



St. Agnes Catholic Community

Our Mission Statement: To know Christ and make Him known by welcoming all, teaching and sharing the Faith, and providing worship and spiritual growth opportunities and serving those in need.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today we celebrate the Feast of St. Agnes

January 21, 2018

PARISH OFFICE 3966 Chestnut Ave. Concord, CA 94519

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Office Hours: 9:00am - Noon * 1:00pm - 4:30pm, Monday-Thursday

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Instagram: [stagneparishconcord](https://www.instagram.com/stagneparishconcord) * **Twitter:** [@stagneparish](https://twitter.com/stagneparish)

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5PM

Sunday: 7AM, 9AM, 11AM & 5PM

Daily Mass in the Chapel at 8AM

Monday - Saturday

(Communion Service on Wed.)

Adoration in the Chapel Daily

6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Confessions: Saturday 3:30PM

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham
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Deacons

Bill Drobick—deaconbill3@gmail.com
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Secretary-Religious Education

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Bulletins

Please submit your articles to:
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Pastoral Council Chair

Linus Farias
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SCHOOL OFFICE

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Principal: Jill Lucia
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Secretary: Ana Kelley
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www.stagnesconcord.com

Meaning of Life for Us Christians

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus starts his public preaching by calling people to repent. Of course, repenting means a change of mind and heart so as to make things right. To repent is to push away distractions and focus on God's will in our lives. For many in life, by the time we are of age to listen to God fully, our minds are already corrupted by what society tells us to do. Therefore, God's true message is warped because secular messages define who we are. The first followers of Jesus easily fell under this notion.

Think about it - Simon and Andrew were established. As was common in those days, they came from a line of fishermen. We know this because the Gospel tells us that James and John who were also called, left their father Zebedee in the boat to follow Jesus. In an instant these first four disciples had to change their whole life's purpose to follow a stranger who was basically unknown to them. No doubt each of them in their own way struggled about their meaning of life. They were meant to be fishermen. It was a decent living, and their hard work allowed many to have food on the table. They had to change their minds, the very minds that give them stability. Somehow they had to know, perhaps by the power of the spirit, that following Jesus would mean peace of mind.

Whenever I hear these stories on "the call," I can't help but think of my own journey to priesthood. Mine is very different than many to serve in priesthood or religious life. Mine was made up for me, no—not by my parents, but by God. I was four years old when the moment struck. I was at Mass with my parents. Those days Mass was in Latin. Of course I had no idea what the priest was saying, but he turned from the tabernacle to the congregation with host in his hands, announcing, "This is the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (translation from Latin). I knew at that moment that was what I was going to be. Truth of the matter is, except for a couple of years dating in high school, that thought never left me. God put me in that mindset. To this day, 27 years later, I still ask, "Why me? I am not worthy!!" Yet when we look at the disciples Jesus chose, none were worthy. My question is no longer "Why me?" Rather, the question has become "Why now so few?" No only why are there so few vocations, but also what happened to the priesthood of Jesus Christ which comes with Baptism?

Christians have lost the meaning of life. Many famous people in the limelight talk about peace on earth, loving one another, and acts of kindness, but God is never mentioned. I don't want this to be understood wrongly, but somehow many who can take credit for the good they do, never honor God for the reason they do it. Secular society credits themselves for what God gave them to begin with. Therefore, the good they do is short-lived, and people go on suffering, wars continue, acts of kindness become less, and love of neighbor ceases.

I could not think of my life being anything more than a priest. It always amazes me that I am allowed in peoples' lives where no one else can go, whether in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Sacrament of the Sick. God has used me in so many ways, but I know it is not me, it is God working through me. I can never give myself credit for what God does in me.

We must all come to the point of realizing God wants to work through us, but often we have become too secular to understand God's power through us. Let us ask the Lord to open our minds and hearts to know what it means to be Christian and sincerely so. Lord, open our minds to hear you in ordinary ways, and know it is you and not me!!

Fr Jeffrey J. Finley, C.P.P.S.

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR JANUARY 14: \$11,636.00

Building Improvement Fund: \$2,061.00

Includes Faith Direct Giving

We thank you for your Stewardship.

