



Saint Agnes

CATHOLIC CHURCH



December 31, 2023

Rev. Rayappa Konka
Pastor
Susan Flohr
Pastoral Minister

Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
7:00 am
Wed 8:15am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays one hour prior to Mass
or by appointment (632-2541)

Sacrament of Baptism

Please call the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 9am - Noon
& 1pm - 4pm

*The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph*

*Beloved,
we are
God's
children
now;
what we
shall be
has not
yet been
revealed.*

---1 John 3:2a



2314 Third Avenue, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361

(308)632-2541 Fax: (308)632-2146

Mailing address: PO Box 349, Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0349

Website: www.st-agnes-church.com

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am-Noon & 1pm - 4pm

Saint Agnes Catholic Church

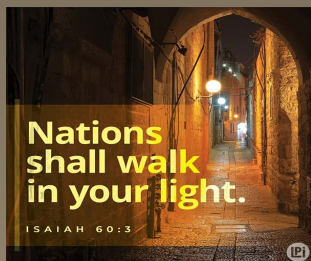
Today's Readings

Sirach 3:2-6

Psalm:128

Colossians 3:12-21

Luke 2:22-40



Parish Administration

(308) 632-2541 / (308) 632-2146 (Fax)
office@st-agnes-church.com
www.st-agnes-church.com

Pastor

Rev. Rayappa Konka (ext. 2)

Church Office Manager

Theresa Trevino (ext. 3)
office@st-agnes-church.com

Pastoral Minister

Susan Flohr

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Terri Calvert (ext.5)
dre@st-agnes-church.com

School Head Teacher

Mrs. Julie Brown (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Office Manager

Teresa Johnson (632-6918)
office@st-agnes-school.com

School Foundation

Executive Director

Isabel Moreno (632-6918)
imoreno@st-agnes-school.com

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Jean Ahrens (308-672-4632)

Music Ministry Director

Jessica Mikoloyck (308-631-6290)
jes.mikoloyck@gmail.com

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..." — Colossians 3:12

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments - By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

This Week's Schedule

Monday, January 1, 2024

New Year's Day Mass (9:00am)
Intention: Lisa Stricker by Joan Watson

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

Daily Mass (7:00am)
Intention: Tom Montague by Lynda Montague

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

Daily Mass (8:15am)
Intention: †Shane Malm by Laetner & Landon Malm
Liturgy of the Hours (5:15 pm)
Contemplative Prayer (6:00pm)

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Daily Mass (7:00am)
Intention: †Rita Brown by Pete, Joel & Justin

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15pm)

Friday, January 5, 2024

Daily Mass (7:00am)
Intention: †Jerry Dishong by St. Agnes Parish

Liturgy of the Hours (5:15pm)

Saturday, January 6, 2024

Weekend Mass (5:00pm)
Intention: †Ted L. Crittenden by St. Agnes Parish

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Weekend Mass (8:00am)
Intention: †Helen Palser by The Peck Family
Weekend Mass (10:00am)
Intention: For Our Parish

This Week's Readings



Monday Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
 Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42
 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51
 Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
 Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Server Schedule

Jan 6 5pm Aden Munoz
 Jonah Klaas
 Jan 7 8am Carson Windhorst
 Easton Becker
 10:00am Traxton Adams
 Nina Polk

Lector Schedule

Jan 6 5pm Jean Ahrens
 Jan 7 8am David Nash
 10:00am Michael Schaff

Rosary Leader Schedule

Jan 6 5pm Diana Rohrick
 Jan 7 8am Claire Songco
 10:00am NOT FILLED



Finance Corner

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

December 2023 Totals

(As of Dec 18, 2023)

Actual	\$15454.79
ATW	\$7665.00
Online Giving	\$3150.50
Gen. Church Support	\$3500.00
Budget	\$30000.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$229.71

There is no 2nd collection for next week.

Thank you for your continued giving!

