

# St. Agnes Catholic Church

Terrier & Cherry Rd. Intersection, Sarcoxie, MO

March 22nd. 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

St. Agnes Catholic Church  
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## SCHEDULE OF MASSES FOR MARCH 22- MARCH 29

### Saint Agnes

|          |            |                          |
|----------|------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday   | 10:30 a.m. | St. Agnes Parish Family  |
| Tuesday  | 8:30 a.m.  | No Mass                  |
| Thursday | 8:30 a.m.  | + Ralph & Marie Heidlage |
| Sunday   | 10:30 a.m. | St. Agnes Parish Family  |

### St. Mary's

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| Mon. | 8:15 Rosary |
| Wed. | 8:15 a.m.   |
| Fri. | 8:15 a.m.   |
| Sat. | 4:00 p.m.   |
| Sun. | 8:30 a.m.   |

### EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

**Sunday, March 22**

**No Lenten Penance Service** at St. Mary's at 6:30 p.m.

**Special Collection;** The Catholic Relief Services

**No Lenten Penance Service** in Monett at 6:30 p.m.

**Monday, March 23**

**No Mass** at 8:30

**Tuesday, March 24**

**The Annunciation of the Lord**

**Wednesday, March 25**

**Parish Council Meeting** at 7:00p.m.

**Thursday, March 26**

**No Stations of the Cross & Communion Service** at 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, March 27**

**No Fish Fry at St. Mary's** 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8 Kids \$3 (ages 6-12) 5 & under Free. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus – Day of Abstinence (No Meat)

### EVENTS COMONG UP:

**Sunday, March 29**

**Catholic Relief Services Collection**

**Friday, April 3**

**No Stations of the Cross & Mass** at 7:00 p.m.

**Your Gift to the Church: \$421 .00**

|       | <u>Readers</u>                  | <u>Servers</u>                 | <u>Extraordinary Min</u>         | <u>Gift Bearers</u>       | <u>Usher</u>                     |
|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 03/22 | Sandy Thorn<br>Sally Heidlage   | Kylin Wagner<br>Sophie Wagner  | John Heidlage<br>Cheryl Elbert   | Dennis Heidlage<br>Family | John Heidlage<br>Dennis Heidlage |
| 03/29 | Kathy Eck<br>Loretta Graskemper | Gabby Duley<br>Hunter Williams | Leah Heidlage<br>Dennis Heidlage | Ray Elbert<br>Family      | Ray Elbert<br>MattHeidlage       |

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS** Sharon Wolfe, Theresa Heidlage, Paul Mettlach, , Marie Jasumback, Mary Lenore Droska, Jim and Veda Perrin, Marion Tomlinson Williams, Linda Russell, and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

**Parish Council Meeting;** March 26 at 7:00p.m.

**INFORMATION FROM THE DIOCESE:** Concerning the directives from the diocese on the COVID-19 Virus you may visit their webpage at [www.dioscg.org](http://www.dioscg.org) or visit their Facebook page Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. There is also a letter on the bulletin board.

**LENTEN PROJECT FOR LIFEHOUSE:** LIFEHOUSE, a project and ministry of Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri is located in Springfield. It is a combination Pregnancy Resource Center, temporary home for those who are experiencing crisis pregnancies, as well as a place where expectant mothers receive parenting and life skills. During Lent, instead of Operation Rice Bowl, we will have a "BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN" TO HELP WITH FUNDING. At the back of Church there will be Baby bottles, enough for each family to take one home. When you fast on Fridays of Lent, we ask that you calculate the amount of money you would have spent on the food you did not eat, deposit that amount in the Baby Bottle each week. At the end of Lent we will collect the bottles and send the proceeds to Lifehouse to help in the work of continuing the support of those who choose and cherish life. Thank you for blessing the lives of these Moms and their children. We build what Pope John Paul II so rightly spoke of as, A Culture of Life.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** There is an announcement in the back of church concerning the directive by the Bishop.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

