



*St. Agnes* Catholic Community

*A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish*

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



CATECHETICAL  
SUNDAY

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

*September 18, 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](http://www.stagnesparish.net) \* E-Mail: [stagnesoffice@comcast.net](mailto: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

### Pastor

Rev. Fr. Johnson Abraham  
chemans@gmail.com

### Deacons

Bill Drobick—deaconbill3@gmail.com  
Tony Reyes—deacontonyr@gmail.com

### Business Manager

Marlene McCann  
marlene.stagnesparish@gmail.com

### Director of Religious Education

Lila Rutkowska  
lilar.stagnesparish@gmail.com

### Secretary-Religious Education

Donna Cassianos  
donna.stagnesparish@gmail.com

### Director of Music Ministry

May Hembrador  
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 Chair

Linus Farias  
linusfarias@sbcglobal.net

## SCHOOL OFFICE

3886 Chestnut Ave., Concord

Tel.: (925) 689-3990

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

**Principal:** Jill Lucia

jlucia@csdo.org

**Secretary:** Ana Kelley

akelley@csdo.org

**Website:**

www.stagnesconcord.com

## *Catechetical Sunday: Where did you learn about your faith?*

Before I ever heard the word “catechist,” I remember following my parents into mass and trying to be quiet. As I entered kindergarten, the Sisters of Nazareth in Chicago began training me in basic prayers. My mom used to quiz me a little and I remember my family was excited when I could recite the Lord’s Prayer by memory.

I think I was ten years old before I knew anyone who *wasn't* Catholic! My neighborhood was so steeped in devout faith, it was almost as automatic as learning the Pledge of Allegiance. But not everyone is blessed with a family, neighborhood and culture that is so formative. In fact, the culture we face is a fairly strong obstacle to faith formation. What about the catechism? Is that still taught?

Many Catholics have used the word "catechism" for years, and they know it has something to do with the Church's teachings. Many parishes use the term “Faith Formation,” but the teaching is still known as catechesis. The word, "catechesis," is from a Greek word meaning "to echo, or resound." Catechesis is the act of resounding or bringing the Church's teachings to the world. A catechist is one who teaches in the name of the Church.

There is also something called the “domestic church” and the *Catechism* explains the bedrock of our faith: “In our own time, in a world often alien and hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith.” [par. 1656] I like to think that catechists are the carpenters who build on the foundation laid by families.

On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.

The national theme for Catechetical Sunday (Sept. 18) is "Prayer: The Faith Prayed." Catechists are both sustained by prayer and models of prayer. When the apostles watched our Lord pray, they asked Jesus to teach them to pray (Lk 11:1). No doubt the apostles had been taught their prayers from an early age, but something in the way our Lord prayed, perhaps an intimacy with God the Father that they hadn't seen previously, attracted them to His prayer. Jesus responded by teaching them the "Our Father." How did our children learn this prayer? How did we?

In my time as a director of religious education, I was always lifted by seeing some of our school faculty and parish catechists at mass or other devotions. Living models! Let us pray for those who teach the faith!

I invite all of us to reflect in our hearts how this gift of faith came into our life—who do we give thanks for this gift? How can we support those who are trying to give this gift to others?

Deacon Bill



# Calendar for the Week

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, September 17, 2016

- 5:00 p.m. Louie Ferrari—Repose  
Marina & Armando Ferrari—Repose  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Greenwood—Repose

### Sunday, September 18, 2016

- 7:00 a.m. Roy Garcia—Repose  
9:00 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,  
Living and Deceased  
10:45 a.m. Paulina Balmeseda—Repose  
Amanda Rubio—Repose  
Louis Ruybalid—Repose  
5:00 p.m. Eduardo Joaquin—Repose

### Monday, September 19, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Mary Harry—Repose  
Eduardo Joaquin—Repose  
Carmen Santos—Repose

### Tuesday, September 20, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Eduardo Joaquin—Repose  
James Narbares—Repose

### Wednesday, September 21, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

### Thursday, September 22, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Dominga DeGuzman-Garcia—Repose  
Edwardo Joaquin—Repose  
Les & Elizabeth Roberts—Repose

### Friday, September 23, 2016

- 8:15 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose  
Edwardo Joaquin—Repose

### Saturday, September 24, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Eduardo Joaquin—Repose  
5:00 p.m. Eduardo Joaquin—Repose

### Sunday, September 25, 2016

- 7:00 a.m. In appreciation for the Volunteers  
of St. Agnes Ministries  
9:00 a.m. Sr. Rita Francis—Repose  
Eduardo Joaquin—Repose  
Sr. Josephine Martin—Repose  
10:45 a.m. For the People of St. Agnes,  
Living and Deceased  
5:00 p.m. Virginia Clark—Repose

