

The Saint Agnes Signal: Spring 2020

A publication of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Arlington, VA



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FEATURED STORY

Happy Mothers' Day: A Tribute to All Mothers

by Fr. Frederick Edlefsen, Pastor

As a tribute to all mothers – whether they be mothers who have born, adopted and raised sons and daughters, or spiritual mothers who have born “spiritual children” by sharing their wisdom and gifts with others – I offer these words of gratitude. This is the homily that I gave at my mother’s Mass of Christian Burial in December of 2009. The tenderness with which I spoke these words about my mother I now give to all women who have said “yes” to God and who have given new life to others with their love and service, and often with their suffering. Read more [here](#).



PARISH HAPPENINGS

- ❖ **Mass Schedule:** Join us every Sunday at noon for live Mass on Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/stagneschurcharlington/>
 - Watch for a message that says "LIVE" during the streaming, or watch it afterwards by clicking on "posts" or "videos".
- ❖ **Confession Schedule:** Confessions are taking place in the sacristy of the church, and those waiting should form a line along the wall marked with yellow tape. Please allow six feet of distance from those next to you in line. Confessions are offered on Saturdays from 8:00-9:00 am and 3:00-4:00 pm and by appointment.
- ❖ **Church hours** – The church is open daily for prayer from 9am-5pm before the Blessed Sacrament, for up to ten people at a time. We will send out email notifications if the church will be closed for a private Funeral Mass or any other private service.
- ❖ **Funerals and Weddings** are taking place only if necessary, and attendance is limited to ten people.
- ❖ **For infant or child baptisms**, only one child may be baptized per ceremony; and only the priest, parents, and godparents may attend.
- ❖ **Catholic Charities is offering Counseling Services** via phone and video. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call Catholic Charities’ Intake Coordinator at 703-425-0109.
- ❖ If you’re not receiving emails with Daily Homilies and other updates, please send an email to parishoffice@saintagnes.org, and we will add you to our mailing list.

Youth and Young Adults Update

Youth Ministry

- ❖ High School Youth Night: Game Night, Sunday, May 10th 5:00-6:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Please contact Mackenzie at mjardell@saintagnes to receive the link!
- ❖ Join us and thousands of teenagers from across the country at ProjectYM Live! Our parish is signed up to participate, go to PROJECTYM.COM

Young Adults

- ❖ Join other young adults in the Diocese in praying a rosary every Monday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. on Instagram Live @arlingtonyam

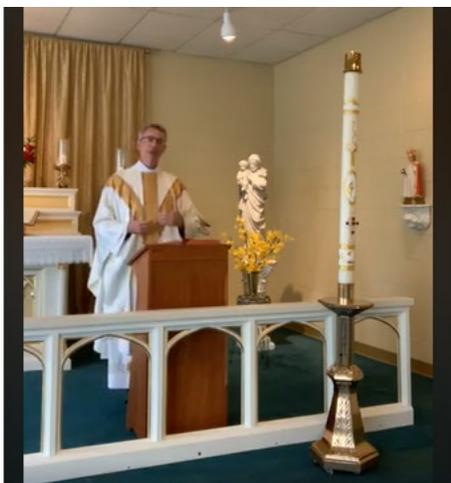
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Our priests have been livestreaming Mass on Sundays and on holy days. You can watch any of these Masses on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stagneschurcharlington/>



(Picture above: Passion of the Lord with Father Sina on Good Friday.)



(Pictures above: Father Edlefsen celebrates Mass – virtually with us – upon his return.)

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

During these difficult times, our parish works to help those in need.

The Lenten Food Drive

The Saint Agnes Lenten Food Drive, which usually provides about one ton of food for very poor rural communities in Madison County, Virginia, was substantially derailed by the suspension of in-person masses. (Thank you to those who had a chance to donate before the shutdown!) The community remains in desperate need of help, especially given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Saint Agnes Girl Scouts hope to continue our parish's strong tradition of support for Madison County by converting the 2020 Lenten food drive into a fundraiser. Donations will purchase food and essential toiletries for the Madison County Emergency Services Association's food bank and other needy families in the region. Your support would be greatly appreciated! Please donate by May 11th. Details are on our website (www.saintagnes.org) and in the latest bulletin.

The Knights Need Your Help

The St. Lucy Project supplies food to over 60 food pantries. The Knights of Columbus has been asked to help keep the shelves stocked at the various pantries. If you can please donate \$5 or \$5,000, you will be able to have an immediate impact on our neighbors. Between the St. Lucy Project's food sources and the Knights' food suppliers, our combined buying power can make every dollar stretch as far as possible. Please visit <http://bit.ly/edwfoodpantry> to donate now and each month. If you, your company or your foundation are able to make a sizable donation please email us: donager21@gmail.com.

COVID Lifeline

In conjunction with the Knights of Columbus, St. Agnes Parish has instituted a LIFELINE effort for the members of our Parish Family, who should completely limit their exposure to the outside world. These parishioners still need the same essentials as the rest of us. In an effort to help them, St. Agnes is collecting information on behalf of the Knights of Columbus, who will then call our home-bound, sick and self-isolated to get grocery/medication orders, fill them and deliver essentials to their doorstep.

If you have no other local support system, and: ● Are 60 years old or older, ● Have chronic illness (i.e., diabetes, heart condition, cancer, etc.), ● Have immune system deficiencies, ● Are someone who is a caregiver for a person with such a conditions, ● Or if you are already sick with COVID-19 (without a local support system): It is imperative that you limit your exposure to the virus! Please follow these instructions to register for the St. Agnes/Knights of Columbus COVID-19 LIFELINE program and we will do the shopping and delivery for you:

- Go to the parish website at <https://saintagnes.org/>
- You will see a red box entitled "COVID-19 LIFELINE,"
- Click on the "Yes, I need help" prompt and you can register to receive delivery of essentials to your doorstep (reimbursement expected).
- You will receive a call from us checking on your status and collecting your order.

FINAL NOTE

During this pandemic...

We pray for everyone's safety, health and well-being during this time.

Below is a prayer by Pope Francis to Mary offered during the outbreak:

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of Your People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Lastly, a note of thanks to all essential personnel, who continue working to help others during the pandemic. May God bless you and protect you.



Picture above: The Blue Angels and Thunderbirds fly over on Saturday, May 2, as a salute to essential personnel.