Saint Agnes Catholic Church

December 24th, 2023 | Fourth Sunday of Advent



From the Gospel of Luke

"Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her."

Lk 1:26-38

This Week's Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 24

11:00 a.m. All Living and Deceased Parishioners

Christmas Eve Masses

5:00 p.m. The Saunders Family8:00 p.m. The Haissig Family

Monday, December 25 | Christmas

9:00 a.m. 🕆 Paul and Clara Dugan

11:00 a.m. All Living and Deceased Parishioners

Tuesday, December 26

6:30 a.m. NO MASS

9:00 a.m. Fr. William Saunders (Ken & Thuy Sault)

Wednesday, December 27

6:30 a.m. NO MASS

9:00 a.m. In reparation for the sins committed

against the Immaculate Heart of Mary

(Craig Turner)

Thursday, December 28

6:30 a.m. NO MASS

(The Pirozzoli Family)

Friday, December 29

6:30 a.m. NO MASS

(Carmen Guardia)

Saturday, December 30

7:30 a.m. Special Intention

(Melanie Baker)

9:00 a.m. \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Viola George

(Holly George)

Vigil

5:00 p.m. Anh Nguyen & Michael Sirotniak 10th

Year Wedding Anniversary

(Michael Sirotniak)

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. 🕆 Hadda Boughnami

11:00 a.m. All Living and Deceased Parishioners

Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

5:00 p.m. The Saunders Family

† indicates person is deceased

Scripture Readings Week of December 24th, 2023

Sunday Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29;

Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Monday The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25 **Mass During the night**: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3,

11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62: 11-12; Ps 97: 1, 6, 11-12;

Ti 3: 4-7; Lk 2: 15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4,

5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc &

17; Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday Feast of Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18

Friday Memorial of Saint Thomas Becket, Bishop and

Martvr

1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Saturday 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40

Sunday Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and

Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

Keep Them in Your Prayers

For those who are sick in our midst:

Judy Shack, Walter Quinn, William Thomas, Carol Naill, Cathy Sheehan-Wilson, Ed Bonin, Marlise Yetter, Paz Speer, Jake Williams, Mary Pace, Agnes Howard, John Terrill, Jodi Borisinco, David Lounsbury, Helen Rebull, Mark Peterson, Stephen Andrews, Christian Andrews, Caio Rabello, Sharon Beene, Dwight Beene, Allen Ashby, Maria Pereira, John Thieman, Judy Bosco, Carlos Porras, Patricio Martinez, Seamus Hasson, Beth Simon, Residents of Cherrydale Health and Rehabilitation

The repose of the souls who have recently passed:

Anibal Mejia, Armando Maldonado, Bernard Skibinski, Frederick A. Griffen, Clinton Froscher, John Greer

Adorers Needed!

The chapel is open with Exposition in the Monstrance from 1:00 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

On Wednesdays, Adoration is **in the Church.** Starts after the 9:00 a.m. Mass until 8:30 p.m.

To maintain this, we have an URGENT NEED for recurring weekly commitments:

• Tuesday: 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m.

Please contact Greg King at adoration@saintagnes.org



Saint Agnes Essentials

Sacramental Emergency:

Please call (703) 525-1166 Ext 1.

Infant/Child Baptism:

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Please contact sacraments@saintagnes.org to learn more about having your child baptized.

Marriage Preparation:

Call the Parish Office for Pre-Cana at least 7 months prior to your wedding.

Anointing of the Sick:

Call the Parish Office to request Anointing of the Sick. Anyone with a serious illness should request this sacrament before being admitted to the hospital.

Homebound Visitation:

Call the Parish Office to request visitation.

How to become Catholic:

Interested in joining the Catholic Church or want to learn more? Contact adultformation@saintagnes.org.

Holy Orders and Consecrated Life:

Is the Lord calling you? For information about priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or the consecrated life, contact one of the priests or the Diocesan Vocations Office at (703) 841-2514.

Registration/Change of Address:

Forms can be found in the parish office or you can register online on our website. Let the parish office know about any address changes.

Sacramental Records or Sponsor Forms:

Please contact sacraments@saintagnes.org to request copies of your Sacramental records or for Godparent or Confirmation sponsor forms. Please allow five (5) business days to accommodate your requests.

Mass Intentions:

Please visit the Parish Office to request Mass intentions. We are currently scheduling into April 2024.