1 Sam 16:1b,6-7,10-13a  
Psalm 23:1-6  
Ephesians 5:8-14  
John 9:1-41

**Monday March 23**  
Isaiah 65:17-21  
Ps 30:2,4-6,11-13  
John 4:43-54

**Tuesday March 24**  
Ezekiel 47:1-9,12  
Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9  
John 5:1-16

**Wednesday March 25**  
**The Annunciation**  
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10  
Ps 40:7-11  
Hebrews 10:4-10  
Luke 1:26-38

**Thursday March 26**  
Exodus 32:7-14  
Ps 106:19-23  
John 5:31-47

**Friday March 27**  
Wisdom 2:1a,12-22  
Ps 34:17-21,23  
John 7:1-2,10,25-30

**Saturday March 28**  
Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Ps 7:2-3,9bc-12  
John 7:40-53

Conversion is a process. The blind man in the Gospel reading exemplifies this journey into faith. Notice that at first he

did not go to Jesus. Jesus came to him. The man responded by waiting to see what would happen and then by obeying Jesus.

Conversion begins when Jesus seeks us out and we make ourselves available to his touch. He then opens our eyes to the truth, but we don't immediately understand.

When the man's neighbors asked about his cure, he did not yet understand who Jesus was; he thought of him as just a man.

Then, the pressure of listening to the Pharisees argue about who Jesus was caused him to give it more thought. He concluded that Jesus must be a prophet.



see who Jesus really was. Conversion – the purification of our spiritual vision – takes place in the fire of our sufferings as we recognize the concern that God has for us.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. In the first reading, God makes it clear that he sees what we cannot see when we're focused on external evidence. Think of a time when you looked deeper or beyond the obvious. How did that change you?
2. In Ephesians 5, we read that we have become light in the Lord. Name some of the good fruits that come from the ability to see what Jesus is doing in your life.
3. The Gospel reading illustrates that those who think they can see the truth are very often blind, and those who acknowledge their blindness become able to see clearly. Why does this happen? How has it happened to you?

As the Pharisees treated him more roughly and raised the possibility of expelling him from the synagogue if he claimed that Jesus was the Christ, he began to wonder whether it might be true. Their reasons for hating Jesus became the eye-openers that cured his spiritual blindness.

Finally, Jesus sought him out again, this time to minister to him in response to the mistreatment he had suffered from the Pharisees. In this act of caring, the man could

### Lenten Activity:

Name areas of your life where there is confusion from a lack of understanding. Perhaps you're having a hard time seeing the good in someone. Maybe you're worried about the future. What will you do this week that will help you see it from God's perspective?

*St. Agnes*  
*Catholic Church*

My Dear Parishioners,

March 22, 2020

As we know, the response to the Corona Virus outbreak in our country and throughout the world has brought about a recommendations that are unprecedented in recent history. In order to stem the spread of the Virus, public health officials have called for Social Distancing. In response to this, the vast majority of Bishops in the United States, as well as throughout the world have issued guidelines designed to limit contact that could lead to a spread of the virus. Among the guidelines is the suspension of public Masses. The decision to do so is a very serious and painful option. The implications for our Spiritual health and unity are uppermost in my mind and prayers. That being said, there are practical concerns as well.

You probably have noticed that I do not talk about money much, except when asking for donations to the Diocesan Development Fund. I have always been of the mind that to do so borders on not trusting in the providence of God, and demeans the generosity of those who give out the desire to support the work of the Church. I know that everyone who gives is doing what they can, and I greatly appreciate the Charitable spirit in which that is done. All that said, here is a practical aspect that follows from the current situation. I really wish there was a way to put this without being crass, but there just isn't. Hopefully, a joking observation made by Fr. Bill Hodgeson, whom I think is one of the funniest guys I have ever met, (take that for what it is worth), concerning when one was so late for Mass that he/she did not fulfill the obligation. Fr. Bill's bit follows.

