



Serving the Haight for 128 years

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Inclusive | Diverse | Jesuit

1025 Masonic Avenue | San Francisco | CA | 94117-2010 | www.SaintAgnesSF.org | 415.487.8560

December 18 & 19, 2021

Dear St. Agnes Family,

When the Holidays are hard...

I love Christmas, it really is the most wonderful time of the year. And that's from someone who spent 25 of the last 26 Christmases working in prisons!

We rejoice in the message of God's love and mercy – God so loved the world that he sent his only son to be our savior, an event that changed human history forever, an event we celebrate every year at this time.

But amid that joyful news is the reality that for many people, the Holidays are difficult. Especially for those who have lost loved ones recently. Even as we slowly begin to emerge from the pandemic (hopefully), we need to admit that we're all a bit on edge, a bit more stressed than usual. So, we need to take extra care of ourselves and one another.

Some suggestions for anyone who is dealing with loss, this time of year: When we are experiencing grief, the holidays can bring up feelings of loneliness, sadness, loss. The Holidays evoke memories of sights, sounds and smells that remind us of our loved ones who are gone.

It is important to talk about your feelings. Find caring friends or relatives (or your pastors!) who can listen to your grief and pain. Be with supportive, comforting people at this time. We are beautiful, fragile beings. Be gentle with yourself and others as much as possible.

Do not push yourself. Grief is fatiguing, give your body and mind space to rest and heal. Give yourself the gift of time for yourself.

There's already more than enough stress in our world. Avoid isolating yourself, but don't over-extend yourself either. If you can, don't add unnecessary stress to your life now.

Plan ahead for which family traditions you want to continue and what new ones you might do. It's important to structure your holiday time, leaving some room for change as you need. This gives you some space and safety to reduce the level of anxiety that comes with holiday gatherings.

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Mission Statement

We the people of Saint Agnes are:
an inclusive, urban community, rich in diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, orientation, culture, talent, & treasure; a faith community enlivened and empowered through Baptism to celebrate and proclaim the presence of Christ among us.

We commit ourselves to grow spiritually as disciples of Christ; to become people for others; build community through hospitality, ecumenism, and social & cultural events; understand cultural differences and accept them as sources of enrichment; give loving service & outreach to those in need; promote social justice issues in our neighborhood and in the larger community of city, nation, and world.

We pledge to be lights in the darkness through the love that we share in the name of Christ and through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Liturgy Schedule

Sundays

8:30am | 10:30am | 1:30pm (Spanish/Español) |
5:00pm Holy Hour, 6:00pm Mass

Saturdays: 4:00pm

Weekdays: 12:00pm – Monday - Thursday
Fridays @ Noon, Lay-led
Communion Service

Christmas Eve: 5:00pm and 10:00pm

Christmas Day: 10:30am (only)

Live-stream Schedule

<https://www.saintagnessf.org/st-agnes-livestream.html>

Sundays: 10:30am | 1:30pm (Spanish/Español)

Parish Information

Parish Staff & Ministries

Pastor	Fr. George Williams, S.J.
Associate Pastor	Fr. Alejandro Báez, S.J.
Priest in Residence	Fr. Joe Spieler, Brent Otto
Director of Liturgy & Music	Frank Uranich
Director of Operations & Finance	Maureen Beckman
Co-Directors, Spiritual Ministries	Sr. Julia Prinz, Sr. Ellen Hess and Sr. Sara Postlethwaite, VDMF
Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation	Sr. Teresa Malave, VDMF
Office Manager	TBA
Bookkeeper/Accountant	Dorenda Haynes
Sexton	Mario Hernandez
Cantor	Scott Grinthal
Sacristans	Frank Mitchell, Matthew Tominaga, Terry Bradshaw
Art & Environment	St. Agnes Staff
Finance Committee Chair	Chris Roman
Outreach to Homebound/Sick	TBA
St. Agnes & St. Ignatius Comm. Food Pantry Director	Kathleen Devine
Wedding Coordinator	TBA
Marriage Prep Classes	Regina Lathrop & Bob Boguski
Parish Council Chair	Karen Xavier
Director R.C.I.A.	Cathy Collins
LGBTQ Ministry	Andrea Wise
Hospitality Volunteer	Karen Kelly