Parish Clergy

Pastor • Rev. William Saunders

Parochial Vicar • Rev. Andrew Haissig

In residence • Rev. Anthony Pinizzotto

In residence • Rev. Steven Oetjen

Parish Office

1914 N. Randolph Street • Arlington, VA 22207-3046 Phone: (703) 525-1166 • Fax: (703) 243-2840 www.saintagnes.org Office Hours • Monday through Friday • 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business Manager ● Vitoria Vargas business@saintagnes.org

Office Manager ● Armelle Tallec parishoffice@saintagnes.org

Operations and Facilities Manager ● Brian Sherry facilities@saintagnes.org

Maintenance Technician • John Dolata maintenance@saintagnes.org

Director of Faith Formation ● Lisa Orosa dff@saintagnes.org

Assistant to the Director of Faith Formation ● TBD sacraments@saintagnes.org

Director of Music ● Don Cotton musicdirector@saintagnes.org

Coordinator of the Protection of Children ● Joan Biehler protect@saintagnes.org

Youth and Young Adults ● Rev. Andrew Haissig youth.ministry@saintagnes.org

RCIA ● Ana Lisa Pinon adultformation@saintagnes.org

Adoration Chapel Volunteer ● Greg King adoration@saintagnes.org

Saint Agnes School

2024 N. Randolph Street • Arlington, VA 22207-3031 Phone: 703-527-5423 • Fax 703-525-4689 https://school.saintagnes.org/

Principal • Jennifer Kuzdzal jkuzdzal@saintagnes.org

Assistant Principal • Ann Reid areid@saintagnes.org

Sunday Mass

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. (Vigil) Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass

Monday – Friday: 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. Saturday: 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment

Dear Parishioners,

As we draw closer to our celebration of Christmas, please know that I and my brother priests are praying for you and all of your family members.

During Advent, we pray, "O come, O come, Immanuel." Or, "Come, God be with us." He did come. Our Savior, true God, entered this world becoming also true Man, and was born that first Christmas. He came to perfectly reveal God's love and truth, so that we who believe could live in justice and find peace.

Spiritually, our Lord comes again this very Christmas, and He truly wants to be with us—to share our joys and sorrows, our successes and failures. He will never abandon us, we must not abandon Him.

As we approach Christmas and begin a New Year, we all should pause and ask, "How do I live in the presence of the Lord? How can I make His presence known to others, especially in an unbelieving age with so many mixed if not erroneous messages?

Of course, as I have preached so often, take time for daily prayer, Sunday Mass, and regular confession. Consider this coming year joining the Bible Study, Walking with Purpose, the St. Joseph's League, the Legion of Mary, or as an adorer in the Adoration Chapel. Consider participating in some of the activities of the parish, such as the Arts and Crafts Guild, the Boy Scouts, or the Gardening Angels. Consider sharing in a parish ministry, such as serving as an altar server, lector, usher, choir member, or catechist. There are so many ways to be part of the parish community as well as to grow personally in the presence of Christ.

This year, consider participating in some new initiatives: the Bethany Ministry, which focuses on hospitality; forming a parish Knights of Columbus; or forming a young families ministry. More information will follow in January. As usual, I encourage our young adults—singles or married—to be active in the parish, because the future of the church relies on you.

Finally, I thank you for your financial generosity. We now have a \$2.8 million debt from all of the renovation. Like yourselves, we face the burdens of inflation and the present economic situation. As your pastor, I strive to be frugal while providing good wages for our staff as well as maintaining our parish home. Therefore, any extra contribution at the end of this year or increase in your regular offertory is sincerely appreciated.

On behalf of Fr. Haissig, Fr. Pinizzotto, and Fr. Oetjen, I wish you each a blessed Christmas.

May God bless you.

Father William Saunders, Pastor

Ministries & Groups at Saint Agnes

Adult Faith Formation

- Bible Study—adultformation@saintagnes.org
- RCIA—adultformation@saintagnes.org
- Spanish Bible Study—gvegge@aol.com
- Women's Bible Study—stagneswwp@gmail.com

Parish Service

- Arts & Crafts Guild—gveggejr@gmail.com
- Bethany Ministry—bethanyministry@saintagnes.org
- Cherrydale Rehab Prayer Group—biehlerj@aol.com
- Christ House Team—Alice.paxton@paladinlifecare.com
- Gabriel Project—gabrielproject@saintagnes.org
- Gardening Angels—jshirhall@gmail.com
- Homebound Parishioners Visits homebound@saintagnes.org
- Legion of Mary—jbdugan45@gmail.com
- Respect Life—saintagnesrespectlife@gmail.com
- St. Joseph's League—StJosephLeague.StAgnes@gmail.com
- St. Raphael Prayer Group—*littlecubb@aol.com*
- The Borgo Gift Store—theborgo@saintagnes.org
- Young Adults—youngadults@saintagnes.org