Sunday Collections & ATW Giving

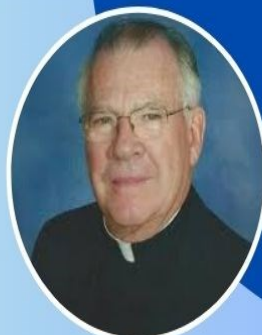
Because of early transmission dates for the bulletin these few weeks, the collection report will not be published on its regular schedule



PERSONAL PRAYER: A DUTY, A PRIVILEGE, AND A CHALLENGE

Join us for an afternoon focused on prayer.

JANUARY 14TH AT 2:30 PM



Guest Speaker - Fr. Gerald Harr
 Retired Priest of the Diocese of Grand Island



2314 Thrid Ave Scottsbluff, NE

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Eucharistic Adoration- First Friday, will be on January 5 following the 7 am Mass.

Please take time and pray for our priests, our Church, and our country. All are invited to attend.

Happy New Year

Christmas Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are placed on the altar this season are in memory or in honor of: John/Irene Konz & Kay Konz by M/M Vince Bjorling; William Grandy, Beatrice Grandy, Joshua A. Bullock, Joe Loomis & Nancy Skinner by Kathy Ann Bullock; Fr. Vince Parsons, Fr. Bob Karnish, Fr. Steven Deaver, Sr. Vera Meis & Susan Flohr by M/M Ray Murdock; Pat, Ginny & Tracy Ford, Ed, Bert, Earl, Karen Bailey & Bryan Bailey by Terry Bailey; Flohr Family & Fred Schaefer Family by Doris Flohr; Karen Koch by John Koch; M/M Daryl Arneson, M/M Harold Calvert by M/M Michael Calvert; Robert J. Reilly, Lois Reilly, Gary Reilly, Dan Reilly & Shanna Darnell by M/M Jacob Krieg; Sr. Chris Meyer, Sr. Vera Meis by M/M Gale McGrew; Rod Brooks & Roijeanne Wolfe by M/M Jeff Wolfe; Lee Tschacher, Helga Tschacher, Marlin Tschacher, Tom Montague, Realthy Montague & Bill Montague by Lynda Montague; The Priests of the Grand Island Diocese by M/M Martin Urdiales; Carol Burbach & Marie Hoeft by M/M Larry Burbach; Floyd & Mildred Colwell, Wally & Cece Allison, Esther Dobbins, Mike Alvarado, Bill & Rita Alvarado, by M/M Jordan Colwell; Stephen McDonnough by Connie McDonnough;



Castaneda Family & Shane Malm by M/M Gilbert Trevino; Richard Hawes, Gayle & Bonnie Johnson by M/M Robert Johnson; Wesley & David Flohr, Fred & Helen Schaefer, Doris Flohr by Susan Flohr; George & Grace Ramig by Rodney Ramig; Bernard & Richardis Wlaschin, Gloria Schanaman by M/M Antonio Tecson; Christine Barajas by Brian Lind; Bud & Betty Lee Neifert by M/M Mark Neifert; John Longoria & John Klaas by M/M Stephen Klaas; Ed Moore, Tom Wlaschin, Mary Nance by M/M Patrick Brown; St. Agnes Parish by Gayle Rojas; Jean Koester, Henry & Helen Koester, Don & Linda Koester, Mary Ann & Joe Beeman, John Koester by M/M Charles Koester; Gene & Mary Guenin, Gene Schmid, DL Guenin by M/M Greg Schmid; Clarence Rood Jr., Frank & Louise Marquez, Richard Saucedo, Coby Saucedo, Clarence & Doris Rood by Margaret Rood; Regino Rosario, Juana Rosario, Augustin Rosario by Rosa Rosario; Ellen Gion, Mary & Michael Gion, Lewis & Pauline Triplett by Larry Gion; Ken Cushing, Doug Cushing, Bernice Ostry by M/M Joseph Ostry; Marcia Prell, Larry & Wanda Hiltgen by Jason Hiltgen; Tom Rohrick by Margie Rood; Thomas Braddock, Joey Benavidez & Kaylene Thomas by Charlene Braddock

St. Agnes Church Pew Renovation Project

The original pews at St. Agnes Church are in need of some attention. As a result, the pews have been beautifully recovered by Doug's Upholstery, a local business. In addition, new hymnal pocket racks have been installed. Further work is to be completed on supporting the middle brace of the pews, fixing kneelers and stabilizing backs. This work is being completed by another local business—Cowan's Custom Cabinetry. And lastly, the Music Ministry would like to order new Gather Music Books to replace our ageing Gather Books. The new Gather books are larger than the current volumes, thus the reason for replacing the Hymnal pockets.

