

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Terrier & Cherry Rd. Intersection, Sarcoxie, MO
Aug. 23rd. 2020 – Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Agnes Catholic Church
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MASSES FOR Aug. 23 – Aug. 30

Saint Agnes

Sunday 10:30 a.m. +Jana Russell Townsend
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. +Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 8:30 a.m. +Louis Fenske
Sunday 10:30 a.m. St. Agnes Parish Family

St. Mary's

Mon. 8:15 a.m. Rosary & Service
Wed. 8:15 a.m.
Friday 8:15 a.m.
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Monday, Aug. 24 Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Saturday, Aug. 29 Memorial of the Passion of St. John the Baptist
Sunday, Aug. 30 Special Collection: Mission Co-op

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Saturday, Sept. 5 Memorial of St. Teresa of Calcutta

Your Gift to the Church: \$ 910.00

Readers

Servers

Extraordinary Min

Gift Bearers

Usher

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, Ray Williams, Trayven Williams, Michael Williams, Paula Wead and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

PRAYER FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Spirit of God, fill our hearts with a desire to seek truth and rejoice in beauty. Help us to know what is pleasing to you and to understand what is right and good in your sight. Give us the spirit of learning that we may please you by our thoughts and love you in your creation. Give all teachers your constant encouragement and guide them in their work. Spirit of God, make us effective witnesses of your truth to all whose lives we touch. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord, Amen.

PRAYER FOR STUDENTS

May they grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him now and to the day of eternity! Amen

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Isaiah 22:19-23
Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8
Romans 11:33-36
Matthew 16:13-20

Monday August 24
St. Bartholomew
Revelation 21:9b-14
Ps 145:10-13, 17-18
John 1:45-51

Tuesday August 25
2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17
Ps 96:10-13
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday August 26
2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18
Ps 128:1-2, 4-5
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday August 27
St. Monica
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
Ps 145:2-7
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday August 28
St. Augustine
1 Corinthians 1:17-25
Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday August 29
Passion of John the Baptist
1 Corinthians 1:26-31
Ps 33:12-13, 18-21
Mark 6:17-29

When Jesus ordained Peter to become the rock upon which he would build his Church, he made a promise. The gates of hell, he said, speaking of the netherworld that belongs to the principalities and powers of darkness (see Ephesians 6), "shall never prevail against it."

Jesus did not say that hell would never win battles against the Church. He said that the *gates* of hell would not win. Of course they won't; gates don't attack! Gates protect. Gates hold inside their boundaries whatever has been enclosed by a fence or wall. Do you know anyone who's been imprisoned by their sins? Or by hellish circumstances?

Christians are not called to take a defensive posture against attacks and encroachments from evil-doers. Christians are called to take the offensive – we are called to attack the very gates of hell, knock them down, and

conquer the devils that are trying to drag people into their kingdom of misery and eternal death.

What Jesus did 2000 years ago to free people from evil he still does today through you and me.

For the sinners who want to escape from evil before it's too late, Jesus gave gate keys to Peter when he ordained him as the first shepherd (priest and pope) of



Christianity. These keys have been passed from generation to generation through the unbroken line of Catholic priests.

What are the keys? The gates of hell are unlocked by Sacraments; they open the way to eternal life. When a priest "looses" (releases)

the grace and forgiveness of God upon a repentant sinner during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or when a priest "binds" a man and woman together in the Sacrament of Marriage, it's Jesus who's doing it through him.

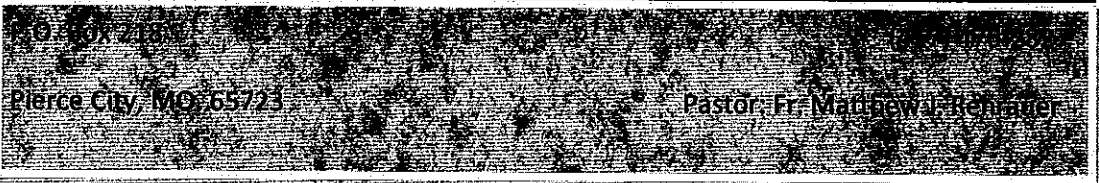
The supernatural power of the Sacraments conquers evil every time we take them seriously and rely on the graces they provide.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Where is there a locked gate in your life, which needs to get blown open so that Jesus can rescue you from some sort of darkness?
2. What will you do this week to utilize the Sacraments more deeply, more profoundly?
3. Who do you say Jesus really is, and how do you encounter this Jesus in the Sacraments?
4. Which Sacrament (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Ordination, or the Anointing of the Sick) is most powerful for you personally? Why?