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Liturgy

- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion dkcwhelan@gmail.com
- Flower Guild—dfowen@aol.com
- Lectors—biehlerj@aol.com
- Sacristans—ruthefoster@earthlink.net
- Ushers—jholl2473@aol.com

Youth Activities

- Challenge Club—kefoley2@pefoley.com
- Conquest Club—kefoley2@pefoley.com
- Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts—mallen@americanpublic.us
- CYO Sports—dan.r.madigan@gmail.com
- Girl Scouts—pamelasnichols@gmail.com
- Youth Group—youth.ministry(a)saintagnes.org

2023 Contributions

Contributions made in 2023 must be postmarked or received at the Parish Office no later than December 31, 2023. These contributions will be credited for the calendar year 2023. Contribution statements for 2023 will be mailed to those whose parish records indicate they have contributed during the year. If you do not receive your statement by January 31, please contact the Parish Office at parishoffice@saintagnes.org.

Thank you for your stewardship of God's gifts and your generosity for the many needs of parish life!

Christmas Office Hours

December 26th-January 1st: The Parish office is closed for Christmas through the New Year.

January 2nd: The Parish office reopens at 9:30 a.m.

Adoration Chapel Christmas Schedule

The Adoration Chapel is closed Sunday, December 24th through Monday, January 1st, 2024. It will reopen at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024. St. Agnes Catholic Church, Arlington VA is hiring! Religious Education **ASSISTANT** FULL TIME Requirements: A passion for Jesus Christ and sharing the Catholic Faith Detail-oriented with strong administrative and computer skills Ability to lift up to 30 pounds Willingness to work some nights Experience is not required but must be a quick learner and hard worker We offer competitive salary and benefits. Contact Lisa Orosa dff@saintagnes.org

Christmas Mass Schedule Sunday, December 24th • 5:00 PM (Christmas Choral Music starts at 4:30 PM) • 8:00 PM (Christmas Choral Music starts at 7:30 PM) Monday, December 25th: 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Christmas Week

Tuesday-Friday, December 26th-29th: 9:00 AM Mass ONLY

Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (December 30th & 31st)

· 5:00 PM Vigil Mass, 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God Mass Schedule

- Sunday, December 31st: 5:00 PM
- Monday, January 1st: 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

all high schoolers are invited

Christmas Break:

December 17-January 7

YG returns Jan. 9, 2024



JUNE 22-28

tinyurl.com/STAGYG-WC

registration open now for current high schoolers & volunteers



get updates

- (i) estagnesyouth
- stagnesyg.flocknote.com
- ➡ tinyurl.com/STAGYG-Home

Child Protection Compliance for Volunteers in Programs with Children or Youth

Adult volunteers who have substantial contact with children in the Diocese of Arlington are required to be compliant with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy which includes Background Checks, policy acknowledgement and completion of the VIRTUS (Protecting God's Children) Seminar. A VIRTUS Seminar will be held at Saint Agnes on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. You must register online at VIRTUS.org to receive attendance credit. Please register as soon as possible because the seminars fill up quickly.

If you would like to volunteer with children at Saint Agnes Parish or School, please contact Joan Biehler, Saint Agnes Liaison for Child Protection at protect@saintagnes.org to receive the link for the online application for the background checks and instructions on completing the application and registering for the VIRTUS Seminar.



Sunday, Dec. 24th The Borgo will be **closed** for our celebration of Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has visited our parish shop.

Saint of the Week

Saint Thomas Becket (December 26th

To anyone who imagines conflict between religion and politics to be a modern phenomenon, history witnesses otherwise. Martyred under Henry VIII in 1535, Thomas More declared, "I die the King's good servant, but God's first!"

Thomas Becket could have said the same four centuries earlier. As Henry II's closest friend and trusted chancellor, Becket, the King presumed, could be counted on, if made Archbishop, to deliver the church to royal control. But Becket experienced a profound conversion, confirmed by the ordination liturgy's rich symbolism of the bishop as Good Shepherd and the church as Bride of Christ. Renouncing secular responsibilities, distributing his wealth to the poor, Thomas became the church's uncompromising champion.

