



St. Agnes Catholic Community

A Perpetual Adoration and Stewardship Parish

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



We ask for your continued prayers for our RCIA class of 2017 as they make their final preparations to receive their sacraments at the Easter Vigil. Our catechumens (photographed with their sponsors) are **Wayne Schaefer, Christina Stach and Andrea Valencia.**

March 26, 2017

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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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 Chair

Linus Farias
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SCHOOL OFFICE

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“Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light...” (Ephesians 5:8)

What does “*children of light*” mean? Perhaps we can find a place of reflection in the name *Chiara*, which is of Italian origin, meaning “bright light” or “clear.” Chiara Lubich was a schoolteacher and Third Order Franciscan, born in Trent, Italy. During the World War II bombing of her city, she and a number of other women cared for victims. They studied the Bible while gathered together in air-raid shelters.

Chiara never thought about starting a movement. She felt a religious calling and changed her name to Chiara in honor of St. Clare of Assisi, but decided against joining a convent. She and the other young women were deeply inspired to promote unity, reconciliation, and the spirit of love in response to suffering. It became known as the message of Focolare (meaning hearth).

In war-torn Europe, Focolare brought a joyful spirit of love, the promotion of Scripture, liturgical renewal and ecumenism. That renewal took shape in the Second Vatican Council. Lubich was embraced by both Popes John XXIII and John Paul II. She always remained rooted in her Catholic faith, but was invited to speak to Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish audiences around the world. In 2015, her Cause for Beatification was opened by Pope Francis.

I am always inspired by the Communion of Saints. For years, I took pleasure in reading little “saint reports” I asked my Confirmation students to write. I gave out “Saint Cards” that looked like baseball cards. Not to be profane, but to me it is like admiring your favorite player, only a spiritual hero—a heroic model of virtue. When we read the lives of the saints, we may only see that one person’s heroic virtue, and not how it can influence a community. The charism of unity which the Holy Spirit bestowed on Chiara Lubich was a little different. It was outbound and collective. Her spirituality soon came to be known as a communitarian, which focused on Jesus’s prayer to the Father that all might be one. (John 17:21)

Let me give an example. Teresa of Avila, saint and doctor of the Church, describes an “interior castle.” The spirituality of unity helps to build up what Chiara Lubich describes as an “exterior castle” in which Christ dwells in the midst and illuminates its every part. So perhaps we can see that “children of the light” *live happily* in Christ’s light. Could that mean the beatific vision—the bright light after death?

Let me close with Chiara’s words: “What is the secret? It is that we risked our life at the beginning for a great Ideal, the greatest: God. It is that we believed in His love and then we abandoned ourselves moment by moment to His will. If we had done our own will, there would have been nothing of all this today. Instead we plunged ourselves into the divine adventure.”

May our Lenten journey be more than just another fasting exercise. May it be new sight—more clearly, more dearly. May we see and live like children of the light.

Deacon Bill

SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR MARCH 19: \$11,340.00

Includes Faith Direct Giving

We thank you for your Stewardship.

Calendar for the Week

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 25, 2017

5:00 p.m. Stephen Cox—Repose
Fr. Peter Loffredo—Repose
Deceased Members of the Fenolio
Family—Repose

Sunday, March 26, 2017

7:00 a.m. Pablito Perez—Repose
9:00 a.m. Gloria Schmidt—Repose
Trino & Elvira Zenarosa—Repose
Mena Inco Zenarosa—Special Intention
10:45 a.m. Marge Casey—Repose
Lucie Gafrcia—Repose
Fr. Peter Loffredo—Repose
5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Monday, March 27, 2017

8:00 a.m. Phil Choy—Repose
Melissa Ann Coronel Luna—Repose
Richard & Gloria Schmidt—Repose

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

8:00 a.m. Ernest Cornella—Repose

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

8:00 a.m. Communion Service Only

Thursday, March 30, 2017

8:00 a.m. Martin Blesky—Repose
Aileen Hallissy—Repose
Dorothy Rask—Repose

Friday, March 31, 2017

8:15 a.m. Leland Eller—Repose

Saturday, April 1, 2017

8:00 a.m. Dustin Davis—Repose
Timothy Cambra—Special Intention

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

Sunday, April 2, 2017

7:00 a.m. Fr. Peter Loffredo—Repose
Al Verduzco—Repose
9:00 a.m. Mr. Lemire—Repose
Gloria Schmidt—Repose
Will Walton—Special Intention
10:45 a.m. Lianne Gee—Repose
Roberto Icaza—Repose
Deceased Members of the
Lo Grasso Family—Repose
5:00 p.m. For the People of St. Agnes,
Living and Deceased

