that needs to be prayed for—no quick answers. At Pentecost we stop to recognize a unique happening. There is an *intimacy* with God. The sound of breathing may best describe this intimacy. The power of the Holy Spirit is as close to each and every believer as is every breath we take, thousands of times a day. Today we ask: can we feel it? Are we open to this intimacy or keeping God at a distance?

When we draw close we are invited to something called *kenosis*. In Christian theology, *kenosis* is the “self-emptying” of one’s own will and becoming entirely receptive to God’s divine will. Ah, now we might be getting nervous—letting go is not always our strong point.

But when we offer the Holy Spirit a receptive heart, great new things can happen. Maybe this is the year we do more to become *holy*. None of us would describe ourselves as holy. But we can ask the Holy Spirit to help us grow in the love that makes us truly holy. In addition to being our Advocate, our Counselor, the Paraclete is also our *Sanctifier*.

Perhaps the idea of being sanctified is seen only through the eyes of piety, of how much time a person spends in prayer or worship. But we might also see it as the draw to acts of charity for others. Acts of charity contain all the virtues of love. That is why St. Paul would write to the Corinthians that we gain nothing without love – a self-giving love that models Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit. I need you. And our world needs you more than ever.

Deacon Bill

Pentecost Sunday—May 15, 2016

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

— *1 Corinthians 12:13a*



Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 14, 2016

5:00 p.m. Doris Rygh—Repose
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Paolecchi—Repose
Holy Cross Sisters—Special Intention

Sunday, May 15, 2016

7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
9:00 a.m. “Mike” O’Gorman—Repose
Margaret N. Archuleta—Repose
Brigide Digon Maniti—Repose
10:45 a.m. Sal & Irene Lo Grasso—Repose
Angelo Messina—Repose
Santo Toribio Romo—Special Int.
5:00 p.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
Lot Sangalang Castro—Repose
Alex & Millie Pletkin—Special Int.

Monday, May 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
Telesfora Legaspi—Repose
Hazel Simisim—Special Intention

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

8:00 a.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
Pascuala Duldulao—Repose
Josh Belmonte—Repose

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, May 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
Tomas Legaspi, Jr.—Repose
Carmen Santos—Repose

Friday, May 20, 2016

8:15 a.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose

Saturday, May 21, 2016

5:00 p.m. Juana Cuenco—Repose
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Greenwood—Repose
Mary Garaventa—Repose

Sunday, May 22, 2016

7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased
9:00 a.m. Mary Garaventa—Repose
10:45 a.m. Michael O’Gorman—Repose
Yvette Farrington—Repose
Lot Sangalang Castro—Repose
5:00 p.m. Basilisa Clamucha—Repose

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, May 15, 2016

12:15 p.m. Baptisms
3:00 p.m. Confirmation—Cauchi Hall
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Practice in Church
6:00 p.m. Life Teen—Cauchi Hall
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel

Monday, May 16, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
All Day School Spring Play Practice—Church
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Business
Meeting—Church Hall
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel

Tuesday, May 17, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
All Day School Spring Play Practice—Church
7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel

Wednesday, May 18, 2016

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
All Day School Spring Play Practice—Church
10:30 a.m. Rosary Making—G.P.
6:30 p.m. School Mandatory Parent Meeting -
Church
7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—A.R.
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel

Thursday, May 19, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
All Day School Spring Play Practice—Church
9:30 a.m. Scripture Sharing—A.R.
3:00 p.m. Cub Scout Meeting—A.R.
6:00 p.m. Children’s Choir Practice
6:30 p.m. ICF Meeting—Cauchi Hall
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel
7:30 p.m. Communications Meeting—E.R.
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

Friday, May 20, 2016

8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
All Day School Spring Play Practice—Church
6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Novena—Flores de Mayo—Chapel

Saturday, May 21, 2016

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
9:00 a.m. ICF Spaghetti Lunch
5:00 p.m. Flores de Mayo Mass, followed by
Reception in the Church Hall



The St. Agnes Retired Seniors will hold their final luncheon of the summer on Tuesday, June 7, at 11:00 AM, in the Church Hall. Very special guest speaker, Edi Birsan will speak on his favorite topic, "Concord History." All St. Agnes seniors and guests are invited to attend and enjoy the lunch and the program.