Faced with this "new" Becket, the King's previous friendship turned into a ferocious, almost irrational hatred. As eight centuries later, Archbishop Romero would be martyred at the altar of Christ's sacrifice, Becket was slain before the altar of Canterbury Cathedral by royal agents, neither the first nor last good shepherd to lay down his life as the price of freedom for Christ's church and justice for Christ's sheep.

—Peter Scagnelli



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

Christmas 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At Christmas, we hear the proclamation: "For unto us a Savior is born who is Christ and Lord." This good news of great joy is the reason for our renewed faith and hope.

In a world experiencing so much unrest, a Savior is born who announces peace, brings glad tidings, and comforts his people. In a nation that is divided, a Savior is born who unites us as God's holy family, as brothers and sisters. In our lives, when we are overwhelmed by our crosses and sufferings, a Savior is born who embraces us in his love and mercy with the strength and grace we need.

And for all these gifts, the Lord asks so little in return. He simply wants us to strive every day to trust him, to be faithful, and to be instruments of his peace to all those we love and meet. What we do at Christmas teaches us the way.

So, with the help of Mary and Joseph, strive to be what our Church and world need more than ever: *holy families*. Do so by loving and respecting one another and giving to each other the most precious gifts of all: your time and attention. As you have been forgiven, ask for the grace to forgive others, especially those who have offended you, so that no bitterness is within your heart. Continue the spirit of giving that is so prevalent at this time of year, especially as you share your resources and blessings with our brothers and sisters in most need.

Dear friends in Christ, please be assured of a special remembrance at the Christmas Masses I will celebrate, and please pray for me. Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, trust in the power of the Lord to renew and transform our world, nation, and each one of us. May the peace that only Christ can give be yours at Christmas and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Michael 7. Burbidge Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

Bishop of Arlington

2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR OUR *DONORS* AND THEIR INTENTIONS



Vicki	Thomp	son Ed	wards
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- Carolyn M. Andros
- ⊕ Torba Family
- ☆ Kate Goodwin
- ⊕ Clarice DeGroat
- ⊕ K. Ann Benson
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Christopher Branigan

Edward Whelan

⊕ David Ryan Catherine Ryan

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John Potthast

Judi Teske

Christine Walsh

P Nita & Agustin Tengtio

- Peggy & Tom Dunne
- Deceased Flynn-Dunne

Relatives

P Deceased Galura-Tengtio

Relatives

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Stephen Lewarne

Frank Buono

Kevin Meiners

⊕ Jim Savarese Joanne Savarese

Carmen Guardia

Roland & Dolores Owens

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De Paul

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⊕ Bev Laub

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⊕ William Thompson

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Eucharistic Ministers: Karen. Mackenzie, Patricia, Rosemary, Nicole

Mary Ross

4 Anna & Heinrich Schneider

⊕ Meador Family

Joanna Meador







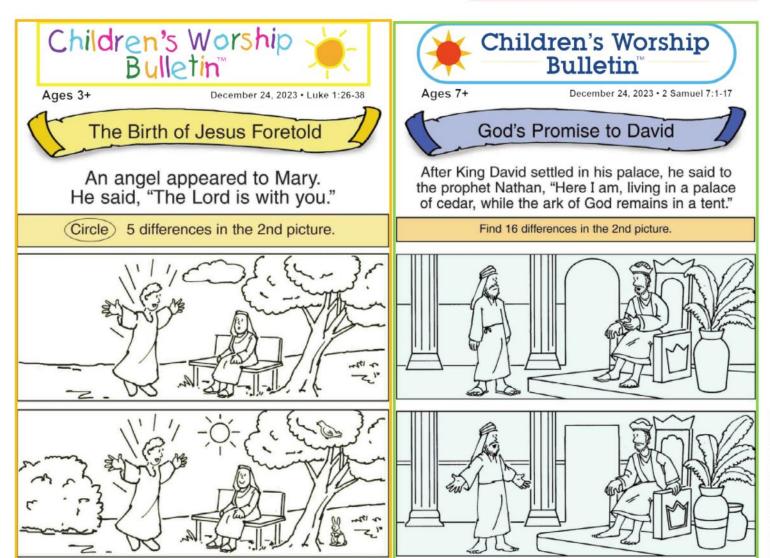
Email: bethanyministry@saintagnes.org

Day of Prayer and Healing

After Abortion Retreats: A Day of Prayer and Healing for women who have experienced abortion will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2024. These group healing events are held in a private and peaceful setting, in English and in Spanish, based on the Entering Canaan model (2 separate retreats, in 1 location). There will be an opportunity to hear from a past participant and others who have found healing. You are not alone. Take the first step. For confidential inquiries, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: (703) 841-2504 or info@helpafterabortion.org.