Parish Events and Meetings

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Hospitality Weekend

8:00 a.m. Couples for Christ—Cauchi Hall
8:30 a.m. RCIA—A.R.
10:45 a.m. Friends and Family Mass
6:00 p.m. Life Teen—Cauchi Hall

Monday, March 27, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
5:00 p.m. Children's Faith Formation—School
7:00 p.m. EDGE—Cauchi Hall
7:00 p.m. Lenten Mission—Church

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Lenten Mission—Church

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

8:00 a.m. Communion Service—Chapel
5:45 p.m. Lenten Soup Supper—Church Hall
7:00 p.m. Lenten Mission—Church

Thursday, March 30, 2017

8:00 a.m. Daily Mass—Chapel
9:30 a.m. Bible Study—A.R.
6:00 p.m. Children's Choir Practice—Church
6:30 p.m. Preschool Dad's Night—Cauchi Hall
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Practice—Church

Friday, March 31, 2017

8:15 a.m. Daily Mass—Church
2:00 p.m. School Stations of the Cross—Church
5:30 p.m. Fish Fry—Church Hall
6:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet—Chapel
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 1, 2017

8:00 a.m. La Morita—Cooking in Kitchens at
both Church and Cauchi Hall
8:30 a.m. Lector Practice—Church
9:00 a.m. Work Party



came
so that those who
do not see might see

Parish News and Activities



The next luncheon meeting of StARS is April 4, 2017, and is being catered by New Lim's Restaurant. The yummy menu includes Chicken Chow Mein, Mongolian Beef, Sweet & Sour Pork, Broccoli Chicken, Salt & Pepper Rock Cod, BBQ Port-Fried Rice, Eggrolls, Potstickers and Fortune Cookies, all for only \$12.50 per person.

Reservations are required by March 28th. Please call Eiko Asselin asap at 825-3982 to confirm you would like to attend, then send your check to her at 3925 Ferndale Lane, Concord, CA 94519.

Social time begins at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 in the Church Hall. All seniors are invited. There are no membership dues. Stop by the Welcome Table for a flyer for the luncheon and the next Casino Bus Trip on April 18.

NEW VESTMENTS

You might have noticed the new Chasubles Father Johnson has been wearing during Mass. These are replacements for the decades-old and somewhat threadbare garments in the Sacristy closet. We have "made-do" for a number of years and now we may pass along the old garments, due to your thoughtfulness. The parish sends a big "Thank You" to all who donated to the Vestment Replacement fund.

So far, Father has received green, purple, red, and white replacements. Because of your generous response, he has also added a rose garment, which we have not had previously. Look for Father's "new duds" at Lenten and Holy Week Masses and Services. If you have not had a chance to participate in this very special project, you may drop a plain envelope marked "Vestment Replacement" with your donation enclosed, into the collection basket, or you may inquire at the Welcome Table or the Parish Office.

Saint Agnes' Parent Association of Catholic Education would like to invite you to attend a night at the Country Fair! The St. Agnes auction is the single largest fund-raising event of the year. It provides the school with critical funding, improving the quality of education for St. Agnes students.

As a part of our shared community, it would be great to see parish members at the event. The Auction will be held on April 1st at 5:30 pm at the Pleasant Hill Community Center. Please visit stagnesconcord.schoolauktion.net/auction for information on ticketing and how you can donate to the event. The St. Agnes students and parents thank you for your support.

LENTEN FISH FRY THIS FRIDAY 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Church Hall

Get out of the kitchen and join your fellow parishioners for a delicious and inexpensive fish dinner this coming Friday. Cost is \$7 (free for kids 3 and under) and includes fried fish, French fries, salad and coleslaw. Beverages are available for an additional cost.

Stations of the Cross will follow in the church at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 27-29 Parish Lenten Retreat, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 Lenten Soup Supper, 5:45 p.m.
- 31 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus, 5:30 p.m.
- Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL

- 3 Parish Lenten Reconciliation, 7 p.m.
- 4 STARS Luncheon, 11:00 a.m.
- 5 Lenten Soup Meal, 6:00 p.m.

Reaching Out Ministries Highlights 2016

Last week we highlighted the accomplishments of St. Vincent de Paul, Vinnie's Little Helpers, Just Faith, Shelter Meals at Mt. View House Family Shelter in Martinez, the Giving Tree and the Blood Drive. Today we bring you part two of the Reaching Out Department's accomplishments for 2016.