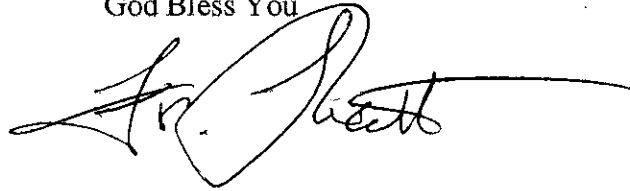
We all know that the Church teaches us that, if we get to Mass before the reading of Gospel, we have fulfilled our obligation to attend Mass. I wonder if that shouldn't be changed to, if you get there after the collection, you missed Mass. You can always go home and read your Bible, but we can never get that collection back! Of course Fr. Bill was just being his brilliant comic self. Who could have imagined that his joke from twenty years ago would ever relate to anything in the future? The reality is this. The parish is for the greatest part dependent on the charity of the parishioners. The ordinary means of receiving your charity has been through the collection at Mass. For the time being, that is not available to us. I am asking that, in your charity, we all find a way to continue monetary support of the operation of the Parish. The vast majority of the expenses involved are not affected by the suspending of Public Masses.

Please consider mailing a check to the office with your weekly offering during this time. If you generally donate cash, as do I, it is not the best idea to send cash through the mail. It is my habit to donate using a money order when I use the mail. That way, I can remain anonymous. If this is what you would wish to do instead of taking the risk of sending cash through the mail, I would

greatly appreciate it. There is also the option of dropping by the Rectory and doing so in person. We will be looking into an option for giving online or by direct deposit. That will take a little time though. Please be patient with that.

Know that, although social distancing is the rule of the day, I continue to be available, and want to encourage you to give me a call, stop by the Rectory if there is any need with which I can be of assistance. If you can't get to me, I'll get to you! The separation that is deemed necessary for a time is an almost unbearable sharing in Christ's crucifixion for me as a Priest. There is almost nothing worse than saying Mass without my people. I know that it is just as much a suffering for all as well. The only way that I can make any sense of this is to see it as a sharing in the Passion of Christ. There is horrendous suffering and dying in this. Please remember to stay one in prayer, united in Christ, and we will Rise with him. As I altogether too often mention in sermon: The Resurrection is not only the hope for the future in the fullness of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Glorious Resurrection of our bodies, it is the reality of our daily life as we await the return of the Lord and the day of judgement.

God Bless You

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. [Name]", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

In keeping with the directive issued by the Bishop, please remember that, during this time of Social Distancing being observed as precaution against the spread of the Corona Virus, the church will be open on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning for those who wish to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, which is in the Tabernacle. Although there are to be no public Masses, Fr. Matt will be offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass privately, offering his personal intention, as always, for those who are listed in the bulletin. Please remember to stay united in prayer and one another, with Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament.

When making an Act of Spiritual Communion, please remember to your God given gifts of memory and your imagination to put yourself Spiritually in front of the Tabernacle when making the Act. It is also important that one make an Act of Contrition before the Spiritual Communion, so as to be more properly disposed to receive the grace of that Act. Below are the Perfect Act of Contrition, as well as the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus Ligouri.

#### ACT OF CONTRITION

O MY GOD, I AM HEARTILY SORRY FOR HAVING OFFENDED YOU, AND I DETEST ALL MY SINS BECAUSE OF YOUR JUST PUNISHMENTS, BUT MOST OF ALL, BECAUSE THEY HAVE OFFENDED YOU, MY GOD, WHO ARE ALL GOOD AND WORTHY OF ALL MY LOVE. I FIRMLY INTEND, WITH THE HELP OF YOUR GRACE, TO SIN NO MORE AND TO AVOID NEAR OCCASION OF SIN. AMEN.

#### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (BY ST. ALPHONUS LIGOURI, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH)

MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE TRULY PRESENT IN THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT. I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS, AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL. SINCE I CANNOT NOW RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY, COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART. I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU. NEVER LET ME BE SEPARATED FROM YOU. AMEN