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 20, 2018

5:00 p.m. Yvette Farrington—Repose

Sunday, January 21, 2018

7:00 a.m. Theodoro Manalo Clamucha—Repose
Venita Guillory—Repose
Ed McCarthy—Special Intention

9:00 a.m. Hallie Overbey—Repose

11:00 a.m. Maria Tjhia Ai Lian—Repose
Santo Toridio Romo—Repose
Keegan Whaling—Repose

5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living & Deceased

Monday, January 22, 2018

8:00 a.m. Veronica C. Manalang—Repose
Deceased Members of the Downs Family
Deceased Members of the Pialorsi Family

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

8:00 a.m. Consolacion De Los Reyes—Repose
Geronimo De Los Reyes—Repose
Deceased Members of the Zanoni Family

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, January 25, 2018

8:00 a.m. Mary Delores Holt—Repose
Tomas Legaspi, Sr.—Repose
Natividad M. Palicte—Repose

Friday, January 26, 2018

8:15 a.m. Rosi Lexon—Special Intention

Saturday, January 27, 2018

8:00 a.m. Carolyn Thompson—Special Intention

5:00 p.m. Agnes Z. Bassig—Repose

Sunday, January 28, 2018

7:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

9:00 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose
Trish & Ron Ratto—Special Intention

11:00 a.m. Peggy Coenen—Repose
Yvette Farrington—Repose
Virginia Garry—Repose

5:00 p.m. Luela & Joseph Dykes Johnson—Repose

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, January 21, 2018

Hospitality after all Sunday Masses

10:30 a.m. RCIA—A.R.

Monday, January 22, 2018

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass

10:00 a.m. Just Faith—Ministry Center

5:00 p.m. Children's Faith Formation—School

7:00 p.m. EDGE—Cauchi Hall

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel

7:30 p.m. Jim Gill Band Practice—Church

Thursday, January 25, 2018

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

9:30 a.m. Bible Study—A.R.

6:30 p.m. Young Adult Meeting—Cauchi Hall

7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Cenacle #1 Meeting—AR

7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting—EX

Friday, January 26, 2018

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Church

6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel

7:00 p.m. School Talent Show—Church/Hall

Saturday, January 27, 2018

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel

8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church

Fair Trade Offered for Sale after Weekend Masses

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: St. Agnes

Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of
Unborn Children

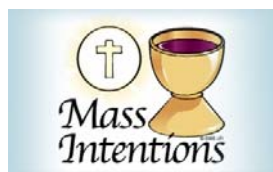
Tuesday: St. Vincent; Saint Marianne Cope

Wednesday: St. Francis de Sales

Thursday: The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

Friday: Ss. Timothy and Titus

Saturday: St. Angela Merici; Blessed Virgin Mary



Parish News and Activities



The next meeting of the St. Agnes Retired Seniors will be a catered luncheon on Tuesday, February 6, at 11:00 AM in the Church Hall. Prior Reservations and prepayment of the luncheon cost of \$12 is due by Feb 1. No payments will be accepted at the door. Please pick up a flyer from the Welcome Table after Mass, or at the Ministry Center during weekday hours. For more information, you may contact Gerry Rugani at 686-3142.

CASINO BUS TRIP

The STARS Spring Casino trip will be on Tuesday, April 17. The bus will depart St. Agnes at 8 AM to Thunder Valley, and will return before 5 PM. This trip fills up quickly, so don't put off reserving your seat. The cost is \$29 each, and a flyer with payment details is available on the Welcome Table or the Ministry Center. All St. Agnes Seniors and guests 21 or over are welcome to come. For more information, you may call Bob Rigor at 925-202-6239.

ENDOW WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Women of all ages are invited to join an Endow study group to read and discuss Pope John Paul II's Letter to Women. This is a great opportunity to build relationships with other Catholic women, and to deepen our understanding of our faith and our call as women. No pre-work or reading outside of class is required. We will meet Friday evenings at 7pm in the Ministry Center for 8 weeks, starting January 26th. Visit store.endowonline.org/bridget-horan-p4062.aspx to register and order your book, or contact bridgethoran@gmail.com for more details.



Stay after Mass this Sunday for a few minutes to partake in Hospitality along with your fellow parishioners. Thank you to our Hospitality Committee who faithfully prepare the food and drinks and serve the members of our faith community on a monthly basis.