## Parish Events and Meetings

### Sunday, September 18, 2016

**Fair Trade offered for sale after all Masses.  
Hospitality after all Masses.**

- 10:45 a.m. Friends and Family Mass  
12:15 a.m. Baptism—Church  
12:00 noon PACE—Cauchi Hall  
5:00 p.m. Youth Mass  
6:00 p.m. Life Teen—Cauchi Hall

### Monday, September 19, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
5:00 p.m. Faith Formation—Church and  
Classrooms  
6:30 p.m. Women's Guild Tea Meeting—EX  
7:00 p.m. EDGE—Cauchi Hall  
7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Business  
Meeting—Church Hall

### Tuesday, September 20, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Pilgrimage Planning Meeting—A.R.  
7:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds—A.R.  
7:30 pm. Schola Practice—Music Room

### Wednesday, September 21, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Confirmation Meeting—Church  
7:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul—A.R.  
8:00 p.m. Young Adult Ministry—Cauchi Hall

### Thursday, September 22, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
9:30 a.m. Scripture Study—A.R.  
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir—Church  
7:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting—A.r.  
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice—Church

### Friday, September 23, 2016

**All Morning—School Wheel-A-Thon—Grounds**

- 8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Church  
6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel

### Saturday, September 24, 2016

- 8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel  
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church  
8:30 a.m. Cursillo—A.R.  
9:00 a.m. Friends of the Poor Walk—Grounds

**Stewardship Ministry Enrollment Weekend  
Hospitality Weekend**

# Parish News and Activities

## 4th Annual St. Agnes School Fall Fest & Costume Parade

The St. Agnes School P.A.C.E. Board invites you to join us on Friday, October 14th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm for our Fall Fest Extravaganza! The event offers taco dinner catered by our own Los Rancheros, Costume Parade for the kids, Vendor Fair, Carnival Style Games and Trunk or Treat fun!

Dinner **MUST** be PRE-ORDERED and PAID for in the school office by Noon on Friday, October 7th. Game Tickets can be purchased at the event - CASH ONLY. Dinner will not be sold the night of. Additional information along with the PRE-ORDER FORM can be found on our school website at [www.stagnesconcord.com](http://www.stagnesconcord.com).

Please contact Kristina Long with any questions at [Pace-President@stagnesconcord.com](mailto:Pace-President@stagnesconcord.com). We look forward to seeing all of you there!

## FAIR TRADE SALES SEPTEMBER TODAY

St Agnes parishioners' willingness and openness to purchasing Fair Trade Coffees, Teas, Hot Cocoa and Chocolates grown and produced by small farmers in Latin/South America, Africa and India, have kept our Fair Trade Sales growing and expanding for the past 7 years! Your mindful purchases have results. Small farmers live decent independent lives, over a dozen charitable organizations, local and international, and CRS (Catholic Relief Services) have benefitted from our sales. Best of all, you have put broad smiles on the JustFaith Volunteers' faces!

We acknowledge your generosity with grateful hearts! Thank you, St. Agnes!



**Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
WINE TASTING FUND RAISER  
Sunday, September 25, 2016, 2-4 p.m.  
Viano's Winery  
150 Morello Avenue, Martinez  
Cost \$20, Must RSVP by September 20  
Call Eiko Asselin at 925-825-3982**

## Pilgrimage to the Cathedral and Transportation

During this Extraordinary Year of Mercy all parishes in the Oakland Diocese have been invited to make a pilgrimage to the Cathedral. St. Agnes will be making this pilgrimage on Saturday, October 1.

As a parish we will have the opportunity to participate in a docent-led tour of the Cathedral at 10:00 am. (Alternatively to the tour, you can spend time in prayer in one of the chapels.) At 10:45 am we will gather and process through the "Holy Door" into the Cathedral for a special Group Mass at 11:00 am.

For those needing transportation, a charter bus will be available from St. Agnes. There are a limited number of seats and the cost for roundtrip transportation is \$20.00 a person. **So that we will have an idea of how many parishioners will be making this beautiful pilgrimage, there are sign-up sheets at the welcoming table.** One is for those who would like to take the charter bus, and the second sheet is for parishioners to sign that are providing their own transportation. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. For more information please call Ron Schmidt at 932-1007.



## OCTOBERFEST GERMAN DINNER Saturday, October 8, 2016

**6:00 pm—No Host Cocktails, 7:00 Dinner  
Adults \$20—Children 5-12 \$5—Under 5 Free**

**Tickets are on sale after all Masses.  
Any questions, call Kathey at 798-7936**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER

- 18 Friends and Family Mass at 10:45 a.m. and SVDP Commissioning
- 18 Life Teen Kick-Off Night—6:00 p.m., Cauchi Hall
- 23 Wheel-a-Thon—School
- 24 SVDP—Friends of the Poor Walk—9:00 a.m.
- 24/25 Stewardship Ministry Enrollment Weekend Hospitality Weekend
- 28 Bible Study Starts—7:00 p.m. Ministry Center