This is a catered Chinese luncheon from New Lim's Garden, to celebrate the "Year of the Monkey." Reservations must be made by contacting Eiko As-selin at 825-3982, not later than Tuesday, May 31. The cost of the lunch is \$11.50.

**ST. AGNES COOKBOOKS
(We need your recipes!)**

The St. Agnes Cookbook Committee is still collecting favorite recipes through May 31. Forms are on the Welcome Table. You can write out your recipe or even tape a copy to the form and submit it to the box on the Welcome Table or the Ministry Center. You may also submit your recipes on-line at: www.sacookbook2016@gmail.com.

We will have the printed cookbooks for sale this fall. You can even pre-order and have them wrapped for Christmas. Questions? Contact Sally Chavez at 925-687-9317 or e-mail gilsal2@sbcglobal.net.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL BUNDLE SUNDAY

Save the date for St. Vincent de Paul's Bundle Sunday on June 4 and 5. The St. Agnes conference will be sponsoring a Bundle Sunday before and after all masses the weekend of June 4 and 5. There will be a trailer in the parking lot behind the church to collect your donations of clothing, bedding, towels and linens. Bags will be distributed after Masses on May 28 and May 29. If you wish to donate large items such as furniture or automobiles, please call St. Vincent de Paul at 925-439-5060 and arrange for a pickup. Your continued generosity in assisting our mission of helping those in need is very much appreciated. If you or anyone you know could use help, call the St. Agnes office at 925-689-0838 and leave a message for "St. Vincent de Paul" at extension 250.

VOCATION CAMP

The Office of Vocation is once again hosting a Quo Vadis Camp on July 10-13 at the Oakland Diocesan Youth Retreat House, Casa San Felipe in Lafayette.

Quo Vadis Camp aims to assist young men to recognize and respond to their own vocation invitation from our Lord and grow in their relationship with Christ. There will be priests, seminarians, and other young men gathered together for these days. Activities will include a great deal of fun, prayer, games, music, discussions and talks.

Please spread the word and invite young men ages 13-18 yrs. old to join this event. The fee is \$50 and financial assistance will be available to those who need it.

Please contact me at nclemens@oakdiocese.org, phone: 510-267-8345 or Cielo Branco atcbranco@oakdiocese.org, phone: 510-267-835 for more information and for registration.

A PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT

Spirit of Jesus,
poured out in flames of fire upon your disciples
on the day of Pentecost,
we pray to you:
Set afire the hearts of your faithful
so that they will announce
in all the languages of the world
the wonders of the salvation of God.

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSP, copyright © 1976, 1981, Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p.182

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
MAY 2016**

- 12-20 Novena for the Blessed Mother, 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel
- 21 Festival Devotion to Blessed Mother, 6:30p.m.
- 21-22 Hospitality Weekend
- 22 Children's Donut Mass, 10:45 a.m.
- 26 Spring Play (School)

Ten Reasons Why Catholics Don't Evangelize by Fr. Dwight Longnecker

1. **Cultural Catholicism** – A lot of American Catholics regard their religion like Jews do. It's something you're born into. They scratch their head at the idea that someone would convert to Catholicism. "What, you mean you *chose* to be Catholic?" This is because they're Polish or Irish or Italian or Lebanese or French. They're Catholic in their bloodstream. It's something you are, not something you do so much. I remember encountering a French woman in South Carolina who wanted her baby baptized. I asked her what parish she went to. She looked at me with bewilderment. "But I am French! It is different in France! Nobody goes to church, but we are very Catholic!" Cultural Catholics never imagine that they should evangelize. "So I'm supposed to make you an Italian?" You see what I mean.

2. **Over Sacramentalization** – That's just a long word way of saying that Catholics put *sooo* much emphasis on the sacraments that it is difficult for many of them to see that in and through and below the sacramental system is a genuine encounter of the person with Jesus Christ, risen ascended and glorified. Because you have to be a Catholic to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and confession, and because for so many Catholics that is the only way to practice their faith, the sacraments actually keep them from evangelizing. "I can't bring my Baptist neighbor to Mass. She wouldn't know what was going on and besides, she can't come forward for communion anyway." This is a good point. If you invite a neighbor or family member to Mass, then tell them they can't receive the Lord, the whole exercise is likely to collapse into them feeling excluded.