- Total Estimated Cost of the entire project is \$45,000.
- Gracious Donations of \$20,000 have been received from:
 - The Church Foundation
 - The Altar Society
 - The Knights of Columbus
 - Memorials from Theresa Rezac
- Funds to finish the project: \$25,000 - which includes the final payments for Upholstery, Cowen's Custom Woodworking and purchasing the Gather Books. (Which will cost approximately \$4500.00)



Please consider donating to this project. The donation can be placed in an envelope with this form with "Pew Renovation Project" written on it. You may place your envelope in the collection or leave it at the Parish Office. Your donation to this entire project will also be recognized in the new hymnals. We greatly appreciate your donation!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Donation Amount: _____

Donor Name in Hymnal? Yes ___ No ___



Knights of Columbus

Thank you Stanna Funk - The President of **United Commercial Travelers** for the Northern America - for donating a \$500 check to the Knights of Columbus. The organization has been helping the Knights of Columbus for 4 year in a row!



Reminder - Knights of Columbus monthly meeting - **December 28th, Thursday from 7 pm to 7:45 pm.** Socials at 7:45 pm to 8:15 pm. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our **Knights of Columbus Shirts** are ready!
Please contact John @615-9429 to pick up your Shirt if you ordered one. If you need one, and did not order before, you can have one - we have extras.

Several members of the Knights of Columbus and parishioners helped out on moving toys from the Knights of Columbus hall to the St. Agnes School Gymnasium.

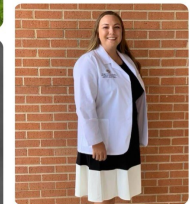
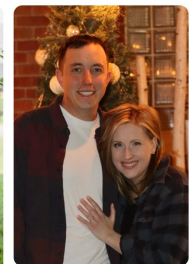


Members around the St Agnes Church, St. Agnes School, Religious Education Students, and people around the community, helped on gift wrapping toys with the Knights of Columbus with our biggest project of the Year "Toys for Toys"!



Our featured Knights of Columbus member of the month is Michael Calvert.

Please check the full story on this QR Code.



PIC-COLLEGE

PIC-COLLEGE

Religious Education Program

Email—dre@st-agnes-church.com

Religious Education Office—308-635-1362

Celebrating Sunday
Feast of the Holy Family
Gospel: *Luke 2:22, 39-40*

On the Way to Mass:

Baptism is our birth into the family of God; through it, we become members of the church. Share the story of your children's baptisms with them.

On the Way Home From Mass:

Today's Gospel tells us about Jesus, and that the favor of God was upon him. What could this mean, to live in the favor of God?

Living the Word:

How do we mark the baptism anniversary of the members of our family? Besides telling the story of the day, display photos (or show a video of the day), the baptismal candle, and the white garments in a special place or prayer table in your home. Ask your parish priest for some holy water and use it at home to bless one another. Finally, write a thank-you letter to godparents and the priest or deacon who baptized each family member.

*Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families
2023-2024*

Find Us On



Parish Website

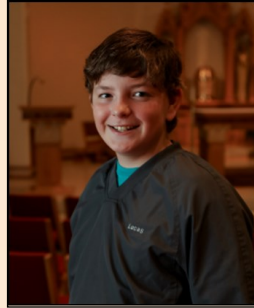
www.st-agnes-church.com

myParish App

In the App Store on your phone or tablet

Facebook

Meet the Confirmation Candidates



Lucas Esselstein

My name is Lucas Esselstein. I have three sisters and two brothers and my mom and dad. My sisters are Katherine, +Maria, and Emily. My brothers are Thomas and Nicholas. My mom is Beth, and my dad is Mike. I am going to Mitchell Public Schools in Mitchell, NE. I am in the 8th grade. I play football, basketball, wrestling, and golf. I do not have a real job but I help my dad and uncle farm. I also do yardwork for my neighbor.