Dec. 18 & 19 | 4th Sunday of Advent

For your prayerful consideration,
readings for next week:
1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28 •
1 John 3:1-2, 21-24 • Luke 2:41-52

Date	Intention	Presider
Dec. 18 4:00 PM	Maria & Joseph Moon (D)	Fr. Joe Spieler
Dec. 19 8:30 AM	Frank Meyer (D)	Fr. Joe Spieler
10:30 AM	William A. Zarilla (D)	Fr. Donal Godfrey
1:30 PM (SP)	Fr. Tony Sauer, S.J. (D)	Fr. Joe Spieler
6:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Agnes	Fr. George Williams
Dec. 20 12:00 PM	Fr. Tony Sauer, S.J. (D)	Various Presiders
Dec. 21 12:00 PM	Helen Rosario (L)	Various Presiders
Dec. 22 12:00 PM	Barbara Nelson (D)	Various Presiders
Dec. 23 12:00 PM	Linda Beckman (L)	Various Presiders
Dec. 24 5:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Agnes	Fr. Alejandro Báez
10:00 PM	Parishioners of St. Agnes	Fr. George Williams
Dec. 25 10:30 AM	Parishioners of St. Agnes	Fr. George Williams
Dec. 26 8:30 AM	Maureen Aggeler (D)	Fr. Alejandro Báez
10:30 AM	Fr. Tony Sauer, S.J. (D)	Fr. Alejandro Báez
1:30 PM (SP)	Roberto Ortega (D)	Fr. Alejandro Báez

D = Deceased; L = Living; SP = Spanish

Reconciliation Schedule

Saturdays, 3pm – 4pm or by appointment, please call the Parish Office.

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 9am – 4:30pm

Fr. George's Office Hours by appointment, please email at George@SaintAgnesSF.org or call.

Fr. Alejandro's Office Hours by appointment, please email at Alejandro@SaintAgnesSF.org or call.

Office Phone: 415-487-8560

St. Agnes Stewardship

Last Sunday Collection: \$3,992.59

Last Year: \$3,868.66

Sunday Masses: \$3566.59; Online: \$426

Please consider a donation through our website at www.SaintAgnesSF.org

New Parishioners

Welcome to our parish community! If you would like to become a part of St. Agnes Parish, please fill out a registration form online at our web site, www.SaintAgnesSF.org. You may also fill out an orange registration form in the back of the church. All are welcome here!

Sacraments

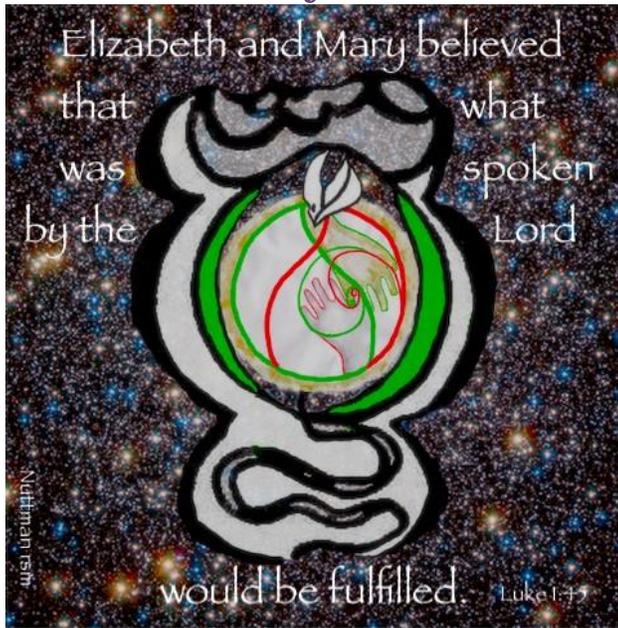
Please contact the Parish Office -

Alejandro@SaintAgnesSF.org for information about the following: Anointing of the Sick * Baptism * Children's Faith Formation & Liturgy of the Word * Communion for the Homebound * Marriage * Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

Archdiocesan Victim's Assistance

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual abuse; or you suspect sexual abuse, please call (415) 614-5506 for help.