3. **RCIA** – What is that? A company that used to make electronics? The whole RCIA system is often cumbersome and user-unfriendly. If you have someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic you have to tell them about RCIA which starts in the fall (so what do you do when they come in April?) and goes through for months until Easter. Meanwhile Pastor Bob at the local Protestant church says, "Come to church. Sign up. You're in." Proper catechesis is necessary, but a more creative and flexible approach would help.

4. **Church or Jesus?** – Too many Catholics confuse evangelization with getting people to join the Catholic Church. The primary task of evangelization is meeting people where they are and introducing them to Jesus Christ. It is possible to do this without bringing in the Catholic Church with its whole devotional and sacramental system. It is possible to talk to someone in need and say, "You need to get right with God. You need to say, 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God have mercy on me a sinner!'" That's the first step." After they make that decision they can start to attend church and learn about the sacramental system and how to continue their relationship with Christ as a Catholic. The reason so many Catholics have a problem with this is because they are unsure whether they themselves have ever had that fundamental, rock bottom, first step conversion transaction.

5. **Social Gospel** – A lot of Catholics think the church's primary way of evangelizing people is by helping them. It's true that an important aspect of evangelization is social welfare. Feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, healing the sick, bringing justice to the oppressed—all of that is good stuff and must not be neglected. It is also a powerful witness to the authenticity of the Catholic message. However, just doing that isn't enough. We need to give people the Bread of Life as well as a sandwich. Many Catholics would never breathe a word about their faith, but are busy in the soup kitchen. Soup kitchen is good. Actively sharing the faith is also good and necessary.

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Ten Reasons Why Catholics Don't Evangelize by Fr. Dwight Longnecker

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6. **Ignorance** – too many Catholics simply don't know their faith well enough to share it.

7. **Professional Catholics** – For so long everything in the Catholic Church was done by the “professionals.” Priests, bishops, sisters and brothers were the ones who ran the parishes, dioceses, schools and colleges. They were the ones who were trained to do all the “church work.” Lay people were there to pray, pay and obey...or not. But this clericalism still dogs the church. The people in the pew don't take ownership and don't feel it is their job to evangelize.

8. **Slack Use of Resources** – I should specify. There is no lack of resources. In fact, there are more resources than we can handle. The resources are professionally produced, orthodox, relevant, attractive and dynamic. It's not the lack of resources as much as it is the lack of people who will use the resources. How many good Catholic videos languish on the shelves because people just can't be bothered to watch them and share them? How many books, pamphlets, booklets and training courses gather dust because no one can be bothered to use them? The same for websites, diocesan seminars, seminary training days etc., etc., etc. There are plenty of good resources.

9. **Indifferentism** – This is the widespread feeling (and teaching) that all the Christian denominations are pretty much the same and it doesn't really matter which one you go to. It's consumerism. Choose the one you like best. This indifferentism is widespread in our culture and widespread in the Catholic Church. Furthermore, it extends to non-Christian religions and no religion at all. Huge numbers of Catholics think it is perfectly okay if a person attends not only another Christian church, but follows a different religion. “We're all climbing the same mountain. We're just going up different paths!” That is a load of codswallop. Any casual study of the different world religions will show that they are not all equal. Some are superior to others simply from a human perspective. Likewise with the different Christian denominations. This is sentimental clap trap.

Do people who say this really believe it? No. Otherwise they would have to agree that a rattlesnake-handling Pentecostal from Kentucky is equal to St Francis. Would they look at the wild eyed Westboro Baptist crowd or an anti-Semitic, racist Catholic fundamentalist and say benignly, “Well, we're all pretty much the same. They've simply chosen a different path up the mountain.” And yet indifferentism is rife in the American Catholic Church, and that's why Catholics don't evangelize: they don't think they need to.

10. **Universalism** – The ugly twin sister of Indifferentism is Universalism—the teaching that God loves everyone so much that he would never send anyone to hell. In other words, in the end, everybody will be saved. Why bother if we're all going to get into heaven simply because God is such a nice Santa Claus type figure in the sky who will make sure everyone succeeds? Like indifferentism, the Catholic Church is riddled with universalism and it's cowardly half breed sister semi-universalism. This is the belief that there is a hell and there might just be a few people there, but there won't be many and maybe even the ones who are there will serve their prison sentence and be allowed into heaven after all. Universalism is cowardly, un-Scriptural and un-Christian. It doesn't take a Thomas Aquinas to figure out that this teaching means not only the death of evangelization, but eventually the death of the church.