Goals for Confirmation: My goals for after Confirmation are to be an usher, and become a member of the Knights of Columbus when I turn 18 years old.



Saturday, January 20th

10:00 AM
In the Church



Make Christmas last ...

Christmas ends for some people when the stores are empty and the presents are unwrapped. For Catholics, the Christmas Season starts Christmas Day and ends January 8, The Baptism of the Lord. Let your Christmas joy last through the entire Season.

Stay decorated. Rejoice in the great mystery of the Incarnation. Displaying your manger scene until the end of the Season reminds your family of the deeper meaning of Christmas. Keep your Christmas lights up as a reminder that Jesus brought light to the darkness.

Host an Epiphany party. The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi and their gifts to the Christ Child. Host a party featuring candlelight, wonderful food, Christmas carols and hymns, and people who are a blessing to your family.

Make a visit. On that first Christmas, Jesus came to us and remains in the Eucharist. If you have days off from work and school, consider attending daily Mass or Adoration. Keeping company with the Christ Child is the gift that He desires from us.

Partners in Faith - December 2023

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Week of December 31, 2023



New Year's Resolutions | The Augustine Institute Show

What's your resolution this year? Dr. Tim Gray welcomes Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, Assistant Professor of Theology in the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, to celebrate one year of the Augustine Institute Show!



The Holy Family

We are excited to announce our series of FORMED Now! Christmas and New Year special episodes. In these episodes, professors from the Augustine Institute Graduate School will lead us in reflections throughout the season!



Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

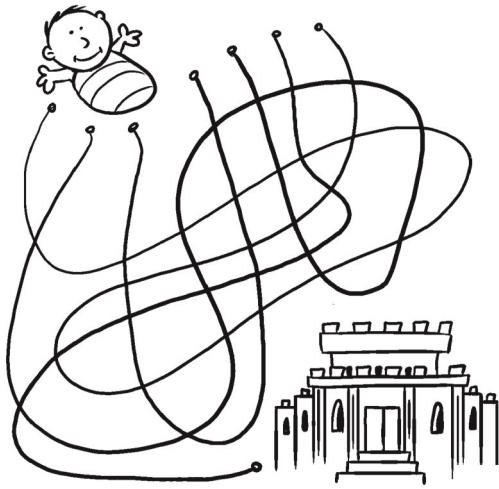
Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit signup.formed.org and select our parish name.

Kids' Corner

PUZZLE

Find the path to bring Jesus to the temple.



MISSION

I will offer everything I do for you, Lord, Jesus Christ.

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

MARY
JOSEPH
BABY

SHEPHERDS
JESUS
ANGEL

LISTENED
WONDERFUL
NAMED

B	N	J	D	N	B	M	A	W	G	C
F	A	N	U	E	O	R	I	O	K	T
S	M	Y	L	I	S	T	E	N	E	D
L	E	H	A	M	H	F	J	D	V	O
P	D	A	N	G	E	L	P	E	S	F
I	L	R	B	V	P	Y	A	R	U	C
J	O	S	E	P	H	A	G	F	N	B
D	H	Y	W	T	E	K	W	U	J	M
W	G	K	O	T	R	C	S	L	H	A
E	I	M	R	C	D	U	P	E	D	R
A	J	E	S	U	S	L	B	A	B	Y

MISSION

Ask your parents what they enjoyed about you as a little baby. You might also want to look at some baby pictures together.



Connecting Students and Families through Faith
December 31, 2023



Upcoming Events

St. Agnes Students & Staff wish you a very Happy New Year! May you be blessed with happiness, health and good things in the coming year.

School resumes for students on Tuesday, January 9th.