4th Sunday of Advent



Pope Francis' December Prayer Intention

Catechists

“Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Agnes LGBTQ Christmas Gathering

Monday, December 20th, 6:30 – 8:00pm, ISLC

All are welcome to join us for the St. Agnes LGBTQ Christmas gathering. Bring family, friends, and visitors to enjoy treats and share in the holiday spirit. Contact our parishioner, Andrea Wise for more information at AndreaMWise@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Advent Giving Tree

This Advent season, we continue our Giving Tree custom. We are not giving toys this year because of Covid restrictions and timing. The Advent Tree is located in the hospitality area and is filled with Candy Canes with gift card suggestions. Please take a candy cane and bring your gift cards and place them by the tree in the box or the parish offices. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!



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Pastor Letter:

Embrace and cherish your memories of your loved ones who you mourn. Holidays always bring us thoughts about times past. Share these memories and talk about the deceased person, mentioning their name in your holiday conversations. They remain an important part of your life. If the memories bring up joy, laugh, if they bring up feelings of sadness, it's ok to cry. These memories, this love is something that nothing can ever take away from you.

Celebrate your faith with your St. Agnes family. We have several beautiful Masses planned over the holiday weekends. Here you are surrounded by kind and caring and loving people. The original Christmas story is filled with both joy and incredible sadness. That is our human condition. Let's remember that joy and sadness are part of the experience of love. Let's celebrate that love this Christmas, as we mindfully care for ourselves and one another.

With best wishes and love as we enter this last full week of Advent,

George Williams ST



Christmas Eve and Day Mass Schedule



Christmas Eve Masses

Dec. 24, Fri. at 5:00 pm (Children's Mass) and at 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass

Dec. 25, Sat. at 10:30 am
(In-Person and Live-streamed)

Join us for a beautiful celebration of Mass, music and fellowship within the beautifully decorated St. Agnes.

End of the Year Giving

Even Santa is giving to St. Agnes this year and asks you if you would be willing to give an end-of-year gift as well! None of the wonderful programs we have would be possible without the generous support of our parishioners and friends. As we move toward the end of the year, please consider a tax-deductible “unrestricted” gift to the parish. St. Agnes and Santa thank you in advance!



AAA - 2021 is Ending Soon!

We are coming to the end of the year, and we are closing in on our goal of \$63,309. **Thanks again to those who have already given gifts** of cash, checks, and credit cards, totaling:



Goal: \$63,309

Raised: \$38,454

Still Needed to Reach our Goal: **\$24,855**

Survey – Religious Practice During Covid

At the end of the year 2021, we want to invite everyone to look back on our religious practice during COVID times. On Monday, the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas, Dr. Erin Brigham, director of the Ralph Lane Center at USF and Dr. Julia Prinz, director of the Ignatian Spiritual Life center at Saint Agnes will send out a survey that wants to make memory how our religious imagination was engaged and/or disengaged during the times of COVID. The survey will be the first step in a research process that will gain insight about best ways to move forward in the spiritual and religious practices of our parishes and in our homes. We hope you will enjoy discussing the memories of your religious practices during COVID with your spouse, family and friends and find the survey life giving. You can reach the survey [here](#) as well.