FAIR TRADE SALES JANUARY 27-28

Get ready for a treat! The spotlight this month is on our dark, indulgent, extra rich and creamy *Dark Hot Chocolate*, milk free with real ground chocolate in the mix - a perfect drink to warm up these cold January days!



All our **Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Cocoa and Chocolates** are a celebration. They celebrate the connection between our parishioners and small farming communities worldwide. Come to our sales table and celebrate with us! Thank you, St. Agnes!

LA MORITA MEXICAN DINNER

Tickets will be on sale after all Masses January 27-28 and February 3-4 for their Annual Mexican Dinner. Come to St. Bonaventure's Church Hall on Saturday, February 10 and enjoy a wonderful Mexican meal for \$20 a person or \$65 a family. Local youth and their adult sponsors are raising funds again to build homes in Tijuana during Easter week. This is the third year with the new name, La Morita Mexico Youth Mission, and they are under the sponsorship of the new non-profit corporation.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FEBRUARY

- 2 School Mass, 1:30 p.m.
- 3 First Communion Parent Retreat, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 StARS Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.
- 14 Ash Wednesday Mass Times:
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (School) and 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Lenten Soup Meal, 6:00 p.m.
- 23 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Hospitality Weekend
Friends and Family Mass, 11:00 a.m.
- 28 Lenten Soup Meal, 6:00 p.m.

Community Activities



Walk for Life West Coast - Sat. Jan. 27 SF Associated Events—Updated List

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

STANDING UP 4 LIFE RALLY & WALK Oakland; for more info: <https://www.issues4life.org/s4life.html> .

WALK FOR LIFE PRAYER VIGIL **St. Dominic's Church**, 2390 Bush Street, SF, 5:00pm Vespers, 5:30pm Solemn Mass with choir. Bishop Michael Barber, S.J., principal celebrant. 6:30pm Holy Hour with Sacrament of Confession.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE WALK FOR LIFE GALA JW Marriott Union Square, 515 Mason St., SF, 7pm-9pm, Speaker Alan Keys. Tickets: <https://40daysforlife.com/GALA/> .

ALL NIGHT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR LIFE Sts. Peter & Paul, 666 Filbert Street, SF, 8pm til 7am .

CATHOLIC MASS Extraordinary Form, 5pm National Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi, 610 Vallejo Street, SF.

CATHOLIC UNDERGROUND: BAY AREA 7pm, St. Mary Magdalen, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

MASS 9:30am with Archbishop Cordileone; St. Mary's Cathedral, SF; all priests are welcome to celebrate

Walk for Life - 10:45am Silent No More; 11am-Info Faire; 12:30pm-Walk for Life; Civic Center, SF
MASS 5pm, Extraordinary Form; National Shrine of St. Francis, 610 Vallejo Street, SF.

CATHOLIC UNDERGROUND, St. Mary Magdalen, 2005 Berryman St., Berkeley, 7pm.

BARBEQUE - 5pm Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 4420 Geary St., SF; Free Barbecue with a presentation by Sisters of Life; Eucharistic Holy Hour following.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

STUDENTS FOR LIFE National Conference, 9:30am; St. Mary's Cathedral, SF

For tips on planning your Walk for Life weekend: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDOI6yVhwBI> or www.walkforlifewc.com and click on Event Info, then Schedule.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE EAST BAY—Help End Child Sex Trafficking

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. If you are interested in this topic and missed the class by Day Star Mentor & Volunteer Training Orientation that was held on January 17th at Catholic Charities, additional classes will be offered in the future. Email Joy Thompson, Program Coordinator, at joythompson@cceb.org.

FREE FEDERAL AND STATE INCOME TAX PREPARATION FOR THE YEAR 2017

AARP's Tax-Aide program offers **free** Federal and State income tax preparation for all taxpayers who need help filing a tax return, with special attention to seniors over 50. 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 and phone number and an appointment scheduler will return your call). Appointments are available **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** starting February 1, 2018, between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Bring your **2017 tax information, photo ID, Social Security Cards**, Medical Insurance, deductions, broker statements and educational expenses for everyone on your tax return. It is also important that you bring a copy of your **2016** Federal and State return. For other Tax-Aide locations, call 925-726-3199.

Photos from the Simbang Gabi reception held December 23, 2017,
following a nine-day Advent Novena.