Presenting the Nativity

As part of the closing activities of our Advent Journey, the kindergarten students performed the live Nativity for the students, staff and parents on Wednesday, December 20th. Each student portrayed the important individuals and animal beings who were present at the birth of our Lord. Mila Miller provided the narration for the production.



St. Agnes Catholic School
205 E 23rd, Scottsbluff, NE
Ph: 308-632-6918



Spreading Our Christmas Cheer in the Community

First and second grade students put the Scottsbluff/Gering Rotarians in the holiday spirit as they performed at the December 19th noon meeting held at the Scottsbluff Country Club. Songs from the music program and other carols were shared. Singspirations added to the spreading of holiday cheer when they performed at the Legacy of the Plains Festival of Lights held on Saturday, December 16th.



Christmas Caroling

The annual Christmas Caroling party took place on December 20th following Mass and the presentation of the Nativity by our kindergarten class. Students and parents enjoyed gathering together to sing some of the most favored Christmas carols. This is always a loved event on our last day of school before break. Thanks to all who joined in. What a fun event!



Christmas Parties

St. Agnes students and staff closed out the first semester of school with their annual Christmas parties held on Wednesday, December 20th. The students enjoyed treats, games and simple gift exchanges in their individual classrooms. What a great way to close out 2023! We look forward with great hope to all that lies before us in 2024. We know it will be another great year!!



Hot Lunch Menu for January 1st, 2024 - January 5th, 2024

<u>Monday, Jan 1</u>	<u>Tuesday, Jan 2</u>	<u>Wednesday, Jan 3</u>	<u>Thursday, Jan 4</u>	<u>Friday, Jan 5</u>
NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK	NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK
Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:	Helpers:

What's Happening at St. Agnes School.....



First Grade Class By Sharon Bird



December has been a very busy month. There have been many activities that we have been involved with . Wearing elf/Santa hats added to the festive atmosphere.

The music program held on December 7 was AMAZING!

We practiced for our day to lead the Progressive Nativity celebration. The first grade was assigned December 14.

The elves (our first graders) have been busy making cards and gifts for their parents. The students learned how to make a pop-up card. The students enjoyed making these. Christmas cards were made for former classmate, Brynn Maas.

We discussed the Advent calendar and read about the Little Shepherd. In religion, our lessons centered around the birth of Jesus.

Topics studied in social studies were reindeer and how Christmas is celebrated in different countries around the world.

Grinch Day was celebrated on December 15. Happy Holidays to All!



Library Room News By Lana Payne



The students have had a wonderful time reading and listening to a wide variety of Christmas books during library time this month. It has been heartwarming to have them ask that I read their favorite Christmas stories and to share new Christmas books with them this season.

Tomie DePaola is one of the most prolific authors and illustrators of Christian themed books for children. His books are favorites for the Christmas season both for the themes and his distinctive artwork. He has written and illustrated many Christmas books, one of which was used this year in the Advent celebration (**The Story of the Three Wise Kings**). During library time we shared several of his Christmas books.

Jan Brett is another of our favorite author/illustrators of Christmas books. Her illustrations are highly detailed scenes in beautiful Scandinavian style of animals and people, often including a hedgehog somewhere on the page.

While both DePaola and Brett write and illustrate their own original works, they've often illustrated the retellings of traditional stories which artfully maintain historical connections to our past and the stories of Christmas.



Music Room News By Cori Taedter



St. Agnes students have certainly been busy spreading LOTS of Christmas cheer through their music over the past several weeks!

We were thrilled to be able to present our Christmas music program, "The Power of the King," on Thursday evening, December 7th. Plenty of time, effort, and emotion went into preparation of this program, and our children certainly let their light shine that evening. I'm so very proud of them! Singspirations was invited to sing at the Legacy of the Plains Museum Festival of Lights on Saturday, December 16th, and were able to share not only the songs they performed at the Old West Choir Fest competition, but some original and Christmas favorites as well. What a joy it is to share our love of God with our music! Last but certainly not least, the first and second grade classes took to the road this week to provide Christmas entertainment for the Rotary Club meeting at the Country Club – what fun we had, and what a great job they did!

On behalf of myself and all St. Agnes music students, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