Training for Lay Reflection Team

**Saturdays January 15, 29 and
February 12, 11:00-1:00**

Are you called to join the lay reflection team? Come explore your call to this ministry. Join us for three training sessions with Cathy Murray, OP. Please contact Rosemary Robinson (rosemaryellisrobinson@gmail.com) if you are interested. All are welcome. We will meet in the ISLC January 15th and 29th and in the church February 12th.



Spiritual Life Center

1611 Oak Street

www.IgnatianSpiritualLifeCenter.org

The Spiritual Life Center (1611 Oak Street) provides programs and services to the parish and larger faith community through educational programs, opportunities for prayer, and community events. Visit www.IgnatianSpiritualLifeCenter.org.

Continuing Events:

Centering Prayer – Mondays @ 7pm



Mondays, 7pm. Contact Mary English at: thecentering@comcast.net.

Silence of the Heart

Tuesdays @ 9am (Silent prayer & sharing)

Music, poetry, scripture, and spiritual reading, followed by sharing and prayers for our community. Please



contact: Leonor Barnett: SilenceTuesday@gmail.com.

Thursday Morning Faith-Sharing

@ 9:30am – 10:30am

Gathers for word, silence, and sharing of our lives and faith journeys. We give all the opportunity to share without interruption, advice, or cross talk.



These reflections are held in

confidence. Please contact: Patti May: californiamandolin@gmail.com.

Parking in the Garage

We welcome everyone to park in the garage for Masses on the weekends. However, there are some spaces on the top level that are **reserved for Urban School 24/7** and should never be parked in. They are marked with URBAN 24/7 and often have small cones to block them. Please do not move the cones and park there. If there are no cones, please do not park there. Outside of weekend Masses, we only have the GREEN and WHITE on the LOWER LEVEL of the garage. Unless you are told we have other parking, please **ONLY PARK** in the GREEN and WHITE spaces. Thank you for your cooperation.

Commissioning of Eucharistic Ministers for the Homebound

This Weekend

During the 10:30 Mass on December 19th we will be commissioning our team of EM's who will be bringing communion to our homebound parishioners.

Staff Corner



Maureen Beckman

This week we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and the Gospel reading this week is one of my favorites, when Mary goes to meet Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45). I even have a wooden image of this on my desk that was a gift from our former Deacon, Fr. Tim McCabe and Natalie Terry (former Director of the ISLC) when they went to Israel while attending the Jesuit School of Theology. I have attached the image here.



In the Gospel, before Mary even speaks to Elizabeth – Elizabeth blesses Mary – “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Mary receives the much-needed assurance from Elizabeth that all will be ok without even speaking to her. How beautiful!

We all need that kind of assurance when we are in doubt, what a nurturing relationship these two women had - they were able to share their fears, exhilarations, love and all their doubts with someone they trusted. The best description I have heard about this relationship and of Mary was at a Baccalaureate Mass at USF and the homily was given by Fr. President, Stephen Privett, S.J. He describes Mary in a way that was not the traditional glowing, white-skinned woman that is often depicted in so many images over the years. His image was much more realistic – “The truth is that Mary was not an elegantly dressed woman of courtly manners, soft skin, light complexion and polishes bearing. She was a dark-skinned teenager who probably went barefoot in a dirt floored hut, was surely illiterate and rather crude by our standards.....She was a shrewd, hard-nosed peasant who found herself unexpectedly pregnant and surely wanted to get advice and support at this most disconcerting moment from a trusted and dear friend. Hence the visit with her older cousin, Elizabeth.”

This image has stayed with since I heard it back in 2006. She didn't look like me! I always was shown these pristine images of Mary and never thought that she wasn't white! Wow, talk about “white privelege..... Fr. Privett went on to talk about how God chose “the little instead of the big; the weak instead of the strong..... A God who makes fruitful a young virgin and a barren old woman.....she was a nobody in nothing town. How extraordinary that of all the possibilities - God broke into her life to teach her what was good and show her the way!”