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest, deacon, brother or sister.

Contact Fr. Michael Isenberg, Vocations Director, at (703) 841-2514 or email: vocations@arlingtondiocese.org.



Saint Agnes Religious Education

Important Dates!

- December 20th-January 6th | Christmas Break
- ◆ January 11th | Adult Faith Formation | Discovering Christ
- ◆ January 27th | Family Day of Service for Pediatric Cancer

For more information, contact Lisa Orosa at dff@saintagnes.org.



Sunday Mass Journal 4th Sunday of Advent Luke 1: 26-38

 Sunday, Decembe CHURCH & MASS TIME 	:			
	ESTMENTS:			
I OFFERED THIS MASS	FOR:			
The angel assures Mary that "Nothing is impossible with you believe in miracles? What miracle in your life do yo now? Ask God for the gift of faith.				
am thankful for	I will pray for			
•				
•	•			
My Spiritual Goal	for the Week			

Name:	Age/Grade:







FAITH BINGO

DECEMBER 2023

Do 5 activities in a row. Submit this card at the end of the month to the RE
Office or at the Parish Gift Shop on the last Sunday of the month to collect your
prize! Complete ALL activities here and you will be entered for a raffle for
a GRAND PRIZE in RE's May Crowning Celebration.



Make an Advent wreath for your family.	Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis Xavier (Dec 3) by telling someone why you love Jesus	Learn the song "O Come Emmanuel".	Pray 3 Hail Marys before going to bed.	Go to Mass on Immaculate Conception, Dec 8. <i>It is a holy</i> <i>day of</i> <i>obligation.</i>
Take a walk or drive in your neighborhood to see the Christmas displays and pray for your neighbors	Pray the Advent prayers and light a candle from the wreath each Sunday of Advent.	Celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas (Dec 7) by putting out your shoes for candies	Memorize the Act of Contrition and go to Confession, if you can.	Eat some tacos or nachos to celebrate the feast of St. Juan Diego (Dec 9)
Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary as a family.	Celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12) by watching Littlest Saints on Formed.org	GO TO MASS EVERY SUNDAY!	Celebrate the feast of St. Lucy (Dec. 13) by having the girl in the family wear white and serve ginger cookies.	Assemble care bags for the homeless and give it to those you meet on the streets.
Attend a weekday Mass during Christmas Break.	Ask your parents if you could invite an elderly neighbor or acquaintance for a meal.	Celebrate the feast of St. John of the Cross (Dec. 14) by praying before a crucifix.	Sing Christmas carols and cheer up those who are lonely.	Help decorate your home for Christmas, with special emphasis on the Nativity scene.
Pop some popcorn and watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with your family.	Go to Mass on BOTH Sunday Mass on Dec. 24 & Monday, Dec. 25. Christmas is a holy day of obligation.	Visit Jesus in the Adoration Chapel and pray for world peace, especially in the Holy Land & Ukraine.	Honor the Holy Innocents (Dec. 28) by reading Matthew 2:16–18 and pray for an end to abortion.	Make Christmas cards for your loved ones and tell them why you love them to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 31).

St. Agnes School is a Catholic community centered on the teachings of Jesus Christ and strengthened by the partnership between parents, who are the primary educators of our students, and our dedicated teaching staff.

We believe in the mission to educate our students so that they become loving Christians, inspired learners, outstanding achievers, natural communicators, and strong servants of God.

Saint Agnes Catholic School

Thank you to Bishop Burbidge and our fabulous school altar servers for a holy and peaceful Mass during the Advent Day of Prayer for the Chancery. It was such a blessing to host this event and allow our students to serve Mass during it. St. Josemaría Escriva reminds us, "The time of Advent is a time of hope. Jesus wants us to love Him. It is His desire we be holy, very much His own."







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Boy Scout Troop 111

invites interested boys ages 10-17 to join. Meetings are Mondays at 6:45 at the Parish Center

www.Troop111.org



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marga.pirozzoli@compass.com

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