Loaves and Fishes

- 550 pounds of vegetables were chopped by two persons over 11 monthly visits.
- Service increased from two to three days a month.
- 13 volunteers worked 22 days and over 400 hours preparing and serving meals to the less fortunate.

Prayer Tree

- More than 40 people include the intentions of parishioners in their prayers each day. About 120 different people and intentions are included in any given week.
- Here are some testimonials: "Prayers helped extend Karen's life by four years, allowing her to see the birth of three grandchildren." "My brother-in-law Erle has terminal cancer. Our prayers have helped him stay strong and able to enjoy pretty close to a normal life. We continue to pray for a miracle for him."

Helping Hands

- Helped with meals in time of emergency and funeral receptions.
- Provided hospitality for the Mass of Remembrance and pumpkin pies for the St. Mary's dinner.
- Provided lunch for the Respect Life Baby Shower.

Tutoring

- Twenty-three students were served this year thanks to the time and talent of eleven dedicated tutors.

Social Justice/Faith in Action

- Volunteers worked in coordination with the Deanery Committee of Catholics United for Justice and St. Agnes Parish.
- Helping the poor by advocating for a moderation of Concord rent increases was a major focus of interest by CUJ. St Agnes Parish used a letter-signing campaign to support a temporary moratorium on raising rents in Concord as a first step toward further collaboration between tenants and landlords.

St. Mary's Christmas Dinner

- 125 senior citizens were served a delicious Christmas Turkey Dinner purchased and cooked by members of our parish.
- 17 turkeys were donated, cooked and sliced by members of our parish; 16 people helped to serve.
- 125 Target Gift Cards (from the Giving Tree) were given out by Santa to homeless or needy seniors.
- St. Agnes choir performed Christmas Carols at the dinner. A great time was had by all!

Respect Life

- Baby Shower items donated by parishioners were included in a real Baby Shower--complete with games, prizes, lunch and cake. A representative from Birthright came to speak about what the center has to offer for families and new mothers.
- Over 50 people attended a Medical Decisions Forum to discuss life issues as they relate to medical care in a state that now has euthanasia laws in place. Included a panel of local experts in the field.
- A service project with teenage members of EDGE. Each was given materials and directions for making fleece baby blankets. 20 blankets were collected and given to the Gabriel Project.

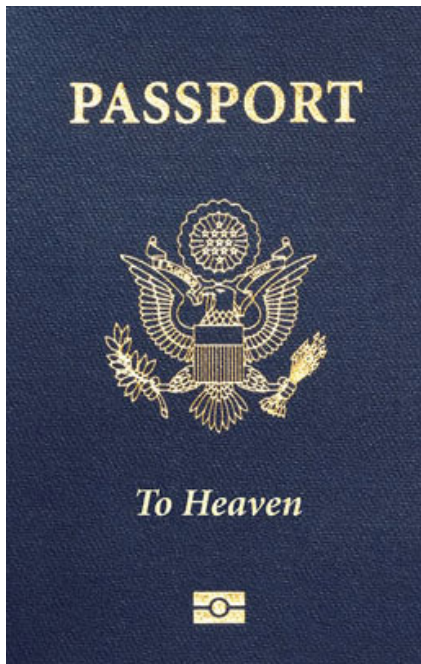
PARISH MISSION

Dante's Passport to Paradise

A Lenten meditation on the Seven Virtues needed to overcome the seven sins Dante discovers in purgatory.

Three Reflection Hours:

1. **Monday, March 27th, 7:00 p.m.**
Introduction to the Seven Deadly Sins and Dante's Vision; Sin of Pride.
2. **Tuesday, March 28th, 7:00 p.m.**
Evil love of hurting others: Envy, Anger, Weak love of the good: Sloth.
3. **Wednesday, March 29th, 7:00 p.m.**
Too much love of imperfect goods: Greed, Gluttony, Lust



Video Clips: We will be viewing Bishop Robert Barron's short video reflections from his study: Seven Deadly Sins & Seven Lively Virtues.

- Sessions may run slightly longer than an hour in order to allow for questions. Each night will offer a handout for take home/prayerful reflection.
- Bishop Barron explains how pride, envy, anger, sloth, gluttony, avarice and lust are all patterns of dysfunction within us that lead to unhappiness.
- The good news comes from seeing how a corresponding virtue can be the perfect antidote giving us practical advice on how to live more lovingly.
- Deacon Bill will facilitate our reflections in the church beginning each evening at 7:00 p.m.