I want to leave you with those images and a thought - we don't have to be extraordinary for God to break into our lives, we just have to say YES; like a young teenager did many years ago.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Bring in an Ornament for the St. Agnes Christmas Tree

This year in Fr. George's Christmas letter he invited everyone to bring one ornament from your house to hang on our beautiful Christmas tree on the alter at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. The tree will become all of ours and really symbolize the loving family that is St. Agnes Parish.



November Pastoral Council (PC) Update

During the November meeting, the Pastoral Council (PC) met with 3 members of the Finance Committee (FC) composed of Chris Roman (chair), Steve Kastner, Mary Miley Cronin, (Maureen Beckman and Dorenda Haynes were absent). The FC presented an overview of its role

- Work with the Parish staff to review income, expenses, balances.
- Provide financial advice/consultation.
- Sign off on the annual report sent to the Archdiocese.
- During the meeting the PC thanked the Finance Committee for their generous service to our parish.

A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to allow in-depth discussions about the Parish's needs and financial health. Fr. George committed to writing a Pastor Letter to summarize the financial health of Saint Agnes and to ask parishioners who have any questions/concerns to send them to the PC via email.

The search for an Administrative Assistant is actively ongoing. Candidates with advanced technology skills are strongly encouraged.

Office Manager Position Available at St. Agnes

St. Agnes is looking for a full-time, salaried Office Manager Position. This role is an opportunity for an experienced person to take their skills to the next level while supporting this wonderful dynamic parish. The position includes a full range of office management, tech support, HR/Payroll, hospitality and people skills! If you are interested in learning more, please contact Maureen@SaintAgnesSF.org.

Parish Offices Closed

During the Holidays, Dec. 26 – Jan. 3

Following the protocols of the Archdiocese, the parish offices will be closed from Christmas Eve, December 24 – Monday, January 3. However, the Food pantry will take place on December 30th as scheduled. The parish priests will be around the offices for any immediate needs, please call Fr. Alejandro at 415-450-8670 for assistance. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Christmas Flowers

You are invited to make a special gift for the beauty of the church. You may remember your loved ones by donating for flowers in their names. Your petitions will remain on the altar through the Christmas season. so you can make a gift by mailing it or going online to our website and specify your gift is for flowers. Thank you in advance.



Calendar of Events for St. Agnes

December:

Fri. Dec. 24th @ 5:00 p.m. Children's Mass (Nativity of the Lord)

* **Fri. Dec. 24th** @ 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass (Nativity of the Lord)

* **Sat. Dec. 25th** @ 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass (ONLY mass of the day)

Sun. Dec. 26th – Holy Family - 8:30am, 10:30am*, 1:30pm*, (**No 6pm Mass**)

* **Sat. Jan. 1st** @ 10:30 a.m. Mary, The Holy Mother of God Feast

Sat. Jan 1 @ 4:00 p.m. (Epiphany of the Lord - Saturday evening Vigil Mass)

Sun. Jan 2nd – Epiphany of the Lord - All masses as Usual @ 8:30am; 10:30am*; 1:30pm* and 6:00 pm

* **In-person & live-stream**

For more detail information check our website @ www.SaintAgnesSF.org

Calendar of Events for Children's

Faith Formation (CFF):

December:

Dec 24th - 5:00pm Children's Christmas Eve Liturgy

Dec 26th - CHRISTMAS BREAK till Sunday **Jan 9th**.

January:

Jan 2nd - 10:30am Family Mass at 10:30am

Jan 9th - Return to CFF classes.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God,
the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the
living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Stewardship Prayer

Lord and source of all gifts, I rejoice in the fullness of your generosity. I thank you for those whose lives are visible signs of your love and blessing to others. Give me the courage to do the same. Make me a good steward of all I have received, generously sharing my time, abilities, and material resources to build up your kingdom of love and justice. We ask this through Jesus Christ, in whom we begin and end all things.
Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis

(Prayer for Peace)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.