## Stewardship Enrollment

**Following are descriptions of the last five Reaching Out Ministries which will have representatives after Masses at the Enrollment Weekend on September 24-25. In addition, there will be tables with representatives from the Knights of Columbus and the Stewardship Committee.**

### **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

Provides men and women the opportunity to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those in need or suffering. Vincentians meet with families in their homes to bring hope through prayer and material assistance. They help with fundraising walks and clothing drives. Additionally, Vincentians give back to the community through other service projects. (Varying levels of day and evening commitment; evening meetings)

**VINNIE'S LITTLE HELPERS**--Youth Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

This group is run solely by Middle School students with an adult advisor. Members are encouraged to live their faith and get involved in projects. (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month after school)

### **SHARE**

Operates as an ecumenical emergency food pantry on Willow Pass Road. It is a non-profit organization run solely by volunteers. Volunteers staff the office, work in the pantry, or pick up food donations. (Regular daytime commitment)

### **SHELTER MEALS**

Provides 20 dinner meals throughout the year at Mt. View House Emergency Family Shelter in Martinez. The facility provides shelter to help stabilize families and end homelessness. A group of friends or families plan a meal, purchase and prepare the food, and serve the meal to about 35 residents at the shelter. (Food preparation and evening commitment one or more times a year)

### **TUTORING MINISTRY**

Provides help to students in grades 1-3 in reading and mathematics. Teachers and paraprofessionals tutor students of registered parishioners of St Agnes Parish, School, or students in Faith Formation. (After school on Wednesdays. Classes will begin Wednesday, October 12.)

### **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WALK FOR POOR**

As we celebrate the sixth anniversary of our St. Vincent de Paul conference, we would like to thank the St. Agnes parishioners for all of their help, through prayers, financial donations, and participating in our projects such as Bundle Sunday and providing shelter meals. We appreciate your donations which have allowed us to help many people in our Concord community who have needs such as help with a utility bill, fixing a car, helping with a rental deposit, or even a gas card or food card.

**Next Saturday, September 24, we will be celebrating the Friends of the Poor Walk.** There will be a representative of St. Vincent de Paul in the back, with sponsors' sheets and enrollment sheets for Saturday's Walk. We will start at 9 am and circle the church for as many times as you wish! You can make a monetary donation yourself or sponsor someone else. We hope that you will join us next Saturday as we do our daily spiritual and physical exercise!

### **MEXICO '17**

**SAVE THE DATE:** Join your fellow students for a Home Building Trip that will Change How You See The World! Our first meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Agnes Cauchi Hall. This will be our 22<sup>nd</sup> year for the Concord parishes and our second year under our new non-profit organization, La Morita Mexico Youth Mission. All worked smoothly last year, and three very deserving families got a new home and a new start on life! We also continued our tradition of having a neighborhood party for more than 100 children & their families, complete with family photos, crafts and soccer, and we had the experience of building a Christian community with our 75 high school and college youth and their adult sponsors. For more information, contact Donna or Jack Walton at [jdwalton@astound.net](mailto:jdwalton@astound.net) or 925-212-7679.

## The Jubilee Year of Mercy and the Pilgrimage to the Holy Door

The practice of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the Jewish tradition and evidence for it can be found in the Old Testament. The dedication of a year for this emphasis provided the community with a time to come back into right relationship with one another and with God. As the practice of the jubilee year was adopted into the Catholic Church, these themes of mercy, forgiveness, and solidarity continued.

Pope Francis announced: "Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called; and may she obtain for us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ."

One of the central components of the Jubilee of Mercy is that the Holy Doors throughout the world will be opened during this Jubilee year. When they are opened at the beginning of the year, "the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope". Since each diocese will have the opportunity to open a Door of Mercy in their diocese, all members of the faithful will have opportunity to make a pilgrimage to their local Holy Door during the Jubilee. This pilgrimage is to be a journey of walking closer with God and discovering "moment[s] of grace and spiritual renewal". These doors are symbols of God's mercy, open to welcome everyone into the compassion of God's love that Christ proclaimed.

Pope Francis has announced an opportunity for Catholics to obtain a plenary indulgence during the Year of Mercy by passing through a designated Holy Door during the Year of Mercy, or performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy; and fulfilling the usual conditions of having the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, receiving sacramental Confession and the Holy Eucharist, and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Like all previous Jubilees, the Jubilee Year of Mercy features a very special plenary indulgence (the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin). "I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God's mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed." Pope Francis

To receive the Jubilee Year indulgence, you must fulfill the usual conditions, and perform the indulgenced act: passing through a designated Holy Door during the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (between Dec. 8, 2015, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and Nov. 20, 2016, the Solemnity of Christ the King) or performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy.

To receive a plenary indulgence:

1. It is necessary that the faithful be in the state of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed.
2. A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace: (a) have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin; (b) have sacramentally confessed their sins; (c) receive the Holy Eucharist (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required); and (d) pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.
3. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an Our Father and a Hail Mary are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.
4. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, confessors can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).
5. Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.