St. Agnes Catholic Church



August 20, 2020

My Dear People, I wanted to write you again to pass along a bit of good news. In keeping with the second phase of re-opening the State of Missouri, re: Covid 19 restrictions, the Lawrence and Newton County health departments have lifted restrictions in terms of the number of people that are "allowed" to gather in churches. There is no longer a given number. The State, County(s) are still holding to the recommendation that six foot distancing be observed and encourages use of face masks. With this, the tape has been removed from every other set of pews. With families considered as "ONE," which is absolutely spiritually and theologically correct, with mindful staggering of seating, there should easily be room for 75+ at St. Mary and 55+ at St. Agnes. Should it be that a larger gathering is a concern, there are also daily Masses. There are fewer people who attend, and that makes for a great deal more room to spread out. Please consider this. I am fully aware of and fully understand that the dispensation to attend Sunday Mass is in effect. No problem there at all. Further the lifting of the restrictions by the health departments is not to be confused with an "all clear." There is a risk to being out and about. The thing is that, I do not want my people to miss the grace of the Sacrament or the graces that come to us through being present to and at the Sacrifice of Christ. If you are more confident with the smaller crowd at daily Mass, it is there as an option. In the same vein, the Bishop has given permission to all the priests to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick, and to hear confessions. Reiterating something that I said at Mass when I arrived here, I do not want my people going into surgery or dealing with serious illness without the presence of Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit that comes from the Anointing of the Sick. Call, drop by or talk to me before or after Mass. Just make sure to remind me now and then, as I have told you, I am getting senile each day! What is said about the Sacraments is also said in terms of talking about things. There's time. It is essential to the spiritual health and vitality of the Mystical Body of Christ that we know that the Priest is here as God's providence. That is also so in terms of each of us. By God's design and will, when united to Christ, working with the grace given us through the Holy Spirit, we are gifts to each other.

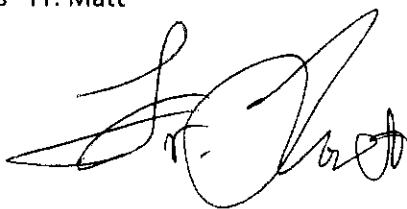
I am fully aware that you get that very often in sermon, (ad nauseam) but I figured I would throw it in here as well! Although the Bishops has prohibited congregational singing at Mass, there is provision for Choirs and Music to be part of the liturgy. We are working to get that re-incorporated into Mass as soon as possible. There is a richness in sacred Music that touches the soul and communicates the grace of God that cannot be brought about in any other way. In terms of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion at Mass, we will not be restoring that for a while yet. The area of assigning READERS and GREETERS / USHERS and MONEY COUNTERS is a different matter. We would like to being assigning Readers and Ushers beginning in September. If you are a READER, USHER, or MONEY COUNTER, and are not yet comfortable coming back to Mass, please give the office a call, so that we know not to assign you for the time being.

The time that we are entering into is a time of restoration, rebuilding and has the potential of strengthening the Mystical Body of Christ. The hand of the evil one is evident in this whole ordeal which we have been through. I know that no one talks like that anymore. That is half the problem, and part of the reason there are so many evils that can often make us wonder if Christ is really with us. Yet, working together, being one with Christ and each other in the Eucharist (Mass) we are gifted to bring the power of his resurrection into this time to bring about the greater good. EXACTLY how each of us as individuals will be doing our part will become clear soon enough. Any ideas, I'd appreciate hearing them, talking about them and helping as I can. Programs from the top have an important place and can bring about great blessing, but without the Spirit inspired work of individuals and groups in the local Church, the Universal Church is impoverished and impeded.

That is enough for the moment. The School year begins at St. Mary's today. Your love for the children of our Parishes is expressed in a very special way through the School. Your prayers and support are not only appreciated, they are part and parcel of the blessing bestowed on our young'uns. (young ones) They learn, with your help, the meaning of, unless you have the heart of a Child, you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Please continue to pray for those suffering during this time, and an end to this ordeal, as well as for the repentance of those who have used it to attempt to bring about a destructive blow to the faith and the faithful. Remember daily the promise of Christ to his disciples, "I am with you always, even to the end of time."

God Bless - Fr. Matt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Matt". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.